

'Support one another in LOVE'

**'Luckiest in the world' set to be Syracuse's bishop****By Lee Strong**  
Senior staff writer

At 6 feet 4 inches tall, Bishop-designate James Michael Moynihan generally stands out in a crowd.

According to friends and family, such has been the case throughout the life of this man who on May 29 becomes Syracuse's ninth bishop.

"He used to play football with kids who were older than he," said Vito Cassan, a childhood friend who, for professional reasons, changed his name from Casamassima after graduating from law school.

"He excelled at elocution," recalled his sister Carol Moynihan. "I remember going to (elocution contests) and he won quite a few."

"He was always a good student, a serious student," said Father Thomas R. Statt, the pastor of Greece's Our Mother of Sorrows Church who went to school with Bishop-designate Moynihan at Nazareth Hall. The two men later studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. "I think that was one thing from day one we knew about him: he was a good student."

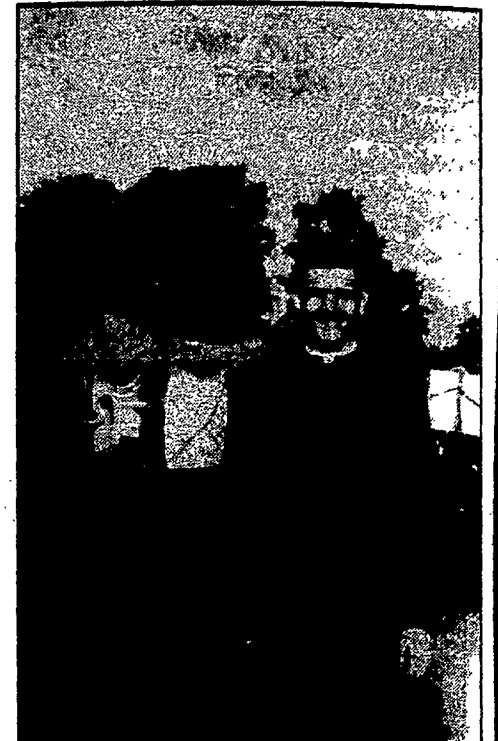
"He has a very high energy level, and he is very enthusiastic," observed Sister Patricia Switzer, RSM, who served as pastoral assistant at St. Joseph's Church in Penfield for five years under Bishop-designate Moynihan. "He had a great knack for getting people together and getting them actively involved."

"He's a big man in every sense," said Margery Salmon, who served as St. Joseph's secretary during Bishop-designate Moynihan's tenure as pastor (1976-1991). "There's nothing small-minded about him."

Moreover, the priest's career has been sprinkled with official recognitions and success along the way. He was selected



Submitted photo  
Then-Father James Moynihan blessed his Aunt Harriett at Rome's North American College in December, 1957.



James M. Moynihan at the former St. Bernard's Seminary's Mission Day in 1951.

for study at the North American College in Rome; appointed secretary to former Bishop of Rochester James E. Kearney; selected chancellor of the diocese only 10 years after his ordination to the priesthood in 1957; named pastor at St. Joseph's Church in 1976; appointed associate secretary general of Catholic Near East Welfare Association in 1991; honored as a "chaplain of His Holiness" — or monsignor — in 1993; and finally, raised to bishop of Syracuse in April.

Acknowledging that to some people his path to bishop may have seemed blessed, Bishop-designate Moynihan sim-  
Continued on next page

We warmly and gratefully welcome  
Bishop James M. Moynihan  
as our next spiritual leader.

May God's grace be with you as you  
begin your journey with the people of  
the diocese of Syracuse.

  
The  
Catholic  
Church  
DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE