

Diocese loses dear friend in brother, Joseph

At the front of my mind this Monday morning is the death yesterday afternoon of our beloved brother, Joseph Lloyd Hogan, the seventh bishop of Rochester.

Although I knew that the bishop had grown physically weaker in recent weeks, I confess that his death came as quite a surprise. I just did not expect it to happen so soon.

But, happen it did, and, even now the sting of death is diminished by the realization that Bishop Hogan died in great peace. He was a passenger in the car of his brother, Father Michael Hogan, who was driving the bishop back to his residence after a family dinner in Lima at the home of their sister, Mary Rose.

At one point in the drive Mike was talking to his brother and noticed that he had nodded off for a moment, something that was not unusual in recent months. Soon, however, Mike realized that something more than a brief afternoon nap was happening and sought help immediately upon arrival at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, where Joseph had lived happily for several years.

I am grateful that, if the bishop had to go, he could leave us having enjoyed the company of the family he loved so dearly.

I am also very grateful that Bishop Hogan — so bright, so interested in life,

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

so curious — did not experience a diminishment of his remarkable mental faculties as he neared the end of his time among us. He continued to read, to reflect on the faith and to encourage his friends until the very end. I know that that was something for which he and his many friends were deeply grateful.

Another consolation in a time of mourning: Less than a week ago, Father Mike Conboy, pastor of St. Jerome's in East Rochester, hosted a dinner party in honor of his longtime friend, Bishop Hogan. I am sure that the bishop's friends who shared the joy of that evening will remember it now as a very special and enduring gift.

In wider perspective I know that all of us, while we mourn the loss of a dear friend, remember and take consolation from our memory of his presence and ministry among us.

I believe that Bishop Hogan grasped with his keen mind the reality that the Second Vatican Council had called the church to renewed ways of understanding itself and of relating to the many cultures in which it is present. With courage and vision he called our diocese to accept this challenge, and spent himself helping to make it work.

In my opinion, his incredible personal contribution to that process of renewal is epitomized in his celebrated pastoral letter, "You Are Living Stones."

In this document, which received national attention, he laid out this dream for the renewal of our local church and called our laity, religious and clergy to make that dream a reality.

Let me end these brief reflections with a personal comment about the bishop. On the night I was installed as your bishop, Bishop Hogan said that I could always count on his love and support. He was true to his word. I shall always be grateful for Bishop Hogan's friendship and support during my years as your bishop.

I can best offer my gratitude to him by expressing the hope that, if God grants me retirement years, I will be as supportive of my successor as our brother Joseph was to me.

Peace to all.

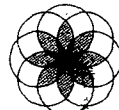
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