

Reverend Daniel D. Hogan



Golden Anniversary

1915 - 1965

OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH
Ballston Lake, New York
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To Father Hogan

On the Occasion of his
Fiftieth Anniversary in the Holy Priesthood

What can one say?
The hand-tooled person is rare these days.
Instead a die has been cast
And individuals are stamped out all alike
Because similarity is stylish . . .
And safe.

The scarred hands that hold the Host
Have caressed a chin or two,
It shocks,
And eyes averted in embarrassment
Have missed the swift snap of those hands,
Helping.

(It's all in the timing.)

Well,
The weak have friends because they cannot earn an enemy.
The cruel have enemies because they want the strength of softness.

But,
The vital possess the wealth of friends and enemies
Because that's the way courage forces the fight.
It wins the love of the one and the respect of the other.

Both know
And will remember that
This is a man.

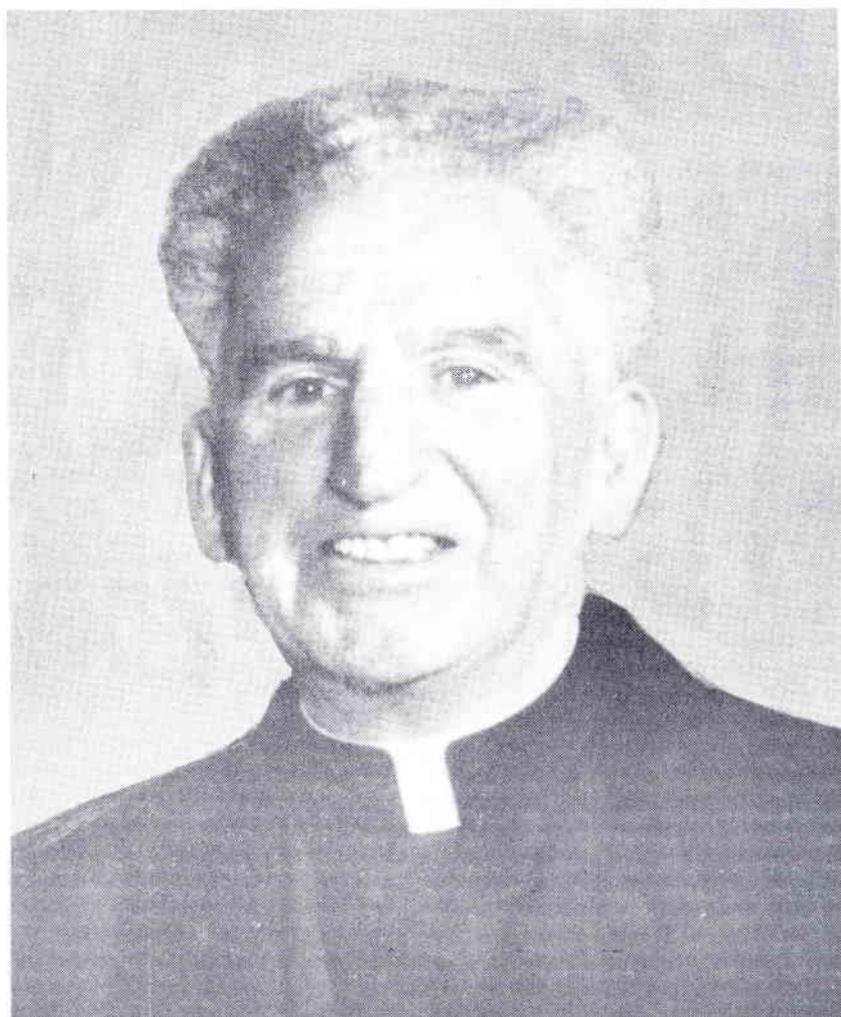
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Father Daniel D. Hogan was born in the city of Cohoes to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hogan. He attended the public schools of Cohoes and graduated from Egberts High School.

Following high school Daniel Hogan went on to college at Niagara University from which he received both his AB and MA degrees. He studied theology at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angles at Niagara. On June 12th, 1915, in Rochester, New York, Father Hogan was ordained by Bishop Thomas Hickey. The following day Father Hogan celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at St. Agnes Church in Cohoes.

