

## O'Briens depart for Vermont home

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

When Dennis and Judith O'Brien left Rochester this week, they were doing more than simply heading for a retirement in Middlebury, Vt.

They were leaving behind a list of achievements that will continue to influence both the City and the Diocese of Rochester for years to come.

Dennis retires as president of the University of Rochester — the first Catholic to have held that office — after guiding the university through a decade of growth and increasing recognition as one of the top universities in the country.

In addition, he has reached a national audience with essays and book reviews in such publications as *Commonweal* and *America*, and for his 1986 book, *God and the New Haven Railway: and why neither is doing very well these days*.

Judith, meanwhile, has been active with diocesan boards and commissions, in women's issues, in teaching, in providing social-work assistance at such agencies as Melita House and Bethany House, and with a scholarship fund created to help women pursue graduate theological studies at St. Bernard's Institute.

But inasmuch as they are leaving their mark on the diocese, the diocese has left their mark on them as well, Judith acknowledged.

"We learned a great deal from the spiritual richness of the diocese," Judith said. "We, both of us, learned a lot (about prayer) from being in Rochester. We hope to build on that and make it more a part of our lives."

They will find time to do so in their

new home in Middlebury, Vt. near Middlebury College, where Dennis had been a philosophy professor, dean of men, then dean of the college in the 1960s and 1970s. He became president of Bucknell University in 1976 and of the University of Rochester in 1984.

The two have found their married lives intertwined with academic life — appropriate since they met while graduate students at the University of Chicago. They were married June 21, 1958, while he was a professor of Philosophy at Princeton University. They subsequently had three daughters: Elizabeth, Juliana and Victoria.

Dennis is a lifelong Catholic. Judith grew up in an agnostic but socially conscious family, and discovered the church and its social teachings while a student at Holy Names College in Oakland, Calif.

Judith's interest in social issues led to a masters of social work degree. She later taught social work at the Rochester Institute of Technology. While there, she was invited to join the diocese's newly formed Commission on Women.

"I hesitated," Judith said. "It was the first time I was asked to work for an official body in the church. And lo and

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S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

### Siena graduates first class

Kathleen Figueiredo walks down a receiving line of teachers at Siena Catholic Academy's commencement exercises Tuesday, June 21. The event marked the first class to graduate from the Southeast Quadrant school — located at St. Thomas More Parish, 2617 East Ave. — since the restructuring of diocesan elementary schools.

## Obituaries

### Sr. Francis de Sales Murphy, SSJ; longtime teacher

Sister Francis de Sales Murphy, SSJ, a longtime teacher in the Rochester diocese, died on Saturday, April 2, 1994, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary after a long illness.

An Elmira native, Sister Francis de Sales entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Mary's Parish in 1922. She later graduated from Nazareth Normal School and Nazareth College in Rochester.

Sister Francis de Sales taught in several schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester, including: St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls; St. Michael's, Penn Yan; St.

Francis Xavier, Rochester; St. Stephen's, Geneva; St. Mary's, Auburn; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Joseph's Villa, Greece; Immaculate Conception, Rochester; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; and the former St. Agnes High School, Rochester.

In addition to her teaching duties, Sister Francis de Sales served for five years as a case-aide at Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center in Auburn. She retired to the sisters' convent infirmary in 1982.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for Sister Francis de Sales at the moth-

erhouse chapel April 6. The principal celebrant was Monsignor William Shannon, with Father Donald Murphy, Sister Frances de Sales' brother, assisting. Also present were Fathers Michael Brown, Timothy Brown, Patrick Grace, John Hayes, Joseph Donovan and Donald Curtiss; and Monsignor Joseph Sullivan. Interment was in the sisters' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

In addition to her brother, Sister Francis de Sales is survived by brother several nieces, nephews and her sisters in the St. Joseph congregation.

### Gertrude Hogan Brooks, 80; sister of Bishop

LIMA — Gertrude Hogan Brooks, sister of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Father Michael C. Hogan, died after a long illness on Sunday, June 19, 1994, at Monroe Community Hospital. She was 80.

Born in Lima, Mrs. Brooks was a lifelong member of St. Rose's Parish, 1985 Lake Ave. She spent most of her adult life as a history and Latin teacher in high schools in Lima, and in Honeoye Falls, according to Bishop Hogan.

The retired bishop also noted that Mrs. Brooks spent many hours tending to the needs of sick people, and was a beloved teacher.

"At the wake, I noticed so many of her former students," Bishop Hogan said. "She influenced the lives of countless people."

In addition to her brothers, Mrs. Brooks was survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Larry Lanphere

of Raleigh, NC; son and daughter-in-law, John and Gail Brooks of Lima; her sister, Mary Rose Hogan of Lima; her brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Ruth Hogan of Penfield; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated June 22 at St. Rose Church. Interment took place at St. Rose Cemetery. Contributions may be made in her memory to the Lima Ambulance.

— Mike Latona



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