



Diocesans filled the arena of the Rochester Community War Memorial for the installation of Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Bishop Clark Installed

By Carmen J. Viglucci

Bishop Matthew H. Clark was installed as the eighth bishop of the Rochester diocese Tuesday night at the War Memorial as more than 10,000 people of God from throughout the diocese joined members of the hierarchy and officialdom in a joyous celebration of community.

From the moment the procession headed up the altar to the strains of How Beautiful Upon the Mountains, the assemblage was eager to acclaim its new bishop. It applauded the some 30 bishops; Archbishop Jean Jadot, the apostolic delegate; Cardinal Terence Cooke and the Rochester contingent of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Auxiliary Bishops Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty, and, now, Bishop Clark.

The rite of installation began immediately after the procession with Cardinal Cooke and then Archbishop Jadot greeting the congregation. When Archbishop Jadot began passing on the Holy Father's "well done" to Bishop Hogan he

was interrupted by a spontaneous crescendo of applause, the entire gathering rising to its collective feet. It was a public show of gratitude and affection for the outgoing shepherd who led the diocese for nine years until poor health forced his resignation last Nov. 28.

Following the remarks by the archbishop, Father William Flynn, diocesan chancellor, read a letter proclaiming that the Apostolic Mandate from Pope John Paul II is on its way and that "notwithstanding the uncompleted transmittal of these letters..." Bishop Clark may validly and licitly take canonical possession of the diocese.

The assembled congregation then formally questioned the new bishop about his willingness "to be our shepherd in Christ." To each question, Bishop Clark answered simply, "I am." The final query, "Are you resolved to pray for us People of God without ceasing and to carry out your apostolic ministry among us so as to afford no grounds for reproach?" was

answered, "I am, with the help of God."

Cardinal Cooke and Archbishop Jadot led Bishop Clark to the chair at the rear of the altar symbolizing his presiding over the diocese. He was presented the crozier by Cardinal Cooke thus installing him as the bishop. He was once again given stirring applause from all assembled.

Bishop Hogan then spoke, and addressing Bishop Clark, said "... you are now my bishop and my friend, I promise that my love for you will endure forever," the final phrase being the official motto of the new Rochester ordinary.

Bishop Hogan then went to Bishop Clark to embrace him in the sign of peace. Other official representative of the people of the diocese did likewise, setting the stage for the beginning of the Mass.

The inside of the building dedicated to the memory of those who fought and died for their country was ablaze with red, white and gold banners made by parishes from throughout the diocese. In

addition, the 10 flags of the diocesan regions were unfurled.

The 175-member choir chosen from the parishes led the congregation in singing Glory to God, a hymn of praise, just before the Mass itself began.

Twenty-five of the 29 bishops present, including Bishop Robert Spears of the Rochester Episcopal Diocese, were seated on either side of the altar.

Bishops Joseph L. Hogan, Howard Hubbard of Albany, Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty of Rochester were seated on the next level along with Cardinal Cooke and Archbishop Jadot while the new ordinary of Rochester, Bishop Clark, was seated at still a higher level.

While the notable were present, so were the other great people of God. At Bishop Clark's request, 60 people were present to represent the handicapped and elderly of the diocese. They came from St. Ann's Home, the Monroe Developmental Center and

the Monroe Community Hospital.

Bishop Clark himself chose the readings. The Old Testament selection was Isaiah 61: 1-3, read by Joseph G. Kelly, the director of the Bishop Joseph L. Hogan Continuing Education Center at St. Bernard's Seminary.

"The Sovereign Lord has filled me with his spirit," Kelly read. "He has chosen me and sent me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to announce release to those in prison . . . to comfort all who mourn . . ."

The second reading, Ephesians 4: 1-7, and 11-13, was read in Spanish by Maria Sanchez, president of the Consejo (Spanish Council) to represent the large Spanish-speaking membership in the diocese.

The English version of part of the reading: "So the one who came down is the same one who went up, above and beyond the universe with his presence, It was he who gave gifts to mankind; he appointed

some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ. And so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God. We shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature."

The bishop's chasuble was made by Sister Arlene Semesky of Notre Dame High in Elmira. The other stoles for the occasion were also made within the diocese.

At the offertory, members of Bishop Clark's family brought up the gifts -- his mother, Mrs. Grace Clark; sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. James Early, and nieces, Grace, Jane, Mary Ellen, Margaret and Kathleen.

In addition to the general choir, the 25-voice Black Ministry Choir and the 35-member Hispanic Choir also sang for the occasion.