



Photo courtesy of Fr. George Wiant

Bishop Hogan lived at this house, located on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church in Victor, from 1971 until he moved to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in 1995.

special place in his life. Daniel and Betsy Brent had worked in the diocesan Education Department before he left the priesthood and she left religious life in 1976 to get married. They — along with daughters Megan and Maura, now 22 and 20, respectively — kept in close touch with Bishop Hogan throughout his retirement, even during a period of several years when they lived in Ohio.

"He made frequent trips to Ohio. He would come the day after Christmas and bring steaks," Betsy Brent recalled.

Daniel Brent said Bishop Hogan was very supportive of him the day he left the priesthood. "I went in to say goodbye to him. He apologized that the diocese didn't have better arrangements for people like me. Then he pulled out his own paycheck, and signed it over to me right there," said Brent, whose family now attends Church of the Transfiguration in Pittsford.

When the Brents moved back to the Rochester area in 1986, they chose a home in Victor to be close to Bishop Hogan. Not long thereafter, Betsy Brent said, Bishop Hogan gave the family a dog, Party Girl, who is now 14 years old. Until he left Victor in 1995, he would stop by the Brent home almost daily to walk the dog and have a visit.

"He was grandpa to both of us," Maura said. "He would go out on Easter morning and hide eggs in his backyard for us," Megan added. Daniel Brent noted that Bishop Hogan would always buy lots of candy for Halloween "and was disappointed that more children didn't come to his door." In addition, the Brents recalled that the fun-loving bishop dressed up as Santa Claus on Christmas, and even took a hot-air-balloon ride a few years ago.

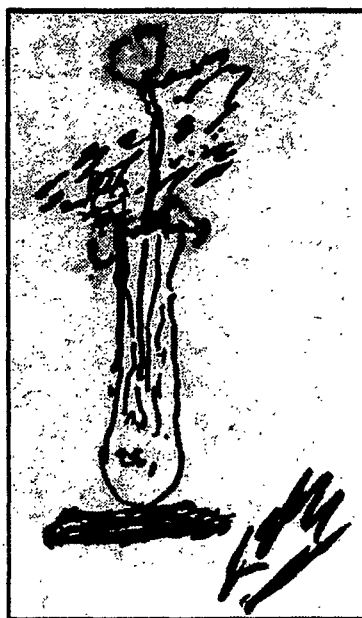
Megan and Maura added that they continued to visit Bishop Hogan regularly after deteriorating health caused him to move to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in Pittsford.

At the infirmary, Bishop Hogan made a whole new set of friends. A favorite was Sister Angela Sutula, SSJ, a resident who sat at lunch with Bishop Hogan every day — and whom he dubbed "Bubbles" for her outgoing personality.

Sister Sutula recalled her first meeting with the bishop, shortly after she moved into the infirmary: "Somebody told me, 'Bishop Hogan is in the hall and he would like to see you.' He said, 'I want to know how you know all those people out in the country (Livingston County). My brother took me for a ride and everyone knew you.'"

"They took me to his sister's house one Sunday," she said, "and all the kids were on the front porch blowing bubbles."

Sister Joseph Gilmary Russell, SSJ, the infirmary's coordinator, said



Bishop Hogan enjoyed drawing as a hobby. He created this image earlier this year.

said to him, "Not for anything, but you're Bishop Hogan," Taber added. "He would just laugh it off. He didn't throw his weight around. And he never failed to ask how my house (that I was renovating) was coming. He really made you feel like the things in your life mattered."

Bishop Hogan still occasionally managed to get to Father Marvin's Honeye Lake cottage, and faithfully attended Sunday dinner at the Lima home of his sister, Mary Rose. About a year ago, Sister Russell said, he began using a wheelchair regularly and, in recent months, his breathing difficulties had become more pronounced.

Even so, Betsy Brent said she had no reason to believe death was imminent when she and her husband visited him Friday, Aug. 25. She also talked to him by phone the next night.

"We'd been to Mendon Ponds Park and told him how beautiful it was," she said.

Bishop Hogan's final meal occurred the afternoon of Aug. 27 — a family dinner at his sister's house. Bishop Hogan apparently died while being driven back to infirmary late that afternoon by his brother, Father Michael C. Hogan. He was pronounced dead by the infirmary staff after Father Hogan alerted them that he didn't appear to be breathing.

"He kind of slumped and said to turn the air conditioning on. His head was down and I tried to talk to him, but he wasn't responding," Father Hogan recalled while eulogizing his brother at the Aug. 30 solemn prayer vigil at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. "He didn't gasp, fall forward or lurch to the side. He just sat up."

Father Hogan humorously summed up the setting in which his brother died, saying that the end couldn't be better scripted.

"I said, 'Doc, you know how to travel first class. You traveled from Lima to the Pearly Gates — in a Buick,'" Father Hogan remarked.

And thus, Bishop Hogan departed this earth having long ago made his mark as a bishop who embraced change in the face of opposition. He will also be fondly remembered as a man who — out of the glare of the public eye — cherished his meetings and friendships with people young and old.

"He was not tinsel. He was solid gold," remarked Sister Sutula of the St. Joseph infirmary.

"His coat of arms was, 'Gladly will I spend myself and be spent,'" Sister Russell remarked. "He lived that to the nth degree."

that Bishop Hogan was a model resident.

"He never complained about his health," she said. "He loved to go outside any day it was nice. He would watch the passing scene, and he loved to talk to people. But then there's a side of him that was very private. He was a man who didn't want fanfare, pomp and circumstance."

Nurses Kathy Stanton and Roberta Taber said Bishop Hogan was much more comfortable talking about others than about himself.

"We'd talk about my grandchildren, whom he was very interested in. He was caring about everybody, not just my family. He never praised himself," Stanton said, noting that it was difficult to get him to discuss his academic accomplishments.

"I don't know how many times I said to him, 'Not for anything, but you're Bishop Hogan,'" Taber added. "He would just laugh it off. He didn't throw his weight around. And he never failed to ask how my house (that I was renovating) was coming. He really made you feel like the things in your life mattered."

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He was really a courageous leader.

And he was a very bright man.

And yet anyone could feel free talking to him, and at home. He just made you know you were important and made you comfortable with him, a priestly priest, a faithful friend.

I sent him cute little Peanuts cards, and he just loved them. That shows the humility of the man and his marvelous sense of humor.

St. Patrick's Day was very special to him. He loved it, and of course, St. Joseph's Day. I always sent him a bouquet of green carnations for St. Patrick's Day. That was it; he just loved it. He'd always say to me,

"The bouquet won the prize" ... He always said I sent him the biggest cards I could find. He'd always say

"You get the prize."

He was our bishop and I was principal at the school in Auburn, Blessed Trinity. But really my relation with him was more a friendship. At my jubilee (1994) he gave the homily and he was just wonderful. He came from Rochester to do that. That was a big trip for him to make.

He never showed pride in the fact he was a marvelous speaker and all of that. I would say, "Bishop you were just wonderful." And he would just laugh.

— Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSJ

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