

Former secretary pays tribute

He went to St. Rose School and the public schools. The Catholics looked upon him as the people's bishop. He came from a hard-working family.

When he was a regular priest, he could help out at Honeoye Falls (St. Peter of the Cross) and Mendon (St. Catherine of Siena), but Lima was where he went to the most.

When he became a bishop, the people in Lima were overwhelmed with joy. They felt so proud that a member of the Lima community had become bishop. There's a big picture of him in the town hall.

He came back to officiate at many events and confirmations. He just was wonderful with kids; nobody was afraid of him. I'll never forget him talking, at more than one confirmation, about the two words that were most important - "Thank you."

I'd been to the family home many times. I had taken care of the mother when she was sick, and his sister Phoebe. Every Christmas I got a card from Bishop Hogan that said, "Thank you, Father Doyle - thank you for your kindness to my family and myself."

- Father James Doyle
retired priest and pastor of St. Rose Parish, Lima, 1969-99

EDITORS' NOTE: This is from the advance text of the homily Father Michael Conboy delivered at the Aug. 30 solemn evening prayer vigil. Father Conboy served as secretary to Bishop Hogan.

What brings us together this evening is our love and great respect for Bishop Joseph Lloyd Hogan and our sadness that he is no longer in our company. He has preceded us into eternity to be with his God and in the faithful company now of his dear mother and father, Michael and Mary, and his sisters, Phoebe and Gertrude, family members, friends, co-workers, priests and sisters. What a glorious reunion! For Joseph, life is changed, not ended! My message this evening is more sermon than homily, more homey than theological.

It is indeed fitting that we assemble here in this chapel dedicated to the Holy Family on the grounds of Nazareth where St. Joseph keeps careful watch. Bishop Hogan has always felt at home with the Sisters of St. Joseph, having received early training from them at St. Rose of Lima. Often mentioned were the names Sister Teresita, Sister Hermine and Sister Lucinda. Other sisters, too, shared the duties at DeSales High School back in 1953-55. For the past five years, the beloved Nazareth has been the bishop's home. As we offer our sympathy to Father Mike, Dan and Ruth and family members, we include, as well, this family of sisters and co-workers at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary and motherhouse.

The church of Rochester has lost a great man, a dedicated priest, a prayerful Christian, a prelate of note - a bishop who took to heart the challenges of Vatican II as presented to us in those early days.

It has been a long journey these 80-plus years for Joseph Lloyd Hogan. If you have read Father Bob McNamara's latest edition of the history of the Diocese of Rochester and have kept apprised of Bishop Hogan's career, you know of what I speak. In any event, permit me, if you will, to highlight a few memories. Kindly let your own memories well up in your hearts and offer these as gifts to God. I speak of Joseph the man, Joseph in ministry as priest, professor and bishop, Joseph in growing old.

Joseph the man: Although of good stature, he was a somewhat shy and retiring sort of fellow. Sensitive, yet he enjoyed a hearty laugh, loved to play a prank, and have a good time. He even took a ride in a hot air balloon!

Joseph as teacher/professor: He did his thesis on pride and humility at the Angelicum in Rome. Administered DeSales High School and served as summer time janitor; moved into St. Bernard's to succeed Dr. Baiertl teaching fundamental dogma,

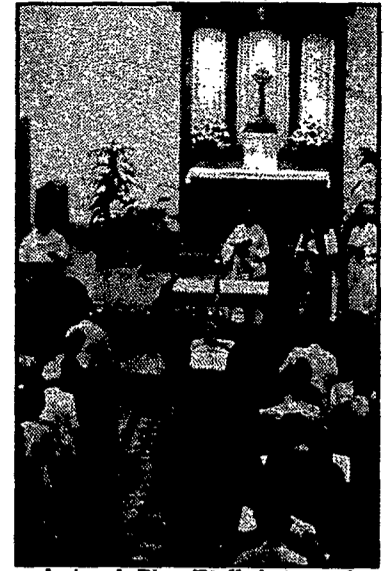


Photo courtesy of Diocesan Archives

Bishop Hogan boards a hot air balloon in celebration of his 50th anniversary.

adolescent psychology. Most of Dr. Hogan's years were spent in education with his crowning glory being the establishment of Becket Hall. Even after retirement, he returned to education as visiting professor at St. John Fisher College, scene of endeavors of earlier years.

Joseph the priest and bishop: How he loved the people of his first assignment, St. Mary's in Elmira, and his first and only pastorate, that of St. Margaret Mary's in Irondequoit. He lived what he taught and preached. Bishop Hogan might best be labeled a visionary, a leader, a listener and a collaborator. The sermon preached at the episcopal ordination spoke of the vitality of the church in the midst of tension, of living our lives in faith, courage and love, of rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, of sharing responsibility in the duties of discipleship. All are called to share



Andrea A. Dixon/Staff photographer

The solemn evening prayer vigil for Bishop Hogan at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse drew several hundred mourners.

in giftedness and he said, "I believe that the mission of the church to redeem the world belongs to all of good will."

"You Are Living Stones" was written and promulgated to mark the sixth anniversary of the bishop's episcopal ordination. The document spoke of a vision for the church, again giving encouragement to the many ministries and practices that we take for granted today.

So much more could be said, my friends. You know the rest of the story that comprised those 10 years of episcopal ministry.

The last phase of my remarks this evening and the last chapter of Joseph's life centers around Joseph and growing old. "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be" wrote Robert Browning.

Bishop Hogan knew he could not continue after his 10 years and retirement was granted. 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."

"I have made a good decision. My last Courier column is addressed to the church of Rochester. The years have been good ones despite the pain." Since 1995 when his health began to fail, he came here to Nazareth to make this his home for his final years. They have been good years but, again, not without challenge. As the body failed, the mind stayed alert. Reading, praying and visiting were the "stuff" of this last phase. Whenever I visited him, he would beg a blessing before I left. He stayed on top of the news, offered the holy Mass or concelebrated, rejoiced in the good fortune of the SSJ Golf Tournament and offered prayers for its success. He spoke of the gracious response to the needs of the residents of St. Joseph's infirmary whom he called "my family."

When the news of Joseph's departure reached me, I could only say, "Go forth, O Christian soul, to be with your God. Yours has been a good and faithful service. You have lived the words of your episcopal motto uttered back on November 28, 1969, "Gladly will I spend and be spent."

My last act at being his secretary for 31 years is now completed. Go in peace. Bishop Hogan. Farewell!

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Novena Prayer to Saint Therese
(To be said every day for nine days.)

O Saint Therese, to you all life was a miracle! I pray to you, Powerful Intercessor, to lighten my burdens by miraculous intervention. You have promised to let a "shower of roses fall from Heaven." Let your love wash over me and heal me—physically, emotionally and spiritually. When I am alone, reach into my heart with peace and comfort, and when I am afraid, bring me new hope and strength in the Lord. With confidence, I place in your hands this special favor (state petition). ~ Amen.

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