



Bishop Matthew H. Clark consecrates bread and wine with fellow clergy at Bishop Hogan's funeral Mass on Aug. 31.

John Powell/Photo Intern



Father Michael Conboy and Bishop Clark listen to a speaker during the vigil service held for Bishop Joseph Hogan.

Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Hart said. "Clare Booth Luce was in town, or Loretta Young ... Would (Msgr. Hogan) please drive by and take them off his hands?"

As the congregation laughed, Father Hart pointed out that Young, the famed actress and devout Catholic, died just a week before Bishop Hogan did.

"After a reunion of a whole week, I wonder whether Archbishop Sheen had had enough of the clinging Loretta Young and simply asked that Bishop Hogan be summoned once again to take her off his hands for a while!"

On a serious note, Father Hart pointed out that Bishop Hogan "was an absolutely transparent person. He lived the virtues he encouraged: prudence, kindness, justice, forbearance, humility, patience." (The full text of Father Hart's remarks appears on Page 7.)

Like Father Hart, Father Hogan spoke humorously, noting that he had given Bishop Hogan his last ride in an automobile.

"What did I learn from this experience?" Father Hogan asked rhetorically. "I learned I'll never offer a bishop a ride again!"

As the congregation laughed, Father Hogan joked that he could offer a ride to anyone needing one to the cemetery at Lima's St. Rose Church, where Bishop Hogan's body was interred after the funeral. He added that his brother would be chagrined to know that his funeral pro-



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

George Matthews of Lima says goodbye to Bishop Joseph Hogan, who was a classmate of Matthews', before the vigil.



John Powell/Photo Intern

Bishop Clark speaks with Daniel Hogan.

Although he was well-known for his own sense of humor, Bishop Hogan's serious side was felt deeply in the diocese, observers said. Many who attended the funeral spoke of him as a leader who took the diocese from a pre-Vatican II state to a post-Vatican II state.

"I saw him as a great visionary, a good bishop who stood up for social-justice issues and who gave great vitality to the Church of Rochester," said Father William Spilly, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Rochester.

Following the graveside service in Lima, mourners talked about what Bishop Hogan meant to them. Among them was Helen Stefano, a parishioner at St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Honeoye Falls. Stefano volunteers to play piano weekly at the SSJ infirmary where Bishop Hogan lived. She noted that the late bishop loved the song "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman" which was the prelude hymn at his funeral.

"If I played something like 'Gentle Woman' he would say, 'Oh, Helen, I like that!'"

She added that the bishop was known for socializing, a lifelong characteristic, noted Rose Egan, a St. Rose parishioner who taught in the Lima public schools with Bishop Hogan's late sister, Gertrude.

"He liked people, and he was very witty," Egan said. "He loved to tell stories, and he was the master of ceremonies at a lot of parties we went to."

## Vigil

Bishop Hogan's Aug. 31 funeral Mass was preceded by a solemn prayer vigil Aug. 30 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, where his body had lain in state since morning.

Despite stiflingly warm conditions, a few hundred worshippers nearly filled the motherhouse chapel. Bishop Clark presided at the service and was joined on the altar by Fathers Hogan and Conboy. Father Conboy, currently the diocesan director of priest personnel and pastor of St. Jerome's Church in East Rochester, served as homilist, and Father

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He came to the mission three times. He was very, very supportive of it. When he visited, he made it a point to get around to every one of the areas where we were serving. He spent time with the people and showed his concern for them.

The travel in those days was difficult. We traveled over dirt roads in little Volkswagen Bugs, but he did it so cheerfully. Nothing could hold him back - not the heat, not the dust.

- Sister Virginia Schmitz, SSJ, who served 1965-77 at the SSJ mission in Brazil

I think he was very well qualified for the job he inherited. He was always a very good student, and he was great with people. He was always trying to get on the same level as the person he was dealing with.

His efforts to implement liturgical changes - there was an unwillingness to accept the changes, but he was willing to rise to the occasion.

We are stronger for living in his time as bishop.

- Father James Slattery retired diocesan priest and resident, St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary

I always knew him as a very gracious and gentle person. He was very forward-looking and had a great concern for all. I think that marked his administration. He was very much his own self, without exaggerating.

Eight years ago we had a party for my 80th birthday, at St. Mary's in Baldwinsville, and he was very gracious to come to it. We talked about how he was getting older, too, but that he'd never catch me!

- Bishop Frank J. Harrison, Diocese of Syracuse bishop, 1977-87; and auxiliary bishop, 1971-77