



CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Diocese of Amarillo

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Museum Ext. 120 or 118

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VOLUME TWO SUMMER 2017

Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo



Museum... in process...

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Msgr. John R. Morkovsky was one of the most active priests in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Like Bishop FitzSimon, he was a native Texan, and he was also serving in his home archdiocese when he was named auxiliary bishop for the Amarillo Diocese. He was consecrated bishop December 22, 1955, in San Fernando Cathedral by Archbishop

Amleto G. Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

It might have been unintentional but it was good that he was sent to work with his former fellow priest and to share the burden of the diocese. He was installed Auxiliary Bishop of Amarillo in Sacred Heart Cathedral February 22, 1956.

Those who lived some distance away had to content themselves with viewing the ceremony on television. Incidentally, this was the first time a religious ceremony of this kind had been telecast in full from an Amarillo station.

The new bishop took for his motto: "Peace To Those Who Love The Law•."

Bishop Morkovsky was known for his zeal and hard work as a priest. In coming into the diocese as its auxiliary bishop, he brought with him this same spirit and soon his untiring efforts began to bring results. He served as auxiliary bishop for two years, and on the death of Bishop FitzSimon, he was made bishop of the diocese.

His Excellency had served as superintendent of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. This experience made him more keenly aware of the need of Catholic

education, and he placed emphasis first on parochial schools. He encouraged the building of schools with an attached gymnasium taking precedence over a church if a choice had to be made. (The gym served as a church until financial problems were overcome.) A great forward step was taken when he appointed a superintendent of Catholic schools in 1963.

Throughout this vast area of Texas there were many thousands of people from Mexico. The heritage they hold most dear is their Catholic faith. This had been kept alive by zealous, hardworking mission priests. But many of these people were poorly instructed in their faith, if indeed, they had any instruction at all.

The hierarchy of the southwest, realizing the urgent need of some program to help these people and to hold them to their faith, had in recent years created the Committee for the Spanish Speaking. Bishop Morkovsky, as had the two preceding bishops, supported this program and urged the laity to work to improve educational and economic conditions. To strengthen religious and family life for these Catholics, he promoted the Cursillo Movement, "Little Courses in Christianity". He appointed a director for this purpose and many cursillos were held.

In 1960, priests of the church who had served in some special manner were honored. Father Francis Smyer and Father Richard Vaughan were made Papal Chamberlains; Father Andrew Marthaler, Father Peter Morsch, Father Charles Dvorak, and Father Thomas Drury were made Domestic Prelates.

At this time, there was no Minor Seminary in the diocese, or even near. Young boys wishing to start their study for the priesthood early were compelled to go far from home. Bishop Morkovsky proposed to do something about this situation. In September, 1962, he opened St. Lucian's Preparatory Seminary at Price Catholic High School, using some of the buildings for this purpose.

Another project dear to his heart was realized when St. Ann's Home for the Aged at Panhandle was completed. The home was dedicated in January, 1963. This was a dream fulfilled, not only for Bishop Morkovsky, but for many in the diocese. The capacity of the home was filled almost immediately, and it has answered a great need of the elderly people in this area.

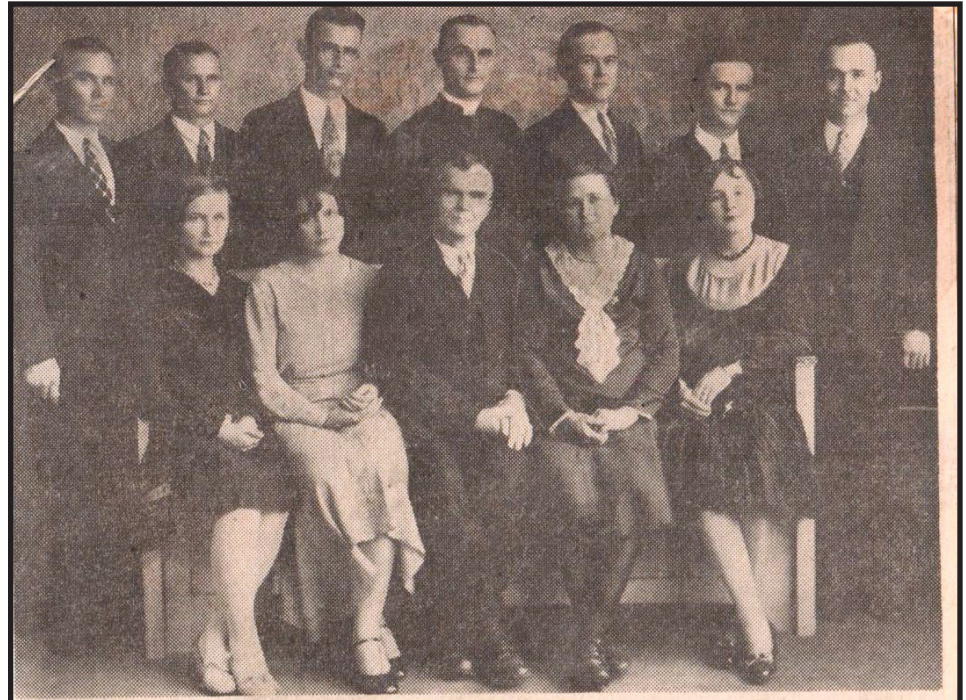
During the episcopate of Bishop Morkovsky, the diocese continued to grow rapidly. Besides the institutions mentioned, new schools and churches were constructed.

In February, 1961, the bishop's responsibilities were lessened somewhat when the diocese was divided and almost half of it went into the newly created diocese of San Angelo. He welcomed the change, commenting that the work of the church would now be done 'more adequately and comprehensively'.

As priests who distinguish themselves in a special way are honored from time to time, so are laymen. The first Knights of St. Gregory of the diocese were invested by Bishop Morkovsky June 6, 1963. They were P. L. Bottoms, A. E. Herrman, J. F. Gulde, F. F. Weil, and J. J. Berg. At the same investiture service, eight of the laity received the papal medal, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice". These were John Detten, Edward Dzuik, M. G. Underwood, E. J. Urbanousky, Mrs. Rose Gordon, Mrs. J. J. Berg, Miss Elmire Tesson and Miss Marguerite Robrecht.

