

'Support one another in LOVE'

'Luckiest guy'

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selected, along with Father Robert Dunning, to study at the North American College in Rome.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Bishop-designate Moynihan of his years in Rome. "You had a chance to study under the best teachers the church could offer."

Moreover, studying in Rome broadened his awareness of the church and the world.

"You get a view of the wider church and the wider world," the priest continued. "You develop an appreciation for the things the rest of the world has to offer. We think we have a lot to offer in the U.S. We're just fledglings compared to the rest of the world."

His work at Catholic Near East over the last four years has also broadened his view of the church and the world, Bishop-designate Moynihan added.

"People are all so full of gifts," he said. "We have a lot to learn from each other."

After earning a doctorate in canon law in 1961 and serving as associate pastor of Rochester's Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish from 1961-1963, Bishop-designate Moynihan's own "learning" continued under Bishop James E. Kearney. The late Rochester bishop, for whom the bishop-designate had served as an altar server for years while studying at St. Andrew's, tapped the young priest to be his secretary in 1963. By 1965, Bishop-designate Moynihan was the diocese's vice-chancellor before serving from 1967 to 1974 as chancellor under Bishop Kearney's successors, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

"I learned a lot from Bishop Kearney," Bishop-designate Moynihan said. "I learned how to deal with people. I discovered that people had something to teach me."



Submitted photo
Then-Father James Moynihan celebrated his first Mass at the Borghese Chapel in Rome's St. Mary Major Basilica in December, 1957.

"I learned if you work very hard," he continued, "and try to set a good example, and try to be available to your people, and try to be very welcoming to them, it's amazing how they will respond."

Those lessons served him well when he became pastor of St. Joseph's Church in 1976 — after serving for two years as chaplain at Highland Hospital.

Sister Switzer recalled that he was very much attuned to the Penfield parishioners.

"Between Masses, we'd be looking for

him and he'd be sitting there talking with a parishioner," Sister Switzer recalled. "Then you'd look up again and he'd be talking with another group of people and laughing away."

While serving as pastor, he encouraged several new ministries at St. Joseph's, financed the construction of a new parish center to house parish meetings and activities, and started a tithing program through which 10 percent of each week's collection was given to worthy groups and causes.

At the same time, he did not simply force his ideas down parishioners' throats, Salmon said, citing as an example his desire to change the church's baptismal font.

"People did not want to make the change," Salmon said. "He wanted it, but they didn't, so we didn't change it."

Bishop-designate Moynihan was also fair to employees, but he had high expectations of them.

"He was good to the people who worked with him," Salmon explained. "But he expected them to work hard — and we did."

Bishop-designate Moynihan himself has a reputation as a hard worker.

Even on his days off, Salmon recalled, he would call the parish to make sure no problems had arisen.

"He works too hard," Father Statt said. "He puts in long days. He's very generous like that."

"He's very intense when he's at work," Cassan acknowledged. "But he doesn't carry it over into his personal life."

Father Statt knows for certain that Bishop-designate Moynihan will continue his solid work habits — and his deep concern for others — into his work as bishop.

"I think he will be very open and will be more than anxious to listen to what people are saying," the Greece pastor said. "He will not be afraid to make difficult decisions, but he will do so after prayerful reflection."

For now, however, Bishop-designate Moynihan has time to savor the honor soon to be bestowed upon him.

"When I say to myself I'm the luckiest guy in the world," he mused, "there's reason to say it."

Connections

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parish, St. Peter's (now Ss. Peter and Paul's).

W. Thomas Larkin of St. Petersburg, Fla., and the late Bishop Francis J. Green of Tucson had retired from their sees. Both were Rochester diocesan natives, the first of Mount Morris (1923), the second of Corning (1906-1995). Bishop Green, who died on May 11, was ordained for Tucson in 1932 and led the diocese from 1960 to 1981. Bishop Larkin, ordained for St. Augustine in 1947, was second bishop of St. Petersburg from 1979 to 1988.

