



Bishop Hogan lies prostrate during his ordination in Sacred Heart Cathedral. (From left) Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Paterson, N.J., and former auxiliary bishop of Rochester; Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, apostolic delegate in the United States; and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Photo courtesy of Diocesan Archives

## Bishop Hogan 'rejoiced in changes'



Photo courtesy of Diocesan Archives

Bishop Hogan gathers in Rome with Cardinal Terence Cooke and other bishops.

By Kathleen Schwar  
Associate editor

"It has been a frantic busy dream," Bishop Hogan wrote in his *Courier-Journal* column of Dec. 5, 1969, regarding the weeks following the Oct. 15 announcement that he would succeed Bishop Fulton J. Sheen as bishop of Rochester.

Before the announcement, Bishop Sheen had told him that "a personal and confidential letter of great importance" was on its way to him from the apostolic delegate in Washington. Bishop Hogan recounted those days in memoirs that St. John Fisher Professor Nathan Kollar gathered few years ago.

After an evening with his priest-support group at Honeoye Lake, Bishop Hogan recalled, he returned home the next morning and opened the letter. It asked him to be the next bishop. "My reply was to be in a coded message that was suggested," he wrote. "A favorable reply would contain the words of a message which would mean nothing to anyone who might intercept my answer," he told Kollar. "Something like 'Kodak stock did well today.' I don't recall the exact words...I did say yes."

But he was overwhelmed at the thought of succeeding Bishop Sheen, "someone who was probably the best known bishop in the world."

"... And so these days were hectic as I remained quiet with my secret, could not even exchange the news with my own mother."

In fact, Mrs. Hogan told the *Courier-Journal* that she had learned the news from a neighbor.

"So she was getting around, minding her own business at home in Lima Wednesday morning when a neighbor telephoned with the news, off television: Father Joseph Hogan had been appointed bishop?" the paper reported.

"I couldn't believe it," Mrs. Hogan told the *Courier-Journal*. "He comes to see me every Wednesday, and he's coming today, so I sup-



File photo

Bishop Hogan greets his mother, Mary Shaw Hogan, 84, after giving her his first blessing as bishop.

pose he'll tell me more about it..."

Mrs. Hogan, 84, attended the ordination and installation ceremonies with her three daughters and two other sons, as well as relatives and Lima neighbors. They were honored guests among the 600 lay people and nearly 400 priests and religious who gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral Nov. 28, 1969, as Joseph Lloyd Hogan became Rochester's seventh bishop.

From the start, the bishop indicated his approach to the ongoing upheaval that followed Vatican II. Among the oft-quoted passages from his ordination sermon was this reflection:

"Rather than being dismayed by the turbulence of our era, I rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit offered to me today with the same love with which he confirmed the first bishops and the infant church on the first Pentecost. The history of the church assures us of equally vehement turbulence in the past. St. Paul testifies to internal dissensions which harassed the early Christian communities. The Acts of the Apostles reports serious strife and conflict in the infant church. At other times long years of darkness have obscured her destiny as the Light of Nations. Schism and irresponsible leadership have brought moments of joy to the prophets of doom. The church will continue to suffer this tension of vitality in every age. For while all holy in its divine dimensions and doctrine, it will remain throughout its pilgrimage to the heavenly Jerusalem a body of sinful men ever tempted to alienation from God and ever in need of renewal in

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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. It was something he did at the beginning. It was a very nice feeling for all of us.

- Lourdes de Chateaufieux,  
a Cuba native and associate  
director of the Office of  
the Spanish Apostolate