Bishop Harry Flynn talks with school students in this photograph taken in December 1993.

Bishop: Leaving Acadiana

Of Lafayette has led us closer to the deepest life of God," Flynn wrote in a prepared statement, "so that each one of us will be a sign of hope for all and a sign of assistance for anyone who might walk in the shadows or be in any kind of need.

Flynn was named coadjutor bishop to former Lafayette Bishop Gerald Frey in 1986. He succeeded to the leadership of the Lafayette Diocese when Frey retired in 1989. Flynn's years in Lafayette were marked by rapid growth in church social service programs, including shelters for the homeless and food for the needy. The annual Bishop's Charity Ball is a major fundraiser for those efforts.

Flynn has generally been an outspoken advocate of traditional church values such as priestly celibacy and opposition to abortion. He also publicly emphasized the Roman Catholic Church's racial and cultural diversity.

Flynn, 60, is a native of Schenectady, N.Y. He was ordained in 1960 in Albany, and later served for 20 years at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., including a term as rector.

Flynn was a parish pastor in Latham, N.Y., in 1986 when he was appointed coadjutor bishop in Lafayette.

The eight-parish Diocese of Lafayette has 330,000 Catholics in 120 church parishes. The Minneapolis-St. Paul Archdiocese has 682,000 Catholics in 218 church parishes.