Bishop Morkovsky was named coadjutor-bishop of the diocese of Houston-Galveston in 1963 to assist Bishop Nold, who was in failing health. His farewell message was: "I am leaving the diocese of Amarillo with regrets. I have learned to love this area of Texas and can only say that I am happy to be able to continue working for God and the church in this great state. There will be ten times as much work to do, but as this is the will of God for me, I approach my new task with prayerful humility. I go to my new post to help Bishop Nold in his tremendous work".

Mark your Calendars!
The next Catholic Historical Society Program will be
"Meet More Saints"
to be held in the new Diocesan Museum
Sunday, November 6, 2017
3 to 5 pm.



This Alois J. Morkovsky Family (nee Raska, mother, deceased), and Bessie (Mrs. George Kocian, Panna Maria);
 photograph was taken in 1930 shortly before Bishop John Morkovsky (second from right, back row) left for studies in Rome.
 Back row, left to right, Emil, San Antonio; Alphonse (deceased); Joseph (deceased); the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Alois J., Hallettsville; Henry, San Antonio; Bishop John; and L. A. Corpus Christi.
 Members of the family include, front row, left to right, Anita (Mrs. George F. Kalhis, Hallettsville), Marie (Mrs. Louis F. Hrcir, The Bishop also has 38 nephews and nieces

When Bishop-elect John L. Morkovsky is consecrated Auxiliary to the Bishop of the diocese of Amarillo it will mark the second consecutive time in less than 15 years that the Archdiocese of San Antonio has furnished a Bishop to its northern neighbor.

The other prelate, Bishop Laurence J. FitzSimon was consecrated Bishop of Amarillo on Oct. 22, 1941, and was installed Nov. 5.

Bishop-elect Morkovsky has announced this week that the date of his consecration will be Wednesday, Feb. 22. The ceremony will take place in the San Fernando Cathedral. Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate, of Washington, D.C., will be the officiating prelate. The Bishop-elect will be formally installed in Amarillo two weeks later, March 7.

Bishop-elect Morkovsky's appointment strenghtes ties between the two Episcopal areas that were first established in 1926. In that year the Diocese of Amarillo was erected largely out of territory belonging to the Diocese of Dallas. But 21,000 square miles of Amarillo's new territory came from the archdiocese. The San Antonio See lost St. Boniface's Parish, Olfen; St. Joseph's Parish, Rowena; Sacred Heart Parish, San Angelo; and Joseph's Parish, Stanton, with their respective missions.

The northern diocese reciprocated graciously in 1941 by sending us its second Bishop to be our second Archbishop - the Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey. Bishop FitzSimon succeeded Archbishop Lucey in Amarillo.

So one might say that the Diocese of Amarillo is closest to the heart of the archdiocese, especially while two of the sons of our area are guiding it.

Bishop-elect Morkovsky will assume the new position at the age of 46 - the same age as Bishop FitzSimon when the latter was consecrated.

The Bishop-elect was born Aug. 16, 1909, in Lavaca County, in the parish of Praha to Alois J. and Marie Theresa Morkovsky. He was seventh of 10 children, eight of whom are still living.

Two brothers, Emil and Henry, and one sister, Mrs. Louis F. Hrcir, live in San Antonio. Another brother, Ladislav, is in Fort Worth. A sister, Mrs. George Kocian, lives in Panna Maria. Another, Mrs. George Kallus, lives in Hallettsville, along with his father, who at 85, still keeps up his long record as a schoolteacher by supervising and substituting in the parish high school. The Bishop-elect's eldest brother, Father Alois J. Morkovsky, is dean and



Large Family Bishop-designate John L. Morkovsky of Amarillo comes from a large family. He is one of a family of 10 children of Mr. and the late Mrs. Alois Morkovsky. There are many nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, and cousins. The pictures above was taken in 1941. The new Bishop of Amarillo is at the right in the middle row; and his brother, Monsignor Alois Morkovsky of Hallettsville, is at the left. The Morkovsky family centers around Praha in South Texas in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

pastor of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. His mother and a brother were killed in an auto accident in 1938.

His older brother is not the only relative in religious life. A niece, Sister Theresa Clare, is at our Lady of the Lake Convent. Father Victor A. Raska of Flatonia is a first cousin, and Father Victor Cloquet, Seattle, Wash., is a second cousin.

The Bishop-designate attended St. John's Seminary from 1924 to 1930 when he left to continue studies at the North American College in Rome. He attended the Propaganda University and the Gregorian University, and was ordained by Cardinal Marchetti-Salvagiani on Dec. 5, 1933.

He continued graduate studies and received the degree of doctor of Sacred Theology in 1936. He returned to the archdiocese and was appointed assistant to Monsignor Joseph Szymanski at Weimar June, 1936.

From there he went to St. Ann's Parish as assistant in December of 1939, then to St. John's Seminary in September, 1940, to teach Canon Law and, on the side, Italian. He left in 1941 to study education for two years at the Catholic University of America.

On March 1, 1943 he was appointed archdiocesan superintendent of schools, perhaps his most notable position in the archdiocese and one he has held to the present time. In the 12 years he has directed the archdiocesan grade and high schools, enrollment has risen from less than 14,000 to more than 28,000. Steady upward moves have marked all but two years of his tenure.

He returned as assistant at St. Ann's in 1943. A year later he was elevated to the rank of Papal Chamberlain, with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor.

In December, 1945, he was made administrator of St. Leo's Parish and in 1947, pastor. He received his last pastoral appointment July 20, 1954, when he went to St. Mary Magdalen's Parish as pastor.

On top of these duties he was made one of the 10 archdiocesan consultors in July of 1947. He has been moderator of the San Antonio District Council of Catholic Women, past chaplain of the Court St. Anthony, Catholic Daughters of America, and is a past archdiocesan director of the National Legion of Decency.

