



Megan Jolly

Nearly 1,000 people attended the Oct. 11 funeral Mass for retired Auxillary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey.



Several people spoke movingly about the late bishop after the Mass.

Father John R. Cavanaugh, CSB, former chairman of the English department at St. John Fisher College, said he had been in a priests' support group with Bishop Hickey for the last five years.

"He had a delightful, dry sense of humor," Father Cavanaugh said. "I never heard him speak unkindly."

Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, a member of the leadership team of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in Rochester, said Bishop Hickey was "a gentleman and a gentle man."

"He was a wonderful man and a wonderful friend," said Sister Binsack. "I think everybody felt that he was special."

Father William E. Graf, pastor of Church of the Resurrection in Fairport, said Bishop Hickey served the diocese quietly behind the scenes and rendered the church a much-needed work in doing so.

"What I found was he could smile so benignly, knowing everything and not giving anything away," Father Graf said.

Father Julian Phelan, OFM Cap., of St. Fidelis Friary in Interlaken, Seneca County, had once preached a parish mission at St. Theodore's, Gates, at Bishop Hickey's request, and had encountered the bishop on other occasions. Father Phelan said he found the bishop to be mild-mannered.

"He never lifted his voice, he never yelled, he never seemed upset," Father Phelan commented. "He certainly had a lot of sympathy for people and compassion. He certainly showed it in his dealings with



Mike Mergen/Photo Intern

Patrick Caldwell reads from Romans during the funeral Mass.



Mike Mergen/Photo Intern

Bishop Clark blesses Deacon Thomas Cass before the deacon reads the Gospel.

people."

Father Timothy T. Brown, Bishop Clark's secretary, said Bishop Hickey's manner made him a pleasure to work with.

"It made him approachable, and it made him a good representative of (Bishop Clark)

wherever he went and whatever he did," Father Brown said.

Following the funeral liturgy, Bishop Clark led a service at All Saints Mausoleum at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Bishop Hickey's body eventually will be entombed at Resurrection Garden Mausoleum on the cemetery's western grounds. The mausoleum is also the final resting place of the body of Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty of Rochester, who was ordained a bishop along with Bishop Hickey on March 14, 1968. Bishop McCafferty died in 1980.

E. Robert Vogt, former Holy Sepulchre director, recalled that Bishop Hickey celebrated a field Mass there once a year for the Knights of St. John. He added that Bishop Hickey also visited the cemetery for numerous other services.

"When he would come down for any service, he didn't want to be a

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I inherited a great blessing. He was a strong supporter, even when my direction might not have been his own personal direction. When he corrected me, it was always in a very quiet, charitable way.

He conducted everything with no glamour, nothing spectacular. But he was right on target. He hardly ever raised his voice. I never saw him irascible.

He was effective, first of all, because he had the respect of everyone. He was a most trusted companion of mine. He was very astute in his judgment of human beings.

He enjoyed the company of priests. He loved his priesthood. He thoroughly enjoyed that work.

He always seemed the same in appearance. He was quiet, but he had a wonderful sense of humor and was a great observer of the passing scene.

Being general manager of the Catholic Courier gave him a new spirit. It was a breath of fresh air to him.

Bishop Hickey did all the work in between my resignation (on account of illness) Nov. 28, 1978, and Bishop Clark's installation the following June. He assured me not to worry about anything.

I last saw him three weeks ago. Two months ago, I received the President's Award from St. Bernard's Institute at Oak Hill Country Club, and he went out of his way to be there even though I'm sure it was a struggle. He was very supportive all the way.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, bishop of Rochester from 1969-1978

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