

# 500 Attend Elmira Ecumenical Service

By Martin Toombs - Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — "I've come to you tonight as your brother, your friend," Bishop Matthew H. Clark told the more than 500 persons of various faiths who gathered at Christ's United Methodist Church for a prayer service for Christian Unity Sunday. Bishop Clark was homilist for the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Like all those in attendance, the bishop said, he seeks to understand the word of God, and then live it.

And, "I am like you also," in that the word, so "generously given," does "not always find fertile soil in my own spirit."

Many things prevent the spirit from accepting the word, he noted, factors which "dim the light." But, he said, he knows the Lord "never stops speaking to me."

"When the Lord speaks to us," he continued, "His word communicates His very being." But it is up to us to accept the word, and allow it to transform us, or reject it. Those in the congregation, he

noted, were showing their willingness to appreciate and work for "a greater openness of spirit."

Bishop Clark said that during such programs in churches, he "never tires," of looking at the faces in the congregation. It is, he said, a major enjoyment, and alluding to the football game being played during the service, comparable to "watching the Super Bowl."

He explained that he wonders about each person's story, and his particular life. He added that each person's attendance showed that he was reached by the word.

The unifying force of Christian Churches is Jesus, he said, noting that "He is the peace that has begun in us," although it has yet to spread to the entire world. "It is from Him and in our union with Him," that all "we hope for will be realized," he stated.

And he knows that those varied stories told by the faces in the congregation were "not here randomly" but that the stories happened so that the kingdom of God "can be built up."



Bishop Clark speaking at the prayer service for Christian Unity at Christ's United Methodist Church in Elmira.

Bishop Clark noted that that day he had seen a curriculum vitae for himself, and noted its inaccuracies, and one omission that was accurate. He has no "consistent experience" with ecumenical work, he said. "I am not as experienced as you, in ecumenical endeavors," he

commented, asking for the congregation's help.

The service encouraged him to learn more about ecumenism, he noted, pledging to "get more involved" in ecumenical projects "here and in other places in the diocesan territory I serve."

He believes, he stated, that "part of our Christian vocation here on earth is to work diligently and lovingly for the unity of all Churches."

He concluded, "May the Lord's peace be with us all as we walk this road together."

More than 20 clergymen participated in the service, in addition to those who led various sections, Father Albert Delmonte, Rev. David Durham, Rev. R. Kurt Traugott, Sister Mary Ann Sliwa, Margery Nurnberg and Joan Geldmacher. Singing was led by the Cantata Singers, with William Payne, director, Dorothy Hoos, soloist, and James Sanderson, organist.



Bishop Clark during the prayer service's opening song. At the right is Rev. David Durham, host pastor.



Bishop Clark reading the gospel during the service.

## More Opinions

### King Holiday Opposed

Editor: I would like to change the thinking of the editor regarding establishing Jan. 15 as a national holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. I am against it and all legal holidays.

Under the present setup, legal holidays are holidays only for non-productive people — such as bureaucrats, lawyers and the courts, editors, banks and so on. (The talkers and the sitters).

It would be more equitable to have the non-productive offices stay open and available to productive people who are now unable to enjoy a holiday because of not being paid. (Productive people — miners, factory workers, store clerks and so on — these people are paid on an hourly basis).

Also, concerning congratulations to the District of Columbia and the state of Maryland who now observe Jan. 15 as a holiday. I understand that both of these places have very high percentages of non-

productive people. Paul J. Meagher, 15B Northgate Manor, Rochester, N.Y. 14616

Editor's Note: We admit that most editors are non-productive types but they do their non-producing more on holidays than at other times.

### Let's Pray For Russia

Editor: I have written Bishop Clark the following letter:

"In light of recent events, I humbly and respectfully implore you to reinstate the prayers after Mass for the conversion of Russia. As you know, Our Lady promised that if enough people prayed, Russia would be converted, and there would be peace in the world."

Perhaps others would like to write the Bishop with a similar request. In any event, each of us could take a few minutes after Mass to kneel down and say at least the three Hail Marys. The other prayers we said were the Hail Holy Queen and the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. I don't know the

name of the prayer which begins "O God, our refuge and our strength."

Remember that "it is better to light a single candle" if you are the only person kneeling after Mass. Through your good example, the project may catch on. If not, at least your prayers will reach God and Mary, and may save us from World War III, a nuclear disaster.

Sheila Long, RD 1, Box 358, Hokomb, N.Y. 14469

### Priesthood Limited

Editor: Every time I hear our church ask us to pray for vocations, I don't know whether to laugh or cry. The reason? We ask God to send us priestly vocations — and He does! But then we don't accept most of them!

Our church says to God, "Sorry, Lord, we accept only single, male vocations. Please send us help but no married or female priestly vocations, thank you." How we can put limits on

our loving Father? How can we be most effective in spreading Jesus' message when we exclude roughly 95 per cent of our people (married and/or female) from priestly ministry?

I love God and I love my church. We need priestly ministers so badly.

Dan Quilty, 87 Holbrooke St., Rochester, N.Y. 14621

**BAKE 1688 CLIFFORD AVE.**  
 CORNER near Goodman  
 Order Your Valentine Heart Cake Today  
 3 tier serves up to 100, \$35. PHONE  
 4 tier serves 175 to 200, \$50 482-1133  
 COOKIE TRAYS MADE TO ORDER  
 Decorator cakes, whipped cream & strawberry, lemon, pineapple, custard filling: 1/4 sheet, \$6.00; 1/2 sheet, \$9.00; full sheet, \$16.00.  
 Decorator cakes, butter cream frostings, half sheet \$8.00, full sheet \$14.

**Rogowski Chimney Sweep**  
 Fire Prevention starts with a Clean Chimney  
 436-7462

**BUYING NOW ORIENTAL RUGS Immediate Cash**  
 for antiques, semi-antiques whole estates or individual pieces any size, any condition call any time  
**Darvish**  
 271-8520

Soc Ma 268 El (60)

At cel annive their s daugh

Co 65

Wat 16, 19 stood l Mary c were n pastor

And the co again, their niversa

Paul cangel at that noted their tended usually

22

Hor memb gradua Mercy Nursin cerem in St.

Fou receiv Dolan presen Award school the hig

The Award highe prese Rawle

Lori receive given exemp the demoi profes and health She re Miss J Merri engrav wall school

Sist admir Nancy

Ol

Cor Cushin studer Patric 1930s Patric Fat Patric