He has been a pro-synodal judge and a pro-synodal examiner of the clergy since 1944, a member of the archdiocesan building commission since 1945, and served on the archdiocesan council of administration from 1944 to 1947.

He was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor, on May 10, 1954.

During his stay in St. Leo's Parish he supervised erection of an \$83,000 school building and a \$100,000 church. A \$100,000 addition to the school was nearing completion at the time of his transfer.

He also organized the Federation of Catholic Parent-Teacher Clubs in the schools of the See City.

Needless to say, our northern neighbor is getting one of the most active clergymen in this area. He is a Bishop-elect with a doctorate in Sacred Theology and a master's degree in education. He speaks five languages fluently: English, Czech, Latin, Spanish, and Italian; has a reading knowledge of Polish, French, German, and Portuguese. He has put this background into practical application in the most varied posts of the archdiocese.

He will be the first native-born Texas Bishop of Czech ancestry.

In a special statement to the Register, he stated that "While I am saddened to be leaving my native territory, still I am also very happy to be able to serve under an old friend and former professor. I am grateful for the confidence placed in me by my superiors, and ask the prayers of all my friends that I may justify this confidence."

It will be Feb. 22 that the Archdiocese of San Antonio makes its second gesture in 15-years of Episcopal friendship with the Diocese of Amarillo.

Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, will consecrate Bishop-elect John L. Morkovsky, new Auxiliary to Bishop Laurence J. FitzSimon of the Diocese of Amarillo, Wednesday, Feb. 22. The ceremony will take place in San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio, at 10 a.m.

Two weeks after the consecration, on Wednesday, March 7, the Bishop-elect will be formally installed in Amarillo. The tentative schedule for the day includes a Pontifical Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10 a.m.; luncheon for the clergy at 12 noon in Cathedral Hall 1110 Washington, and a civic reception from 7 to 9 in Cathedral Hall. The Cathedral Altar Society will serve the luncheon, and St. Mary's Parent-Teachers' group will be in charge of the reception.

Bishop-elect Morkovsky as chosen Bishop Mariano S. Garriga of Corpus Christi and Bishop Sidney M. Metzger of El Paso as consecrators. Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio will deliver the sermon.



Ordination Bishop-designate John L. Morkovsky of Amarillo was ordained a priest in Rome Dec. 5, 1933, 25 years ago this fall. He is shown at the extreme right in the middle row. Ordaining prelate was the late Cardinal Marchetti-Selvaggiani (center). Third from left in the front row is the late Archbishop Moses E. Kiley of Milwaukee, then spiritual director of the North American College. In the second row, second from left, is Father Joseph B. Brunini, now Auxiliary Bishop of Natchez, Miss. Also in the second row, sixth from left, is Father Andrew Grutka, Bishop of Gary, Ind.

Auxiliary Is Consecrated For Panhandle Diocese

San Antonio, Tex.—Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicoganani, Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., returned to San Fernando Cathedral here for the second time in 15 years, and for the same reason—to consecrate a Bishop for the Diocese of Amarillo Feb. 22.

He consecrated Bishop John L. Morkovsky as Titular bishop of Hieron and Auxiliary to Bishop Laurence J. FitzSimon of Amarillo.

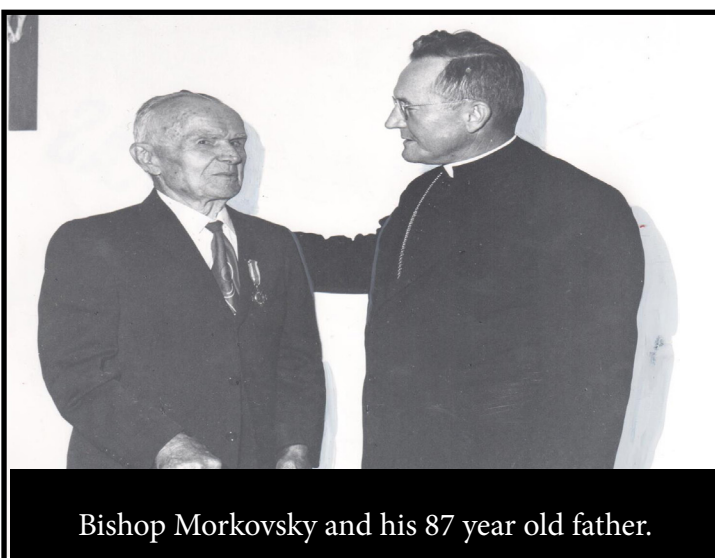
In 1941, Archbishop Cicognani officiated at the consecration of Bishop FitzSimon, a native of Texas, who was 46 at the time. Bishop Morkovsky, the first native-born Texas Bishop of Czech ancestry, is also 46.

Consecrators were Bishop Mariano S. Garriga of Corpus Christi and Bishop Sidney S. Metzger of El Paso. Four Archbishops and 21 Bishops attended.

Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio preached the sermon, In commenting on the declining influence of materialism and secularism, he noted that “In a word, thoughtful men at long last are forced to the conclusion that the dignity, the liberty, and the responsibilities of man do not have their source in civil government; they are not of earth, they must be of heaven.



March into Sacred Heart Cathedral



Bishop Morkovsky and his 87 year old father.

“We do not say that there has been a return to God in our time, but we do recognize on the part of some intellectuals a discontent, a disappointment, a dissatisfaction with the kind of world that men have built and there is a slight but perceptible turning toward the idea of God, the Church, religion. Perhaps there is a growing conviction that the course of human events is dangerously explosive and that survival can come only from God.

“Today Bishop Morkovsky has become a witness for Christ Realizing that the human spirit is weary of wandering in darkness, we are prepared to say that no greater burden could be given to any man than that he should be consecrated a witness for Christ, because he must testify to the truth in a world that has almost rejected the very Author of truth Himself.”

Bishop Morkovsky named Diocese's Spiritual Head

Bishop-designate John L. Morkovsky will be installed as Ordinary of the Diocese of Amarillo on Wednesday, Oct. 22, according to an announcement made by the Chancery Office.

