

Bishop-elect

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prepares for his new ministry in Syracuse."

Retired Bishop of Rochester Joseph L. Hogan, under whom Monsignor Moynihan served as chancellor for five years, said he was pleased but not surprised by the bishop-elect's appointment.

"I have known him for 50 years," said Bishop Hogan, who noted that he taught the bishop-elect Latin at the former St. Andrew's Seminary. "My observation was that he was a very eager and inquisitive student."

"I offer him my best wishes and prayers," Bishop Hogan added. "He'll do well, I'm sure."

Meanwhile, Monsignor Moynihan's fellow classmate and longtime friend, Father Lawrence V. Murphy, pastor of Rochester's Holy Rosary Church, noted, "He has a great fondness for the priesthood, and for sharing the priesthood with others. I think he'll do a great job in terms of being a friend to the priests of Syracuse."

Monsignor Moynihan is also a strong pastoral leader, observed William Kedley, a St. Joseph's Church parishioner who worked with his former pastor as a member of the parish's finance committee and parish council.

"(Monsignor Moynihan) is a wonderful, charismatic leader," Kedley said. "He's good at empowering people, letting people carry the direction."

At the same time, Kedley added, Syracuse's bishop-elect is a strong leader, who, for example, overcame objections to a plan for the parish to tithe 10 percent of its weekly collection to charities.

"He said, 'Hey, this is the thing we

should be doing. We should be setting the example for people,'" Kedley recalled. And the effort proved successful, he added.

"I think the Diocese of Syracuse is tremendously fortunate to have a guy who has all the attributes he's bringing," Kedley concluded.

That sentiment was echoed by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, retired auxiliary of the Rochester diocese.

"He's an ideal candidate," Bishop Hickey observed. "He's a very caring person. He's a leader. He has experience as a pastoral leader, as an administrator, and he was a jail minister for many years."

"He has a breadth of experience in every phase of ministry," Bishop Hickey continued. "He's not just a one-dimensional person."

Those many dimensions developed during a long and varied career in Rochester.

A Rochester native, Monsignor James M. Moynihan was born on July 6, 1932, to the late Michael J. and Caroline (Horgan) Moynihan. He attended Blessed Sacrament School and Nazareth Hall in Rochester before entering St. Andrew's Seminary. After two years of study at St. Bernard's Seminary, he went on to the North American College in Rome, earning a licentiate in theology, and later a doctorate in canon law.

Monsignor Moynihan was ordained in Rome on Dec. 15, 1957, by Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor. He was assigned as assistant pastor at Geneva's St. Francis De Sales Parish for the summer of 1958, then returned to Rome for his doctoral studies. After earning his canon law degree in 1961, Monsignor Moynihan was named assistant pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in



Bishop-elect James M. Moynihan

Rochester.

In 1963, Monsignor Moynihan was named secretary to then-Bishop James E. Kearney, and briefly to Bishop Kearney's successor — Bishop, and later Archbishop, Fulton J. Sheen. He was concurrently appointed chaplain at the Monroe County Jail. He was named the diocese's vice chancellor in 1964, then chancellor on Feb. 3, 1967 by Archbishop Sheen. He continued to serve as chancellor under Archbishop Sheen's successor, Bishop Hogan.

Monsignor Moynihan stepped down as chancellor on June 1, 1974, to become the first full-time Catholic chaplain at Rochester's Highland Hospital. He left that post in 1976 to become the pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Penfield. From 1985-89, he served as the coordinator of the annual Thanksgiving

Appeal, the diocese's chief source of income.

In 1991, Monsignor Moynihan was named associate secretary general of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. He was named a domestic prelate — or monsignor — in 1993.

During the Syracuse press conference, Bishop-elect Moyni-

han described himself as "very happy, very excited, very enthusiastic," and noted that he is "a pretty positive, upbeat person."

He described retiring Bishop O'Reefe as a "magnificent shepherd," and said that he would do his best to serve the people of Syracuse.

"I promise you I will work very hard for you," Monsignor Moynihan pledged, "and it won't be for lack of trying that I might occasionally fail."

And despite the many challenges facing the church, such as abortion, dissent, the future of Catholic schools, and proposed state budget cuts that could impact church organizations serving the poor, Bishop-elect Moynihan said, "I am very confident when I say I am very eagerly looking forward to the future."

IN REVIEW FEATURE

Book recalls 'Jewish friend'

"Letter to a Jewish Friend: The Simple and Extraordinary Story of Pope John Paul II and His Jewish School Friend," by Gian Franco Svidercoschi (translated from the Italian by Gregory Dowling); Crossroad Publishing (New York, N.Y., 1994); 96 pp.; \$12.95.

Reviewed by Eugene J. Fisher
Catholic News Service

Pope John Paul II has made improving Catholic-Jewish relations one of the cornerstones of his pontificate. He has spoken more often and more movingly on the subject than any of his predecessors. He has met with more Jewish communities in his travels around the world than any previous pope.

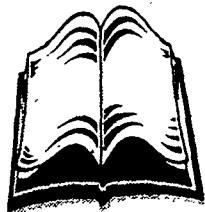
In 1986, he became the first bishop of Rome to visit the Great Synagogue of Rome in nearly two millennia. In 1994, he became the first pope to send a nuncio (full ambassador) to Israel to present to its president the credentials of the Holy See.

He has made prayerful pilgrimages to the sites of World War II concentration camps. And last April — to coincide with the Jewish day of memorial for the victims of the Holocaust, Yom Hashoah — he presided over a memorial concert together with Jewish survivors in the Vatican itself.

Why? Why such extraordinary involvement in one particular activity, however important, when there is so much, always, on the papal agenda?

"Letter to a Jewish Friend" is the result of an extended interview by Gian Franco Svidercoschi with a boyhood friend of Karol Wojtyla from pre-war Poland. It helps to give the answer — it's personal.

In his own best-seller, "Crossing the



BOOK REVIEW

Threshold of Hope," Pope John Paul puts the reason in his own words: "The words of the (Second Vatican) Council ... reflect my personal experience, from the very first years of my life in my hometown. I remember, above all, the Wadowice elementary school, where at least a fourth of the pupils in my class were Jewish ... my friendship with one of them, Jerzy Kluger — a friendship that lasted from my school days to the present ... I would like to return to the synagogue at Wadowice. It was destroyed by the Germans and no longer exists today."

Svidercoschi, deputy director of the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, in "Letter to a Jewish Friend" reports Kluger's remembrances of his boyhood with his Catholic friend, "Lolek" Wojtyla, the tragedies that destroyed their communities, and their reunion in Rome many years later. It is a story simply and movingly told, a page-turner to read in one sitting that will last in the mind and heart of the reader, warmly and poignantly, for months afterward. It explains much about what drives this very passionate pope to exert every possible effort to alter forever the ancient course of Jewish-Christian relations.

Fisher is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

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