

Editorials

Rochester In Rome

The many and varied events surrounding the ordination of 26 bishops in the Vatican on Sunday, May 27, became an extraordinary celebration for this diocese as so many people from here were on hand.

Of course, the key figure was Bishop Matthew H. Clark, whose obvious joy and cheerful mien stood out even in the midst of the great pomp and color of the ordination ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica.

There, too, was our native son, Bishop W. Thomas Larkin, a Mount Morris native, becoming the bishop of St. Petersburg, Fla.

And participating was our beloved Bishop Joseph L. Hogan who with our auxiliary bishops, Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty, joined in the imposition of hands on all the new bishops.

But the ordination was only one of the many moving and spiritual events of the week. Bishop Clark celebrated his first Mass on Monday at the chapel in the North American College. Compared to the previous day's ceremony, it was low-key although he was joined in the celebration by his longtime friend Bishop Howard Hubbard and other priests of the Albany diocese. His family and friends made up the congregation. When Bishop Clark delivered his homily, he did so from a sitting position which lent a kind of simplicity to the occasion.

Earlier that day, Bishop Larkin also offered his first Mass as bishop at the Chiesa Nuova, St. Philip Neri, in downtown Rome. This Mass was more reminiscent of the ordination ceremony with Cardinal Maximilian de

Fuerstenberg from Belgium and several bishops, including Bishop McCafferty, taking part.

In addition, the Rochester contingent had a special Mass in the Chapel of the Canons within St. Peter's Basilica.

Bishop Clark said that all during the ordination ceremony he "was united in spirit" with the people of this diocese.

So in many ways, it was a Rochester event. Those who were on hand were blessed to witness the historical events but all of us share in the spiritual bounty provided.

Next comes the installation of Bishop Clark. Tickets will be available through parishes. Bishop Clark has said he wants to meet as many diocesans as possible at the ceremony which promises a joyful experience for all who attend.

and Opinions

Pastor Rebuts Statement

Editor:

Your May 23 issue contained a report of the May meeting of the Chemung County General Education Board. It quoted Father Kevin Murphy as saying "that he had heard that the reason he has never been invited to celebrate the sacraments at St. Mary's was that it was a parish policy that outside priests not be invited."

I called Father Murphy and denied the accusation. I further asked him who the source of his misinformation was. He refused to give me her name.

The tapes of the meeting were available and I listened to them. Father Murphy said he had never been invited to celebrate Mass in three of the four schools. He added, "I have never been invited for prayer service or the Sacrament of Penance."

Later on he stated, "One parish has a policy that they do not invite other priests into the parish for any liturgical celebrations -- parish or school."

He eventually identified the offending parish as St. Mary's and said, "No outside priest is ever invited to celebrate Mass whether for a large group or a small group or whatever it is, or sacraments or prayer service."

Further on there is the repetition of this allegation:

"Someone expressed the fact that Father Leary has the policy that outside priests are not invited in for Mass and Penance. I guess that has become a parish school."

The charge is completely without foundation. I have not now, or ever had a policy excluding outside priests from participation in any liturgical service in connection with the school. Furthermore, extern priests have administered all the sacraments and conducted marriages and funerals at my invitation.

Any priest wishing to help with a Penance Service will be received cordially. Of course, I would require that the regulations of the Holy See be observed. That is my right and duty.

I would have disregarded the calumny even though it misrepresented me throughout the diocese, but if it were not for the school system might suffer. I

have too high a regard for it, and have given too much of myself toward it, to overlook anything that might jeopardize its existence.

Father John J. Leary
Pastor
St. Mary's Church
224 Franklin St.
Elmira, N.Y.

Women Are People?

Editor:

I truly sympathize with women who struggle to become free from the binding roles society has placed on them, but I couldn't help chuckle at the May 25 Times-Union article entitled Ordination of Women — Is It Time? The article identified Rochester theologian Michele Daviau as saying, "There is no recorded speech of Jesus concerning the position of women, yet in his friendship and compassion for women he seems clearly to have respected them as people." This editorial understatement makes me wonder about the plight of women in general as well as the plight of women who seek the priesthood. Have you really come such a long way, baby? Church conservatives can take heart, I think, from that isolated statement of Miss Daviau. If it took us 2,000 years to realize that Christ knew that women are people, it will surely take another 2,000 years for us to realize that they can also be priests.

On second thought, maybe the conservatives have cause for worry after all. I know a nun who says she doesn't want to be an ordained priest anyway. She's holding out for the position of pope. (She can say this with her tongue in her cheek because she realizes, I trust, how she is already, in fact a priest — in the truest sense of The Word.) To her especially, and to all the Sisters in the diocese, I offer my support and affirmation, and my hope that they will soon be recognized as the people they really are — some "ordinary," some quite "extraordinary," but all of them "ministers."

Terry Sweeney
542 W. Main St.
Palmyra, N.Y. 14522

Sodomy Repeal

Editor:

Would you make your readers aware of the repeal of the sodomy law by a bill 1659, now in the State Assembly?

On Jan. 23, the City Council of Rochester legislated by a vote of 7 to 2, to give \$23,000 (now \$60,000) of CETA funds to a group of homosexuals to use in promoting a better understanding of this deviate lifestyle. Now that the gay alliance has been given these federal monies they have declared their intentions of repealing the sodomy laws of the State of New York — laws which currently make their activities illegal.