The solemn ceremony will take place at 10 am. in Sacred Heart Cathedral, with Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio officiating and delivering the installation sermon.

A feature of the rite will be the promises of obedience by the priest of the diocese, who will come individually before the Bishop.



Luncheon which followed the Solemn Pontifical mass offered by Auxiliary Bishop John Louis Morkovsky in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Amarillo, in which he was formally received as Auxiliary Bishop of Amarillo. Pictured here are four Bishops of Amarillo. From left to right are Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio, who was the second Bishop of Amarillo; Bishop Laurence J. FitzSimon, the third bishop; Bishop John L. Morkovsky, the fourth bishop; and Bishop-elect Leroy T. Matthiesen who will be the sixth bishop, and at this luncheon, toastmaster.

On the evening of the same day there will be a civic reception honoring Bishop Morkovsky in the City Auditorium at 8 o' clock.

Three choirs will be featured at the installation in the morning. These will include a special priests' choir to sing the Proper's of the Mass; a second choir made up of representatives of all the Catholic choirs in Amarillo to sing the Common n of the Mass.

Father James Comiskey will be in charge of the musical program.

At the civic reception, a musical program will be presented by the choral groups of St. Mary's Academy and Price High School.

Following the installation ceremony, Bishop Morkovsky will offer a solemn Pontifical Mass. He will be assisted by his brother, the Rt. Rev. Alois Morkovsky of Hallettsville.

Adinner honoring Bishop Morkovsky, visiting Prelate, the clergy, and members of Bishop Morkovsky's family will be held in the Herring Hotel after the Mass.

Far Horizons Present Challenge to Diocese...Bishop says at Installation

"By the mandate of a Vicar of Christ who now looks down upon this scene from his high place in heaven, I have been charged with responsibility as Bishop over a section of Christ's earthly kingdom which is vast in area and far-reaching in its horizons." the Most Rev. John L. Morkovsky said in an address following his installation as fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo.

"Christ saw this area," the Bishop said, "and shed His blood for the eternal happiness of its people.

"The challenge of far horizons lies before the Bishop, the priests, the religious, and the laity of the great Diocese of Amarillo."

Bishop John L. Morkovsky becomes the spiritual head of 72, 800 Catholics in a territory of 73,000 square miles. consisting of 70 and 1/2 counties in West Texas. The total population of this area in 1,040,000.

Helping the Bishop in the administration of the diocese and caring for parishes and missions are 54 diocesan priests and 35 religious order priests. together with other priests retired and sick, there are 94 priests in the diocese.

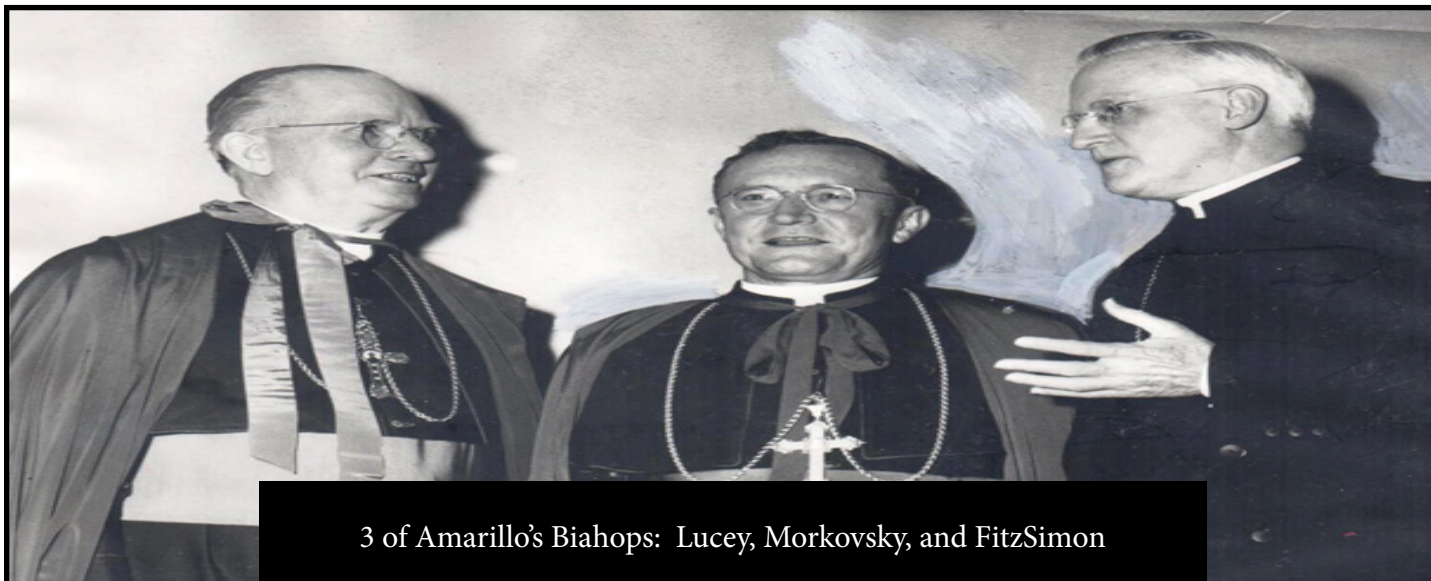
There are 58 parishes in the diocese and 56 of these have resident pastors. Besides the parishes, there are 35 missions, 11 stations, and 18 chapels.

Serving the Catholic schools of the diocese are 109 teaching sisters, nine teaching brothers, and 23 lay teachers, making a total of 141 engaged in teaching. These teachers are responsible for 311 diocesan and parochial high school students and 3, 713 elementary pupils.

