

Bishop raised in 'crossroads' village



Photo courtesy of Diocesan Archives

The future bishop of Rochester, with a relative.

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

The infant who would grow up to become the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Rochester was born March 11, 1916, in Lima, a small, rural community located in Livingston County south of Rochester. Lima calls itself the "crossroads" of western New York, and the bishop born there would take office when his diocesan church also was at a crossroads: one that led backward to the pre-Vatican II Catholic Church, the other moving forward to a post-conciliar community of faith.

Joseph Lloyd Hogan was born the second of six children of Michael C. Hogan and Mary Shaw Hogan. Michael Hogan was a foreman at the local Porcelain Insulator Corporation. His wife, raised a Methodist, was received into the Catholic Church before their marriage. Their first child was stillborn. In addition to Joseph, the Hogans had three daughters, Phoebe and Gertrude, who have died, and Mary Rose and two more sons, Daniel and Michael, all three of whom survived the bishop. Michael also became a priest.

Daniel W. Hogan, Bishop Hogan's younger brother, remembered his family as one that performed its Catholic duties diligently and also liked to have as much fun as possible.

"We always piled in the car and went to church on Sunday morning," he said. "We shared everything, and enjoyed the holidays especially."

Rose Egan, who always called the late diocesan leader "Bishop Lloyd" after his middle name, grew up in Lima. A contemporary of Bishop Hogan, she recalled the Hogans as a joyous, humorous family.

"The whole family was very witty," she said, adding that the bishop's late sister, Gertrude, could make up poems on the spot.

"I grew up surrounded by wonderful people who were a great support to me throughout all my days," Bishop Hogan said of his family and neighbors. "Wonderful friends in a small town."

He remembered going through all the ranks of Scouting. But if a Boy Scout celebration of the Lima troop was held in a Protestant church, he said, "You couldn't go."

Still, he became a very close friend of a Presbyterian minister there, he said, "which was sort of frowned upon by our religious leaders in our parish."

The Hogans attended St. Rose of Lima Church, and it was there that the young boy came under the influence of the pastor, Father John Farrell, whose example led him to consider the priesthood. Bishop Hogan also remembered some of his teachers at St. Rose's grammar school



File photo

The future bishop, 9 months old, in a photo session with a Lima photographer.

with affection.

"There was Sister Lucinda who had the first four grades in one classroom, enough to try the patience of the greatest saint," he stated in his memoirs. "Then there was Sister Hermine who taught grades five, six and seven, and in (them) we were prepared for what I consider a first major hurdle in my education, taking of the New York State Regent's examination in geography. Sister surrounded the taking of the test with all the mystery as though the papers were immediately to go to Albany to be corrected and returned to her."

Bishop Hogan, who was to become an educator himself, spoke humbly of his teachers at St. Rose.

"I owe them so much, and I am filled with gratitude for a great debt that I owe to them for their years of patient endurance of me."

After graduating with distinction from St. Rose's School, the future bishop went to Lima High School where he encountered several exemplary teachers, including a "Mr. Wilson" who encouraged him to hone his speaking skills, according to his memoirs.

"In fact, it was Mr. Wilson who encouraged me to try to participate in a county oratorical contest that gave me a start in speaking and arranged for me to be part of a national oratorical contest in Springfield, Mass."

Joseph Hogan entered St. Andrew's Seminary in Rochester after being inspired to do so by such diocesan priests as Father Henry Manley, a Greek teacher who assisted at St. Rose on weekends, and the young man's own cousin, Father Joseph O'Connell.

"I entered St. Andrew's Seminary at a time when vocations were quite plentiful. (We) had about 100 candidates for the priesthood."

Out of that "hundred," however, only Bishop Hogan and one other young man actually went on to become priests. Ordination was the culmination of three years' study at St. Andrew's and six years at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester. At age 26, Joseph Hogan's journey from his childhood in Lima to priestly ordination in Rochester was finally coming to an end. The journey that lay ahead would take him from the scholarly world of the pre-Vatican II classroom to the tumultuous world of the U.S. church as it both wrestled with and embraced the modern world.



Photo courtesy of Diocesan Archives

Father Hogan with his father, Michael.



File photo

Father Hogan in 1947.

I think that he did a wonderful job in helping the people of the Rochester Diocese in making a shift from a pre-Vatican II to post-Vatican II church. I think Bishop Hogan was able to help people get grounded in the changes, and I think that was an invaluable gift to the people of the Diocese of Rochester. As bishop, I issued a pastoral letter (on Vatican II changes) called "We Are His People." My inspiration in doing that was in no small measure due to what Bishop Hogan had done in Rochester. In fact, I quoted from "Living Stones" in that letter.

— Albany Bishop Howard J. Hubbard

My father was in (Rochester's) Highland Hospital with cancer. The bishop was doing sick calls at the time, and he came in to see him. The fact that this man who was a bishop came to visit certainly was a thrill to my father.

Especially after all the turmoil of (Vatican II) he really was a blessing of favor that came in, and he was just so human. You had a feeling that there was a better life ahead.

— Sharon Clark, parishioner at St. Mary's Parish, Rochester

I got to know him when he taught me Latin. He was a good teacher. He would walk up and down the aisles and point to you and say "What do you think of that?" One day when I (made a mistake) speaking English, he said, "Well, you must have brought the English teacher a bushel of apples to get out of eighth grade last year!"

— Father Lawrence V. Murphy, pastor of Rochester's Holy Rosary and Most Precious Blood parishes

We had very good parents. We were all active in the church, and me and my brothers were altar boys. After our father died, (Father Hogan) kind of took over. I was 14 or 15. He always took us to ball games, (Rochester) Red Wings' games. He loved baseball. He was great to everybody. He guided our lives.

— Bishop Hogan's younger brother Daniel W. Hogan, parishioner at Church of the Assumption, Fairport.

Monthly Report of Lloyd Hogan St. Rose School, 1912-1930
First Year High Teacher Michael C. Hogan

	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	AV.
Algebra	96	98	100	97	100	96	100	97	100	98
Latin I	97	93	100	95	100	94	98	98	99	99
Biology	96	95	100	98	100	97	100	98	98	98
English I	100	99	99	96	98	98	97	94	100	97
Religion	100	100	98	97	100	100	100	100	100	100
Conduct	98	98	98	97	100	100	99	99	99	99
Attendance	98	97	98	98	99	96	98	98	97	98

Signature of Lloyd Hogan

Sept. Michael Hogan Feb. Michael Hogan
Oct. Michael Hogan Mar. Michael Hogan
Nov. Michael Hogan Apr. Michael Hogan
Dec. Michael Hogan May
Jan. Michael Hogan Jun.