

Catholic Worker Guests: Bishop and a "Sojourner"

By John Dash

It was a rare and festive weekend for the Rochester Catholic Worker community. The group which operates St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and Bethany House, celebrated the visits of Bishop Matthew H. Clark and of Jim Wallis, author and a founder of the evangelical Protestant Sojourners' community in Washington, D.C.

Though the two men did not meet, interviews with both revealed a surprising similarity in their religious outlook, and a unanimity on their esteem for the spirit and the work of the Rochester Catholic Worker.

The Catholic Worker here started up in the late 1930s as a local foundation of an older group which gathered around Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in New York.

Both Day and Maurin were proclaiming the Gospel Beatitudes as norms for the establishment of a society founded on peace, justice and love.

Though the Beatitudes

are generally regarded as normative for the consecrated religious life, Day and Maurin saw them as dicta for laymen as well.

The Rochester group, in 1941, opened St. Joseph's House of Hospitality as a place of shelter and food for indigent men. Over the decades, the house also has been a center where a number of social justice concerns have been shaped with religious focus. In recent years this most notably has included the food crisis in Biafra, the war in Indochina and the questions surrounding U.S. involvement there, peace in the Middle East, and the issue of justice for women.

On the last, the Catholic Worker community has opened Bethany House, a shelter for abused women and their children.

The house is financially independent of the diocese of Rochester, although the Catholic Worker community is headed by a diocesan priest, Father Daniel O'Shea.

All of the funds for the

house's ministry come from private donations. In a recent letter acknowledging a contribution, Father O'Shea stated: "All of our work is done by (such) donations. The Lord provides."

Following a Mass he celebrated at St. Joseph's, Bishop Clark acknowledged that he felt "spiritually welcomed in this place." He recounted that he had felt a similar "ease" and "peace" when he visited a community-hospital of the Missionaries of Charity in Rome.

He said that St. Joseph's community "challenges values," and on a personal note, challenges "the way I think internally, my own self-centeredness."

The house also "raises questions on our life together as a Roman Catholic community, and how much interdependence we have," the bishop said.

The work of the house, the bishop noted, "raises questions about the distribution of human and material resources."

Earlier in the week, Wallis, who also is editor of Sojourners Magazine, commented that such groups as the Catholic Worker are "committed to rebuilding of the Church at the local level, that is to give sustenance to the local Church structure."

Sojourners, he said, started up, for instance, as an attempt to make Gospel values "a way of living in this particular historical context."

Such an attitude, he said, makes his group's demonstrations against nuclear arms "a matter of faith and not simply nuclear survival."

"At Sojourners we're speaking a very simple and traditional thing. We don't have to create a new thing, simply to return again to the Gospel," he said.

'Year of Family' Set At Holy Family Church

Holy Family Church will be the site for the kickoff of the diocesan observance of the Year of the Family.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate a 1 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Jan. 27, 1980. Following the Mass, a get-together will be held in the school auditorium.

The parish has slated a number of activities cen-

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

The 70s Covered a Lot of Ground

Looking back fondly on the Seventies. The decade when:

— My kids stopped spilling milk at every meal.
— I learned to stop driving with my foot on the brake.

— Our son learned to use the washing machine. (His older sister, a math honors student, however, still finds all the numbers (nine minute wash cycle, two minute rinse) terribly confusing.

— I stopped taking ALL the credit for our trio's peccadilloes.

— My husband really made it plain (after 16 years of trying) that he doesn't care for crew cuts on women.

— I gave up watching soap operas in favor of writing them.

— A lot of people we know discovered that forcing food on others is not synonymous with love.

— You could give a party for 20 and not one ashtray was required.

— I met and fell in love with the Eternal City — twice.

— We all embraced a non-Italian pope.

— And discovered much to our surprise that for the first time (in America at least) it was In to be Catholic.

Xerox Gives \$2,500 To Spanish Apostolate

The Office of the Spanish Apostolate last week announced that the Xerox Corp., through its Community Involvement Program, has donated \$2,527.69 for completion of remodeling of a building on Clinton Avenue N. as a field office for the Hispanic program.

