



Photos by Anthony J. Costello

Pope John Paul II takes the hands of about-to-be Bishop Larkin into his own hands and questions him on his willingness to serve.



Bishop John E. McCafferty leads the procession to Bishop Larkin's Mass of Thanksgiving. Following Bishop McCafferty are Bishop Thomas Grady of Orlando, Archbishop Thomas McDonough of Louisville, and Archbishop Edward McCarthy of Miami.



Bishop Larkin and his sister Clarice Larkin of Clearwater, Fla.

Bishop Larkin's Friends Gather for First Mass

Rome - Bishop W. Thomas Larkin of St. Petersburg, Fla., said his first Mass as bishop in the beautiful Chiesa Nuova (St. Philip Neri Church) in downtown Rome on Monday, May 28, the day after his ordination as bishop.

Cardinal Maximilian de Furstenberg, a longtime friend of Bishop Larkin, took part in the celebration, which was a stirring event punctuated by several rounds of applause and two standing ovations.

The cardinal was the rector at the Belgian College when Bishop Larkin was a student-resident there 30 years ago, along with the future Pope John Paul II.

Rochester's Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty was another concelebrant in the Mass attended by about 600 laymen and priests from St. Petersburg. Other prelates taking part were Archbishop Edward Mc-

Carthy of Miami, Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough of Louisville, Bishop Thomas Grady of Orlando.

Three of Bishop Larkin's classmates from St. Bernard's Seminary also took part - Fathers Anthony Calimeri, Chester Klocek and Richard Orlando.

In his homily, Bishop Larkin told how he used to walk to classes in Rome with the then Father Karol Wojtyla and "I never dreamed that he would be Pope John Paul II. Many times in those days we would pass this beautiful church."

He noted that just two days earlier, the Pope celebrated Mass in the same church on the feast of St. Philip Neri, "so it's an honor for me to celebrate my first Mass here."

The bishop also talked of the difficulties of ad-

ministering a diocese and said that "isolation" is one of the dangers of the episcopacy and that he would try to avoid that. But he mentioned that even during the week of his ordination in Rome he had not spent as much of time as he wanted with the people of St. Petersburg. To make up for this, he said, he had invited all of them to a reception at Loyola College, a Jesuit institution in Rome, and would try to meet as many as possible.

About 80 priests from Florida joined in the celebration and gave the new bishop still another round of applause when he entered the sacristy following the Mass.

The new bishop's sister, Clarice Larkin of Clearwater, brought the gifts to the altar along with Robert and Alice Zangerle of Mount Morris, friends of the new bishop from years back.



At the reception for Bishop Larkin, right, at Loyola University in Rome, the General of the Society of Jesus, Father Pedro Arrupe, left, shakes the hand of Bishop Larkin. Other friends of the new bishop are seen in the background.