

125TH ANNIVERSARY SYNOD

Diocese

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thorny task. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan (1969-78) saw funds diminish and the number of priests and women religious plummet. Turning elsewhere for assistance, he established the permanent diaconate and founded the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Installed in 1979, Bishop Matthew H. Clark inherited the same stubborn problems. He lately has sought wider counsel by convening this diocesan Synod. We pray that this gathering will help us to plot a surer course for the future.

So much for this "satellite overview" of our diocesan history: a bittersweet story. Now for some reflections.

Bitterness must not be allowed to extinguish hopefulness or obstruct the search for remedies. Many present-day seers warn us that we are entering the "last times." We should heed them as restating Jesus' own warning, "Watch!" As Our Lord himself said, however, only the Father knows the actual date of the second coming. Until that very moment, therefore, we must keep busy at the task for which we were created. "What concern is it of yours?" Christ asked Peter regarding the second advent. "You follow me."

Rekindling the pristine faith of our immigrant forefathers will not be easy, but embers still glow beneath the ashes.

Our traditional love of neighbor is exemplified not only in the present program of Rochester Catholic Charities but in the admirable new social services organized by priests, women religious and laity. Our traditional love of God is exemplified particularly in the many vigorous prayer groups and the remarkable upsurge of eucharistic adoration.

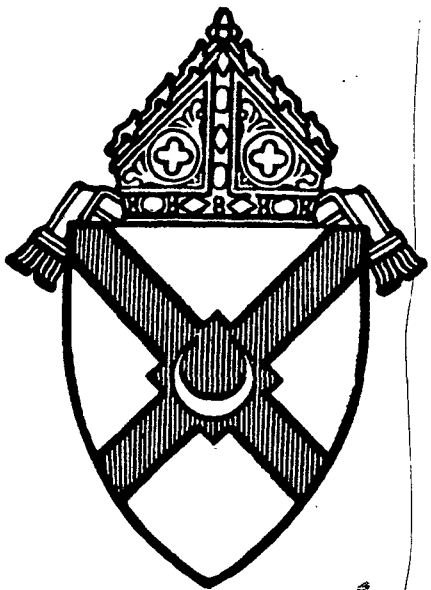
May this year's Synod lead to the launching in our diocese of the "New

Evangelization." One of the chief causes of our growing secularism is a widespread religious illiteracy. Since the Christian West has once more become almost a mission territory, Pope John Paul II has prescribed that we begin all over again.

Every Catholic man, woman, and child, as an ambassador of Christ by virtue of baptism, is called on to proclaim once more — by voice, script and example, in season

and 'out of season — the Good News of our redemption. Only when "re-Christianized" can we recover what seemed so natural to our immigrant forebears: the sense of what it really means to be children of God.

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Father McNamara, diocesan archivist, is in residence at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Irondequoit. He is the author of The Diocese of Rochester, 1868-1968, which is currently out of print. A revised edition of this centennial history is under consideration.



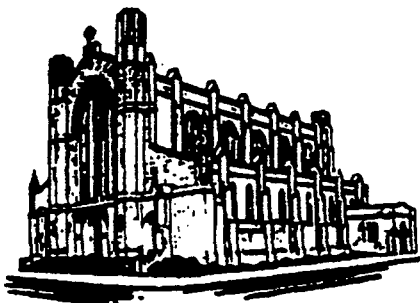
Being in Rochester since 1854 has been our joy and our privilege

Congratulations from the



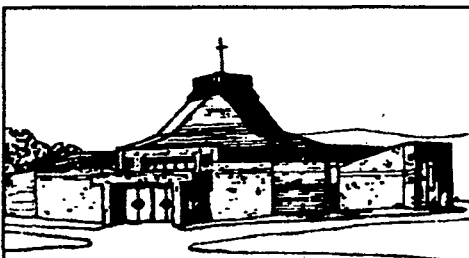
SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

The Church of The Blessed Sacrament



(Monroe at Oxford)

Congratulates the Diocese of Rochester on its 125th Anniversary! AD MULTOS ANNOS!



Best Wishes from the parishioners of The Church of St. Mary Our Mother

St. Michael's Penn Yan, NY & St. Andrew's Dundee, NY

★
 Salutes Our Diocese on its
 ★
 125th Anniversary

Happy 125th Anniversary

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