



John Powell/Photo intern

Approximately 140 priests wait to process into Sacred Heart Cathedral for Bishop Joseph Hogan's funeral Mass on Aug. 31.

Services highlight life of bishop



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Father Richard C. O'Connell and other priests concelebrate during the funeral Mass Aug. 31.

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Almost 800 people filled Sacred Heart Cathedral late on the morning of Aug. 31 to bid farewell to Retired Bishop Joseph L. Hogan in a funeral Mass marked by vigorous song, humorous anecdotes and reflective words on his life.

The seventh bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, Bishop Hogan died Aug. 27 while riding in a car driven by his brother, Father Michael C. Hogan, from the Lima home of their sister, Mary Rose, to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in Rochester, where the bishop had lived for the past five years. The Lima native was 84.

In his homily for the funeral Mass, Bishop Matthew H. Clark paid tribute to his predecessor, who led the diocese from 1969 to 1979 (the last year as apostolic administrator). Bishop Clark noted that at his own 1979 installation, Bishop Hogan pledged to him "his love and support."

"I want you to know that he was completely faithful to that promise," Bishop Clark said, emotion tinging his voice.

He added that whenever he met with Bishop Hogan, the retired leader always told him: "You're doing fine. Know that you have my support."

Bishop Clark pointed out that his predecessor was an academic who taught thousands of students both before and after he served as bishop. He said he had spoken with a priest who as a young boy had learned Latin from Bishop Hogan, and the priest had traced the inspiration for his vocation to that classroom experience. Bishop Clark said he also had spoken to a woman who once had been deeply comforted by Bishop Hogan's preaching. She said that, unbeknownst to the bishop, his words had helped her through a time of turmoil.

"May he rest in peace," Bishop Clark said. "Inspired by his example, may we continue to live and grow together in that same peace." (The full text of Bishop Clark's homily appears on Page 2.)

Fellow leaders

More than 140 priests and 50 deacons along with several women religious processed into Sacred Heart with seven bishops from New York state: Bishop Howard J. Hubbard, head of the Diocese of Albany; Bishop Henry J. Mansell, head of the Buffalo Diocese; Bishop James M. Moynihan, head of the Syracuse Diocese; Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Father Michael Conboy and Bishop Matthew H. Clark converse with Father Michael C. Hogan at the vigil service on Aug. 30 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Costello and Retired Bishop Frank J. Harrison, both of Syracuse; Retired Bishop John R. McGann of Rockville Centre; and Auxiliary Bishop James F. McCarthy of the Archdiocese of New York City.

Archbishop Edward M. Egan, leader of the New York Archdiocese, had been scheduled to preside at the liturgy, but was unable to attend due to a flight delay in New York City.

Bishop Hubbard, who had spoken at the diocese's fall gathering of catechetical leaders and youth ministers in Waterloo the day before, said during a break at the conference that Bishop Hogan had been encouraging to him from the start of his term in office.

"When I was named a bishop in 1977, at that time, I was the youngest bishop in the country," said Bishop Hubbard who became Albany's bishop at the age of 38. "It was kind of foreboding to enter into the body of leaders."

At various gatherings, Bishop Hogan went out of his way to make Bishop Hubbard feel at ease in the company of his fellow New York bishops. "I really appreciated that as a young bishop," Bishop Hubbard said.

Also present on the altar was Bishop Mariano Jose Parra Sandoval of the Diocese of San Fernando de Apure, Venezuela, who led a Spanish mission in the Rochester Diocese Aug. 21-25. In 1970, Bishop Hogan had ordained him to the temporary diaconate when the Venezuelan was studying at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester.

With the bishops on the altar were Father Hogan, a retired priest who resides at St. John of Rochester Parish in Perinton; Father Timothy T. Brown, Bishop Clark's secretary; Father Joseph A. Hart, diocesan vicar general; and Father Clarence W. Gardner, a retired priest who lives at St. Alphonsus rectory in Auburn, and the last living member of Bishop Hogan's ordination class of 1942. Also on the altar were Father Michael F. Conboy, diocesan director of the department of priest per-

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Bishop Hogan taught me my first year in high school at St. Andrew's. I've always said he was one of the best teachers I ever had. He taught Latin.

Then, later, actually we were colleagues together teaching at St. Bernard's. He was helpful to me as an uninitiated faculty member (in 1961). I remember many people were telling stories about people who used to teach moral theology. He took me aside and said, "Look, Charlie, the people they are talking about were the worst teachers under the sun." He had a great sense of humor.

There was a time there when a couple of them — he, Charlie Mulligan and Doug Hoffman — were reading Bernard Lonergan's book, a Canadian who taught in Rome and who, with Rahner, was one of the outstanding. He was very dense. The book was Method in Theology. Every year there's a Lonergan workshop where scholars go. Bishop Hogan went one year. These people were so impressed a bishop would go, that he was reading Lonergan and that he would understand Lonergan.

He was always a very staunch defender of me.

The thing that sort of bothered me was some of the older priests you would think would be closest gave him the most grief in the long run, that's the impression I had.

— Father Charles Curran,
Rochester Diocese priest,
professor of moral theology at
Southern Methodist University

Bishop Hogan was the one who gave us permission to place our Lady of Charity, patroness of Cuba, in St. Michael's Church (Rochester). It was something he did at the beginning. It was a very nice feeling for all of us."

— Lourdes de Chateaufvieux, a
Cuba native and associate
director of the Office of the
Spanish Apostolate

He did come down to visit the mission. Father Mike Conboy was with him. I remember he was so tall, and the plane was so small.

(When he came to live at the infirmary) we shared a lot of things from our teaching days.

— Sister Rosalma Hayes, SSJ

Resident, St. Joseph's Convent
Infirmary, who founded the
SSJ mission in Brazil in the
1960s