

THE CONCLUSIONS

At the conclusion of the Questionnaire analysis and the hearings with the consultative bodies and the regions, each member of the Selection of Bishops Committee was invited to describe the most essential qualifications currently needed in episcopal leadership for the Diocese of Rochester.

We conclude our report by describing the six qualifications most frequently mentioned as essential for the new Ordinary:

1. He must be a spiritual leader.
2. He must possess a sense of direction.
3. He must be a leader.
4. He must be a competent administrator.
5. He must be available.
6. He must be a courageous teacher.

1. He must be a spiritual leader.

The people of the Diocese of Rochester expect our Ordinary to be a special presence of Christ among his people. We are looking for a spiritual man, a dedicated priest, a man of prayer, a man who celebrates joyfully with us. Our new bishop should be a pastor in that he has had recent parish experience and that he will continue to visit parishes to maintain his deep pastoral sensitivity. We expect our new bishop to be an evangelist, filled with the spirit of the Gospels and committed to share the Good News of the Father's love with every person in our diocese; a real witness, for as *Evangelii Nuntiandi* states: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." (41) We seek a man whose deep spirituality enables him to live the words of Christ: "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

2. He must possess a sense of direction.

The Diocese of Rochester senses the need for a bishop who is rooted in the Scriptures and the traditions of the Church and at the same time enlightened by the vision of the Second Vatican

Council... a bishop whose vision of Church will challenge us to expand our personal vision... a man as progressive as Bishop Hogan and committed to help us progress on the course our retiring Ordinary has charted... a bishop who possesses the wisdom and experience to help us meet the ministerial demands of the 1980s, such as: increased recruitment of vocations, the further development of lay leadership throughout the diocese, and the expansion of our ministry to the family, youth and minorities. We desire a man who not only understands what is needed but who has a sense of how to set about achieving it.

3. He must be a leader.

We need a strong, vigorous leader; a bishop who is willing to listen and to act; who is optimistic and creative. The new bishop must understand how important it is for leaders to be visible in the modern Church. We need a bishop who is able and willing to define and clarify roles, encourage participation and delegate authority; a man who holds others accountable and at the same time is willing to be held accountable himself. We need a man who can deploy personnel effectively, work constructively with our consultative bodies, and inspire a great spirit of cooperation among the parishes and ministries of the diocese. We desire a bishop who will come to know and appreciate the geography of the diocese and whose presence will be a focal point for unity within our diocese. We need a bishop whose life echoes Paul's generosity: "I will gladly spend myself and be spent for your sakes." (2 Cor. 12:15)

4. He must be a competent administrator.

We need an Ordinary who is willing to accept responsibility for the current issues in our diocese which are not unlike those issues found throughout the Church today. We desire a bishop who will help us resolve diocesan-wide issues so that the diocese can better serve the needs of all its members. The issues which seem to be of particular concern to our diocese at this time are: developing the future direction of St. Bernard's Seminary, the role of the Catholic schools as we realize that we can no longer have schools at any cost, the size of the Pastoral Office and the need for decentralization, the development of the ten regions of the diocese, and the perennial concern for improving communication.

5. He must be available.

Our new Ordinary must be approachable by all; he must be a man open to dialogue; he must be person oriented. In particular we desire a bishop who realizes the special need for dialogue with his priests, the poor, the consultative bodies of the diocese, the areas of the diocese outside Monroe County, religious and lay women and the isolated in our midst. He must be comfortable with different cultures. We have opened the door to the Blacks and Hispanics in our midst, but we still have a long way to go. His availability must reflect Christ's invitation to "Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you." (Matt. 11:28).

6. He must be a courageous teacher.

Our new Ordinary must be prophetic in his words and by his presence. He must speak out clearly on social issues and he must be visible in the midst of the poor and suffering throughout the diocese. He must be deeply committed to the maximal utilization of all our educational resources for the young and aware of the need for continuing education of adults, especially the priests, sisters and laity in leadership roles throughout the diocese. He must remain informed on all current moral issues and be willing to help formulate and promulgate the Christian response to the questions arising in our contemporary society.

