



Bishop Hogan, center, displays his award to the members of the diocesan delegation to the religion-labor parlay (from left): Dr. Joseph Torma, Father William Spilly, Sister Mary Wintish, Father Charles Mulligan, Carole Schwartz and Timothy McGowan.

## Bishop Hogan Honored At Church-Labor Parlay

Syracuse — Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, former Bishop of Rochester, and Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany were honored last week for their support of union causes in the Farrah and J.P. Stevens boycotts.

### Insights In Liturgy

By Sr. Sheila Briody, SSJ



## Advent: A Season of Hope

Advent is a season which acknowledges our blindness and apparent incapacity for God. The hustle and bustle of the season militates against the awareness and expectancy the season calls for. To be hopeful and waiting for fullness admits the lack of fullness right now. We don't have it all together!

We don't have to look far to see the areas where we need to be filled. Today's world abounds with signs of untruth and deception. There are many ads and slogans which attract us and try to convince us that this experience will make us happy or that product will fill our every need. The hope and promise of God as the creator and source of our life will be lost to self-sufficiency and isolation from the very root of our being.

Advent is the season when we experience the mystery of our emptiness, poverty and limitations. Right now we are being filled by Jesus beyond all human value and beyond the powers in the world.

In the readings of the liturgical cycle of Advent we encounter many people who live these themes of alertness, expectation and longing. They give us an example of how we are to stand ready to meet our God. When things were really bleak and down in the dumps for the Jews, John the Baptist came crying from the wilderness a message of hope. He called them, and I believe he calls us also, to prepare a way for the Lord, to believe the fullness of time is upon us in Jesus, and to open our hearts. God is reaching out toward us bringing healing and salvation to all. In return for

this change of heart, the first reading of this third Sunday of Advent tells us that our wilderness will blossom and our eyes will be opened to the presence of God-with-us.

As the followers of Jesus we are called to continue the mission of John and to spread the good news of the Lord's presence. As baptized Christians we have the responsibility to point out the presence of God in the world. John sent a messenger to Jesus with the question, "Are you he who is to come?" Jesus answered by pointing to the world and its signs for the Kingdom to come... the blind see, the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed.

This is a season which calls us to desire and to hope while we look for the Lord's presence. I believe the challenge for our life today is not so much to have the courage to expect an answer.

The Advent liturgies, the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours, have a message of hope and promise for our lives today. Advent is not Christmas. It is a season of preparation for the fulfillment of the Lord's presence. Thomas Merton says that the Lord's "advent is less a coming than a manifestation of his presence. (God) is already here." God is with us. We know this through the incarnation. We experience this by the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. We believe that salvation has been given to us. We do not earn it and we can only choose to accept this gift.

Advent is a season when we need to stop and wonder at God's choice for union with us in Jesus. What kind of hope and expectations does God have for us to choose to come, to dwell among us? The Lord's very hope for us gives dignity, meaning and purpose to our humanity.

The honors came during the first state-wide Religion Labor Dialogue held at Christ the King Conference Center here.

The meeting was a joint effort of various union officials and the New York State Conference on Social Ministry, an offshoot of the National Conference on Religion and Labor. Organizers of the event saw it as "the first attempt to set up a dialogue (between religious and labor bodies) on social issues in a continuing way that is focused on legislative action."

The main address of the meeting was given by Msgr. George Higgins, former director of Social Research for the United States Catholic Conference. Other speakers were Thomas Bradley, president of the Maryland AFL-CIO; Father Robert Kennedy of the Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry; and Thomas Hobart, president of the New York State Federation of Teachers.

## Classes Offered

St. Augustine's and St. Monica's parishes are currently offering a 14-part "overview of the teachings and workings of the Catholic Church," according to a release.

The program is open to anyone wishing to become a member of the Catholic Church or to members of the community interested in learning about the Church, the release said. Sessions began last week at St. Monica's, 34 Monica St., in the city.

The classes are "based on the ancient practice of offering formal instruction to 'new' Christians in the early Church. Centuries ago, these instructional programs — also known as the 'catechumenate' process," the release said.

Persons wishing more information may call Father Robert Schrader, 235.3322; Father William Trott, 328-2442 or Lynne Kirst, 328-2442.



## Holiday Calendar

**CHRISTMAS TEA**— The annual event of the Catholic Women's Club's business group for the benefit of the Carmelites, AAUW Clubhouse, Dec. 14 from 2 to 4 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**— The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs annual affair at Barry's Restaurant, Dec. 11 at noon. Guest speaker is Don Alhart.

**NEW YEAR'S DANCE**— Holy Rosary's Holy Name

Society, Dec. 31, in the school hall, 420 Lexington Ave., buffet and dancing to Len Hawley's music; a continental breakfast, all featured. Reservations by Dec. 14 to Mr. and Mrs. Clem Salber, 458-8939.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**— St. Andrew's Rosary Society members will share cookies and bring donations for the Andrew's Center and the Food Store, Dec. 16.

**Christmas Buffet**— St.

Philip Neri Women's Club event, in the school hall Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**— Sacred Heart Cathedral Rosary Guild, Dec. 16 beginning with rosary and benediction at 7:30 p.m. in the Church. Members asked to bring cookies.

**ADVENT-CHRISTMAS CONCERT**— Annual event at St. John the Evangelist in Greece, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m.

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