

Auxiliary bishop tops state's list at 30 years

"Thirty years is an odd number," retired Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey protested when approached for comments on his 30 years as auxiliary bishop.

His consecration anniversary, March 14, went by without fanfare.

But those 30 years make him the senior bishop of New York state.

Bishop Hickey, 83, officially retired as auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rochester eight years ago.

His days of retirement include saying Mass six days a week at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Rochester; assisting on Saturdays and Sundays at Church of the Holy Family, where he lives; presiding over most of the funerals at Holy Family; and confirming children at 10 to 12 ceremonies each spring and another 10 in the fall.

He also walks two miles a day — 40 laps around the inside of Holy Family Church.

"I've always walked, even in my seminary days, wherever I was stationed," he said. "It's one of the secrets to my longevity, from what they tell me."

A benefit of training years ago in the pre-Vatican II days, he noted, was having to learn Latin, which he still enjoys sharing with priests of his generation.

"I welcomed the English, but when we get together we love to spout Latin together and make fun of those who don't know any Latin," he said.

Bishop Hickey, who is also a vicar general, served as an auxiliary bishop with Bishop Sheen for 1½ years, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan 10 years and has served with Bishop Clark 19 years.

"Each bishop has had his own method of operation, and I've felt comfortable with each one," he said.

"My heart was always in parish ministry," he added, "but I never really had any chance to exercise that as pastor."

Instead, he was assigned to various new ministries. For instance, he served as founder of the Personnel Board, formed

to deal with priests' matters and to make recommendations for appointments; directed priest personnel (before the department was organized) from 1968 to 1982; implemented the priests' retirement program; helped start Ministry to Priests, a "priests supporting priests" program; and was active, with Father Sebastian Falcone, in forming the permanent diaconate and a committee to guide parishes' hiring of pastoral assistants.

"You got so involved in it, you didn't notice how new it was," he said of several such ministries.

Since his ordination 57 years ago, he has also served as secretary for the Diocesan Tribunal (1946-61); and assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in Auburn (1941-46), pastor of St. Theodore's Church (1961-68) and pastor of St. Thomas More Church (1982-85). And he served the *Catholic Courier* as general manager from 1985 to 1995.

"People think I'm nuts, but I've been happy wherever I've been. I've worked with very interesting, supportive people," Bishop Hickey said.

