

# Society named for late bishop

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

The Diocese of Rochester has formed The Most Reverend Dennis W. Hickey Society to recognize people who designate the Rochester Diocese as a beneficiary in their estate plans.

The society was named in honor of the late-Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey who died in 1999, leaving more than \$1 million in his estate to the Rochester Diocese.

"In honor of that tremendous commitment of his own, he was an obvious choice (as the chief inspiration for other donors)," said Daniel Healy, director of the diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development.

Membership in the society is based on gifts through bequests or wills; such life-income agreements as annuities and trusts; life-insurance policies; and retirement plans.

There is no minimum gift amount for becoming a member. Written notification of the gift is preferred, but the gift amount and the donor's identity can remain anonymous. Donors can earmark their gifts for an individual parish, a school, a diocesan agency or simply for the general benefit of the diocese.

Healy said he hopes awareness of

this society will remind Catholics to consider the diocese's ongoing financial needs as they arrange their estates. He added that approximately 100 people who made such provisions prior to the society's formation automatically qualify as charter members of the society. They will be notified of their membership by letter this summer.

"For many years people have been making their will out to the church; others have set up trusts. This a way to honor them. Secondly, we always like to remind people that this is a way to give to the church," Healy said.

Due to the many variables involved in estate donations, Healy said the diocese is not setting any dollar-amount goal for the new organization.

Healy noted that society members will be honored Sunday, Nov. 2, with a Mass and reception at the Pastoral Center. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate the liturgy. The society plans to hold an annual event with Bishop Clark, as well as an annual Mass offered for the intentions of society members.

For more information about the society, contact the Office of Stewardship and Development at 585/328-3228, ext. 1297.



Rebecca Gosselin/Catholic Courier

## Honoring St. Anthony

Fathers Frank E. Lioi (center) and Peter Abue celebrate a special St. Anthony Day Mass June 13 at St. Anthony Church in Groton.

## USCCB meets June 19-21

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Votes on a new catechetical directory and revised diaconate directory will dominate the public agenda when the U.S. bishops meet June 19-21 in St. Louis, but most of the meeting will be held behind closed doors.

In open sessions, the bishops will also hear an update on the clergy sexual-abuse crisis.

They will be asked to approve plans to develop several future statements on topics ranging from agriculture to the formation of lay ecclesial ministers, from collaboration of women and clergy to educating Catholics on the importance of missionary work.

Only the morning sessions June 19 and June 21 will be open to media and observers. The afternoon session June 19 and both sessions June

20 will be executive sessions, open only to the bishops themselves. Depending on how quickly the public business is conducted the morning of June 19, reporters and observers may be asked to leave that session early as well.

The bishops usually devote a half-day of their June meeting to an executive session.

But they agreed last November to devote a full day this June to long-range preparations for their June 2004 special assembly in Denver.

At the 2004 assembly, a longer meeting than the usual spring business meeting, they are expected to reach a decision on whether to convene the first U.S. plenary church council in more than a century. The last such meeting was the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884.

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