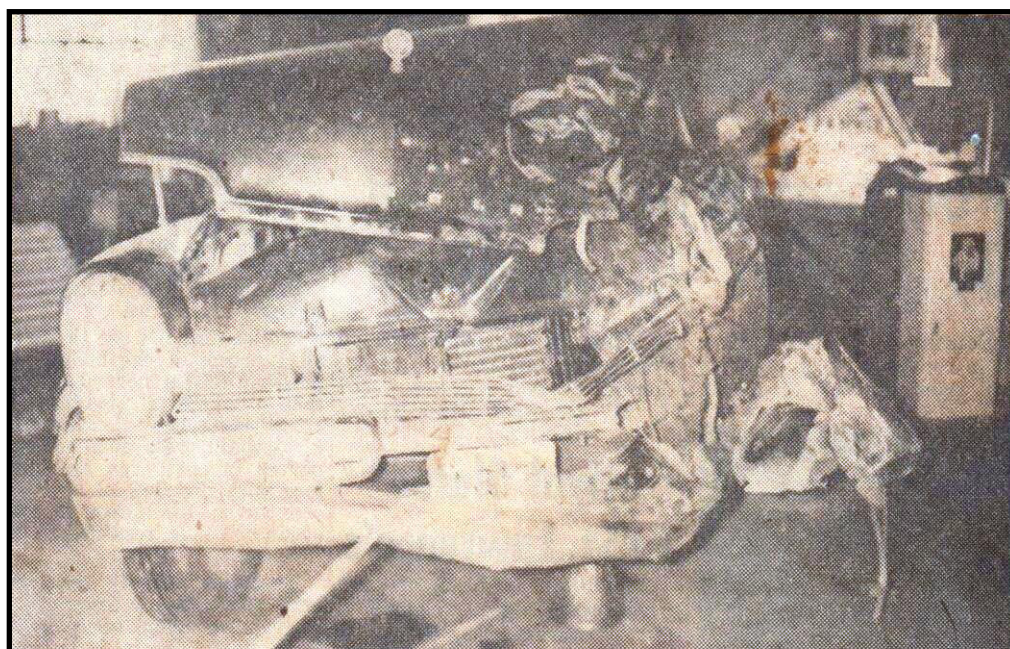
Under instruction in Confraternity religious classes are 14, 946 public grade and high school children.



General Organization Members, parish leaders and guests jammed St. Mary's School for the Bishop's invitation dinner



3 of Amarillo's Bishops: Lucey, Morkovsky, and FitzSimon



Msgr. Francis Smyer

Bishop, Priest Escape Serious Crash Injury

Bishop John L. Morkovsky and Father Francis A. Smyer were bruised and shaken up when the car, driven by the Bishop, was involved in a head-on collision in NE Fifth block of Grand Avenue at 4 pm Saturday, May 2.

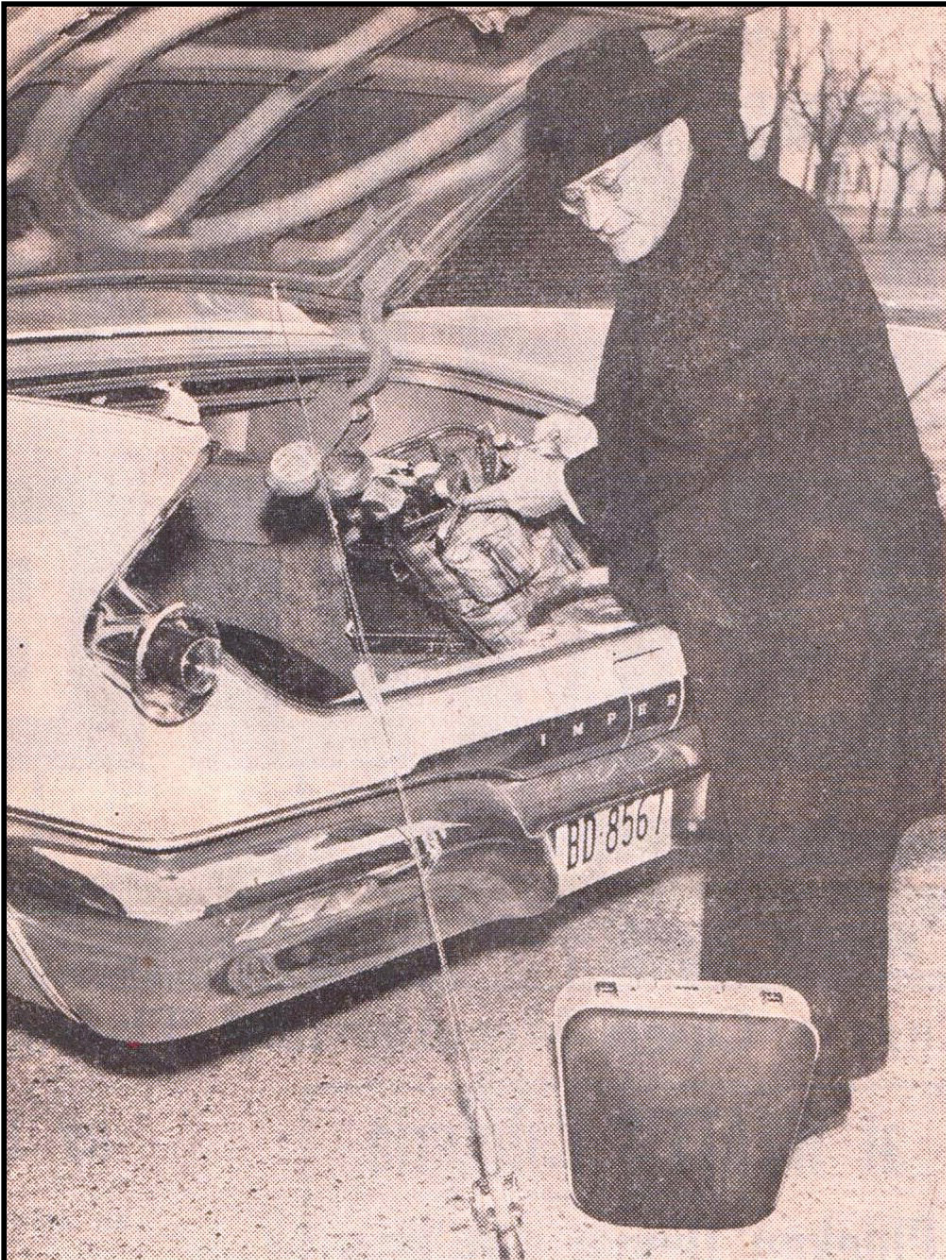
The two were returning to Amarillo from Odessa and were within 15 blocks of the Chancery Office and the Bishop's house when the accident occurred.

