

Women's Groups Welcome Bishop

Statements congratulating Bishop Matthew H. Clark and welcoming him to the diocese were issued, on the day of his installation, by the Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church and the Women's Ordination Conference, which has its national office here. Both expressed hopes that the new bishop would help them.

The Task Force said, in part, "We wish to acknowledge Bishop Hogan's commitment to the equality of women in the Church of Rochester. We appreciate his standing with us, his willingness to listen to us and to believe in the right we have as women to participate fully in the Church.

"This Task Force looks hopefully to working with

Bishop Clark as we struggle to bring about justice for women in the Church."

The Ordination Conference statement included this: "It is WOC's hope that with the help of Bishop Clark's leadership, the Diocese of Rochester will continue to be significantly important in the struggle of the American Church to be faithful to the Gospel message. The Church is called to be a prophetic voice to society. It is called to proclaim untiringly that women as well as men are created in the image of God, and to denounce sexism in societal and Church structures for 'there does not exist among you, Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus.' (Epistle to the Galatians 3:28)."

Scrolls Under Study

The Qumran Scrolls, popularly called the Dead Sea Scrolls, are a collection of manuscripts, all but one of them in Hebrew, found between 1947 and 1956 in caves in the Desert of Judea west of the Dead Sea.

Among the findings were a complete text of Isaiah dating from the second century, B.C., more or less extensive fragments of other Old Testament texts and a commentary on Habakkuk. Until the discovery of these materials, the oldest known Hebrew manuscripts were from the 10th century, A.D.

The scrolls, dating from about the first century before and after Christ, are important sources of information about Hebrew literature, Jewish history during the period between the Old and New Testaments, and the history of Old Testament texts. They establish the fact that the Hebrew of the Old Testament was fixed before the beginning of the Christian era and have had definite effects in recent critical studies and translations of the Old Testament. Together with other scrolls found at Masada, they are still the subject of intensive study.

Lay People Given Role In Church

The designation of lay men and women to serve as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist was authorized by Pope Paul VI in an "Instruction of Facilitating Communion in Particular Circumstances" (*Immense Caritatis*), dated Jan. 29, 1973, and published by the Congregation for Divine Worship the following Mar. 29.

Qualified lay persons may serve as extraordinary ministers for specific occasions or extended periods in the absence of a sufficient number of priests and deacons to provide reasonable and appropriate pastoral service in distribution of Holy Communion, during Mass and outside of Mass (to sick and shut-ins).

Appointments of extraordinary ministers are made by priests with the approval of the appropriate bishop.

Papal Medals Given to Deserving

Benemerenti are papal medals ("To a well-deserving person") which have been conferred by popes for exceptional accomplishment and service. The medals, which are made of gold, silver or bronze, bear the likeness and name of the reigning pope on one side; on the other, a laurel crown and the letter "B".

These may be given by the pope to both men and women. Their bestowal does not convey any title or honor or knighthood.

NEXT WEEK'S

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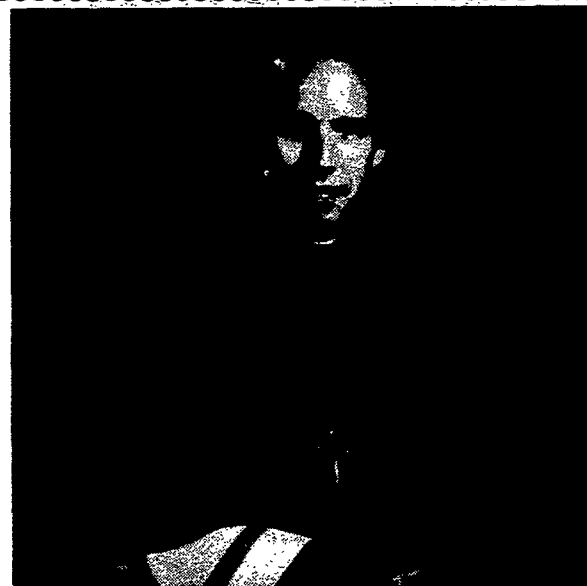
- Bishop Hogan Center Dedicated
- Priests Council
- Pope Praises Salt II agreement
- Other News and Features.

Our congratulations to the Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark.

As the scepter is passed on, we wish you a long, vigorous, and happy tenure as Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester.



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