

Personal Observations

From 2

"I hope to be with the aging, perhaps alone — to thank them."

"I don't know how I will do these things now. But I hope the people will help me. For the diocese of Rochester is not the bishop's work but the work of the people. If I can call people forward to that I will have done what I wanted to do — to be a pastor."

Father Clark's typical day begins at 6:30 a.m. He attends staff meetings and conducts student interviews through the day. He also is chaplain at Marymount School, an international high school for girls. He also coordinates activities with the other foreign colleges, such as the English and Scot, in Rome.

He also finds time for his running which helps him to keep lean. How tall is he? "I usually say six feet, though I'm not sure."

His typical day winds up with supper at 8 p.m.

Though such things make up his usual agenda, he often has other duties. Last

'I believe that the Good News is the source of freedom for us all. It's happy, positive news. Not to say there are no problems. There are those. But we must never lose sight of the hope which is the source of our own freedom.'

Thursday night, for instance, he gave a talk to the seminarians at the English college.

He stressed three points which are indicative of his views: 1. "One cannot humanly aspire to the priesthood unless he prepares himself for a life of prayer."

2. "You must strive in a human, honest way to be open to the Christ."

3. He emphasized communion with self. He told the seminarians of the "necessity of open, honest and human dialogue with the spiritual director."

"I believe the priesthood is a precious gift to those who share in it. I believe it is a precious gift to the Church," he said.

Later that evening at a typically English supper of eggs and chips, he was joined by Cardinal George Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster. "I was tremendously impressed by his sincerity," Father Clark said.

A friend offered him a ride home but he said he would rather walk, to have some time to think, one might assume.

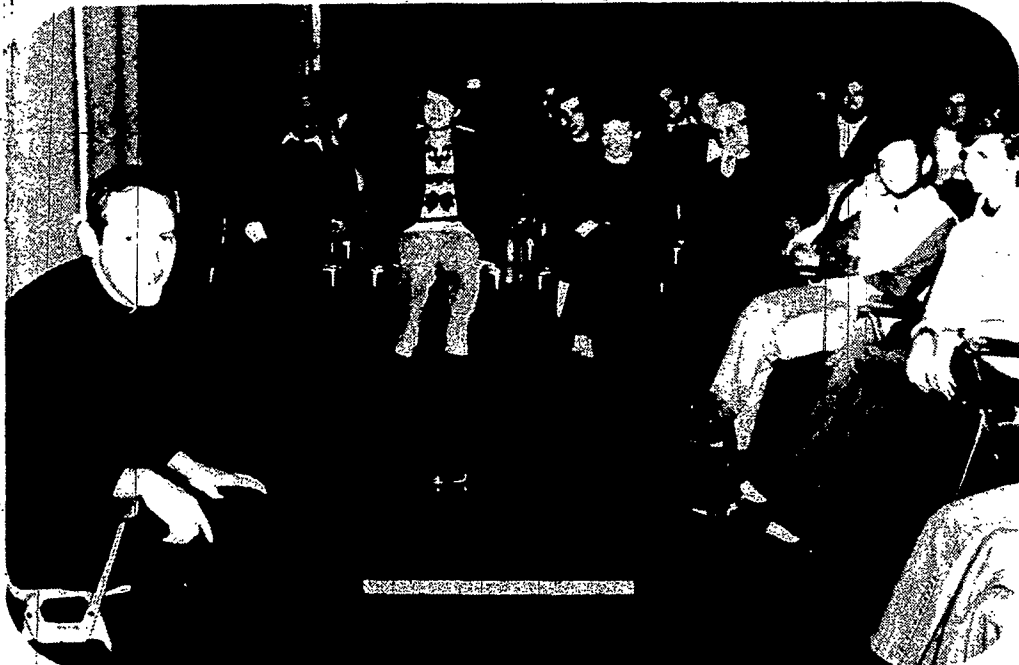
And it is the same Matthew H. Clark walking through the night streets of ancient Rome as the young Matthew H. Clark who played in the streets of the Upstate New York village of Waterford. And it will be the same Matthew H. Clark who will be bringing his special kind of spiritual magic to the diocese of Rochester.

'One cannot humanly aspire to the priesthood unless he prepares himself for a life of prayer.'



Photos by Anthony J. Costello

'the young are the hope of the future.'



Addressing the seminarians at the English College in Rome.



With Fathers Peter Coughlin of the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians, left, and John Short who is Bishop-Elect Clark's counterpart at the English College.

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