Bill 1659 calling for the repeal of the sodomy laws and legalizing "consensual sodomy" is now in the assembly of the state and is backed by nine assemblymen, one of whom is chairman of the committee on codes, Melvin H. Miller.

Also some clergymen are lobbying in Albany for the repeal of the sodomy law, California and a few other states have already repealed the law.

In the Bible, Romans Chapter One, clearly state that homosexuality is a sin. As Christians, those who believe in the Bible to be God's word to us, we do not dislike the individual but we do hate the homosexuality.

Notice the bill states no age limit — just the word "consent."

If this "consensual sodomy" bill passes, many boys and girls will be torn apart on witness stands by some lawyer trying to prove they "consented" to sodomy.

The gay alliance is already preparing a draft to mandate homosexual and lesbian counselors in all public school systems, so as to "introduce the youth to alternate life-styles."

Ask the readers to write their congressmen:

Jacob Javits
322 E. 57th St.
New York, N.Y. 10011

Daniel P. Moynihan
733 Third Ave
New York, N.Y. 10017

or their State Legislators:

James Emery, Dale Volker, R. Stephen Hawley, Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12248.

Mrs. Mary Giunta
59 Lima Rd.
Geneseo, N.Y. 14454

Poem Lauds Jubilarian

Editor:

Holy Apostles parish is thrice-blessed. We have two golden jubilarians, Father Benedict Ehmann and Father Albert Oscar, plus a very holy pastor, Father Emmett Murphy. In honor of Father Oscar's 50 years as a priest I have written the following:

O Holy Priest with head bowed low,

Each day in love your soul does grow

With patient, steadfast trust, I see

You've set your goal — it's sanctity.

God's graces on you are bestowed,

To help you walk the priestly road.

Your will and God's are one, I know

Within I see an inner glow.

In the confessional you spend

Your priestly power and you send

Each penitent away in peace,

From Satan's power they've been released.

Such humbleness that you display,

Is seldom found in men today.

Your "victim soul" for those who sin

You offer God for souls to win.

True priest, true man, you fight with might,

Where there's darkness, you bring God's light.

Your cheerful spirit is the key —

A bulwark true on stormy sea.

On this your 50th jubilee,

Best wishes to a celebrity,

Not of this world but better far

In Heaven there — a shining star.

Ann Christoff
154 Crittenden Way, No. 3
Rochester, N.Y. 14623

"Because You Cared Enough"

Editor:

As chairman of the recently completed United Community Chest Red

Cross Campaign, I had the opportunity to witness personally the achievements that result from people voluntarily working for the good of the community.

I saw volunteer solicitors who offered to collect the dollars needed to support many of the human service agencies in this region. And, I saw Rochester area residents once again respond generously to the Chest's once-a-year appeal.

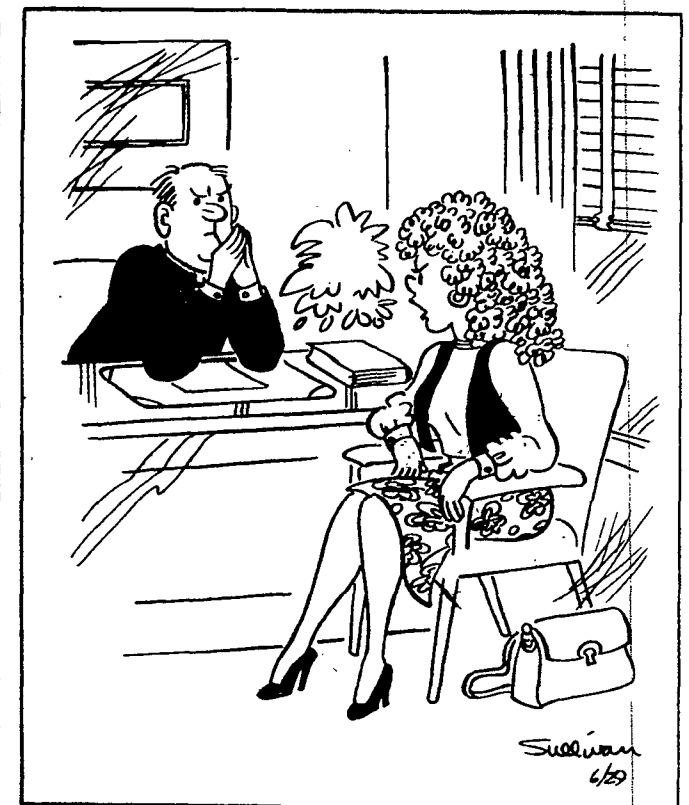
To those of you who worked in the campaign, and to those of you who contributed — thank you. Through your combined efforts, we were able to reach our \$17.7 million goal

and to ensure that the more than 150 Chest-supported agencies will continue to provide efficient, effective services to those who need them.

Because you cared enough, the Chest can carry on its fine tradition of improving, voluntarily, the quality of life for all of us in the Greater Rochester Region.

William D. McGrath
Chairman, 1979 UCC-RC Campaign

More Opinions To 29



"I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND IF I WRITE TO FATHER ANDREW GREELEY FOR A SECOND OPINION!"

Guidelines

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter by any individual from the same individual.

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