

# Msgr. Moynihan made bishop

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

Pope John Paul II has named Rochester-native Monsignor James M. Moynihan as bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse, succeeding Bishop Joseph T. O'Keefe, who is retiring after serving as pastoral leader of the Syracuse diocese since Aug. 3, 1987.

The appointment was announced April 4 in Washington by Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Installation and ordination ceremonies for the former chancellor of the Rochester diocese and the longtime pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Penfield have been scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday, May 29, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 259 E. Onondaga St., Syracuse.

Bishop-elect Moynihan's appointment

“

*He has a breadth of experience in every phase of ministry.*

*He's not just a one-dimensional person.*

”

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey

was unveiled in Syracuse at a press conference at the diocese's chancery, 240 E. Onondaga St.

"My priority is really going to be people — to try to understand people and where they are coming from," declared Monsignor Moynihan, who served as the Rochester diocese's chancellor from 1967-74, and pastor of St. Joseph's Church from 1976-91. Since 1991, he has served as associate general secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

"I always felt a tremendous kinship with the people of Syracuse," Bishop-elect Moynihan added, noting that he had studied with some Syracuse diocesan priests who attended St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester. "I look forward to being part of the presbyterate in the months and years ahead and doing a whole lot of things with the priests of Syracuse."

The announcement of Bishop-elect Moynihan's appointment was greeted with enthusiasm throughout the Rochester diocese.

"I welcome with joy the news that Pope John Paul II has named Monsignor James M. Moynihan, priest of Rochester, the ninth Bishop of Syracuse," Bishop Clark said in a written statement April 4.

"For 38 years Bishop-elect Moynihan's priestly ministry has enriched the life of our local church and our presbyterate," Bishop Clark continued. "He has served with distinction in a wide variety of assignments. To each of his assignments he has given much. From each of them he has drawn further life and strength for ministry."

Bishop Clark concluded, "Our very best wishes, deep gratitude and promise of continued support go with him as he

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# Catholic Courier

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## Rochester synagogue provides home for Jews who accept Christ as Messiah

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

Next weekend, Christians around the world will commemorate Jesus's death and resurrection.

They will not be alone.

Joining Christians in celebrating God's saving act will be a number of Jewish believers in *Yeshua HaMashiach* — Jesus, the Messiah.

While some of those Jewish believers will mark the days as part of Christian congregations, others will pass the weekend celebrating Passover in the style of traditional Judaism — but with something added.

"We celebrate the resurrection wholeheartedly," declared Rabbi David Levine, the Senior Messianic Rabbi of Rochester's Congregation Shema Yisrael. "We just don't tie it to Easter. We celebrate it every week."

And the congregation — which boasts more than 150 Jewish and non-Jewish members — celebrates in a style that blends Jewish and Christian traditions.

Indeed, the Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services at the 1326 N. Winton Road synagogue resembles Charismatic worship. They include lively folk music — but with a decidedly Jewish musical flavor and incorporating some use of Hebrew. The services also incorporate dance, spontaneous prayer, frequent references to passages in both the Old and New Testaments, and repeated praise of Yeshua.

Meanwhile, the 10-year-old congregation celebrates all the major feasts of the Jewish year, including Passover, Shavuot, Yom Kippur and the Feast of the Tabernacles.

"There are some other congregations oriented around traditional liturgy," Rabbi Levine acknowledged. But all the congregations — whether "Charismatic" or traditional — share an acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah.

Moreover, in language that echoes the Charismatic renewal, the rabbi said an-



Robin Kisiloff, a member of the Congregation Shema Yisrael Messianic Jewish community, participates in a Saturday morning service at the synagogue located on Rochester's North Winton Road.



CONGREGATION

SHEMA  
YISRAEL

A MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

other common thread in the messianic synagogues and congregations is that they "focus on a personal relationship with God."

The Rochester synagogue is part of a movement that has been quietly spreading across the United States — and the world — in recent years. According to Joel Chernoff, general secretary of the Wyncwood, Pa.-based Messianic Jewish Alliance of America, some 205 messianic congregations have formed in the United States — with a membership of approximately 10,000 Jews and non-Jews. There are also between 50 and 100 congregations in other nations, he estimated, including 40 in Israel.

And since 1993, outreach festivals staged in Russia by the founder of Congregation Shema Yisrael, Rabbi Jonathan Bernis, have attracted some 90,000 participants, Rabbi Levine said — with thousands of Jewish people professing acceptance of Jesus.

"It's an outpouring of the spirit," Chernoff said. "It's just the spirit of God is moving in his prophetic way among the Jewish people."

The Messianic Judaism movement is  
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