

BISHOP DAY

Continued from page B1 until noon for their weekly meeting.)

INTERVIEW, 11 A.M.

Following a private meeting at 10 a.m., the bishop begins an hour-long interview with *Courier* staff writer Jennifer Burke for an article reflecting on his 25 years as leader of the Rochester Catholic Diocese. Later in the day he comments on his relationship with the media, giving it a general thumbs-up.

"Good relationships with everybody in the community are important," he says. "I try to always regard the media as friends and co-workers, understanding their responsibility of objective reporting of the news. I try to be available and accessible; I don't cringe when the media wants to talk to me."

Although a few reported stories have not turned out to his liking, "By and large I think it's been OK," he observes.

MEETING, 12 P.M.

Sister Binsack arrives with box lunches, right around the time Father Hart and Father Mulligan enter the bishop's office to begin their meeting. "The team is here," Father



Bishop Clark shares a laugh with Father John Mulligan, a diocesan vicar general and pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, during breakfast at the rectory April 26.

Mulligan announces, pumping his fists. Today the three diocesan leaders will discuss pastoral planning; prepare for the next day's diocesan Priests' Council meeting; and focus on the cathedral renovation.

These meetings usually last about two hours, although the bishop jokes, "Father Mulligan gets carried away on these long digressions." Father Mulligan then accuses Father Hart of pushing a past

meeting past three hours. All three men occupy the same chairs each week: "They're assigned," Father Hart quips.

All kidding aside, these meetings invariably involve decision-making on crucial diocesan matters. Therefore, Bishop Clark says he and his vicars general almost always stick to their Monday get-togethers: "You really have to make a commitment to that."

ROAD TRIP, 4:15 P.M.

After his meeting with Fathers Hart and Mulligan, Bishop Clark has squeezed in more paperwork and an important phone call, the latter causing him to arrive late at Sister Binsack's residence across town. Sister Binsack then takes the wheel of Bishop Clark's car — a ritual when he attends out-of-town evening events — and they start out for Geneva.

A cell phone is in view, but the bishop says he uses that even more sparingly than e-mail. So-called modern conveniences were "supposed to make it so people could work four days," he remarks, "and now they're working six days."

Then again, seven-day work weeks are the norm for Bishop Clark. Just prior to these two consecutive evenings of confirmations (he was scheduled to be at St. James Church in Trumansburg the following day), he spent all Saturday at the April 24 deacons' convocation and presided over a special Sunday Mass for the School Sisters of Notre Dame April 25.

Narrowing down numerous requests for personal appearances is no easy task. "He could be out every day for lunch and dinner," Sister Binsack says, adding that Bishop Clark strives to visit each parish of

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