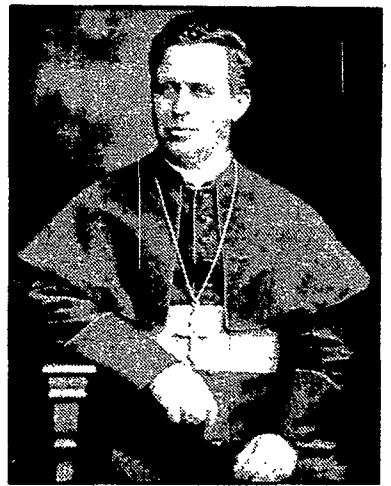




Bernard J. McQuaid



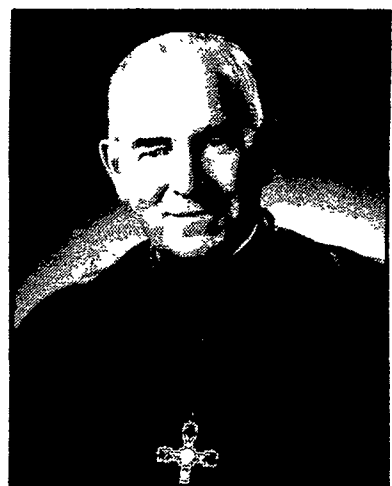
Thomas F. Hickey



John F. O'Hern



Edward F. Mooney



James E. Kearney

Eight distinctive bishops have led diocese

Each has indelible mark on the future

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

In the 125 years since it broke off from the Diocese of Buffalo in 1868, the Diocese of Rochester has enjoyed the leadership of eight Bishops of Rochester. The latest in that line is Bishop Matthew H. Clark, named to the Rochester see in 1979 by Pope John Paul II.

Only 56, Bishop Clark will likely see the diocese into the 21st century.

The man who saw it into the 20th century was the diocese's first bishop, Bernard J. McQuaid.

Bishop McQuaid has the distinction not only of being the diocese's founding bishop, but also the bishop with the longest tenure, from 1868 to his death in 1909.

Born in New York City Dec. 15, 1825, Bishop McQuaid came to Rochester from the Diocese of Newark, N.J.

In Rochester, he organized the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, established Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in 1872, and opened St. Ann's Home in 1905.

But Bishop McQuaid is perhaps best remembered for his educational endeavors. He opened St. Andrew's High School Seminary in 1870 and St. Bernard's Seminary in 1891. He also urged parishes to open schools, laying the cornerstone for the diocesan Catholic school system.

Bishop McQuaid died Jan 18, 1909. He was succeeded by Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey. A Rochester native, Archbishop Hickey had been ordained by Bishop McQuaid in 1884. He became vicar general of the diocese and coadjutor after being ordained a bishop in 1905.

Also a proponent of Catholic education, Archbishop Hickey continued Bishop McQuaid's policy of creating

Catholic grammar schools and extended the undertaking to the secondary level. Even prior to becoming bishop, he founded Cathedral High School — now Aquinas Institute. As bishop, he supported the opening of Nazareth Academy in 1916 and Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1928. He also urged the Sisters of St. Joseph to begin Nazareth College in 1924.

In addition, Archbishop Hickey inaugurated Mercy Hospital in Auburn, and aided in the construction of St. Joseph Hospital in Elmira. He also organized diocesan Catholic Charities.

In October 1928, Pope Pius XI asked for Archbishop Hickey's resignation as Bishop of Rochester. The reason given was ill health, but as Father Robert F. McNamara noted in his 1968 history, *The Diocese of Rochester: 1868-1968*, the actual reason was that Archbishop Hickey was plagued by a psychological condition that made it difficult for him to make decisions.

As he accepted Archbishop Hickey's resignation, however, Pope Pius named him titular archbishop of the see of Viminacium in Serbia. The appointment to this archaic diocese elevated the Rochester prelate to the rank of archbishop, without the duties of administering a functioning archdiocese.

After resigning, he taught at Nazareth College, Mercy High School and Aquinas Institute. He lived until 1940.

When Archbishop Hickey resigned, Pope Pius appointed Monsignor John F. O'Hern — Archbishop Hickey's vicar general — as the apostolic administrator of the diocese. On Jan. 4, 1929, Monsignor O'Hern was named Bishop of Rochester, and was consecrated March 19, 1929.

Bishop O'Hern was born June 8, 1874, in Olean in the Diocese of Buffalo. Nevertheless, he chose to enroll at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester, and was ordained a priest of the Rochester diocese while studying in Rome in 1901.

He returned to Rochester, serving in a number of parishes before being named rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral in 1909 when the former rector, Archbishop Hickey, became bishop. Bishop O'Hern became both vicar general of the diocese and pastor of Corpus Christi Church in 1923.

During his brief tenure as head of the Rochester diocese, Bishop O'Hern launched a number of relief efforts in response to the Great Depression.

He also oversaw the creation of Elmira Catholic High School — now called Notre Dame High School — and Holy Family High School in Auburn, both in 1930.

It was under Bishop O'Hern that *The Catholic Journal* — now known as the *Catholic Courier* — was officially adopted as the diocesan newspaper. He also explored the possibilities of ecumenism and communications by permitting radio broadcast in 1929 of a series of dialogues between Catholic priests and a Presbyterian minister. In 1930, a regular Catholic radio program began in Rochester, becoming in 1932 the "Catholic Radio Hour."

On May 22, 1933, Bishop O'Hern died suddenly of a heart attack.

He was succeeded on Oct. 12, 1933, by Cardinal Edward Mooney. A native of New York City, Mooney had been ordained to the priesthood in 1909 in Rome, served in the Cleveland diocese for a number of years, then in 1926 was named an archbishop and the papal delegate to India. He was named the papal delegate to Japan in 1931, serving there until his appointment to the Rochester see on August 28, 1933. At that time, Cardinal Mooney was a titular archbishop.

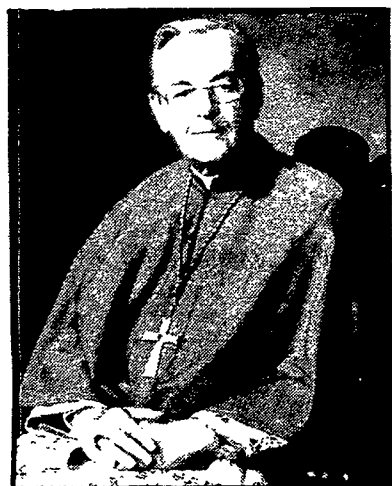
He was destined to remain in Rochester for only four years, after which he was named Archbishop of Detroit.

During his years in Rochester, Cardinal Mooney arranged for the Basilian Fathers

Continued on page 27



Fulton J. Sheen



Joseph L. Hogan



Matthew H. Clark



The parish community of St. Rose in Lima is proud to be a part of the Diocese of Rochester. We thank God for our Catholic Faith, and pray for our renewal in the spirit this Anniversary year.

St. Rose Catholic Church

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