

**Editorials**

**The Bishop-Elect**

Matthew H. Clark will be an unusual bishop.

That is a safe prediction because Matthew H. Clark is an unusual man.

Associates had told us before we flew off to Rome to spend two days with our new bishop that "you will like him immediately."

One colleague told us that "he is a very decisive man although he may not seem that way at first. He likes to listen to all concerned, think it over, then make his decision. Which he will do."

On the way, we stopped off for a couple of hours at his home in Waterford, near Troy. We found his mother to be a very resourceful woman. She handled the telephone calls, many from the press, with the aplomb of a seasoned public relations expert.

In addition, she displayed an acute sensitivity and tact. Her daughter, Helen, also was on hand to help with the many callers. Father Clark's mother was asked, "Aren't you terribly proud of your son?" to which she calmly replied, "I have always been proud of both of my children."

The next morning we met Father Clark for the first time and from the start knew that this was a special kind of person. A man with the grace to make strangers feel they've known him all their lives. A man who makes a room come alive by his very presence. A man who exudes quiet confidence.

Unlike many public figures, and he now is that, he

has no fear of probing questions. When someone cautions him about answering this or that query, he will say something like "I have no problem with that," or "I don't see why I can't get into that."

He does not have to tell you that he loves children. He has tacked up on his bookshelves some St. Patrick's Day drawings sent to him by his nieces. When he arrives at the high school where is co-chaplain he is greeted by cheers.

Matthew H. Clark does not have to tell you that he cares about the lonely and the infirm. You catch him on a Rome street unobtrusively squeezing the hand of an old beggar.

He does not have to tell you that he believes in prayer. He seems to begin and end every routine occasion of the day with a prayer.

He does not have to tell you that he does a good job at being spiritual director. Seminarians enjoy his presence, stop him the halls for short chats, drop by his room for visits, voluntarily tell his praises.

After two days we could understand what our associates had told us about his decisiveness. For instance, in preparing his message to the diocese, he talks things over with those around him. He mulls them over. Sleeps on the ideas. Then first thing in the morning produces a moving piece.

We feel that he will handle well the problems he will face as bishop. Problems which, he says, shouldn't be given so much attention that they blot out the hope of the Christian message. But problems which he says "will be dealt with."

During the time between Nov. 28 and May 2 there was great conjecture about who would be our new bishop. Church politics dictated this man or that man, according to who was talking. Others matched problems with men suited to handle them. Friends of



Photo by Anthony J. Costello

Rochester's next bishop tries out possible crozier.

friends were mentioned. Lists were spoken of. Disclosures by key members of the hierarchy, now proven imaginary, were bandied about. Rumors abounded.

In all of this, one mighty power was often ignored. We are speaking of the Holy Spirit.

We know not through what human hands the Spirit worked but we know that He did. And his choice for the Rochester diocese is Matthew H. Clark.

Let us all join in the acclamation.

—By Carmen J. Viglucci and Anthony J. Costello

**and Opinions**

**Programs Imperilled**

Editor:

At the present time, Congress is in the process of adopting the First Concurrent Budget Resolution, setting targets for all 1980 spending. Of immediate concern is the fact that the budget for fiscal 1980 will drastically cut spending for human service programs that will affect the lives and well being of the working poor and unemployed.

President Carter has proposed deep cuts in public service, jobs and summer youth employment, a reduction in low income housing, and an elimination of some Social Security benefits. In rural areas, cuts will be made in transportation, food and nutrition programs, health services, and the programs for small farms and farmworkers. In addition to impairments and elimination of human services, the Food Stamp Program may be facing the most serious crisis since its creation unless Congress acts to remove or raise the ceiling on spending for this program.

While these cutbacks in services to the poor are destructive enough on their own merits, the fact that President Carter has proposed an increase in defense spending of about 10.5 per cent accentuates their destructiveness.

We urge you to act NOW with letters, mailgrams and phone calls to Congressional representatives urging them to oppose the cutbacks in human service programs and

to raise or remove the ceiling on the Food Stamp Program. The strong voices among us must be heard in questioning a reduction in services for marginal people - the working poor and unemployed, and challenging excessive spending in defense programs.

