

The Divisions,
Education

... 14

Christmas Fund,
Neediest Cases

... 7

To Them,
We're Mission

Territory ... 18-19



COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

32 Pages

Wednesday, December 12, 1979

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Diocese Mourns Bishop Sheen



Bishop Sheen announces his retirement as Bishop of Rochester and introduces his successor, then Msgr. Joseph L. Hogan.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, world famous communicator and evangelist and former bishop of the Rochester diocese, died at his home in New York City on Sunday, Dec. 9. The time of death was given as 7:15 p.m.

He was bishop of Rochester from Oct. 26, 1966, to Oct. 16, 1969.

At a press-conference Monday, Bishop Matthew H. Clark described him as "a priest whose faith, energy and vision touched literally millions of persons. He was a scholar, missionary, teacher and pastor; to each of these works he brought rare per-

sonal gifts and a deep love for all of the Lord's people."

Bishop Clark was to have been the principal concelebrant last evening at Sacred Heart Cathedral for a Memorial Mass.

Also last evening, Father Joseph Reinhart, director of the diocesan Propagation of the Faith, was slated to concelebrate Mass in memory of Archbishop Sheen in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, with Archbishop Edward O'Meara, national director of the Propagation of the Faith.

At the news conference,

Bishop Clark said of Archbishop Sheen, "We shall all miss this man of faith, vision and courage. He was the source of immeasurable richness to citizens across our land. We are saddened by our loss but we remember that for Fulton Sheen, the man of faith, life was worth living because it was the beginning of what we now pray he enjoys in full, life with God."

Bishop Clark is slated to concelebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral with Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, former ordinary of Rochester, this evening at 5:30 p.m.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated tomorrow, Dec. 13, at 1 p.m. Principal concelebrants will be Cardinal Terence Cooke and Archbishop O'Meara.

The archbishop had a history of heart disease and had a pacemaker installed last year. He was 84 years old and had been a priest for 60 years.

Archbishop Sheen had many personal friends in the Rochester diocese and perhaps the closest was Father Michael Hogan, pastor of St. Mary's parish in Corning who was secretary to the archbishop when he was the ordinary of this diocese.

Father Hogan, brother of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, "just this week talked to him on the phone and I received a letter from him Saturday."

"I was saddened to hear of his death," Father Hogan said. "Even though I knew that his health was precarious his death was still a surprise. I feel a personal loss and a loss for the world. The world has lost his prophetic vision of life."

"I had kept close contact with him since he left Rochester. He had a gift: He always made you feel welcome and always was willing to talk to you."

Archbishop Sheen had lived

in Manhattan for 26 of the past 29 years.

He was national director of the Propagation of the Faith from 1950 until 1966.

Elevated to the hierarchy in 1951, Bishop Sheen was appointed to Rochester in 1966 and served slightly less than three years in his only term as ordinary of a diocese. He resigned in 1969, to return at the age of 74 to the preaching career he had launched at the age of 30. His writings and radio and television programs had brought him many honors and

Continued on Page 2