The first assignment for Father Hogan was as an assistant at Haines Falls, from here he went to St. Francis deSales in Herkimer. For the next six years he was Assistant Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Glens Falls. In the spring of 1922 Father Hogan was transferred to Ballston Lake where he was directed to organize the parish and build a church. The first Mass was celebrated on June 25th, 1922 and from this date and for forty-three consecutive years, Father Hogan has been the Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church.

Father Hogan's family enthusiastically follows his endeavors. His family includes his sister Mrs. Edward (Mae) Cummings whose children are Edward J., Adelaide, Betty O'Neill and Joan McDonald; and another sister Mrs. Joseph (Elizabeth) Brackley whose son J. Dean was one of Father Hogan's Boys. J. Dean's eldest son, Dean, is studying to be a Jesuit priest at Bellmarine College in Plattsburg. Today Father Hogan has 13 grand nieces and nephews.



Father Daniel D. Hogan

Father Hogan's Church



Our Lady of Grace Church by John Sweeney

In the early twenties it was apparent to Catholics in Ballston Lake and its surrounding area that a Catholic Church was needed. Mrs. William V. Egan, as representative of a committee, wrote a letter to The Most Reverend Edmund F. Gibbons, Bishop of the Albany diocese telling him of this need. The Bishop invited the following ladies to visit him: Mrs. Frank Egan,

Mrs. Clement Raino, Mrs. Charles Egan, Mrs. Harold Kimball, Mrs. James Roonan, and Mrs. William V. Egan. Not too long after this memorable visit to the chancery, plans for the "Catholic Church for Ballston Lake" were announced in the Knickerbocker Press of September 3, 1922. John Sweeney's sketch of the church which is shown here depicts an artist's view of the new structure, the church as we know it today.

Father Hogan was assigned to establish the Ballston Lake Parish in June of 1922. During that first summer, Mass was celebrated on Sundays at the Forest Park Pavilion on the west side of Ballston Lake, the site of many summer homes and also, at that time, the terminus of a popular summer trolley ride from Schenectady. During the first winter, Mass was celebrated for the 25 parish families in the home of parishioners Misses Katherine and Margaret Maroney. The following summer, Father Hogan used the more spacious pavilion at Ballston Lake to accommodate the many additional summer parishioners. By this time plans for a church had been drawn by Ogden and Gander of Albany and approved by Bishop Gibbons. Construction began during the summer of 1923 and the cornerstone was laid that September. The following winter Mass was offered first in the rectory and then in the capped basement of the rapidly progressing church. A temporary altar was erected and benches were loaned to the church by the Schenectady Railway Company. On August 23, 1924, Bishop Gibbons officiated at the dedication of the completed church and Father Hogan was the celebrant of a Solemn High Mass. The Schenectady Gazette of the morning following this event notes that the church was overflowing and lists the many persons and groups attending.

A "History of Our Lady of Grace Church of Ballston Lake, N. Y. " written in 1924 by Mrs. Harold Kimball, tells us of Father Hogan's "indefatigable" work to build up his parish, construct the church, and remodel the rectory. She notes also the many friends he made in the community during those first years. The "History" lists in detail the donors as announced by Father Hogan on the day of the church's dedication. Among the out of town contributors were James H. Manning of Albany; Michael McTigue, world's light heavyweight champion; and Jack Britten, former world's welterweight champion and many other famous people from the sports world.

Under the pastoral care and leadership of Father Hogan, Our Lady of Grace parish has grown in the past 40 years from those original 25 families to its

present day size of approximately 400 families. Two new parishes, Corpus Christi in Ushers and Immaculate Conception in Glenville, have been established to serve areas formerly part of Our Lady of Grace parish. Our Lady of Grace Church now schedules five masses every Sunday to accommodate the large parish. As the parish grew in size, new needs became apparent and various groups of parishioners were organized to assist Father Hogan. The first need, the care of the altar, linens and vestments, was provided for by the establishment in 1932 of the Altar Society (now the Rosary-Altar Society) with Mrs. Edward Murnane as its first president.

