

File photo

Bishop Hogan (right) and Episcopal Bishop Robert Spears Jr., shown here in 1976, collaborated on ecumenical projects.

In 1991 as pastor of St. Patrick's, I used to say I was the only priest who had a priest for an assistant. I wrote this in the bulletin. "I'm uptight" is something I don't do any more. I don't do any more and change a lot of things. I copied him. I don't think he was eating properly. I got a cook and he'd come on Saturday nights and have friends in. When I left I told him we were going to name the house the Hogan House, and he said don't do that. It was named after my father. Since we had a lot of children and we named it the Hogan House sign is on the front. (See below.)

It was quiet and he liked the quietness. The basement was finished like a chapel for concelebration. He had an altar of marble from Bracket Hall replicated in wood. He'd invite priests to celebrate their jubilees and he'd cook steak for them. He enjoyed his friends coming here - priests, friends, nun friends, lay friends. He could cook a steak but not much else. He had trouble boiling water.

- Father George Wiant, pastor, St. Patrick Church, Victor

Father Wiant's proclamation reads: "On this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety-five, in the Village of Victor in the sovereign State of New York, be it known that henceforth and as long as human memory is able, that the Residence located at One hundred twenty-three Maple Avenue in the Village of Victor, Be Known as and Always referred to as: THE HOGAN HOUSE. May peace Be On All Who Enter This House."

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Christ. The pain of this hour will be the prelude to renewed life only if we accept it with faith and courage and love."

His optimistic tone continued in his *Courier* column, "Pastoral Perspective." In his first installment, he wrote, "There is no special training school for bishops, except the job experience of growing in wisdom and grace before God and man. There is no need to mention the aging process...."

He wrote that he detested the phrase, "I'm uptight," because "it reflects a lack of faith in the presence of the Holy Spirit who remains always the principal agent of renewal in the church and the prime guarantee of victory in the present conflict."

"'Uptight' also indicates a lack of inner security in those who have depended on external props for the pursuit of their Christian commitment," he continued. "Rather than being dismayed by the turbulence, I rejoice in the power of the same Holy Spirit who confirmed the first Bishops and the infant church on the first Pentecost...."

Boundaries

One of Bishop Hogan's first "acts" was, perhaps unknowingly, to end discussion of a proposal to remake the diocese's boundaries. Apparently an Albany priest was arguing to have the state's dioceses realigned to more closely match the state's socioeconomic centers. The plan would have created new sees at Utica and Binghamton, according to diocesan historian Father Robert F. McNamara, and would have removed Cayuga and Tioga counties from the Rochester Diocese's territory. Perhaps two more dioceses might have been created out of other Southern Tier counties in the Rochester and Buffalo dioceses.

At the bishop's ordination the apostolic delegate, Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, privately sought Bishop Hogan's input on the proposal. Although Bishop Hogan was not aware of the details, he said he saw no need to disturb the existing borders. And that, according to Father McNamara, was that.

Pioneer

Bishop Hogan also is often called a pioneer. "I guess though when you suddenly find out you're sort of a pioneer in doing things, you wonder am I an oddball or what?" he told the *Catholic Courier* in May. But he said he had been encouraged from priests and church documents. "If you hang around with the right people, like the Jim Malones of the world, you get encouragement from them," he told the *Courier*, referring to fellow Vatican II reformer Bishop James Malone, former president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Malone, former bishop of Youngstown, Ohio, died April 9 this year.

Bishop Hogan's priority was to bring the vision of the Second Vatican Council to the diocese and continue reforms begun under Bishop Sheen.

