

Other American bishops with roots in mid-Michigan



>> Cardinal James A. Hickey was born on Oct. 11, 1920, in Midland and grew up attending St. Brigid of Kildare Parish and School. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Saginaw in 1946. Father Hickey attended the Second Vatican Council between 1962 and 1965 as a “theological expert.” In 1967, Pope Paul VI appointed him as auxiliary bishop of Saginaw. In 1969, Bishop Hickey was named rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he served until 1974. He then returned to the United States as bishop of Cleveland. He was re-appointed as archbishop of Washington, D.C., in 1980 and elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II in 1988. Cardinal Hickey died on Oct. 24, 2004.



>> Bishop Joseph V. Adamec was born on Aug. 13, 1935, in Bannister and was baptized there at St. Cyril Parish. Although he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Nitra, Slovakia, in 1946, he later returned to his home diocese to minister from 1961 until he was appointed, consecrated and installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Penn., in 1987, where he continues to serve the church.



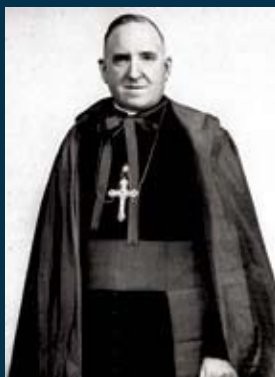
>> Bishop Allen J. Babcock was born on June 17, 1898, in Bad Axe (then part of the Diocese of Detroit) and baptized there at Sacred Heart Parish. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1925 for Detroit and was made a bishop in 1947. He served as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit (1947-1954) and as the seventh bishop of Grand Rapids (1954-1969) until his death.



>> Bishop Michael J. Gallagher was born on Nov. 18, 1866, in Auburn and baptized at St. James Parish, Bay City (then part of the Archdiocese of Detroit). He was ordained to the priesthood in 1893 for the Diocese of Grand Rapids and was made a bishop in 1915. He served as the second bishop of Grand Rapids (1916-1918) and the fifth bishop of Detroit (1918-1937) until his death.

The past four bishops of Saginaw

Since becoming a diocese in 1938, Saginaw has had five ordinaries.



>> William F. Murphy was born May 11, 1885 in Kalamazoo. He was the youngest of 10 children and only boy born to his Irish immigrant parents. It was in Rome's cathedral in 1908, that he was ordained to the priesthood to serve in the Diocese of Detroit. Pastor of the city's St. David Parish when he received his appointment to be the first bishop of Saginaw. Upon its establishment in February 1938, Bishop Murphy was formally consecrated to the episcopal rank five days after his 53rd birthday.

Under his leadership, the young Diocese of Saginaw gained a reputation for social and charitable work among the poor, especially for migrant workers and victims displaced by World War II both home and abroad.

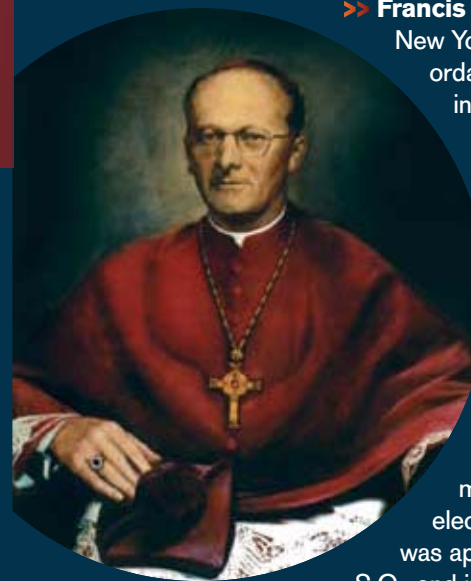
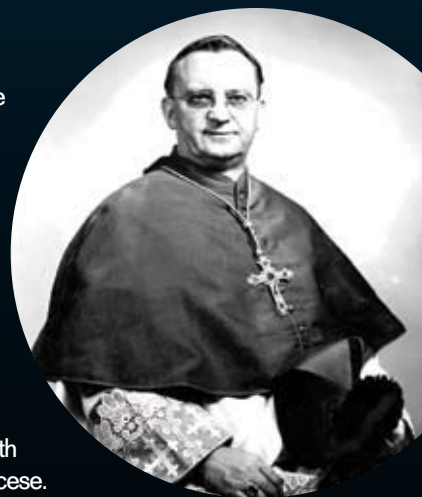
Biographers remember Bishop Murphy's “jovial Irish spirit” and “jolly wit.” It is said that he once visited a burglar in jail who had broken into the bishop's residence; after he joked with the man about their common surname, he admonished him to return to the practice of the Catholic faith. He also was known to preside at the marriage of some of Saginaw's poorest couples “to give them a day to remember.”

He died on Feb. 7, 1950.

>> Stephen S. Woznicki was born on Aug. 17, 1894, in Miners Mills, Penn. He attended seminary in Michigan and Minnesota and was ordained to the priesthood at St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul, Minn., in 1917 to serve in the Diocese of Detroit. In 1938, he was ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the recently elevated Archdiocese of Detroit and, on March 28 1950, he was appointed as the second bishop of Saginaw.