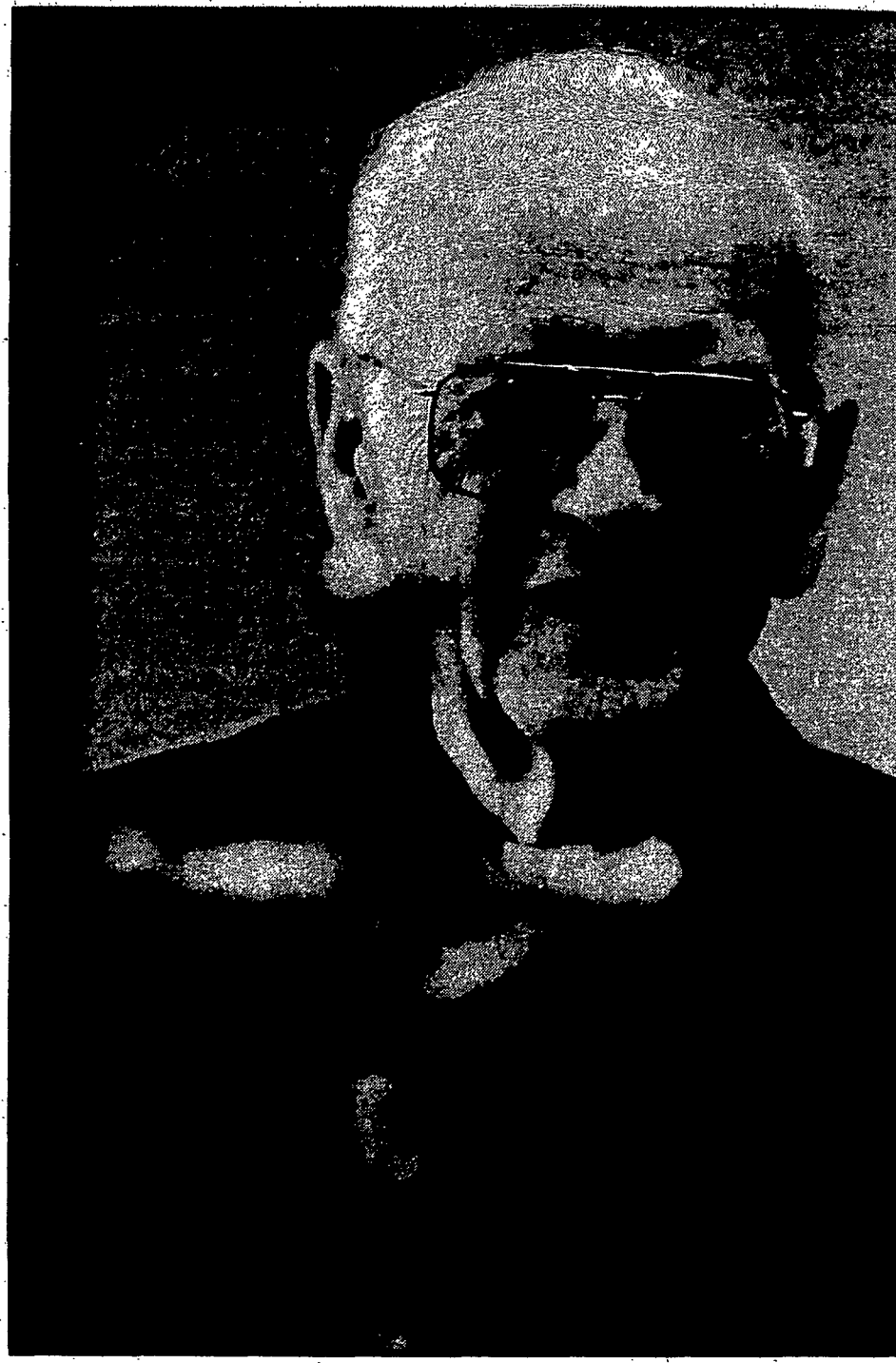
While making it clear that "tell all" reminiscence is not his style, Bishop Hickey does enjoy tales of such people as the boy who wanted to be confirmed so that he could join the parish council.

"Many people have said, 'You ought to write a book,'" he commented. "I said no. I've dealt with too many people on a confidential basis. I would never think of that. I suppose I should say, first, that I would not have the ability — but it is more than that."

Years ago for a celebration he received some 100 letters from priests describing how he had influenced them, he said.

One priest who wrote cited in particular Bishop Hickey's consecration of a Holy Thursday Mass with two of the bishop's classmates at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church — Father Paul Wohlrab and Father Lawrence Sansom.

The priest, Father William Moorby,



Greg Franica/Staff Photographer

wrote that he was impressed by the bishop, who noted it was their 35th anniversary and that they had a total 105 years of service. Father Moorby said that he entered Becket Hall that fall.

"It's surprising that people said, 'You

said this to me on this occasion,' and (I) have no recollection," Bishop Hickey said. On the one hand it's a bit unsettling, but on the other, he said, "It's kind of consoling, too. At least you were heard."

— Kathleen Schwar

Sisters of St. Joseph to honor 16 jubilarians May 1

Sixteen Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester are celebrating 50, 60 and 70 years of religious life in 1998. These sisters have devoted a combined 930 years to God and their neighbors.

The Sisters of St. Joseph plan to honor these jubilarians during a special liturgy and reception beginning at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 1, in the SSJ Motherhouse chapel, 4095 East Ave., Pittsford.

70 years

Sister Rosemary Burgio, SSJ (formerly Sister Rose Bernard) holds special memories of her years in teaching, and she is especially proud of her former students.

