

the diocese at least once every few years.

"Part of it is selfish because I enjoy it very much," the bishop says. "I don't like saying no to people, I really don't."

Although the day has proceeded smoothly, Bishop Clark acknowledges that the unexpected is always just around the corner, leading to tough and sometimes unpopular decisions. "There really isn't a typical day," he concludes.

Bishop Clark averages around seven hours of sleep per night; exercises; and tries "to give real time to prayer each day — a review of life, even if it's only briefly." Has he mellowed? "I don't feel less busy than I used to. But feel I make better choices about where I put my time."

Yet as we approach the outskirts of Geneva, the bishop and Sister Binsack begin naming all his affiliations and obligations with local, state and national boards, committees and convocations. Ten minutes later we pull into the St. Stephen's Church parking lot — and they're still adding to the list.

DINNER, 5 P.M.

Bishop Clark and Sister Binsack engage in a pre-dinner chat with Father Roy Kiggins, pastor, and other parish staff members from the Ro-



Bishop Clark confirms 13-year-old Elena Augustus at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva April 26.

man Catholic Community of Geneva. He then leads grace at the dinner table, praying for those who will be confirmed tonight.

Dinner conversation includes plans for the cathedral renovation, as well as Bishop Clark's day of honor May 15 at a Rochester Red Wings baseball game, when he's due to throw out the first pitch. He jokes about the last time he took part in such a ceremony: "My fastball

bounced about 5 feet before home plate. They say your fastball is supposed to have some hop to it, but not that kind."

Once more, the bishop does more listening than talking. On his way out, he makes sure to stop in the rectory kitchen and thank all the volunteers.

CONFIRMATION, 6:45 P.M.

Immediately upon entering St.

Stephen's Church, the bishop moves toward the pews offering smiles and handshakes. He engages in brief chats as opposed to quick, mechanical hellos; the same will hold true when those being confirmed approach the altar with their families.

Even though Mass lasts about two hours, the bishop comes to the base of the altar for 20 additional minutes of picture-taking while a large throng anxiously presses forward, perhaps fearful they won't reach him in time. Not to worry; he accommodates every photo request while never relinquishing his ear-to-ear grin.

DAY'S END, 10:30 P.M.

Bishop Clark finally returns to his Flower City Park rectory, where bedtime is usually preceded by a glass of milk and a scan of the evening news. "I need to unwind — although that will only take about five minutes tonight," he remarks.

He has shaken many hands, posed for lots of photos, and discussed the weather quite often over the past 12 to 14 hours. Behind closed doors, he has also made important decisions about the direction of our diocese. Despite his weariness, the bishop remains upbeat right to the end.

"It was a most enjoyable day," he concludes.



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