

At War Memorial

Installation Set for June 26

Pope John Paul II has chosen an Albany diocesan priest, Father Matthew H. Clark, to be Bishop of Rochester.

Father Clark, currently spiritual director at the North American College in Rome, will be ordained by the pope May 27 in St. Peter's Basilica. The installation ceremony here has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, at the War Memorial.



The picture above shows Father Clark (left) on his Ordination Day together with Father Thomas Powers (center) and then seminarian Howard Hubbard who is now the Bishop of the Albany Diocese. The picture was taken at the North American College in Rome.

Approximately 20 other new bishops will be ordained in Rome at the same time, among them a Mt. Morris man, Msgr. L. Thomas Larkin, who will become Bishop of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Father Clark will replace Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who resigned last November because of his health and has been serving as apostolic administrator of the diocese.

The announcement of Father Clark's appointment was made in Washington, D.C. May 2 by Archbishop Jean Jadot, apostolic delegate.

Commenting on the selection of one of his priests — "one of Albany's native sons" — Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany said, "I am confident that his holiness, maturity and down-to-earth practicality will enhance not only the Church of Rochester but the entire Church in the United States."

Father Clark has served the Albany diocese as a parish priest, teacher and chancery official. He has degrees in theology and canon law from Gregorian University in Rome.

He was born July 15, 1937, in Waterford, near Troy, and attended public school in Waterford, Troy's Catholic Central High School and Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., before undertaking studies for the priesthood at Mater Christi Seminary, Albany, and St. Bernard's, Rochester. He was ordained in Rome Dec. 19, 1962.

He has assisted at Our Lady of Mercy parish, Albany, and St. Ambrose, Latham, and has taught at Vincentian Institute. He was vice chancellor of the diocese in 1966-67, and concurrently, Newman chaplain at Albany Law School. He was chairman of the Priests Personnel Board from 1969 to 1972. He has been at North American College in Rome since 1972.



Photo by Anthony Costello

Father Clark is shown here on the roof of the North American College, St. Peter's Basilica, the site of his ordination as a bishop, is in the background.

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