

Seven Bishops Served the Rochester See

By John Dash

Bishop Matthew H. Clark this week took the chair that has been occupied by seven remarkable men in the course of the past 111 years.

These seven bishops have been the hinges for understanding the history of the diocese. This is a quick look at their achievements and the most permanent of monuments to them: an enduring Faith in Christ which they have shaped in this community.

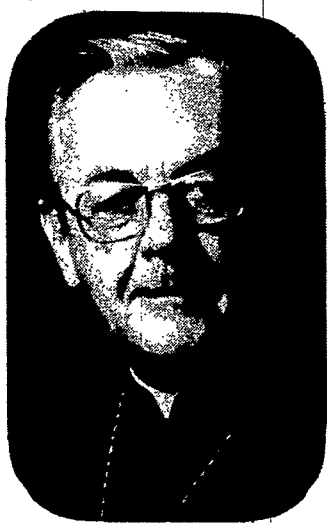
BERNARD J. MCQUAID (1868-1909)

Bishop McQuaid was ordained as the first Bishop of Rochester on July 12, 1868. He is best known for his championship of education.

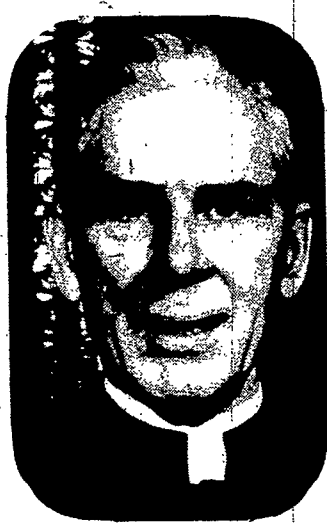
Prior to his Rochester appointment, he had spent 10 of his 20 years in the priesthood as president of Seton Hall in Newark, N.J. He served as bishop for 41 years.

Among his achievements:

- Bishop McQuaid organized the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph, whom he charged with founding the forerunner of the diocesan parochial school system: The Christian Free Schools. Prior to this time the Christian Brothers had maintained an academy in the city, but admission was limited to those who could afford to attend. In the first year of the Christian Free School, Bishop McQuaid staffed a school of more than 800 pupils with three sisters. As the idea began to grow,



BISHOP HOGAN



ARCHBISHOP SHEEN



BISHOP KEARNEY



ARCHBISHOP MOONEY



BISHOP O'HERN

and as the finances for his project grew scarce, Bishop McQuaid himself joined the lecture circuit to support free Catholic education.

- Bishop McQuaid also is remembered for establishing the seminaries in the city, St. Andrew's, a high school, in 1870, and St. Bernard's, a college and post graduate school in 1891.

- The bishop also established Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in 1872 as a sign of his concern and affection for "the faithful departed."

- And his respect for the aged caused him to open St. Ann's Home in 1905.

- Bishop McQuaid was also known for his contributions to the civic life of the area. He was a member of the Rochester Park Board from its inception in 1888 to his death in 1909.

THOMAS F. HICKEY (1909-1928)

Bishop Hickey was the first native son of the diocese to be named its bishop. Born in 1861, ordained in 1884, he was ordained a bishop in 1905. When Bishop McQuaid died four years later, Bishop Hickey succeeded him immediately.

- At the head of Bishop Hickey's accomplishments was the extension of the Catholic school system into the high school level. Prior to his episcopacy, he had established a secondary school in the Cathedral parish on North Plymouth Ave. By 1924, Cathedral High, as it was called, could no longer accept the numbers of applicants, and the bishop launched the construction program for Aquinas Institute on Dewey Ave.

- Nazareth Academy's present building on Lake Ave. also dates from his reign. In 1924, Bishop Hickey asked the Sisters of St. Joseph to begin Nazareth College on Augustine Street.

- His concern for the sick led him to inaugurate Mercy Hospital in Auburn in 1919; and he was instrumental in the construction of St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira.

- He also put the diocesan Catholic Charities program on an organized basis and cleared St. Bernard's Seminary of its debt.

- Bishop Hickey retired from his office in 1928. Following that he taught at Nazareth College, Our Lady of Mercy High School and Aquinas. He died Dec. 10, 1940.

JOHN F. O'HERN (1929-1933)

Bishop O'Hern won the hearts of Rochester and held the title "the beloved bishop" throughout his brief but energetic four years as head of the Rochester Diocese. Bishop O'Hern was ordained bishop on March 19, 1929.

- Two new high schools were started during his episcopate: Elmira Catholic High (now Notre Dame High School) and Holy Family in Auburn.

- New religious orders were invited to the diocese including the cloistered Carmelite nuns, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Franciscan Sisters. He also invited the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood.

- During the lean years of the Depression, Bishop O'Hern established emergency

relief stations in cooperation with the Rochester Community Chest and initiated a \$3 million building program throughout the diocese to provide jobs for the needy.

- He is also remembered for fostering the lay apostolate under the forms of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, a Catholic medical society, the Holy Name Union, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Born in Olean in 1874, ordained a priest in the Vatican on Feb. 17, 1901 Bishop O'Hern served the diocese as bishop only four years, until his untimely death at 59 on May 22, 1933. On the bishop's death, Msgr. William Hart was named administrator until Ar-

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