

# A cherished friend passes a milestone

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I have more memories of Bishop Dennis W. Hickey than I could possibly write about in five years' worth of columns. They are all — yes, all — happy memories of association with a brother bishop who is both an esteemed colleague in ministry and a cherished friend.

My memories of Bishop Hickey are of good counsel, loyalty and laughter shared; of concern for others, a healthy sense of perspective, an even disposition and an expansive sense of the church; of patience and kindness and countless other good gifts that he has offered to so many of us for so many years.

What evokes the memories just now is the brief announcement that appeared in the January 16 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*, and which is reported in this edition of the *Catholic Courier*. Simply put, the announcement states that our Holy Father, John Paul II, has accepted the letter of resignation submitted by the Most Rev. Dennis W. Hickey, auxiliary bishop of Rochester, on the occasion of the bishop's 75th birthday.

The announcement did not come as a surprise: Bishop Hickey wrote his letter of resignation last October at the time of his birthday. Before that date, and since then, we have spoken often about his ministry after the formal announcement of his retirement as auxiliary bishop.

I am happy to tell you, and you will be

glad to hear, that the bishop will continue to do the things he does so generously and ably for as long as he chooses to do them. He will remain as one of our two vicars general. He will continue in his post as general manager of this newspaper. Confirmations will be a part of his future schedules. He will carry on his ministry at Guardian Angels Parish. I won't go on except to say that he'll probably not miss a beat in the countless ways, public and private, in which he has served all of us for so many years.

I spoke with Bishop Hickey for the first time on April 2, 1979, the night before the public announcement of my appointment as Bishop of Rochester. Bishop Joseph Hogan participated in that conversation and, if my memory is correct, so did the late Monsignor Richard K. Burns. They kindly called the North American College in Rome to congratulate me and to offer their support as I prepared for my ordination as a bishop and for my ministry here in the diocese.

No one acquainted with those three individuals will be surprised when I say that all three — Monsignor Burns until his death, and the two bishops to this day — have been faithful to those promises of support.

A particular part of that 1979 telephone conversation has always remained with me, and it comes back to me now. It is the fact that throughout the conversation Bishop Hickey called me "Bishop." He was the first person I can remember doing so in any serious manner. I remember that it sounded strange to me. I also remember that his use of the title made me aware, in a

new way, of the scope of the responsibilities I had agreed to accept.

These years of experience have made that scope even more real for me. What means so much to me just now is that Bishop Hickey — who, by using my title, brought home to me so powerful a realization of what I was about to take on — has helped me bear the responsibilities of my office every moment since then.

I join my memories of Bishop Hickey to your own and, for all of us, congratulate him as he comes to this significant milestone in his life. And, in doing so, I express our common delight at his willingness to share his beautiful ministry with all of us for many more years to come.

Peace to you, Dennis.  
Peace to all.



## Sister Marsha Smith professes final vows



ROCHESTER — Sister Marsha Smith, a former Rochester resident, made her final profession of vows as a Religious of the Cenacle on Saturday, Nov. 25, 1989, at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave.

A graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School's first class and Nazareth College, she was employed by Sibley's as a buyer before entering the Cenacle.

Sister Smith made her novitiate at the Cenacle in Pittsburgh, Pa., where she is currently assigned. In preparation for the works of spiritual direction, retreats and faith education — which are the focus of Cenacle ministry — she studied theology and spirituality.

She has also earned a diploma in theological studies from the Toronto School of Theology and a master's in American Studies from Boston College.

**Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)**  
**Vol. 102 No. 3 January 18, 1990**  
 Published weekly except week after July 4 and Christmas by the Rochester Catholic Press Association.  
 Subscription rates: single copy, 50¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$15; Canada and foreign \$15 plus postage.  
 Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340.  
 Second-class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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