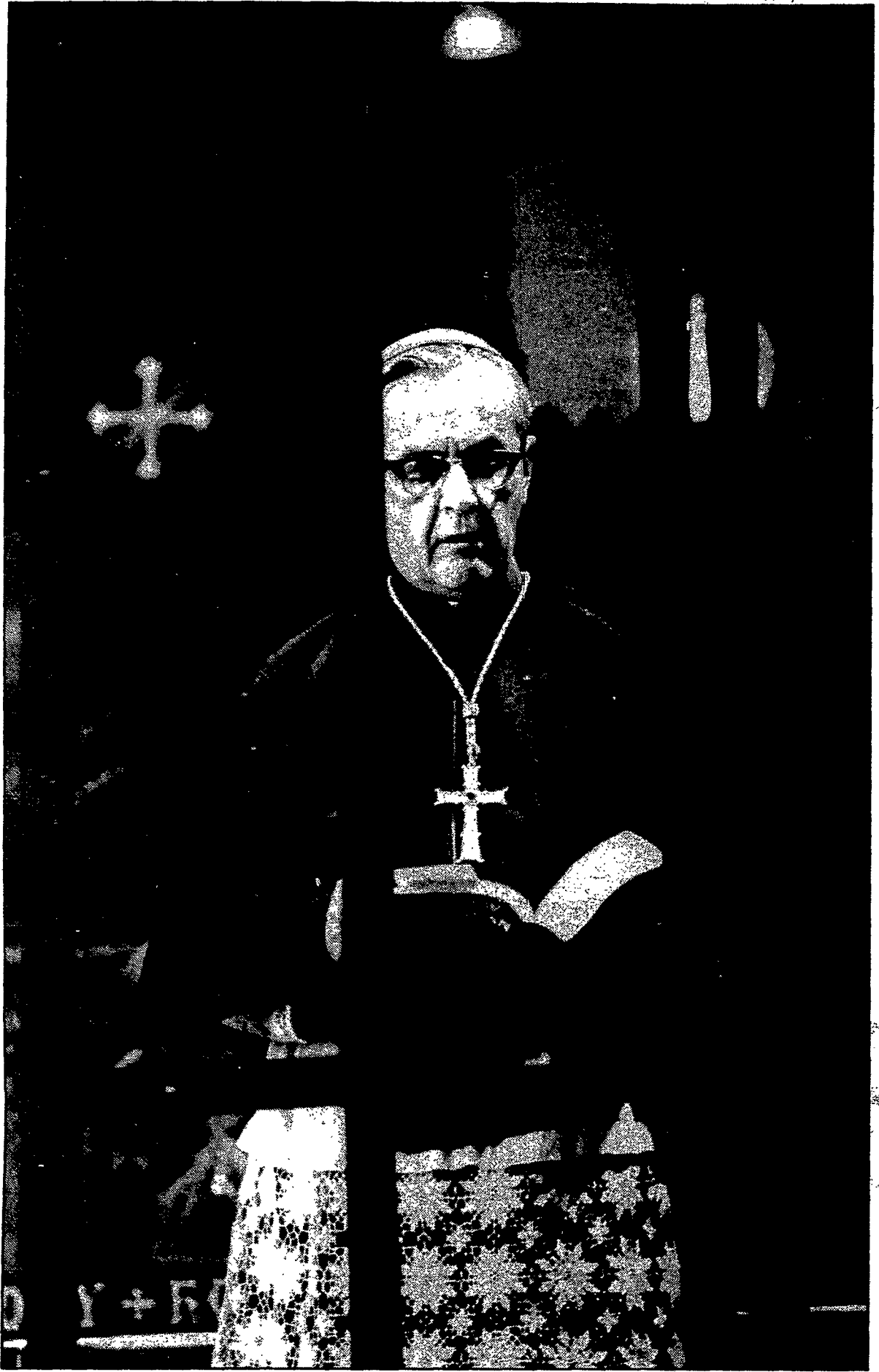
"I think he rejoiced in the changes," Father George Wiant commented. "I think at heart he was an ecclesiolgologist and he could see how it would make the church so much better." One of his first moves was to authorize Masses of anticipation on Saturday evenings.

"Saturday evening Mass was just coming in. I remember parish by parish giving permission. It became such a rush of parishes asking for permission, I said forget it, just go ahead," Bishop Hogan recalled last May.

He also authorized lay lectors and eucharistic ministers, and the distribution of Communion in the hand.

He established a Diocesan Pastoral Council and encouraged formation of parish councils.

"I tried to get those going," he said of parish councils. "To move



File photo

Prayer and study were Bishop Hogan's priorities throughout his leadership years.

the seemingly immovable is very difficult. It takes a lot of patience, going around the diocese trying to educate people to it.

"My fondest hope was in the formation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council; people emerged as potential for leadership in the diocese," he continued.

"He believed so much in the Second Vatican Council," observed Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND. "I think some others put it on the back burner."

"I think we were one of the first ones to have it said that there shall be a parish council (at every parish) ... This was a new way for pastors to make decisions, to work it through with parish councils," she added.

Bishop Hogan also appointed lay people to diocesan posts, among them the diocese's first lay diocesan treasurer.

"It was exciting," Bishop Hogan recalled in May. "People with talent came forth and were very generous in giving of their time and talent, and that's the way it's been. And I think that's a good way of fulfilling the idea of church as a community."

"The bishop was very open to the role of women in the church and leadership," noted Sister Mary E. Wintish, RSM. A former teacher and principal, she was appointed director of urban ministry in 1978 with the objective of unifying the church's services in the city.

"That opening to me, to use my gifts and talents in parish work with clergy and neighbors, whetted my appetite to get into pastoral ministry," Sister Wintish recently told the *Courier*. After holding various pastoral-associate positions, she has been pastoral administrator at All Saints Parish, Lansing, since 1998.

Bishop Hogan set his vision for the diocese in writing in "You Are Living Stones," believed to be the diocese's first true pastoral letter. Twenty-five years old this year, it continues to be studied across the country after being published by the documentary service *Origins*.

Praising the church's lay people and leaders, it challenged them to pray and study, and encouraged such continuing education for enhanced leadership in the church. It fostered close work with renewal groups including Marriage Encounter and Cursillo; urged designating mission areas in Rochester's inner city, where the diocese had closed elementary schools; and gave impetus for a diocesan perma-



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