The grant was presented by Anthony Marini, a Xerox employee who has done work in the Hispanic community on leave from the corporation, to Italo Rodriguez, director of the diocesan Spanish Apostolate.

The building, located on the 800 block of North



Marini (left) presents Rodriguez with the Xerox Corp. check.

Clinton, is being rented from St. Michael's Parish. A part of the building is being used

by the Catholic Family Center for its outreach operations.

Bishop Charges Discrimination In U.S. Prisons

New York (RNS)— A bishop from Puerto Rico says officials of the U.S. federal prison at Lewisburg, Pa., have refused to allow him to visit two prisoners from Puerto Rico who were convicted recently along with the bishop on federal trespassing charges.

Bishop Antulio Parrilla Bonilla, SJ, a native of Puerto Rico, charged "discrimination against Latinos" in U.S. federal prisons, citing such things as "opening of their personal mail, assigning them the worst jobs, housing them in the humblest cell areas."

The bishop and the two men in Lewisburg were among 21 persons, including several Protestant clergymen, arrested May 19 and charged with trespassing on federal property on Vieques Island, where U.S. Navy and Marine personnel hold training exercises. The island is located just off Puerto Rico and for years its largely military use has been protested by groups of fishermen, conservationists and religious leaders, among others.

Earlier this month, six of the Vieques prisoners were sentenced and moved to U.S. federal prisons to serve four-month sentences. Bishop Parrilla protested the transfer of prisoners to prisons outside Puerto Rico for a misdemeanor such as trespassing. He termed this "unprecedented and a purposeful act to divide, isolate and intimidate those who participate in the protest in Vieques."

The Jesuit bishop said Vieques support groups have been established in several major cities in the U.S., and that he had been in

contact with prominent civil rights leaders here about Vieques. He shared in a special liturgy and supper one evening recently with Dorothy Day and friends at the Manhattan headquarters of The Catholic Worker and spent another evening in conversation with fellow Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan.

"The good people of the United States, who are dedicated to justice and freedom for everyone, certainly will respond to the discrimination involved in this disgraceful episode," said Bishop Parrilla.

The bishop's trial last August attracted widespread attention throughout the island Commonwealth, where several groups have been struggling for decades to gain independence for Puerto Rico. Bishop Parrilla, who supports the struggle for independence, said "it isn't ideology to defend the liberty of a country. It's a mandate of the natural law, of conscience."

Stressing that he had never affiliated with any political party, he said his struggle for Puerto Rican independence was rooted in gospel values.

The bishop remains free following the appeal of his conviction on the trespassing charge. The Puerto Rican Conference of bishops offered its "fraternal company" to Bishop Parrilla in the courtroom, though emphasizing that he had acted on his own initiative and that the body of bishops did not necessarily support his action. The bishops did say the Vieques situation required "a prompt and just solution."

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Christmas Reunion

A Christmas reunion of members of the former folk group, Joy, is scheduled for Saturday evening, Dec. 29, at St. Helen's. Singers and instrumentalists are asked to assemble in the church basement at 4 p.m. to rehearse for the 5:30 Mass. A party for members and their spouses or friends will follow Mass. Those who wish to attend are asked to call 247-7843 before tonight.

Spelling Bee At DeSales

Thirteen eighth graders, representing seven schools in the Geneva area took part in the first annual Sister Helen Kannan Spelling Bee at DeSales High School. Monica Heieck, St. Stephen's, Geneva took first place; Michelle Wawryasyk, St. Hyacinth's, Auburn won second place honors and Michelle Valentino, St.

tered on the family for the year. Included in the plans are retreats for married couples, and for singles, a family study program, children's liturgical celebrations, family penitential services, and a picnic in the park with a liturgy.

A parish spokesperson said that the parish will use the year as a time of renewal.

Stephen's, was third. The contest honored Sister Helen "who has devoted many years of service to the Geneva community and to DeSales High School specifically as long-time guidance counselor," according to a release. Sister Helen presented plaques and scholarship certificates to the winners.

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