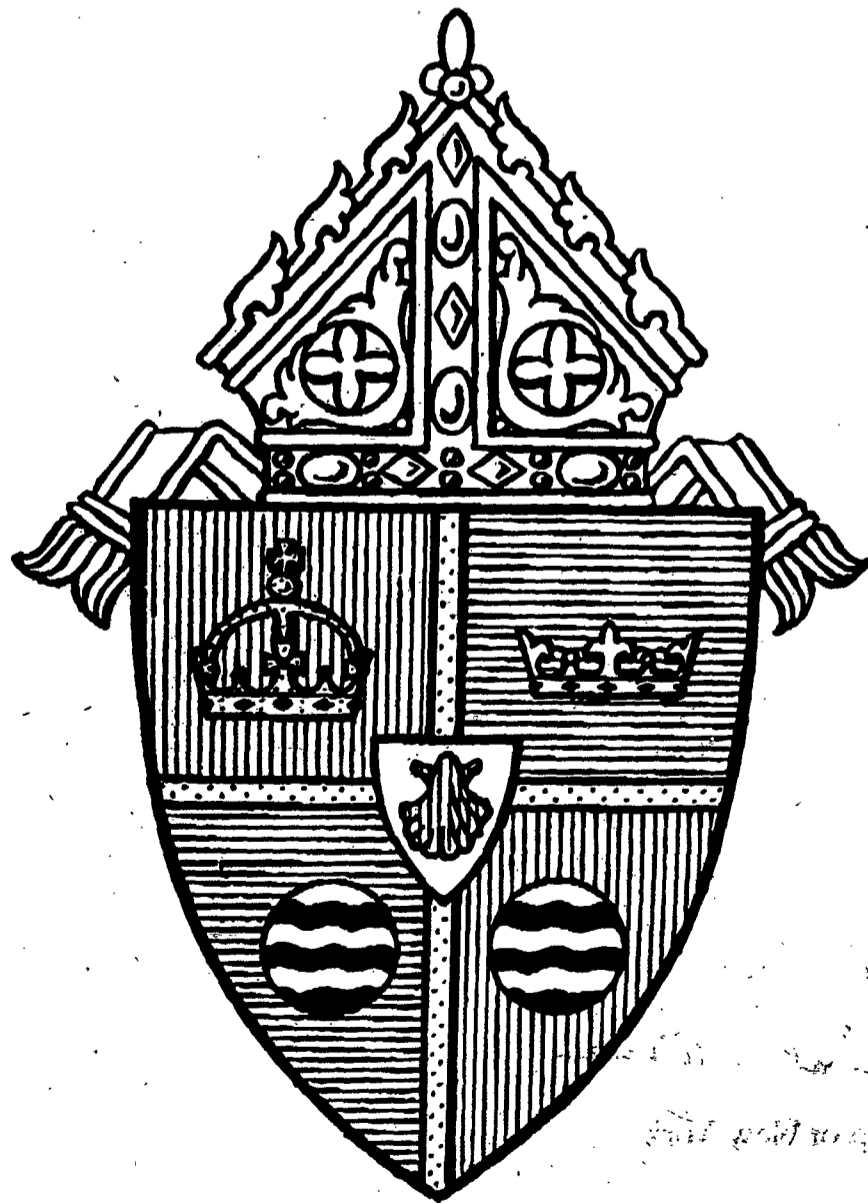
Last of the "other five" was James B. Quigley (1855-1915). A native of Cana-

da who was ordained in 1879 for the Diocese of Buffalo, he grew up in Lima, N.Y. and in Rochester, his family having immigrated when he was 11. He became third bishop of Buffalo in 1896 and was promoted second archbishop of Chicago in 1903.

Now, should we also consider these five as part of the Rochester diocesan contribution to the hierarchy?

Probably not. (We would be blamed for boasting). But as we celebrate the installation of Bishop-designate Moynihan we should certainly acknowledge that they, too, have added luster to the See of Rochester by the care they gave to their own flocks.

Father McNamara, diocesan archivist, resides at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Irondequoit.



The faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn
join me in expressing our
best wishes to bishop-designate
James M. Moynihan
as he leaves his native
Diocese of Rochester
and his duties with the
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
to succeed Bishop Joseph T. O'Keefe
as the ninth bishop of the
Diocese of Syracuse.

✠
May Almighty God continue to bless him
as he continues his fruitful ministry
of service to God's people.

✠
Most Rev. Thomas V. Daily
Bishop of Brooklyn