Both were confined to St. Anthony's Hospital for observation. Neither suffered serious injury. The Bishop's 1956 Lincoln was a total loss.

Both were scheduled to be released from the hospital on Wednesday of this week.

The driver of the other car involved in the accident was Taima Jones. He was treated at St. Anthony's Hospital for facial cuts and released.

A police officer said that the Bishop was driving north on Grand, and Jones was driving south. The Bishop was in the inside lane. According to the officer, Jones, in an attempt to pass a car in front of him, apparently pulled across the center stripe and into the Bishop's lane. Father Smyer said that it happened so fast that there was nothing any driver could have done to avoid the accident.



—Staff Photo

The trunk of Bishop John Morkovsky's automobile usually is packed to the limit when he starts out on his travels over the 46 counties in his diocese. In addition to his mitre and crozier, Bishop Morkovsky takes a golf bag, bowling ball, fishing rod and a tackle box. A harmonica usually is in the front seat.

Books, Music and Sports Are Facets of Bishop's Busy Life

In a quest to determine how human a Bishop is, we interviewed the Most Rev. John L. Morkovsky, Bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo.

He lives in the Bishop's House on Price College campus, 1800 N. Spring, and has all the dignity and reverent attitude pertaining to his high office, but one senses shyness and a definite sense of humor.

In speaking of humor, Bishop Morkovsky, whose smile easily spreads into a chuckle, said, "The real test of a sense of humor is the ability to laugh at oneself. The real foundation of it is humility and the essence of humility is honesty." When we called him a philosopher, he said, "Why there are old chestnuts in Catholic philosophy."

This joyful Christian who exudes such peace and serenity decided to be a priest when he was a boy in Lavaca County in southeast Texas, where he was born to parents of Czech origin.



Speaking at clergy meeting.



Breaking ground.

Pistol Packing Texas Thugs Whip Bishop, Put His Eye Out

Bishop John L. Morkovsky lost his left eye when two gunmen pistol-whipped him during a robbery in his home here.

The bishop was reported “in considerable pain, but satisfactory condition” at St. Joseph Hospital. He told police he was “praying for them (the gunmen).”

One suspect is under arrest and police chief Carroll Lynn said warrants have been issued for the second.

The pair rang the bishop’s doorbell about 10:30 Friday night. When he opened the door then forced their way in and demanded money.

The bishop reached for his wallet but before he could hand it over one of the men slammed him to the floor and they began beating and kicking him.

“His face looked like a meatloaf,” a diocesan spokesman said. “The eye was ruptured beyond repair and surgeons had to remove it.”

The bishop’s housekeeper, Lily Lienhart, was upstairs when the attack occurred. She heard the bishop shout and immediately telephoned police.

One of the intruders went upstairs and tried to drag her down, but she fell and the man ran. One shot was fired during the attack and police recovered the slug from a picture as evidence.

When the housekeeper made her way to the first floor she found the bishop in a pool of blood holding a white cloth to his face.

The 64-year-old bishop in a statement from his hospital bed said he planned to remain on as head of the Houston diocese, “unless the Holy Father relieves me.”

Officials said he would probably be in the hospital for two weeks and then would require some recuperation.

While he is recuperating, Bishop Bernard J. Ganter of Tulsa, Okla., and Auxiliary Bishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio have volunteered to stand in at public functions such as confirmations and dedications

Bishop Morkovsky Encouraged by Fifth Grader’s Letter

“I thought I’d write to you and tell you even though you can’t see out of one eye you can do anything (except see out of one eye).”

These words of encouragement were part of a letter written by 11-year-old Anne Thomas of Houston to Bishop John L. Morkovsky. The letter was among the more than 1500 letters and cards which the bishop has received since losing sight in his left eye following a robbery and beating in his home on North Blvd. earlier this month. Each day the cards and letters have been read to the bishop who is convalescing at St. Mary’s Seminary, Houston.

When little Anne, a fifth grader at St. Anne’s school, heard about the bishop’s misfortune, she wanted not only to convey to him her sorrow but also to assure him he won’t miss out on any of the best life has to offer. Anne, who signed her letter to the bishop as “one of your Catholics,” was speaking from experience. She lost sight in her right eye during infancy and now has a prosthetic eye which is hard to distinguish from her real one.

The perky and pretty daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Thomas doesn’t miss out on life. She is a “plus” student in school, a Junior Scout at St. Anne’s, a member of the newly formed Girls’ Choir, and active in a wide range of sports including Kickball, tennis, football, softball, basketball, volleyball (her favorite), and “Putt Putt.” She is trying out for the school track team this week.

In a recent basketball tournament for fifth grade girls or several schools, Anne who also swims and ice skates, was named the all star forward from St. Anne’s.

But Anne is no tomboy.

Anne has always tried to do her best with anything attempted and she's usually successful," her mother said. "We feel that probably anything Anne wants to do later in life she will be able to do quite well.

"We are surprised many people who have known Anne are unaware she has a prosthetic eye," Mrs. Thomas added. "She hasn't used this disability in any way."

