Pope celebrates his 84th

Cindy WoodenA'NS

NATICAN CULY Althoughthere was a birthday leake and a special lunch, Pope John Paul II's burthday also was "an ordinary day of work," the fathan appleaman and

the pope celebrated his \$4th birthday May 18

"Nu the Holy bather it will be an ordinary day of work and, expecial It, of thanking God for the gift of life," said Joaquin Navairo Valls, Vatican spokesman

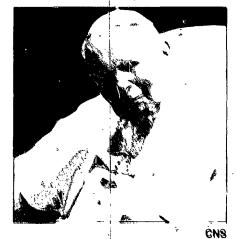
The only change from the pope's normal schedule, he said, was that the pope had invited "his closest collaborators from the Curia" to lugch

The spokesman said birthday greetings from heads of state and from individuals around the world had arrived in the pope's mailbox

An e mail address was open as

As it does in special occusions, the Vatican's Internet office opened a special electronic address podest there is the control to the predent burbday greetings

During the ordinary part of his workday, Pope John Paul met with Portugal's prime minister and wit nessed the signing of a new treaty



Pope John Paul II awaits the arrival of Portugal's prime minister May 18 at the Vatican. The meeting on the pontiff's 84th birthday was part of a typical workday for the pope, said the Vatican apokesman.

regulating relations between the Catholic Church and the country. The treaty, guaranteeing the juridi cal status of the church and religious freedom, updated a concordat sign ed in 1940.

The visiting delegation sang "Hap by Birthday" to the pope in Por tuguese. The same time was used a short time later, when members of the Pointifical Council for Migrants and Travelers sang their birthday greetings at an audience with the

The pope also met with four U.S. bishops making their ad limina visits to Rome to report on the status of their dioceses. They were: Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City: Bishop J. Peter Sartain and retired Bishop Andrew J. Mc. Donald of Little Rock, Ark.; and Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo, Texas.

Archbishop Beltran, who was making his sixth ad himma visit, said his meeting with Pope John Paul was the normal, wonderful ad limina experience.

"I did take the occasion to extend birthday wishes to him," the archbishop said. "He had a big smile, was very gracious and very happy."

Archbishop Beltran said the pope was as interested as ever in what is going on in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, asking specific questions about vocations to the priesthood and religious life, the faith life of the people and ecumenical initiatives.

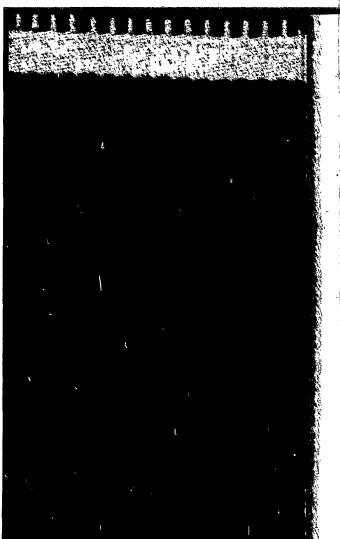
"He is a great listener," the archbishop said. "He actually does lis-

DIOCESE RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT HONOR

The Diocese of Rochester has received a national honor recognizing its Priests' Council.

A Council Achievement Award was presented by Father Robert J. Silva, president of the National Federation of Priests' Couneils, during it's annual convention held April 19-22 in Atlanta. Accepting on behalf of the diocese was Father Douglas Della Pietra, pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd in Henrietta.

Award criteria include frequency of meetings; shared governance; participation; and perceived effectiveness. According to a citation issued by the council, "Bishop Matthew H. Clark has made the Rochester council a priority. He is present for the entirety of every monthly meeting. He also meets the following day with council's executive committee to prepare for the following month's meeting. A dynamic of trust and openness marks the Rochester council. The bishop expects that input not only summarize a region's thinking, but that council members develop an informed perspective or opinion on that thinking."



Bishop Clark

Congratulations

on your 25th Anniversary as Bishop of the **Rochester Diocese**

ST. ANN'S CHURCH, HORNELL ST. ANN'S SCHOOL, HORNELL ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH, HORNELL ST. JOACHIM'S CHURCH, CANISTEO ST. MARY'S CHURCH, REXVILLE