



Bishop Hogan raises his hands in blessing over the Oil of Catechumens. Assisting are, from left, Bishop Hickey, Father Charles Latus, and Bishop McCafferty.

Photos by Martin Toombs

At Chrism Mass

# Diocese Re-dedicated to Christ

By Martin Toombs  
Southern Tier Editor

Hornell — The Tuesday evening Chrism Masses were designed to be part of the constant renewal of the diocese, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan told those attending his seventh such Chrism Mass in St. Ann's Church.

"We are a people of renewal," he said, "and if we're not, we are dead."

Renewal includes "our common responsibility" to determine what God's mission is, considering the times and the location, he said.

He also expressed the wish that the diocese's new bishop will be committed to renewal.

And after the new bishop begins his ministry, Bishop Hogan said that his wish is "that I may ever be" a sign of "Christ's presence among you."

Bishop Hogan noted that it was with the permission of the Holy See in 1972 that the Chrism Mass was first moved from Holy Thursday morning in the cathedral to various locations around the diocese

on Tuesday during Holy Week.

The Chrism Mass has been celebrated since the 5th Century, he noted, and lately has become an annual renewal of priests' commitment to ministry.

But there also is a "common priesthood of all God's people," he noted, and it is fitting for the "whole diocese, through its assembled representatives here, (to) renew their dedication to Christ."

Such a re-dedication also helps priests better understand their special role in Christ's Church, and their "special relationship to Christ," he said.

He then challenged those attending to take the spirit of the Chrism Mass with them when they returned to their respective parishes.

Nearly 1,000 persons from around the diocese filled St. Ann's Church for the event, which takes on a festive atmosphere each year.

Concelebrating with Bishop Hogan were Bishops John E.

McCafferty and Dennis W. Hickey, the 10 regional coordinators, Father Robert MacNamara, St. Ann's pastor, and members of the Pastoral Office staff. Several more priests concelebrated from their pews.

The oils were blessed following the homily. Three separate urns contained the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and Holy Chrism. Parish containers are filled following the Mass, and representatives take the oils back to their parishes to be used in the conferral of sacraments during the coming year.

The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry followed the blessing. The bishop called "on each of you to renew your personal response to Christ as sharers in His priesthood, each according to the particular way you are called." The congregation then responded "I am" to several questions concerning their commitment.

Following the blessing at the end of Mass, sustained applause for Bishop Hogan started with the regional coordinators on the altar and quickly spread to the entire congregation.



Sister Mary Rene McNiff, St. James Mercy Hospital administrator, presents the first reading.



Workers fill parish containers with the newly-blessed oils.



Bishop Hogan raises the chalice at the Consecration of the Mass.

**CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS**  
**GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH**  
 Sunday May 6, 1979 3:00 PM  
 Rev. Leo E. Lynch, Associate Pastor, Member of the Association of Christian Therapists, Member of and Spiritual Director for the Chadash Prayer Group, Hamlin, New York  
**SPECIAL PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS FOR THE SICK, THE BEREAVED, THE LONELY, THE OPPRESSED, THE YOUNG, ALL SEEKING GOD**  
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