

Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Father Michael Hogan speaks with Albany Bishop Howard Hubbard before the funeral of his brother, Bishop Joseph Hogan.

If a man from this diocese were to be chosen as bishop, he was most likely the candidate. There were many things in which he had proved himself quite capable.

After I wrote a chapter about his years in my updated history of our diocese, he sent me a note. (It says, in part, "I appreciate your charitable estimate of my shepherding. Gratefully, Ack.") This is significant that he should have said this, because I was quite critical in some spots.

— Father Robert McNamara
diocesan historian



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Father Hogan shakes hands with priests after the funeral.

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Hogan offered closing remarks. Father Conboy spoke of "the glorious reunion" that Bishop Hogan is now experiencing with his deceased relatives: "For Joseph, life has changed, not ended."

Father Conboy went on to say that Bishop Hogan "lived a life of quiet humility, as did his patron saint, Joseph."

"Most of Dr. Hogan's years were spent on education, his crowning glo-



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Maura Brent reads Bishop Hogan's headstone at the cemetery in Lima on Aug. 31, while Father Michael Hogan and Megan Brent look on.

ry being the establishment of Becket Hall," Father Conboy said. "Most of all, he loved being a priest and bishop."

Father Conboy called Bishop Hogan "a trailblazer who encouraged others to have the proper balance between action and reflection." However, the former bishop's secretary also noted that Bishop Hogan was totally spent when he decided to retire as bishop in late 1978.

"Writing to me, the bishop said, 'I feel a heavy load has been removed. I know it is the right decision; I am at peace,'" Father Conboy acknowledged. (More of Father Conboy's remarks appear on Page 8.)

The final five years of Bishop Hogan's life were spent at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. Father Conboy said that the bishop continued to have a zest for life, right up until the end.

"As the body failed, the mind stayed alert," Father Conboy said. "He was always praying in his room and taking visitors. He loved visitors."

Whereas many priests commonly referred to the bishop as Joseph, Father Conboy said in his closing remarks, he never did so: "It is hard for me to say goodbye to the one I only called 'Bishop Hogan.'"

Father Michael Hogan, on the other hand, referred to his brother as 'Doc' throughout his closing reflections. He talked about his brother's days as principal of DeS ales High School in Geneva, when the future bishop lived at St. Stephen's rectory with another Father Joseph Hogan. One day, Father Michael Hogan said, an elderly woman came looking for a Father Hogan and was asked which one. She said Joseph, and was again asked which one. "She said, the doctor," Father Michael Hogan remarked, referring to his brother's doctoral degree.

Father Hogan said his brother was always highly complimentary of sisters and staff at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, although he wasn't always as fond of the cuisine: "I know Doc will gladly exchange the infirmary food for the heavenly banquet," Father Hogan said.

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Contains reporting by Staff writer Mike Latona.



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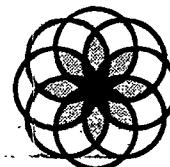
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