

Pope sends condolences for Bishop Hogan

I have just finished reading the coverage provided by last week's *Catholic Courier* of Bishop Joseph Hogan's death and of the liturgies celebrated on that occasion. It was a real grace for me to be able to read the articles in a leisurely manner. I truly enjoyed it as a time to think about Joseph, his wonderful achievements, his dear friends, the people of this diocese whom he loved dearly and served generously and the wonderful legacy he leaves for all of us.

It is most gratifying, although not at all surprising, to know that many people from other places recognized his goodness and were influenced by his ministry. A strong testimony to that is the large number of letters I have received from bishops expressing their sympathy to me and to all of you on the loss of our dear friend. Among them are many who knew him personally and who had great respect for him and his ministry.

With great pleasure I convey to you in its entirety a message to me from the Holy See, which was kindly conveyed to me by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, Apostolic Nuncio in the United States:

along
the way



By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

The Holy Father was saddened to learn of the death of Bishop Joseph Lloyd Hogan and he has asked me to convey his heartfelt sympathy. With appreciation for the late Bishop's years of priestly and episcopal service to the Church in Rochester his Holiness willingly joins you and the clergy, religious and laity of the diocese in commending him to the merciful love of God our heavenly Father.

To all who mourn Bishop Hogan in the hope of the Resurrection, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Lord.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano
Secretary of State

I have responded to this kind message with gratitude from all of us and with a pledge of our love, support and continuing prayers for our Holy Father.

Our Holy Father's gracious message reminded me that he succeeded Pope John Paul I in October of 1978 and that he accepted Bishop Hogan's letter of resignation one month later.

I can tell you for sure that, although Joseph retired from his responsibility as diocesan bishop shortly after Pope John Paul II took office, he maintained a lively interest in the person and ministry of this remarkable successor of St. Peter.

I remember him marveling on more than one occasion at the intensity and complexity of the pope's work and how very well he meets the demand of his ministry.

As we receive this kind message of pastoral care, we pray for our Holy Father's good health and for God's continued blessings on his ministry. And we continue to pray for fullness of life for our brother, Joseph.

Peace to all.

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