

## From the Administrator's Corner

On March 27<sup>th</sup> Bishop Hubbard will observe the Fortieth Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination. On March 27, 1977 at Siena College Alumni Center, Cardinal Terrence Cook, then the Metropolitan Archbishop of New York, joined by Bishop Broderick and Bishop Maginn as Co-Consecrators, ordained Bishop Hubbard as the Ninth Bishop of Albany. At 38 years of age, Bishop Hubbard became one of the youngest Bishops in the world. For six months he was the youngest Bishop in the world to lead a diocese. It was a most joyful occasion, one that will surely remain in the memory of every person who was there or who viewed it on television.

During the 37 years that Bishop Hubbard led our Diocese, he saw it through many changes and crises. Early on he authored a Pastoral Letter that set forth his vision of a Church where everyone was involved; clergy, religious and laity. He also led a televised retreat for three years, wherein he developed his vision further, based on his conversations and interactions with the people of the Diocese. He was a leader in the development of opportunities for lay persons to serve the Church.

He brought us through times of great change in both society and the Church. Population shifts occurred especially in the urban areas of the diocese, and people moved to the suburbs or away completely. He set in place a very strong pastoral planning initiative in order to address what he saw was the inevitable need to make some adjustments. He is a recognized leader in this field.

His leadership in the field of public policy and his advocacy for the poor, whom he never forgot or abandoned, is legendary. It continues to this day. I recall that early on, one person, apparently feeling a bit uncomfortable with the Bishop's stand for the poor, was quoted as saying, "I know he has to bleed for the poor, but does he have to hemorrhage?" I remarked to the person who told me that story, "Yes he does. That's what Jesus did." As a young priest in the South End of Albany, then Fr. Hubbard, was noted for his advocacy for all who where in need. In particular, he attacked the drug problem that was becoming an epidemic. He was the founder of Hope House, a noted rehabilitation program whose board he still chairs. Whether it was the direct service of providing food, clothing and shelter to the poor, or advocating both with them and on their behalf, Bishop Hubbard always remained faithful to the Church's call to have a "preferential option" for those most vulnerable among us.

For virtually his entire ministry as a Bishop, he chaired the New York State Public Policy Committee, an advisory group to the Bishops of New York State. Until it was for all intents and purposes dismantled in 2014, this committee provided the Bishops of New York State with valuable "on the street" input to the public policy issues that were of importance to the Church. Having been privileged to sit on that Committee for many years, I witnessed firsthand how Bishop Hubbard guided the discussions in a way that everyone felt heard. It was iconic of the way Bishop Hubbard listened to people and was never afraid to hear what they had to say. He conducted the ministries and business of the diocese in the same manner.

Bishop Hubbard also served on or chaired a number of committees for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. In particular, his decades of service on the Committee for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development stands out as an example of another way he cared for the poor and the near poor. CCHD is a jewel in the crown of the American Church. It works with groups of poor and low income people.

One of the most meaningful pastoral initiatives that Bishop Hubbard undertook was his founding of the Independent Mediation Assistance Program (IMAP) through which survivors of clergy sexual abuse were assisted in their journey to healing and wholeness. This program, independently designed and administered, was one of the most innovative outreaches to survivors in the country. Presently the Archdiocese of New York has a somewhat similar program. Cardinal Dolan utilized this sort of pastoral approach when he was the Archbishop of Milwaukee. Our own IMAP outreach utilized some of the aspects of the Milwaukee program.

One of the final projects that Bishop Hubbard undertook was the exterior and interior repair and renovation of our Cathedral. From the year 2000 until his retirement in 2014, the Bishop worked diligently to address the deferred maintenance issues that were causing serious problems with the Cathedral. Much of the exterior and interior work has been accomplished. Much is left to do. However, Bishop Hubbard has bequeathed to the Diocese the gift of a Cathedral that is well on its way to total repair and restoration,

During his 37 years as our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Hubbard faced many challenges. Most of them were in connection with overseeing the ministries and business of the Diocese. Some, however, were personal; intensely personal attacks on his integrity. He always faced every challenge with a deep inner peace because he knew his conscience, and he knew what was true. He always trusted that the truth would win the day, and so was always open and honest in his interactions with others. In the end, it was Bishop Hubbard's deep faith in the Lord's presence in his life that won the day; for him and for us.

We could go on and on reciting Bishop Hubbard's accomplishments as our chief shepherd for 37 years and as a Bishop of the Church for 40 years. In sum, Bishop Hubbard never lost touch with the common people. He always listened carefully, discerned in the context of prayer, and then decided in a way that he felt would be in the best interests of the life of the Church; the Church understood as all of the People of God. We thank God for his many years of ministry among us and we pray that the good Lord continues to give him many more years filled with opportunities to serve us.

I know that I speak for Fr. Pape, the Cathedral staff, and the parishioners of the Cathedral Parish in wishing Bishop Hubbard every grace and peace on this special occasion. Ad Multos Annos!

Fr. Farano