

A New Shepherd for Seattle

On December 1, 2010, Archbishop-Elect J. Peter Sartain will be installed as the Ninth Bishop, Fifth Archbishop of Seattle. All are welcome to attend the installation liturgies, Tuesday, November 30 at 7:00pm, and Wednesday, December 1 at 2:00pm. As we prepare for this historic event, we look back at the bishops who have ministered here over the past 160 years. *This is the 5th in the series—read more online!*

ILLNESS OF BISHOP SHAUGHNESSY

Bishop Shaughnessy worked incessantly to dig the Church of Seattle out of debt and put it on a sound foundation once again. He brought the local Church through the Depression and the Second World War. He was closely involved in all aspects of the Church's life, and he was willing to make unpopular decisions.

But the bishop during Seattle's lean years was not destined to be the bishop during the post-War boom. In November of 1945, as he returned from the United States Bishops' Meeting in Washington, DC, Bishop Shaughnessy suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and was taken off the train in Jersey City. The man who returned to Seattle a few weeks later was not the same man who had left it. The only person who seemed unaware of his broken condition was Bishop Shaughnessy himself. He forced himself back into his usual strenuous routine. Further strokes followed, and before long Bishop Shaughnessy was confined to his residence on Boren Avenue. Still he insisted he was able to handle all the business of the Chancery. It is said that his correspondence piled up, unopened, for an entire year.

A HERO'S WELCOME

Rome responded in 1948 by appointing a coadjutor bishop—a first for Seattle. A coadjutor is appointed to assist a bishop, and usually has the right of succession. The chosen man was Bishop Thomas A. Connolly ("TAC" to his friends), Auxiliary of San Francisco—charming, popular, energetic, effective, the beloved pastor of the famous Mission Dolores and trusted right-hand to two San Francisco Archbishops—Hanna and Mitty.

The diocese went all out to welcome its coadjutor and future bishop. It was a hero's welcome, such as the 'greatest generation' knew so well how to provide. On April 20, 1948, the new bishop came from San Francisco in a special car of the Cascade Limited, along with more than two dozen friends, including bishops who would take part in the installation in Seattle. In Vancouver, the first stop in his new diocese, there was quite a ceremony as 600 children crowded onto the platform to greet him (seven of them holding colored placards spelling the word W-E-L-C-O-M-E), while a first-grader presented him with a bouquet of red roses. Bishop Connolly won the affection of the children immediately by announcing a school holiday, and



then got back on the train. All of this in a five-minute whistle stop!

At every stop along the way—in Kelso, Castle Rock, Centralia, and Olympia—delegations were at the station to greet the new bishop. Upon arrival at King Street Station, Bishop Connolly went straight to the bishop's residence at the corner of Spring and Boren to meet with Bishop Shaughnessy, who was too ill to be present for any of the installation festivities. From there he proceeded to the Chancery to meet with the consultors.

The installation itself was full of grandeur. More than an hour before the liturgy began, every available seat in the Cathedral was full—1600 crammed inside, while another 500 waited outside to watch the immense procession of 45 Knights of Columbus, 251 priests, 16 monsignors, 3 archbishops, and 10 bishops, wind its way around the

block and into the Cathedral. The new bishop did not disappoint. The *Progress* enthused, "Bishop Connolly ascended to the altar and for the first time his people assembled in the Cathedral heard and thrilled to his rich voice raised in a song of prayer for them." And his first words to them gave them confidence: "I look forward to my labors among you with great anticipation and enthusiasm. As for the future, I find it attractive, promising, and radiantly hopeful. It unfolds an opportunity of almost limitless achievement!"

When the liturgy of installation was concluded, there was a banquet at the Olympic Hotel, and a few days later a civic reception was offered for the new coadjutor in Seattle's Municipal Auditorium. Amazingly, the crowd that assembled to welcome Bishop Connolly was the largest in the venue's history. All 6,500 seats in the auditorium itself were occupied, while 1,500 more filled a smaller basement auditorium, where they would be able to hear the speeches. Another 2,000 disappointed people stood outside in the plaza in spite of rain and then (on April 25!) hail and snow. The governor, the mayor, judges, business leaders, the orchestra of Holy Names Academy and the 134 girls of the Holy Rosary Choir—in short, everyone who was anyone—came to welcome the new bishop. Clearly, the arrival of Bishop Connolly was not just a Catholic moment, but a civic moment. In his youth and energy, Bishop Connolly seemed to embody the hopes of a triumphant new generation.

—Corinna Laughlin