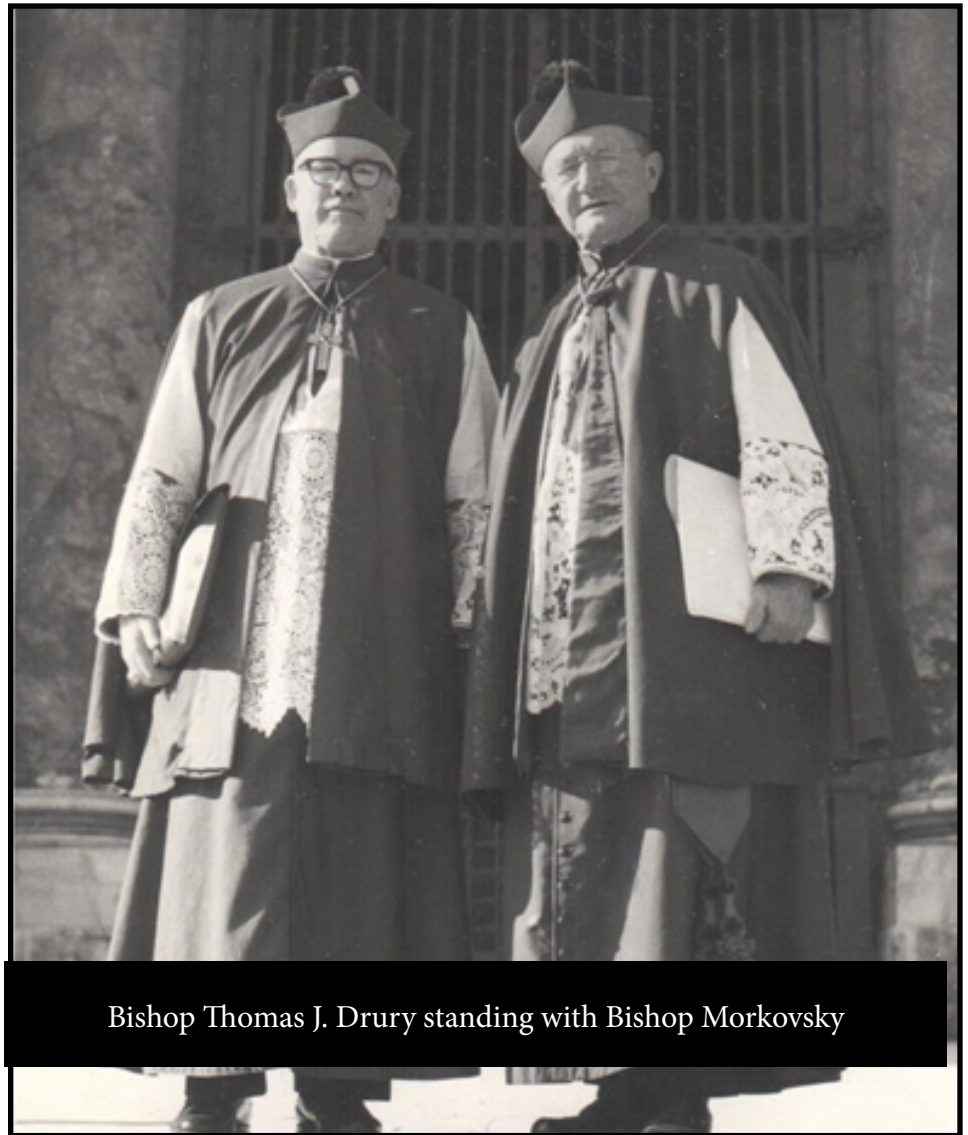
Anne, who is an altar "person"—a server—at the folk Mass at St. Anne's, is philosophical about her disability.

"That's the way God wanted it," she explained cheerily.

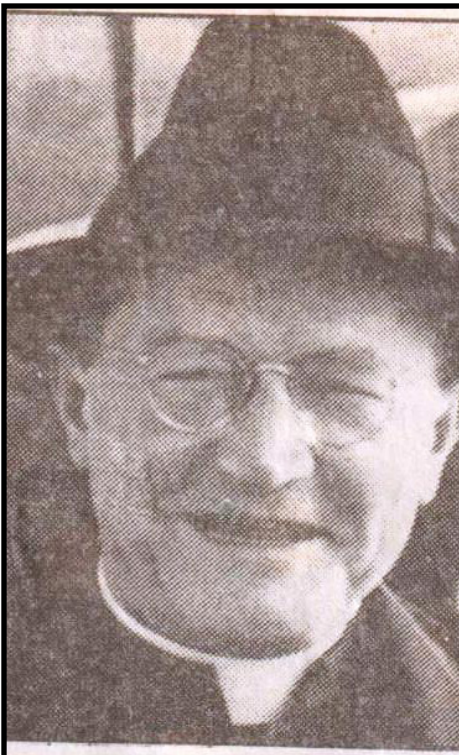
After hearing and reading about the bishop's adversity, she thought "it might be nice to write to someone else who has one eye."

Although she has never met the bishop, she knows him as "head of the Catholics who gets orders from the Pope."

The bishop "sounds like a very nice person," she said. "I just wanted to tell him that it's all right. Even with one eye you can do a lot."



Bishop Thomas J. Drury standing with Bishop Morkovsky



Former bishop, John Morkovsky, dies in Washington

Most Rev. John L. Morkovsky , fourth bishop of the diocese of Amarillo, died March 24, 1990 in Tacoma, Washington.

All his services were conducted in Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in Houston.

During Bishop Morkovsky's episcopate, the Diocese of Amarillo was divided in half by the Holy See in Rome and the new Diocese of San Angelo came into existence. One of Bishop Morkovsky's associates, Monsignor Thomas J. Drury, pastor at Christ the King Church, Lubbock, became Bishop of the new diocese. Bishop Morkovsky served as co-consecrator during the ceremonies installing Bishop Drury, who had served him as a pastor. Bishop Morkovsky was transferred to Houston to be the coadjutor-bishop.

Upon his departure from Amarillo, said the Bishop, "I am leaving the Diocese of Amarillo with regrets...I have learned to love this area of Texas and can only say that I am happy to be able to continue working for God and Church in this great state."



West Texas Catholic, official newspaper for the Amarillo Diocese received a National Award for the best series of articles to the public. Msgr. Matthiesen is editor.

He left things better than he found them

Bishop Morkovksy was 80 years old when he died, but his dying still caught all who knew him by surprise. It was because of Vatican policy that he had retired—certainly not because of his age or his attitude. The man was tireless. Before he retired he worked long days and spent his evenings working in parishes, attending meetings—in general making things happen. After his “retirement” he kept the same pace, perhaps traveling even more, and for sure farther.

