

## During his ordination and installation, Bishop Moynihan declares promise to serve his new diocese's 'staying and straying alike'

By Peter Duffy  
Guest contributor

SYRACUSE — A half-hour before he was to be ordained and installed as the ninth bishop of Syracuse, James M. Moynihan slipped unnoticed into the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception rectory.

Across the street, at the Chancery, John Cardinal O'Connor of New York wasn't so lucky. He was followed closely by priests, photographers, reporters and plenty of others.

However, the Syracuse diocese's new bishop didn't stay unnoticeable for too long.

During a song-filled, three-hour ceremony at the diocesan cathedral May 29, Bishop Moynihan was first ordained a bishop and then installed as the spiritual leader of the Catholic diocese before a standing-room-only crowd, which included hundreds of bishops and priests and approximately 1,000 invited guests.

"I am home," Bishop Moynihan said during remarks near the end of the ceremony. "I feel at home. And I thank you for making me feel that way."

In his homily, Cardinal O'Connor instructed the new bishop to be a "holy" bishop.

"If you are to watch over God's people ... you must first watch over yourself spiritually," he said. "All of your charisms, all of your experience, all of your gifts will enrich the church of Syracuse. But none will be meaningful without the most important gift of all: the gift of holiness. If you will forgive me you must be a holy bishop."

"You now are a voluntary prisoner of the church of Syracuse," the cardinal said later in his talk. "A prisoner of love. I know that you will love your people and I know they will love you."

Bishop Moynihan, a priest of the Diocese of Rochester, served as the associate secretary general of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association for the past four years. In addition to a number of administrative positions in his native diocese, he served as pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Penfield from 1976 to 1991.

He graduated from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester in 1954. He later received a doctorate in canon law from the Gregorian University in Rome in 1961.

Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Costello read the apostolic letter from Pope John Paul II, which called Bishop-designate



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(Photo at left) Bishop Moynihan (right) greets Monsignor William H. Shannon outside the cathedral following the ceremony. (Above) Cardinal O'Connor blesses Bishop Moynihan as the Book of Gospels is placed over his head.



Bishop James M. Moynihan (left) receives the Book of Gospels from John Cardinal O'Connor of New York during Bishop Moynihan's May 29 ordination and installation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse.

Moynihan to ordination as the bishop of Syracuse. "May God's grace and peace be always with you and with the entire Catholic Community," the letter read in part, "which in Christ we hold so very dear and which through you we bless with a willing and paternal spirit."

After his homily, Cardinal O'Connor questioned the then-bishop-designate

about his resolve to fulfill the responsibilities of the bishop's office.

During the Litany of the Saints, Bishop-designate Moynihan lay prostrate on the floor. "You will lie prostrate," the cardinal said during his homily, "seemingly helpless, as our divine Lord on the cross was seemingly helpless ... Only when he was powerless was he infinite-

ly (powerful)."

Cardinal O'Connor placed his hands on the bishop-designate, invoking the power of the Holy Spirit. The co-consecrators — retiring Bishop Joseph O'Keefe and Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester — then imposed their hands, followed by all of the bishops in attendance. At this moment in the ceremony, James M. Moynihan officially became a bishop.

The Book of Gospels was then placed over the bishop's head as sign of the power of God's word, while the bishops joined in the Prayer of Consecration, which invoked the power of the Holy Spirit upon the bishop and spoke of the importance and role of the bishop in the church community.

The bishop's head was then anointed with sacred chrism and he was presented with the Book of the Gospels. He was then invested with the signs of his office — the ring, symbolizing his authority and espousal to the church; the mitre, a sign of his role as herald of truth; and the pastoral staff, a sign of his role as spiritual shepherd.

Bishop Moynihan next took his place at the *cathedra*, the bishop's chair. At this moment, he became the ninth bishop of Syracuse.

Later, Bishops O'Keefe and Costello led Bishop Moynihan through the cathedral as he blessed the assembly.

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### GRCC to honor Koons at banquet on June 5

ROCHESTER — David and Suzanne Koon and their son, Jason, will receive the Community Faith In Action Award from the Greater Rochester Community of Churches at a banquet slated for Monday, June 5, at 6:30 p.m. in Temple Birth Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

Although David and Suzanne Koon's daughter, Jennifer, a St. John Fisher College student, was slain more than a year ago, the Koons have transformed their tragedy into work against community violence.

Tickets are \$35 per person, including the 5:30 p.m. reception. Tables of 10 are available, and a sliding scale is available. For information, call 716/254-2570.