

NEWCOMERS' GUIDE

Diocese nears its 125th year

By decree of Pope Pius IX, eight counties were carved out of the Diocese of Buffalo on March 3, 1868 to become the Diocese of Rochester. Its founding bishop was Bernard J. McQuaid. Due to his persistence, four additional counties in the Southern Tier were added to the diocese in 1896.

In 1912, Rochester's second bishop, Thomas F. Hickey, founded the Catholic Charity Guild — the precursor of the Rochester Catholic Charities Aid Association (incorporated in 1917) and of the modern Catholic Family Center, celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

Under Rochester's fifth bishop, James E. Kearney, numerous diocesan parishes, schools and other institutions were built in the 1950s, the era of suburban sprawl and of corresponding diocesan construction.

In the 1960s, noted television personality Fulton J. Sheen was named bishop of Rochester and brought with him the spirit of the Second Vatican Council. As Bishop Joseph L. Hogan endeavored to implement that spirit in the diocese in the 1970s, the diocese also struggled to meet the needs of Southern Tier residents stricken in 1972 by massive flooding of the Chemung River.

The 1980s and '90s have been marked by controversy — over abortion and the methods various Christians have chosen to combat it; over church doctrine and such issues as women's ordination; over clustering and ways of preserving parish life amid the priest shortage; and over reconfiguration of Catholic schools in response to shrinking enrollments and budgetary crises.



Bishop's Office

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to our church, our diocese, and your local parish. Our diocesan mission statement begins: "We joyfully embrace our baptismal call to worship God, to preach the good news of Christ, to build up the community of faith and hope in the Holy Spirit, and to serve those in need." I hope you will find strength as we worship together, hope as we work together, and joy as we walk together on our common journey.

This special section offers a brief overview of our diocesan history and life. The Pastoral Office offers many services to your parish staff, just as your parish staff desires to offer many services and opportunities to you. Feel free to contact the Pastoral Office and your parish staff at any time.

I want to call to your attention two important aspects of diocesan life. One is this newspaper, the *Catholic Courier*, which your pastor can arrange to have mailed to your home weekly. It will offer you a wide range of news, opinions, and feature articles on aspects of church life today.

Secondly, I want to wholeheartedly encourage you to attend and participate in our diocesan Synod. Please contact your parish office for the times and dates of the parish synods, which begin September 20th. In the synod process, our course for the future will emerge through our shared prayer and discussion of six specific themes. The synod is not simply more meetings, but truly a time of grace and life for our local church. Please promise yourself you will participate.

Once again, welcome to the community of the church of Rochester. I hope we have the opportunity to meet together in the not-too-distant future. Please know that you have a special place in my prayers and that I am grateful for yours.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

† Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

God's Love Endures Forever

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
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(716) 328-3210



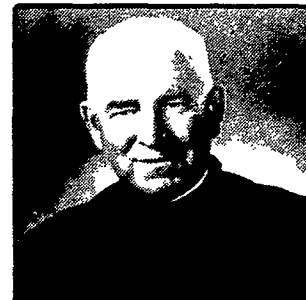
Prior bishops of Rochester



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
• Installed 1969
• Retired 1978



Bishop Fulton J. Sheen
• Installed 1966
• Resigned 1969
• Died 1979



Bishop James E. Kearney
• Installed 1937
• Retired 1966
• Died 1977



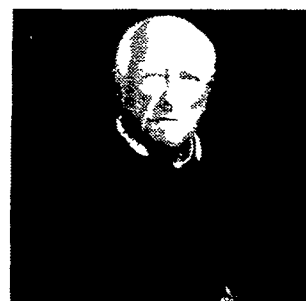
Edward Cardinal Mooney
• Installed 1933
• Transferred to Detroit 1937
• Created cardinal 1946
• Died 1958



Bishop John F. O'Hern
• Installed 1929
• Died 1933



Bishop Thomas F. Hickey
• Succeeded to the See 1909
• Resigned 1928
• Died 1940



Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid
• Installed 1868
• Died 1909

Roman Catholic Church of Rochester Mission and Goals, 1991-1993

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; the Lord has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Luke 4:18-19

We joyfully embrace our baptismal call to worship God, to preach the good news of Christ, to build up the community of faith and hope in the Holy Spirit, and to serve those in need. As pilgrims we work with other churches and with all who seek harmony within our human family to advance the reign of God. Continuing our diocese's century-old tradition of courage

and creativity, and responding to the Second Vatican Council's call for the ongoing conversion of the Church, we strive to meet the needs of our community in this time and this place.

Interpreting the signs of the time, we set forth these primary goals for the next two years:

- to convene a broad-based Synod to chart our future course
- to create comprehensive faith development programs for all ages and cultures
- to provide human care services and to advocate for social reform
- to provide well-qualified pastoral ministers to serve our faith communities.

The Diocese of Rochester is ...

- 12 counties
- 7,107 square miles
- 361,384 Catholics
- 162 parishes
- 208 diocesan priests active in the diocese; 305 total diocesan priests
- 84 religious-order priests
- 47 religious brothers
- 842 religious sisters
- 77 permanent deacons
- 3 Catholic hospitals
- 3 homes for the aged
- 59 diocesan, parochial and privately run Catholic elementary schools, enrolling 12,209 students
- 7 diocesan and private Catholic high schools, enrolling 3,303 students
- 2,746 students in high-school religious education
- 28,156 students in elementary-school religious education.

Mercy

Educating Today's Young Women
for Tomorrow's World

Give your daughter an education for life ...
at Mercy!

Fall Open House:

October 29, 1992 7-9p.m.

Grades 7-12

Still accepting applications for September

Our Lady of Mercy High School
1437 Blossom Rd. Rochester N.Y. 14610 288-7120

MCOQUAID
HIGH **JESUIT** SCHOOL

Designated as an "Exemplary School" by the
U.S. Department of Education.

Open House: Sunday, November 1, 1992, 6PM-8PM
Entrance Exam: Saturday, December 12, 1992, 8:30AM

1800 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14618
(716) 473-1130

