



At the start of the trip, representatives from the Southeast Region board the bus.



Roger D'Aprix, hi



Sister Marie Vincent, SSJ, enroute with Monroe County Home residents Lucille Schleyer, Frank Mellody and Laura Lazus.



Daryl D. Knapp Jr

Pilgrimage

TEXT BY JOHN DASH

PHOTOS BY SUSAN MCKINNEY

The diocese was on pilgrimage one night last week.

An old Winter dogged Spring last Tuesday evening when Daryl Knapp stretched across the steering wheel and eased his bus into the Thruway traffic.

Ordinarily he runs the Buffalo-Albany-New York City route for Greyhound. That night he was piloting about 30 passengers on a trek to Geneva to observe the Mass of Christ, ancient rites consecrating the holy oils used in Catholic rituals. It was the first time in Knapp's 14 years as a Catholic he was to see the rites.

Mary Lou, his wife, was home in Henrietta with the couple's four children. She is a school teacher at Good Shepherd parish.

A couple of rows behind the driver Roger D'Aprix leaned back in his seat. The manager for public and employe information for Xerox was bringing his two children, Laura and Richard, to view the ceremonies.

Whoops and giggles cascaded down the aisle from the back of the bus. A group was playing charades and had worked its way through The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds.

Some of the folks from the Monroe County Home sat quietly together.

Three priests were aboard. As well assorted a group as Chaucer's friends on the way to Canterbury.

The deep rumble of the MC-7 bus engine shifted pitch as Knapp plied the transmission into a lower gear. In the oncoming lane, another bus driver had flashed his lights and waved him to slow down. Ahead the scarlet beacon of a trooper's car pierced through the driving snow.

Far off the road in a field, two campers vehicles lay broken and overturned.

The holy oils are used as signs of healing and life. Father Roy Kiggins leaned across the aisle to get a better look at the accident. Later that evening he would hear his bishop say that with the resurrection of Christ, all the deaths of the human pilgrimage have lost their sting.

Knapp talked about his children. They were entertaining a schoolmate while he was on the road. They had spent the afternoon at a skating party. He was proud he had two boys and two girls.

Groups from all over the diocese were converging when the bus discharged its passengers in front of St. Stephen's Church.

The magnificent building was decorated with enormous

banners carrying themes for the evening's rituals: Respect Life, Healing, Confirmation . . .

The mood of the worshipers belied the dismal weather, as greetings were exchanged and old friends welcomed each other. Earlier, Father Kiggins, regional coordinator for the Southeast Region, remarked that he felt the unity of the diocese was the key to understanding the rites. That unity was becoming visible.

Bishop Joseph Hogan had called for the gathering to acknowledge each diocesan's share in the priesthood of Christ and to renew commitment in the ministry, as well as to bless the holy oils.

Festivities followed the Mass, at the invitation of the host, Father Richard Tormey. And after a few moments of coffee and hunting up old friends, the gathering eddied into small circles to begin the long journey homeward.

Knapp pulled the now quiet and dark bus to a stop at a railroad crossing. He opened the door to listen for an approaching train and gently, smoothly, increased his speed on the long night highway. The snow had quit its insistence on Winter and the sky was clear.

In the light from the control panel, Father Kiggins and he spoke softly of old friends, and dreams, and good things.



Father William Endres, associate pastor of St. Stephen's Church.



Bishop Hogan sprinkles the as



Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Bishop Ho