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OUR 96th YEAR

25 Cents

Bishop Opens Study of Sacramental Guidelines

Dear Co-Workers,

Since Vatican Council II the Church has experienced a renewal in her sacramental life. The charter for that renewal was the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) promulgated on Dec. 4, 1963. In the years since the Council there has been a revision of the rites of celebration of our seven sacraments. In addition to this, other significant documents have been issued which touch upon our sacramental and liturgical celebrations.

This renewal has been a source of grace to us all as we come to know better the unfathomable riches of Christ, and, through the sacraments of the Church, grow together in his life. What we do in celebration together expresses our common faith and gives growth to it.

In order that we might continue to grow in the mysteries of the faith, I am directing a study and renewal of the sacramental guidelines of the Diocese of Rochester.

In order to achieve this, I am asking that the effort include three phases:

1. A study of the sacramental guidelines of the diocese in light of the rites and of recent instructions issued by the Holy See and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

2. A study of the ways we have lived out and can live out more concretely and fruitfully the continued sacramental and liturgical renewal to which we are all called by the Church. This will be accomplished through a series of pastoral consultations to be scheduled during Lent.

3. The drawing together of these studies into renewed guidelines in those areas where such diocesan guidelines already exist, and the development of new guidelines where needed. I hope the former will be brought to completion by May 31, 1980, and the latter by Fall 1980.

I have asked Father Kennedy of the Office of Liturgy to direct this effort, and I have asked that this program involve the participation of the Office of Religious Education, our priests, parish ministerial staffs, diocesan and parish liturgical committees, and other appropriate persons and groups.

Until new guidelines are presented, current diocesan guidelines are in effect.

I hope that this undertaking will be a prayerful and constructive reflection on the lived experience of our sacramental life in these post-conciliar years.

With a prayer that the Lord will bless our efforts, I remain

Your brother in Christ,
Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, DD



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Thomas regards family stability as vital to the stability of the nation.

Family Life Takes Guts

By John Dash

"The family is the most important source of energy we have," Danny Thomas said last week. "All the touching, loving, fighting, screaming, even hating for a little bit, comes out of the family. And those are major factors of a healthy life. And it takes guts to live in a family. That's the hard way to live — in a family," he said.

Thomas, known world wide for his portrayal of the father in the television comedies "Make Room for Daddy" and "The Danny Thomas Show," flew unannounced into Rochester last week to accept a con-

tribution for his shrine to St. Jude, a free hospital for children with catastrophic diseases.

Interviewed at his hotel,

the parishioner of St. Victor's Maronite Rite Catholic Church in Los Angeles, said he sees a number of forces at

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Registration Stuns 'Family' Organizers

By John Dash

Those responsible for the New York State regional conferences leading up to the White House Conference on Families are stunned.

The public response to the gatherings was described last week as "incredible," by a conference official, and as "overwhelming," by the man who has in the past few days

"regrettably" had to tell more than 800 registrants for this Saturday's conference at SUNY Buffalo that they cannot be accommodated.

And the Buffalo situation is not unique. Contacted at her New York City offices late last week as the final preparations for a Jan. 27 conference at Fordham were going at full tilt, Evelyn Roth said that "we're turning away

500 a day for Fordham. They're still coming in. This response is just incredible."

Ms. Roth is on the staff of the New York State Council on Children and Families, the administrative agency for the hearings.

Dr. Ron Stein of the President's Office at SUNY Buffalo, the man in charge of Saturday's regional con-



FATHER KENNEDY

Liturgist Father Kennedy Named to Direct Effort

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has begun a study and renewal of diocesan sacramental guidelines.

He has named Father Robert J. Kennedy of the diocesan Office of Liturgy, to direct the effort.

In a "Dear Co-Workers" letter, Bishop Clark asked that the effort include three phases:

"1. A study of the sacramental guidelines of the diocese in light of the rites and of recent instructions issued by the Holy See and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops;

"2. A study of the ways we have lived out and can live out more concretely and fruitfully the continued sacramental and liturgical renewal to which we are all called by the Church. This will be accomplished through a series of pastoral consultations to be scheduled during Lent;



FATHER KENNEDY

31 and any new ones by the Fall of the year.

The letter was sent to all priests, Religious Education coordinators and administrators, school principals, youth ministers, pastoral assistants, and others in the field of ministry, according to Father Kennedy.

Father Kennedy said they also will be involved in the Lenten consultations along with parish liturgy committees, parish education committees and "anyone involved in ministerial functions."

"This will not be a big involved process such as Call to Action," Father Kennedy said, "but just an effort to get a sense what practices need to be established, what adjustments made."

As a "for instance" of the types of practices to be

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The bishop said he hopes that the renewed guidelines would be completed by May

ference, said he had a stack of more than 100 additional registrations dropped on his desk, just as he was describing his shock at the number of people eager to have a voice in the meeting.

It was originally planned that each regional gathering would accept 1000 registrants, and the entire machinery of the conference organization

was geared toward that number, Ms. Roth said.

Now, "We don't know what we're going to do. There's no way we can schedule more conferences, before March 31 (the deadline for submitting state reports to the national planning group). If anybody out there has any ideas let me know," she said.

"But please don't call me

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