The Selection of Bishops Committee for the Diocese of Rochester would like to conclude this presentation by stating that throughout the process the people of God in the diocese evidenced a spirit of deep gratitude for the episcopal leadership of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and pledged their willingness to accept the unique gifts of our new Ordinary and to respect, affirm and participate in his ministry.

We are grateful for the opportunity to help the people of our diocese to participate in the selection of our new Ordinary and we hope that our efforts will be used and helpful in calling forth our new Shepherd.

Respectfully submitted by:
The Selection of Bishops Committee
of the Diocese of Rochester
February 7, 1979

Committee Report

From 1

person who is able to communicate with his people because he listens and is approachable; a pastoral person who visits parishes in the diocese and remains familiar with their needs.

In addition the three highest ranking qualifications, the committee reported, were 1. Recent experience in parish work; 2. worked with consultative bodies; 3. experienced in personnel administration.

"Recent experience in parish work should be emphasized since it was picked by 75 per cent of the laity, 89 per cent of the priests and 84 per cent of the Sisters," the committee stated.

The questionnaire also surveyed opinion on diocesan needs and found the four top priorities to be "a much greater emphasis in reaching out to those who no longer attend church or who have never attended church; more intensive efforts to meet the needs of the materially and spiritually poor in our midst; that we take steps to promote liturgical celebrations in every parish; that greater emphasis be given to programs which enable families to share and pass on their gift of faith.

In the chapter on hearings, the committee reported that about 500 attended the 19

regional hearings and that between 75 and 100 spoke.

"In referring to the personal qualities of the next bishop," the committee reported, "several speakers expressed the hope that he would be similar to Bishop Hogan and would follow his programs." The term "a pastoral bishop" was frequently used.

According to the committee, the hearings "seem to re-affirm the direction in which the diocese has been going under the direction of Bishop Hogan."

The committee summarized the section by noting, "On the whole, the qualities which the speakers at the regional meetings expressed as desirable in their new bishop mesh with their views of the needs and priorities of the diocese. Both the qualities of Bishop Hogan and the policies he has set are affirmed. These pastoral and leadership qualities would be essential in meeting the needs in the areas of continued support for the consultative process and the active and effective participation of the laity, evangelization, education, vocations, social justice and administration."

The report then concerned itself with the three consultative bodies, reporting that 17 of the 20 members spoke at the Priests' Council hearing and "the quality most strongly stressed by the priests was that

the new bishop have a pastoral presence, that he be visible and available to his people throughout the diocese and especially to his priests."

The priests strongly affirmed, the committee said, "the present direction of the diocese."

At the Sisters Council hearing, "approximately 22" spoke and, according to the committee, "expressed a strong sentiment that he (the next bishop) be a very human and loving person, who can be in close contact with his priests, the Sisters and the laity."

Twenty-eight spoke at the Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting, and the report states that the most frequently mentioned qualifications were "that he be present to his people; that he be a communicator, both sharing with others and receiving from them; that he be a prayerful, spiritual person; that he be assertive, a person with courage, who will facilitate others in fulfilling their ministry; that he be an administrator."

At the end of the report proper, the committee stated that "throughout the process the people of God in the diocese evidenced a spirit of deep gratitude for the episcopal leadership of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and pledged their willingness to accept the unique gifts of our new or-

dinary and to respect, affirm and participate in his ministry."

Members of the committee are Sister Marie Brown, SSI; Father Joseph Dorsey, CSB; Dr. Edward Gutman; Dr. Glenn Kist; Father James Marvin, chairperson; Mrs. Hedy McGarry; Dennis McGuire, Father Robert Miller; Ms. Anne Minton (resigned 2-12-78); Father John Mulligan; Mrs. Hildreth Smith; Sister Mary Wintish, RSM.

Pope's Visit To Poland Set for June

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit his native Poland in June, a month later than planned — the result of complicated negotiations between the Holy See and the Polish regime.

Both the Polish news agency and the Vatican confirmed the papal visit, the first by a pontiff to a Communist nation, but neither mentioned the compromises that went into the agreement.

Although he will not be in Poland for the mid-May celebrations commemorating the 900th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Stanislaus, the nation's patron saint, the Pope will visit his homeland from June 2 to 10.

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