

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Pilgrim People of the Northwest Region

As I write this article, it is the day following the first public pilgrimage of our Holy Year of 1974 — and I reflect and I thank



God for the nine hundred plus assembled to pray together the psalm of a pilgrim people: "I rejoiced when they said to me: Let us go to the house of the Lord."

My pilgrimage began in torrential rains and I prayed on my journey from Victor to St. Michael's: "Lord, your people have had enough of your abundant waters. Ours is not the parched land of earlier pilgrims who tented in desert wastes. Send forth your sun to dry the path that we shall trod this evening."

And the Lord replied, as the rains intensified: "My son, Joseph, you have much to learn about pilgrimage. I intend it to be a sign of the Paschal Mystery with Cross preceding Crown. Faithful pilgrims find glory only at journey's end. Peter, James and John tried to bypass pilgrimage. Do you remember my transfiguration for a few fleeting moments on Mt. Tabor? They wanted to pitch their tents and behold forever the revelation of my glory. I had to remind them, as I remind you, now, the road that leads to Jerusalem is not a path of glory."

The meditation finished, I arrived at beautiful St. Michael's — a pilgrim shrine built in great faith by a pilgrim people who came here a century ago — and found themselves aliens in a strange land — a despised and rejected people. But they wanted their faith expressed in the beauty of the House of the Lord.

The rains continued as we entered St. Michael's and were welcomed by Father Ehmman who led us in prayers and readings of a penitential service. And publicly we admitted before God and man our personal and corporate guilt.

"We have sinned and transgressed by departing from you, O Lord, and we have done every kind of evil." Deut. 3:29

"Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me." Psalm 51:4

"We have neither heeded the voice of the Lord, nor followed the precepts which the Lord set before us

From the time the Lord led our fathers out of the land of Egypt until the present day, we have been disobedient to the Lord, our God, and only too ready to disregard His voice." Baruch 1:15

"I confess to Almighty God — Lord, have mercy."

Then, together, we resolved:

"We welcome wholeheartedly the Holy Year with its goal of pardon and reconciliation.

We aim to recognize more and more thoroughly how much this distraught world of our time is in need of reconciliation.

In the words of the Congressional Resolution for a Day of Humiliation, Fast and Prayer, we have failed to respond, personally and collectively, with sacrifice and uncomromised commitment to the unmet needs of our fellowmen, both at home and abroad; as a people, we have become so absorbed with the selfish pursuits of pleasure and profit, that we have blinded ourselves to God's standard of justice and righteousness for this society.

This confession we are willing to make.

These sins we are ready to atone for, in the saving grace of Jesus, by dedicating ourselves to the needs of the poor, giving ourselves — our means, our time, our talent — to make up to them for the means, the opportunities, and the development,

of which they have been deprived by the inequities and injustices of our society."

Now ready for the journey to the Cathedral after most precise directives by Sister Mary Poole (a route deliberately chosen to remind us of our brothers in need

in our Inner City), we departed singing, "Let there be peace on earth."

Unintentionally, we now became true pilgrims — wanderers on the face of the earth — the major part of the assembly travelling north from St. Michael's and a remnant dutifully following the prescribed route, moving south. Reunited at the Cathedral, we prayed quite fittingly, "How good, how delightful it is, for all to be together in peace."

Welcomed by Bishop McCafferty, we began a service of prayer for unity and reconciliation and were reminded that we are a pilgrim Church constantly in need of renewal — a Church called to be a sign of unity as we share the diversity of our gifts. (Rom. 3:13)

Then followed an impressive installation ceremony as Father William Amann accepted the office of Regional Coordinator of the Northwest Conference. The challenging demands of his position were presented to him in questions asked him by Father Thomas Reddington who, for some two and one-half years, has given the Region such great leadership.

Then we prayed: "O God, you are the protector of all who trust in you, and without you, nothing is strong, nothing is holy. But you have called Father Amann with your voice. You have brought all people in this region under his guidance. May we become a new people with a new beginning of hope and peace in this wide and uncertain world. This we ask through Christ our Lord."

