

'He returned to what he liked to do'

It was 1943, the Second World War. All of my classmates were going into the service, but I was going into seminary. I had many doubts. I didn't want to look like I was dodging (the draft). He told me "If you really feel you want to be a priest, serve as a (military) chaplain. I would certainly encourage you to follow your desire right now." So I started in seminary.

He was always kind and protective and helpful. He was kind of a model for us in the family.

He had a good strong booming voice. He was always getting attention. It made people believe what he was saying!

— **Father Michael C. Hogan,**
Bishop Hogan's younger brother.

As a brother, you couldn't ask for a better one. I never wanted for anything when he was around, and he always asked if I needed anything.

— **Mary Rose Hogan**

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Bishop Hogan submitted his resignation to the Vatican on Nov. 28, 1978, and continued on as diocesan apostolic administrator until Father Matthew H. Clark was named as his successor in May 1979. In a 1999 *Courier* interview, Bishop Hogan credited the late Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey — who died in October 1999 — with handling administrative duties until Bishop Clark was installed in June 1979.

"Bishop Hickey did all the work. He assured me not to worry about anything," Bishop Hogan said.

Early in his retirement, Bishop Hogan returned to his academic roots by teaching a course at St. John Fisher College on the church since the Second Vatican Council. He also diligently assisted in ministry to elderly parishioners of St. Mary's Parish in Rochester.

"When he retired, he returned to what he liked to do — which was being very pastoral. He was very generous in helping out," said Father Lawlor, St. Mary's pastor from 1980 to 1997.

Sister Sheila Walsh, SSJ, who had begun as St. Mary's pastoral associate in 1980, said Bishop Hogan's involvement came about somewhat by accident.

"I was talking to the bishop and said, 'Joe, what are you going to do now that you're retired?'" Sister Walsh recalled. "He said, 'I don't know, but I want to work with the elderly.' I said jokingly, 'Why don't you come work with me?' Later, I was talking to Father Lawlor, and he said he'd heard that I'd hired the bishop. I said, 'Wow! He took me seriously!'"

Sister Walsh said Bishop Hogan's volunteer work at St. Mary's lasted three years. "We had a wonderful time. We would visit the elderly in homes and hospitals, and he would say Mass once a month in the Midtown Manor high-rise," Sister Walsh noted. "We would take people on trips to Niagara Falls, Letchworth Park. He was the token male, and the women just loved him."

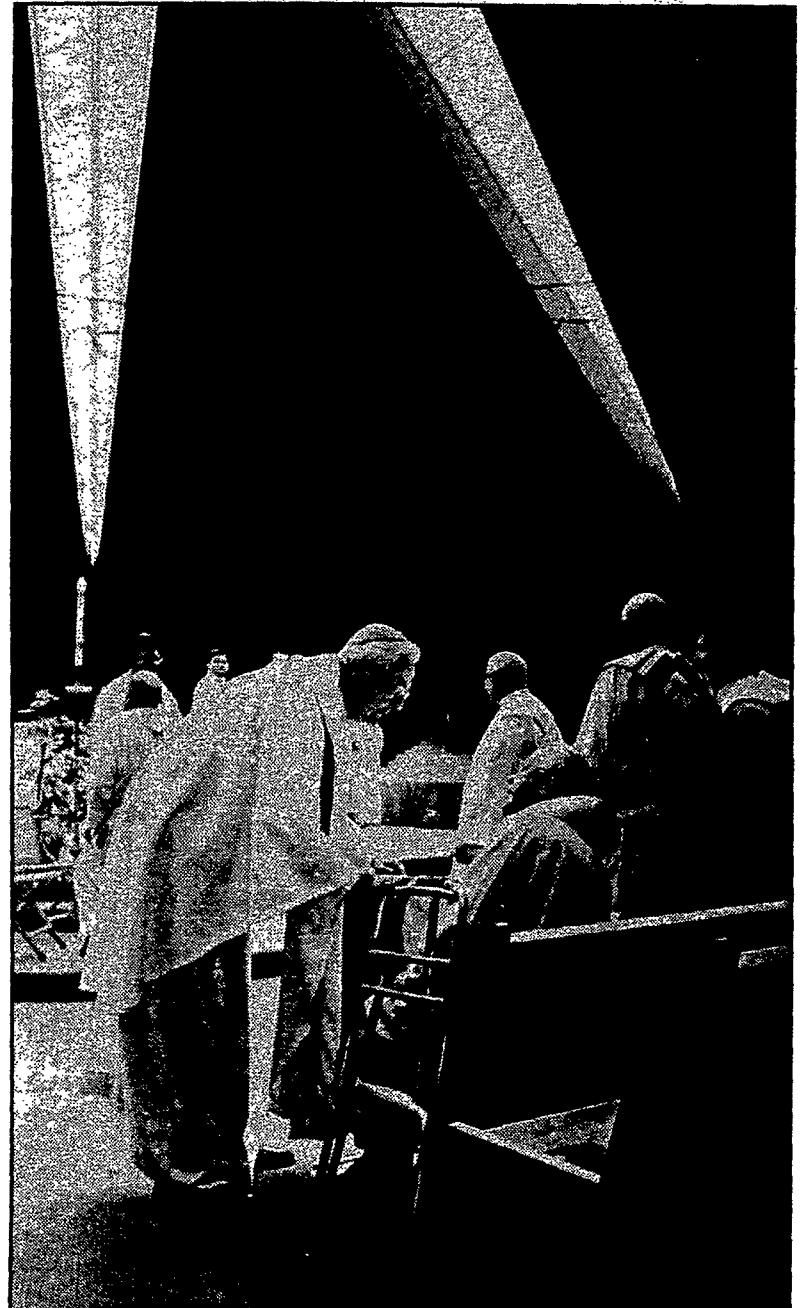
Bishop Hogan continued living in his home at St. Patrick's Church in Victor, where he had resided since 1971. He helped out frequently at that parish, and continued administering the sacrament of confirmation around the diocese.

The bishop also spent considerable time with a family that held a



Photo courtesy of Sisters of St. Joseph

Bishop Hogan, in a recent photo.



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Bishop Hogan extends a greeting at a Mass for jubilarian priests in the mid-1980s at Rochester's Church of the Annunciation.

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