Rev. William Spilly  
Sister Anne Urquhart  
Rev. Neil Miller  
Sister Mary Kruckow  
Regional Staff  
Office of Human Development

**'One Mind And Heart'**

Editor:

Father Ehmann's article "The Lord of our Covenant" which appeared in the C-J on April 11, 1979 was both excellent and relevant for today's people.

"The love-Covenant which God made with our poor human family" . . . "the love-Covenant of marriage" . . . between bridegroom and bride", Christ and his Church, which becomes not only "one flesh" but "one mind and heart" is a thought that needs pondering.

Those who would separate the bridegroom (Christ) from his bride (the Church), or the head (Christ) from the body (the Church) would break the Covenant of love and leave it lifeless. To follow Christ without his Church, or to follow a cult, credo without Christ, is to be schizoid, a serious illness of our day and the end result would be suicide en masse such as in the classical example of the Jonas cult.

The heroic faith of the Old Testament people such as Abraham (even to the sacrificing of his son Isaac), Moses, the prophets, coupled with the faith of the New Testament people beginning with Christ who sacrificed "himself on the cross to seal the covenant with his blood, the faith of the apostles and martyrs, a faith not based on FEELINGS but on solid foundation (the rock of Peter, the Church), is the only way to true worship and solid union with Christ. This faith is ours when we are aware of the covenant of Love. Until we are, there is serious danger of being swayed by every new doctrine that comes along, by every new paper bag theology that we may hear, and or by every new cult that beckons to us.

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**Appreciates Pastor**

Editor:

Perhaps because we are human, all too often do we neglect to express our feelings to individuals most deserving of our gratitude. Week after week, we, the parishioners of St. Aloysius, are blessed and benefitted by our beloved pastor, Father Edward Shamon.

During Holy Week, which really started with Palm Sunday eve, Father Shamon gave of himself so much that we were carried back in time and in the truest sense lived and shared the passion and crucifixion of Jesus as did the ones who were there so long ago.

Truly, Father Shamon is our shepherd. He wears the cloth of God and so like

Jesus of Nazareth preaches the true and only way to reach our heavenly Father. So long ago Jesus was a lonely man, unthanked, ignored by many and known mostly when a favor was needed: updated, I believe, the same is true in Father Shamon's life. Yet I am sure most of us believe he understands that we really care, that we need him and are most grateful God has loaned him to us. We are just too busy to let him know.

But may I now convey to thee, Father Shamon, my feelings which I am sure are carried in the hearts of all whom you so generously help.

Linda Adle  
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**Rural Life Sunday**

Editor:

The "Rogation Days" article (C-J 4 25) failed to mention another Protestant derivation of the ancient Catholic rite of prayers for a good harvest: Rural Life Sunday which this year will be observed on May 20.

On that Sunday, the Chemung Grange will sponsor the observance of Rural Life at the Chemung Methodist Church where the seed, the soil, and the sowers will be blessed. Besides the Grange, the 4-H clubs and the Farm Bureau will have representative members perform the rite which will include the commitment of the sowers to recognize the holiness of the seed and the sacredness of the soil. The sowers will pledge their prayers and their sacred honor to care for the soil and seed so that life be maintained but also for the glory of God and

the good of mankind, knowing that all life comes from God and that God will never fail those who work in his vineyard.

I call Rural Life Sunday to your attention because there are tillers of the soil and sowers of the seed closer to home than the Southern Soil Stewardship ecumenical union, and in the hope that rural Catholics in this area will be recognized and brought into the visible life of the Church.

Elizabeth Tuccinardi, Sec'y.  
Chemung Grange

**Architect Remembered**

Editor:

The nineteenth of May marks the 54th anniversary of the death of Joseph H.

Oberlies, prominent Rochester architect who in 1908 designed St. Joseph's belltower.

A few years later, George Lorenz became an apprentice in the Oberlies office. Lorenz, however, did not join the Oberlies firm until 1925. Within less than five months, Oberlies died suddenly at the age of 53.

It is only fitting the Landmark Society of Western New York should acquire this outstanding tower to acclaim the prestigious place Joseph H. Oberlies holds in the annals of Rochester architecture

Helen Oberlies Klee  
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(Editor's Note: Mrs. Klee is the daughter of Joseph H. Oberlies.)