He seemed to be at home everywhere and with everyone—at parish celebration in his hometown of Praha, Texas or at a meeting in Rome—with the young people he confirmed or his peers in the episcopacy. He was not above teasing a reporter or too shy to challenge one.

When he came to this diocese as a coadjutor in 1963 the Church was just beginning that long and sometimes tumultuous era of reform. Texas, Houston and the Galveston-Houston diocese were growing dramatically. At the same time the Church was opening up windows, minds and hearts. The pace and depth of change this diocese underwent would have tried lesser men. If John Morkovsky was shaken by the challenge or the changes of those years, he had us all fooled.

Much of the strength of this diocese comes from the vision and prudence of John Morkovsky in bringing together and expanding region and a growing Church. So many of the procedures and institutions that we now take for granted—the Texas Catholic Conference, the Diocesan Development Fund, St. Dominic Center, the Office of Black Ministry, of Hispanic Ministry, the Texas Conference Churches, and this newspaper are the result in whole are in part of the soft-spoken, hard-driving Bishop Morkovsky.

The people of this region will long be in his debt. We are better off and ours is a better place for his having been here.

We are Getting Closer...

Watch for the Grand Opening of the New Museum



Manricque Alvarez, our wonderful carpenter.



While their display area was being prepared, two of the mannequins were seen strolling through the museum.



The Bishop's Room



Sacred Heart Cathedral Communion Rail.



Sacred Heart Stations of Cross getting ready to be hung.



Relics and Chalices Display



Your gifts are making
this museum a reality.
Thank you for your
continued generosity.



The book sale will be in the old museum at the entrance of Bishop Defalco Retreat Center on Friday, August 11 from 9 to 3.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

March 21, 2017 -

BUILDING FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

M/M James P. Arend	\$100.00
Florence Brofft	\$ 20.00
Mary Bromman	\$ 50.00
Marlene Casasanta	\$ 20.00
Alan T. Greer	\$ 25.00
Msgr. Norbert Kuehler	\$400.00
Msgr. Matthew G. Malnar	\$100.00
Kathrine Monceballez	\$ 25.00
Sr. Alice O'Brien	\$ 10.00
M/M Jerry Poirot	\$ 25.00
Rev. Scott Raef	\$ 45.00
DCN. Dave & Mary Rausch	\$ 25.00
Tom & Sandy Riney	\$100.00
Patricia Wilcox	\$ 25.00

MEMBERSHIP

DCN. Dave & Mary Rausch	\$ 25.00
Marlene Casanta	\$ 20.00
Mary Glasgow	\$ 20.00
Patricia Wilcox	\$ 25.00

HONORARIUM

<u>LANDSCAPING – St. Lucien's Cross</u>	
Msgr. Norbert Kuehler	\$1500.00
<u>IN MEMORY OF Johnny Cardova by</u>	
Leona Louise Burns	\$ 30.00
ST. LUCIEN'S CHAPEL	\$ 200.00
Gerald & Sue Diller	
ST. LUCIEN'S CHAPEL	\$4000.00
St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral	

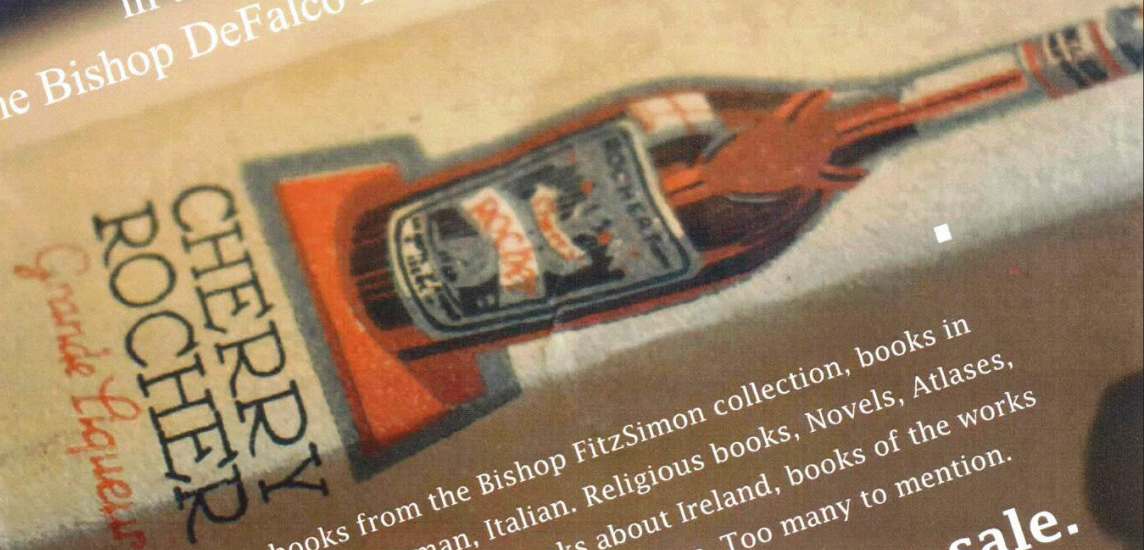
THANKS TO:

Jim & Vanessa Rauscher for Family Bibles from the Motch & Berg Families, along with Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation Certificates for Barbara Motch, a Wedding Certificate for Joseph and Barbara Berg, and other items from St. Mary's Church, Amarillo.

The Catholic Historical Society Book Sale

Friday, August 11 from 9:00am - 3:00pm

At the Old Museum
in the entrance to
the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center



Old books, new books, books from the Bishop FitzSimon collection, books in Spanish, English, French, Latin, German, Italian. Religious books, Novels, Atlases, Machinist books, lovely illustrated books, books about Ireland, books of the works of Edgar Allen Poe and ShakeSpeare Obras Completas. Too many to mention.

If you love books don't miss this sale.

We will also have pictures, frames, cameras and other things.
These are all items that we could not find a home for
in the new Diocesan Museum.

All proceeds to benefit the Diocesan Museum.



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Amarillo, TX 79117-5644

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Next month: The fifth bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo, Lawrence M. DeFalco