Throughout the years Father Hogan provided for the religious education of the parish by bringing bus loads of students to the church during released time. For many years the Sisters of Mercy came down from Ballston Spa to instruct the students. When the number of students attending classes at the same time in the church and in the basement reached a ratio of 300 students to 4 nuns, the good sisters and Father Hogan enlisted the aid of the laity. As a result on September 19, 1954, a charter was granted to Court Mater Christi number 1686 of the Catholic Daughters of America with Mrs. Thomas McDonough as Grand Regent. The primary purpose of the organization was to attend to the religious training of the children. The CDA Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program with Mrs. William W. Egan as first chairman was initiated in 1955 with over 300 students in attendance. The confraternity program received statewide recognition and filled an important need in the parish.

The Holy Name Society of the parish started in 1956 with William Egan as the first president. In addition to the national aim of the Holy Name Society, our parish proceeded to help with the maintenance of the church and to act as assistants to Father Hogan in his administration of parish affairs. This society assisted the Catholic Daughters of America in sponsoring religious education and social activities for students in grades 7-12. When an executive board was established for the new unit of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Robert Milton acted as first president. This board has endeavored to expand the education program of the parish to include preschool children and adults and to fulfill the multiple responsibilities of CCD set forth by that organization.

Also helping Father Hogan is Father Thomas Carr, Administrator of Our Lady of Grace Parish. The fine efforts of Father Carr are apparent in all phases of parish activities.



Father Hogan's First "First Communion" Class - 1923

Father Hogan - Community Leader

During Father Hogan's forty-three years at Ballston Lake, he has made many contributions to the life of the community. He is remembered fondly for his interest in children and his many kindnesses to them. The neighboring children remember well his well-stocked soda cooler which they were allowed to visit once each morning and once each afternoon during the hot weather. Most youngsters of the community remember that in the days of penny candy, he alone distributed Hershey bars on Halloween.

But his kindness went beyond mere treats. His counsel and encouragement was often sought to aid youngsters. He cooperated with school authorities many times in straightening out troubles, in school and out. He knew most of the area youngsters by name and often used this information. The story is told of a certain Holy Thursday when most of the pupils at the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake school took it upon themselves to get permission from the school nurse to attend services at Our Lady of Grace Church. Despite Father Hogan's delight at the influx of "converts", he singled out the sudden converts by name and asked that they return to school.



Community Library

His generosity to members of the community included such events as an evening's entertainment for the adult community as well as the parishioners. Performers then appearing at Saratoga provided a vaudeville show and Father provided refreshments for the guests.

In the Spring of 1929, a fire destroyed the usefulness of the present day Ballston Lake Elementary school, which was at that time the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School and Elementary School. It was necessary to rebuild, and through the offer of Father Hogan, Our Lady of Grace Church Hall was one of the buildings used for the temporary school rooms.

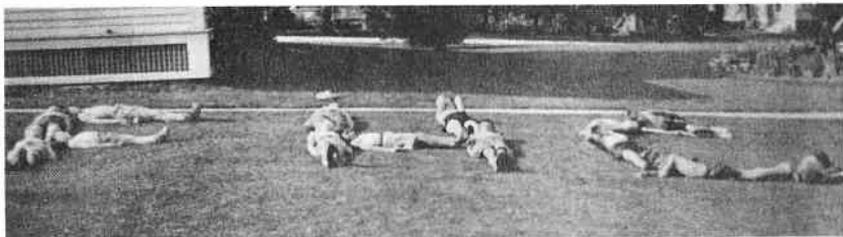
A later need of a rapidly growing community was also met through a generous offer by Father Hogan. As the population of the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake area mushroomed, the need for a library became apparent. In 1963 a Library Association was formed to study and to remedy the situation. The Association organized, with the help of other community groups, a temporary library which was located in the Church Hall of Our Lady of Grace Church. From April 1954 to December 1959 these facilities were used not only to house the books which circulated at the rate of up to 32,000 per year, but also was used as the meeting place of many library supporting organizations. In commemoration of this particular community service, a plaque has been placed in the now completed Community Library. The plaque reads:

"This plaque is placed in recognition of the vital contribution to the Community Library by the Rev. Daniel D. Hogan and the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church who provided a home for the library during its first years."

Beyond the specific incidents already mentioned there is the memory of the many times when Our Lady of Grace rectory served as a refuge to troubled souls, and of the many Christmas baskets sent to those in need. To those who know and love Father Hogan, other acts of kindness, charity, and love will come to mind. These few indicate his great generosity of spirit toward not only his own parishioners but the entire community.

