

Photo by Anthony J. Costello

Bishop-elect Matthew H. Clark tries on miter as he prepares for his new assignment as eighth bishop of the Rochester diocese.

## **Bishop-elect's First Message to Diocese**

My Sisters and Brothers,

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In these days before my ordination as Bishop of Rochester, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. As it is for your service that I shall be ordained, it is only with all of you that I shall be able to carry out my ministry as bishop.

That ministry, I hope, will find its center and source in the Good News that Jesus is Lord and that He shares with us His new life. His revelation of Himself in Word Sacrament and in our sisters and

brothers is the cause of our joy and the love for us in Christ to all who will listen.

I have been delighted about coming to the Diocese of Rochester from the moment I knew of my appointment. That joy has been deepened by the outpouring of support I have received since then from the priests, religious and lay persons of the diocese. For all of this, I am deeply grateful.

On Sunday, May 27, Pope John Paul deepest source of our freedom. My desire II will ordain some 20 of us to the is that together we tell the story of God's episcopacy at St. Peter's Basilica. These men will come from all over the world. I am proud to be among them and pray that in spirit and faith all of you and I will be one on that day.

Your friend in Christ,