"It is rewarding to know that many of my students went on to become good people," she said. "Many are good parents. Several became priests and women religious. That has really meant a great deal to me."

Sister Rosemary taught at St. Mary School in Dansville, Nazareth Academy, Ss. Peter and Paul in Elmira, Holy Rosary, St. Joseph in Wayland, Our Lady of Lourdes, Blessed Sacrament, St. Patrick in Seneca Falls, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, and St. Ambrose. During her career, she also attended Nazareth College, earning a bachelor's degree in social studies and English. And in 1955, she earned a master's degree in English.



In 1972, she retired from her teaching position at St. Anne School in Palmyra, and since then has worked part-time in remedial reading at St. Ambrose School.

Sister Rosemary enjoyed reflecting upon her 70th jubilee, and sentimentally recalled her decision to enter religious life. That moment came during a Nazareth Academy retreat, when the question was asked, "How could we do the most for others, and what can be done to bring children closer to God?"

"It was during that retreat that my decision to dedicate my life to God was made," Sister Rosemary remembered.

On this milestone, Sister Rosemary added, "Most of all, I want to thank God for the many blessings in my life. My gratitude also goes to priests, nuns, parishioners, friends, pupils and parents of students. Thank you! I am happy to be a part of all that I have met."

Sister Margaret Clare Magill, SSJ, grew up in Seneca Falls. She devoted more than 45 years to education, as a teacher and principal. From 1929 to 1974, she served at St. Monica School, St. Francis de Sales in Geneva, St. Patrick in Dansville, St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport, St. Alphonsus in Auburn, and Immaculate Conception in Ithaca.

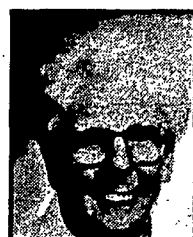
While she was teaching, Sister Margaret Clare also wore the hat of a student. She earned a bachelor's degree in education



from Nazareth College in 1947, and five years later, earned a bachelor's degree in social studies and English from the same school.

She retired in 1986, and since then has dedicated her time to prayer ministry. She now resides at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

Seventy years have passed since Sister Edwina Hester (formerly Sister Edwina



Teresa) entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. "I was accepted and prepared to receive the habit in the new Motherhouse Chapel (built in 1927)," the Auburn native recalled. "Membership in this congregation, which possessed a rich tradition of Apostolic works and prayers, energized me for future ministries of service."

Sister Edwina taught for more than 56 years at such schools as St. Ambrose, St. Mary in Canandaigua, St. Patrick in Seneca Falls, Corpus Christi, St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport, St. Joseph in Wayland, St. Anthony in Elmira, St. Augustine and Blessed Sacrament. She taught English at Nazareth Academy (1962-87), later working as a testing moderator and library assistant at the school. She retired in 1993.

"I recall my time in education with great satisfaction, and gratitude to those who sharpened my focus in this area," Sister Edwina said of her religious life. "However, I remember times after Vatican II which

were filled with anxiety. To become liberated and affirmed as a religious was not only difficult but also challenging."

Currently, Sister Edwina resides at Nazareth Convent and serves on the Congregation's Archives Staff at the motherhouse.

Sister Dorothy Agnes Tyrrell has a special place in the hearts of many Sisters of



St. Joseph of Rochester, especially those who entered the congregation between 1954 and 1963. During that time, Sister Dorothy Agnes served as the director for junior sisters, guiding them through the process of becoming a Sister of St. Joseph.

"This was a period of study and preparation for the sisters," Sister Dorothy Agnes explained. "I really enjoyed working with junior sisters. They were beautiful young people."

The sisters think fondly of Sister Dorothy Agnes' nine-year tenure as the director of junior sisters. However, the greater Rochester community probably thinks of her more fondly for her devotion to education. Sister Dorothy Agnes taught German for more than 28 years at Nazareth College. She also worked part-time for 21 years in the college's Lorette Wilmot Library.

"Nazareth College has been the center of my spiritual, intellectual and community life during most of my years in the con-

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