Father Hogan's Boys

Father Hogan's interest in the physical, as well as spiritual, development of youth had its beginning with his own athletic career. While a student at Niagara University, Father Hogan participated in no less than five different sports: boxing, football, baseball, basketball and track. The Glens Falls Times and Messenger of April 12, 1918 refers to Father as "one of the university's greatest athletes." In 1910, Connie Mack, then manager of the world champion Athletics, stated "That Niagara University produced more scintillating Diamond Stars than any other Institute within the realm of baseballdom." Connie Mack considered "Cooney" Hogan one of Niagara's greatest baseball players.



Boys form initials FHC - Father Hogan's Camp

During the years Father Hogan was assigned to St. Mary's parish in Glens Falls he organized and supervised championship basketball teams. These teams not only played locally but also toured through upstate New York. His ideas concerning the importance of physical conditioning for youth led to the establishment of a summer camp for boys on Saratoga Lake.

Father Hogan's Camp for Boys became famous not only for its program of athletics but also for the manner in which it inculcated a spirit of fairplay and tolerance in the youngsters. A newspaper clipping of the era quotes Father as explaining that all boys were welcome at the camp regardless of their religion.



FHC Original Boxing Team

enrolled, "I know you can make a better man of him than I, and I'm pretty sure you can make a better boxer of him."

During the 1930's Father also conducted a gymnasium in the basement of Our Lady of Grace Church for the youngsters of the area. The physical culture classes conducted there included "boxing, basketball, darts and pingpong" according to a newspaper clipping of the day. A scrapbook of clippings and announcements attests to the success of the teams which were known as "Father Hogan's Boys."

A clipping of Joe Williams' column tells of a New York City testimonial dinner at which Father Hogan was a guest. The extent to which the fame of the Boys Camp and the athletic club had spread is shown by Mr. Williams' comment: "You can't belong to the padre's parish unless you can punch."

A great many people donated money to the camp, Father said in this article, so that boys from families unable to afford the \$12.50 per week fee could attend.

One of the many young men who went to Father Hogan's Camp was Dave Shade's young son, Dave Jr. Shade said to Father Hogan at the time Dave Jr. was



Gene Tunney with Father Hogan's boys L. to R. B. Vrooman, S. Kovaravic, A. Sarto, N. Mancini, E. Kimball, M. Sarto, A. Quackenbush, L. Ryder, Gene Tunney, Father Hogan, R. Sanerbrey, W. Egan, E. Quackenbush, E. Kovaravic.

came to Father Hogan for help. While at Father Hogan's camp he was Chief Counselor. While living with Father Hogan, Johnny felt that he should do something constructive. Our beautiful Grotto for the Blessed Virgin is the result of this desire. Johnny personally collected each field stone, and built with the assistance of a neighbor Walt Kinum, the beautiful Grotto of the Blessed Virgin.



At the beginning of World War II Johnny passed the flight training physical and became a pilot. During the war he was Elliot Roosevelt's pilot. He died as a hero in World War II.

Father Hogan, priest, community leader, leader of men, but above all a friend, a friend to all who have come in contact with him! One whose actions, while doing the work of God, has made the world a better place in which to live!

A number of well known boxers trained under Father Hogan's tutelage. Numerous clippings indicate the success of such people as Lester Ryder, "Young Sharkey" (Maurice DeBella) and Albert Sarto, known as the "Three Musketeers of Ballston Lake."

Father was held in great esteem by many sportsmen who did a great deal to help Father Hogan raise money for the church. A series of annual clambakes were held for this purpose and newspapers featured the story of Saratoga's ace jockeys raising \$500, with the jockey master at Saratoga, Terry Farley, as well as Eddie Arcaro and Don Meade serving on the committee.

One of Father Hogan's boys although not notably a boxer was John Mancini of Ballston Lake.

Johnny, a tubercular patient, came to Father Hogan for help. While at Father Hogan's camp he was Chief Counselor. While living with Father Hogan, Johnny felt that he should do something constructive. Our beautiful Grotto for the Blessed Virgin is the result of this desire. Johnny personally collected each field stone, and built with the assistance of a neighbor Walt Kinum, the beautiful Grotto of the Blessed Virgin.



Johnny Mancini
One of Father Hogan's Boys



Father Hogan and Father Carr
in front of our Grotto of The Blessed Virgin

Commemorating
50
Years of Service