In Memoriam:
Rev. Msgr. Eugene V. Clark (1926-2012)
Msgr. Robert J. Batule

In the Easter Octave of 2012, Monsignor Eugene V. Clark, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, died at the age of 86.

Msgr. Clark was born in the Bronx, New York and studied at Cathedral Preparatory High School and Cathedral College before entering Saint Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, New York. Ordained in 1951, he served first as a parish priest in Mount Kisco, New York. Then, he was assigned to two different Catholic high schools as a faculty member. Along the way, he earned a master’s degree from Fordham University and a doctorate from Notre Dame; both degrees were in European history.

He was not just gifted academically; he served also as a trusted secretary to two New York archbishops, Cardinal Spellman and Cardinal Cooke. And for nine years beginning in 1971, he was director of communications in the New York Archdiocese.

The versatile Msgr. Clark was given his first pastorate in 1981 at Annunciation Parish in Crestwood of Westchester County. In 1986, he assumed his second pastorate at Saint Agnes Church in New York City—the church at which Archbishop Fulton Sheen preached on Good Friday for many years. At the end of his active priestly ministry, Msgr. Clark became the Rector of Saint Patrick Cathedral. He resigned from that post in 2005.

Msgr. Clark was a supporter of many Catholic causes over the years, and as Vice President of the Homeland Foundation, he saw to it that some of these worthy projects were effectively funded. He will be remembered too for his promotion of the arts in Catholic circles, including the role he had in bringing the treasures of the Vatican to the United States for public viewing in museums.

*Tu es sacerdos in aeternum. Requiescat in pace.*