



Niece Kathleen, 3, has to show Uncle Matt her new watch (a toy, but don't tell her). And then the bishop and his niece take turns listening to each other's watches. With the bishop's mother, Mrs. Grace Clark, in photo at



Photos by Anthony J. Costello

left are Mary Ellen, 8, Jane, 9, and Grace, 11, all children of Helen and James Early, the bishop's sister and brother-in-law.

THE HOMECOMING



Waiting for Bishop Clark at the Albany Airport last week were, from left, Grace Early, 9; Mrs. Helen Early; Kathleen Early, 3; Mary Ellen Early, 8; Jane Early, 9; Mrs. Grace Clark, and Margaret Early, 5.

Though his first couple of days back in the States were busy ones for Bishop Matthew H. Clark, all the activity was not official business.

He had the happy experience of being reunited with his family and the mutual love and camaraderie lit up whatever place they occupied. From the moment he stepped off the airliner at Albany Airport with his friend Father Thomas Powers of Cohoes, Bishop Clark and his family enjoyed the time of renewal immensely.

Though all signs of love are touching, a particularly poignant moment was provided by the bishop and his niece and goddaughter, Margaret, 5, in the Albany chancery just after the press conference there. He scooped her up in his arms and together they sang "Over the Rainbow."

And though television

cameras were on, that was no stage act. The first two days home were replete with hugs, kisses, fun and family banter. The main participants were the bishop; his mother, Mrs. Grace Clark; his sister Helen Early; his brother-in-law James Early, and his five nieces, from the top, Grace, Jane, Mary Ellen, Margaret and Kathleen.

The evening of the press conference, the family gathered before a television set at the Early house. At the conclusion of a segment which showed all the members of the family, 11-year-old Grace complained, "I was hardly on."

Her uncle laughed, "Hey, babe, I'm the new bishop, not you!"

So it was a time to be light and to make family jokes. Most were about Aunt Margaret Carter's coffee which someone remembered the bishop's father used to call "rot-gut."

The new bishop basked in the family warmth as if he were gathering strength for the job that lay just ahead. — Viglucci



Sudden celebrities! Bishop Clark and his nieces are "on" for representatives of the media last week at the home of the bishop's mother in Waterford. Clockwise, the girls are, beginning with the youngest Kathleen, in left foreground, Jane, Grace, Mary Ellen and Margaret.