Bishop Woznicki is remembered as a “great builder” as he led a golden era of both population and economic growth in the diocese. He established 21 new parishes and missions, permitted the building of 30 schools, and led a nearly \$4 million campaign to open the doors of a diocesan seminary – St. Paul Seminary in Saginaw – which today houses Nouvel Catholic Central High School and the main diocesan offices.

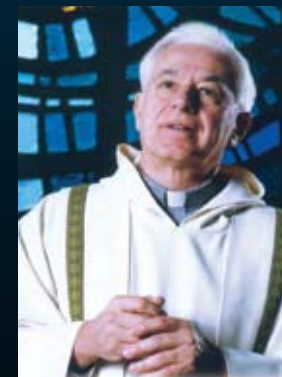
Bishop Woznicki retired on Oct. 30, 1968, and died shortly thereafter on Dec. 10, 1968.



>> Francis F. Reh was born in the Bronx, New York, on Jan. 9, 1911, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1935 in Rome for the Archdiocese of New York. In 1951, he was appointed as vice-chancellor for the Archdiocese of New York and in 1954 he was named a monsignor and appointed as vice rector of the North American College in Rome. In 1958, he was named rector of St. Joseph Seminary in New York and in October of that year he accompanied Cardinal Spellman to Rome for the conclave that elected Pope John XXIII. In 1962, he was appointed as bishop of Charleston, S.C., and in November of that year he participated as a discussant on liturgical reform during the Second Vatican Council. In 1964, he was appointed as rector of the North American College in Rome until he became the third bishop of Saginaw in December 1968.

As the implementer of the first round of reforms of the Second Vatican Council, Bishop Reh led the diocese through a time of significant transition. He oversaw a major renovation to the interior worship space at Saginaw's Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in 1978. In addition, he is credited with establishing the diocese's lay formation program, which was unique at that time in the United States.

Bishop Reh retired in 1980 and died on Nov. 14, 1994.



>> Kenneth E. Untener was born in Detroit on Aug. 3, 1937, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1963 for the Archdiocese of Detroit. He served as rector of St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth from 1977 until he was ordained as the fourth bishop of Saginaw in November 1980.

Described as a “Hungarian Gypsy” by his predecessor, Bishop Untener made headlines when he sold the bishop's residence shortly after coming to the diocese and moved 69 times from parish rectory to parish rectory, living as a roommate with his diocesan priests and somewhat from the trunk of his car.

He took the Diocese of Saginaw global with his legacy of seasonal “Little Books” of prayer for Lent, Easter and Advent/Christmas. First released in 2000, more than 3 million copies of the books were sold worldwide in 2007 and 2008. Books made their way into the hands of Catholics as far away as Australia.

In addition to the ministry of his vocation – and despite his need for a prosthetic leg after losing part of his leg to a birth deformity – Bishop Untener also had a love for hockey. He was known to sometimes show up at the Nouvel Catholic Central High School team's early morning practices and challenge goalies.

Saginaw's spiritual leader for more than 23 years, Bishop Untener died March 27, 2004 from leukemia.



>> Bishop Edward Kozlowski was born on Nov. 21, 1860, in Poland. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1887 and served as pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Bay City from 1900 to 1913. In January 1914, he was ordained as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and served there until his death less than two years later in August 1915.



>> Bishop Kenneth J. Povish was born on April, 19, 1924, in Alpena (then part of the Diocese of Saginaw, now Gaylord) and was baptized there at St. Mary Parish. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1950 and served as a priest of the Diocese of Saginaw until he was made a bishop in 1970. He served as the fifth bishop of Crookston, Minn., (1970-1975) and third bishop of Lansing (1975-1996) until his retirement. Bishop Povish died on Sept. 5, 2003.



>> Archbishop Joseph Schrembs was born on March 12, 1866, in Germany. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1889 for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, which then covered portions of the present-day Diocese of Saginaw. Father Schrembs served as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Bay City from 1895 to 1900. During that time, he also assisted in the founding of St. Boniface Parish in Bay City, preaching the sermon when the church cornerstone was laid by Grand Rapids Bishop Henry J. Richter in 1886. In February 1911, he was ordained as an auxiliary bishop for Grand Rapids. By August 1911, he found himself named the first bishop of the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. In 1921, Bishop Schrembs was reappointed as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland. In 1939, the personal title of archbishop was given to him by the Holy See even though his local see was not an archdiocese. Archbishop Schrembs died in 1945.



>> Bishop Charles D. White was born on Jan., 5, 1879, in Grand Rapids. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, which then covered portions of the present-day Diocese of Saginaw, in 1910. Father White spent three months as assistant pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Saginaw during the summer of 1911. He later was called to the episcopal ranks as the second bishop of Spokane, Wash. (1926-1955), where he served until his death.