

# Rochester can boast of connections to 15 bishops

By Father Robert F. McNamara  
Guest contributor

God truly honors a diocese when he elevates one of its members to the sacramental rank of bishop and to the church's high priesthood.

The Diocese of Rochester was indeed honored on April 4 when Pope John Paul II appointed Monsignor James M. Moynihan ninth bishop of the Syracuse diocese.

How many other priests with Rochester connections have been thus promoted? The total, including Bishop-designate Moynihan, is 15. The "short list," those who were priests of the Rochester diocese when appointed, numbers 10. Let us mention the 10 first, and leave the other five for later.

Our earliest "home grown" bishop was **Thomas A. Hendrick** (1849-1909). A native of Penn Yan, he was ordained a priest in 1873. Father Hendrick was not only a notable pastor but an activist in public welfare and for three years a member of the New York State Board of Regents. He was rector of St. Bridget's Church, Rochester, on Nov. 9, 1903, when named by Pope St. Pius X Bishop of Cebu, in the Philippine Islands. (The same pope named several Americans to the vacant sees of the Philippines after the United States took over the Islands in 1898). Bishop Hendrick literally wore himself out bringing back to normal a diocese badly ravaged by war and schism.

Next to receive the miter was the second bishop of Rochester, **Thomas F. Hickey** (1861-1940). Born in Rochester and ordained a priest in 1884, Father



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In 1929, Pope Pius XI appointed Bishop John Francis O'Hern, a native of Olean, the diocese's third bishop.

Hickey was chosen by our founding bishop, Bernard J. McQuaid, to be his coadjutor bishop with right of succession. Consecrated in 1905, he automatically succeeded McQuaid on the latter's death in 1909. As head of the diocese, Bishop Hickey maintained loyally and effectively his predecessor's educational and philanthropic policies. Resigning his office in 1928, he was promoted to titular Archbishop of Viminacium by Pius XI.

Third to be honored was **Archbishop Edward J. Hanna** (1860-1944).

Father Hanna, also a Rochester native, was ordained to the priesthood in 1885, and was a member of the original faculty of the former St. Bernard's Seminary when it opened in 1893. A brilliant student of theology, he also became active in social causes, especially labor-management relations.

His accession to the episcopate was rather dramatic. In 1907, Archbishop Patrick V. Riordan of San Francisco asked the Holy See to appoint Archbishop Hanna his coadjutor with right of succession. But a fellow professor at St. Bernard's warned Rome that Dr. Hanna's theology was dubiously orthodox.

The accused defended himself convincingly, but the Vatican bypassed the first ticket of nominees and asked Archbishop Riordan for a second ticket. In 1912, Archbishop Riordan, again in need of an assistant bishop, once more asked Rome for Archbishop Hanna. This time the request was granted, although Archbishop Hanna was named auxiliary, not coadjutor.

However, in 1915, after Archbishop Riordan's death, Edward Hanna was designated third archbishop of San Francisco. In this post (1915-1935), he continued his work in labor relations. From 1919 to 1935 he also served as chairman of the administrative board of the Na-

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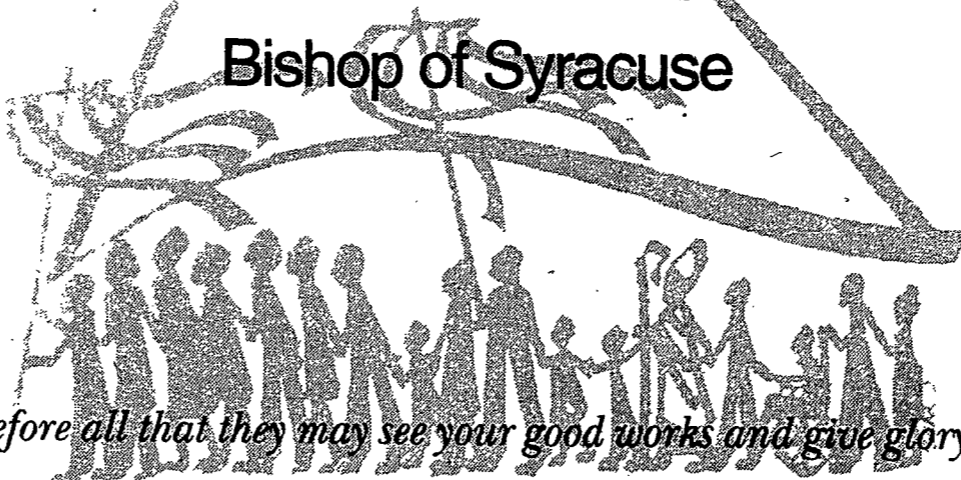
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## The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

**Bishop Matthew H. Clark**  
and the people of the Church of Rochester welcome  
with joy the ordination of

# † James M. Moynihan

Bishop of Syracuse



*Let your light so shine before all that they may see your good works and give glory to our Lord in heaven.*

— Matthew 5:16

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