Then came our exodus accompanied by the song of challenge to the pilgrim Church:

"God's blessing sends us forth
Strengthened for our task on earth,
Refreshed in soul; renewed in mind.
May God with us remain,
Through us His spirit reign,
That Christ be known to all mankind."

Returning to Victor (more rain), I prayed:

"I thank you, Lord, for your faithful people who appreciate your grace of a Holy Year — who sense the need of renewal and reconciliation and the meaning of pilgrimage. I thank you for all who prepared this first public pilgrimage and for the inspiration it offered me."

Monsignor Ratigan, Fr. Ehmman Retire

Father Benedict Ehmman and Msgr. Arthur E. Ratigan are retiring at the end of June, the Pastoral Office announced this week.

Stepping down from the pastorate of St. Michael's, Rochester, Father Ehmman will remain there through the summer to ease the adjustment of his successors.

Msgr. Ratigan already has moved from St. John the Evangelist, Greece, where he was associate pastor, to his home in the Bristol Hills. He will continue to work as a weekend assistant in parishes in his area.

Father Ehmman, a musician and writer, looks forward to a busy retirement. He expects to work in the Spanish Apostolate and with the Legion of Mary. Among his other special interests are the diocesan commissions on music and liturgy, conference and retreat work.

Ordained in 1929, Father Ehmman was assigned to the faculty of St. Andrew's Seminary and taught church music there and at St. Bernard's for a total of 18 years. He also was an English

instructor at the minor seminary and served as an assistant at St. Patrick's Cathedral. From 1947 until his transfer to St. Michael's, he was pastor of St. Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen, and St. Benedict, Odessa. He has published articles on the liturgy and music and occasionally has served his parishes in an unusual way — as a pianist at benefit concerts. For the next few months, he will help Fathers Anthony Valente and Paul Freemesser organize their copastorate of the North Clinton Avenue parish he has directed since 1961.

With the observation that he was "over the hump as a pastor," Msgr. Ratigan left St. Ambrose in September, 1971, and has assisted at various parishes since.

Msgr. Ratigan had served Catholic Charities for 25 years, starting as director of the Catholic Family Center in 1939, three years after his ordination. He took a Master's degree in social work at Catholic University in 1942. From 1952 until he went to St. Ambrose in August, 1963, he directed the whole charities operation. He was named a domestic prelate in 1956.



FATHER EHMANN



MSGR. RATIGAN

Priests Appointed To Special Posts

The Pastoral Office announced this week the designation of Father Charles J. Latus as first director of the Diocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs.

Father Robert Hammond was detailed to the full-time management of Teen Seminar and related programs.

Other special appointments announced include that of Father Frank Lioi, a musician, to the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary, and Father Thomas J. Hoctor, a teacher, to the campus ministry at the University of Rochester.

Father Robert F. O'Neill was promoted from secretary to officialis of the Diocesan Tribunal, in a general change of personnel in that agency. Father R. Richard Brickler was named secretary.

The Pastoral Office announcements covered also the assignment of 10 newly ordained priests, two retirements and change of location for 18 pastors and associate pastors.

Father Latus' revitalized commission will be concerned not only with contacts among the Christian churches, but also with

Christian-Jewish relations, hence the expanded title. The new director will spend two days a week at the Pastoral Center and do parish work the rest of the time at Our Lady of Mercy, Greece. He was ordained in 1968.

Father Hammond, of the St. Bernard's class of 1967, has directed Teen Seminar and other special retreat programs on a part-time basis for the past three years, while serving as associate pastor of St. Michael, Newark. His new address will be Becket Hall.

Father Lioi's faculty appointment gives him a year and a half to pursue an advanced degree in the field of church music.

As officialis, Father O'Neill succeeds Father John Lynch, who has been with the Tribunal for seven years, working there only part-time in recent months because of poor health. He had the assistance of Father Cyprian Rosen, OFM Cap., who lately was recalled from the Geneva Capuchin community to the New Jersey headquarters of his order.

Father Hoctor, now at St. John Fisher College, will succeed a long-time chaplain at the U of R, Father James Lawlor, who is returning to parish work.