

Special Rites Followed For Bishop's Installation

In a recent English version of The Roman Pontifical, revised by decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council by authority of Pope Paul VI, there is an appendix entitled "Reception of the Bishop in the Cathedral Church." This particular rite is intended for use on the occasion when a bishop previously ordained for another local church or ordained (as in the case of Bishop Matthew E. Clark, eighth bishop of Rochester) outside the cathedral of the diocese to which he has been appointed, is solemnly received by the clergy and people of his new diocese.

In the appendix, regarding the rite of episcopal ordination, (consecration to bishopric), after the investiture with ring and pastoral staff, the "seating of the bishop" takes place. A rule in the appendix reads: "...if the new bishop is not in his own church, he is invited by the principal consecrator to take the first place among the concelebrating bishops..." or as another directive states: "...or to a place prepared for him." These directions are outlined in presumption that this section of the rite of ordination when omitted due to circumstances, will be carried out at another time.

This then resulted in the difference between the episcopal ceremonies designating Bishop Joseph L. Hogan as seventh bishop of Rochester, Nov. 28, 1969, and

those of Bishop Clark, June 26, 1979; Bishop Hogan was both *ordained* and *installed* in his diocese at Sacred Heart Cathedral — whereas, Bishop Clark was ordained in Rome by Pope John Paul II thus putting into motion plans for a Rite of Installation at the War Memorial.

The Pontifical appendix also sets down guidelines for installation, the format of which can be tailored to meet the individual needs and circumstances of each diocese. Bishop Clark's ceremonies followed closely that of a model used here in the U.S.: entrance procession; sign of the cross, opening prayer and brief remarks by Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York; reading of the Apostolic Letter by the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Jean Jadot, (an important part of the ceremony in that it is the official introduction of the bishop to the people of the diocese and emphasizes their connection with the universal Church); then came a unique addition to the ceremony — in accordance with Bishop Clark's wishes that the people be totally involved, he answered five questions from the audience about his willingness to serve as their bishop; then the "seating of the bishop" by Archbishop Jadot and Cardinal Cooke; presentation of the crosier, a gift from the people of the diocese; acclamation of the people; greetings to the bishop from Bishop Hogan, and representatives of diocesan

consultative organizations, the various regions, the civic community (Mayor Thomas Ryan), and the wider religious community; singing of the Gloria and then the Liturgy with Bishop Clark presenting the homily.

It is important to note that "the seating of the bishop" is the focal point of the installation ceremonies. The significance of a distinctive seat for the bishop as an established ecclesiastical practice dates back to the 3rd century and cannot be disregarded because his chair (cathedra) has become a symbol of the bishop's role in the community.

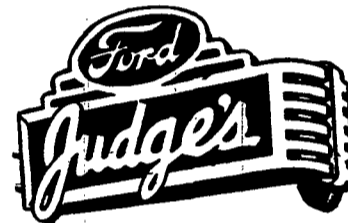
However, over the centuries the term describing this symbol has gone through subtle changes. In the time when the Roman State recognized the church and the bishop as a dignitary and there was an emphasis on the temporal as well as stately splendor the chair took on the aura of a throne, signifying the bishop's power of jurisdiction. "Enthronization" was a term commonly used to describe installation. Now with emphasis on the pastoral ministry of bishops, the shift is back to cathedra or chair.

The singing of the Gloria also has historical significance associated with bishops who in early centuries used it on Sundays and on the feast days of martyrs. As late as the 11th century, priests were allowed to say it only on Easter and at their ordination.

ROCHESTER'S OLDEST FORD DEALERSHIP JOINS THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE IN WELCOMING

*Bishop
Matthew H. Clark*

AS EIGHTH BISHOP OF ROCHESTER



Dear Bishop Clark,

The Catholic Community of St. Ambrose is grateful to God for the five years of ministry you shared with us. The Church at Rochester is singularly blessed to have you as Shepherd.

May our loving Father fill you always with His power and love.

The parishioners of St. Ambrose
Latham, New York

