

## **BISHOP MATTHEW FRANCIS USTRZYCKI**

### **1932 –**

Bishop Matthew Francis Ustrzycki was born on March 25, 1932, and attended the Guelph CVI from 1947 to the early 1950's. He has very fond memories of the school, and especially of his principal, F. A. Hamilton. The subjects that he enjoyed the most were History, French, Math and English. He was also involved as a manager of the football team. During this time, he helped to support his family by delivering papers and in the summers working in construction. He knew nothing about his future vocation during high school, but the death of his younger brother and the encouragement of his pastor influenced him to seek a career in the church.

After he left the Guelph CVI, he attended Ottawa University and obtained his Honours degree in liberal Arts and Philosophy, assisted by bursaries during his second and third years. He subsequently earned his Bachelor of Theology degree from St. Michael's University. His most practical learning experience was in 1962, when he studied church law in St. Thomas, Rome. Even though he couldn't understand the language, he learned valuable lessons about people, and about dealing with difficult situations.

In order to become a bishop, one must be appointed by the Vatican. First, the local clergy or lay people offer a name. Then if the candidate passes a scrutiny, the Holy Father Ambassador in Ottawa forwards the information to Rome. The Bishop Matthew Francis Ustrzycki was ordained the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton on July 3, 1985. He is the Auxiliary Bishop of an area that spans from Oakville to New Hamburg, from Tobermory to Winona.

Bishop Ustrzycki does not have everyday duties, but there are four general responsibilities he must always keep in mind: to teach, to preach, to sanctify, and to govern. These include the celebration of the sacraments, and teaching the gospel. In addition, he is involved in administration in the Diocese of Hamilton.

Bishop Ustrzycki is a great person who enjoys helping people. He says the most satisfying aspect of his vocation is "to give to people, and not get something back".

Alison Squires  
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