



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Ecumenical Visit

Bishop Matthew H. Clark had a conversation with a group of Sunday pre-schoolers during an ecumenical service Sunday at Asbury First United Methodist

Church. With the bishop is Dr. Theodore J. Weeden, pastor of the East Avenue church.

Kennedy

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discussed, Father Kennedy said that "in the baptism of children, the present guidelines make it the priest's responsibility to decide if the parents' faith is strong enough. Their criteria may differ. We will discuss possible uniformity."

At present, Father Lewis Brown of the Department of Religious Education is working with Father Kennedy but it is expected that further committee members will be added.

Holy Hour

Father Kennedy said that guidelines for all seven sacraments will be discussed. In addition to readjustment, it is also possible that additional guidelines, such as governing adult baptisms, may come out of the consultation.

The Rev. Mr. Michael Schramel will be the leader for a Holy Hour, scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 18, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Infirmary. The series of Holy Hours is sponsored by the Holy Trinity Chapter of the Peoples Eucharistic League.

Family Concerns Have Long History

A great many of the topics that are emerging as the nation prepares to hold the White House Conference on Families, and as the bishops inaugurate the Year of the Family in parishes throughout their dioceses, were presaged last year at the National Family Life Conference, convened by the U.S. bishops in Kansas City.

Several dioceses were present at that conference, including Frank and Sue Staropoli, heads of the diocesan Office of Family Life; Jim and Donna Fitch, pre-marriage coordinators; Dr. Janet Foy, chairperson of the diocesan Family Ministry Task Force; and Father Edward Palumbos, Fred and Bette Brown, Father Louis Sirrianni, and Ron and Judy Platten.

According to Frank Staropoli, the conference focused on "typical Catholic families which are quite different from former stereotypes." He said that statistics given at the conference indicate that four of ten children will live in a single-parent family some part of their growing-up years; six out of ten marriages are infertile; and that the family is

subject to many severe social pressures.

Staropoli perceives a "need to help families regain control of their lives, to give them permission not to go along with the crowd, and help in crisis situations."

"More and more, family ministry is seen as the key," of Church service to families, Staropoli said. He described that as "families helping one another out of the authority of their own experience, for example, in such crises as alcoholism, teenage pregnancy, relating to adolescents, and separation and divorce."

In recent weeks, Staropoli's office has published reports on local efforts to put those ideas into action.

On the local level, the Family Ministry Task Force is attempting to help the diocese focus all of its ministries more effectively toward families and to involve families more in ministry.

A continuing effort of the Office of Family Life is to develop parish family ministries. The office has several suggested programs available for those interested.

—Dash

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Lesson in Humility

Being the parent of a teenage daughter can be a very humbling experience as any mother of such a creature will tell you.



Sarah Child

In a five minute period the other day I learned that my lipstick was too red, hair too gray, boots "gross", turtleneck crooked, favorite radio station square, taste in wallpaper monotonous, grocery cart choices boring, and taste in literature deplorable. (A grown woman should have progressed past the romantic saga.)

All of this was levied in very kind tones, of course, because the almost 15-year-old who lives at our house is very kind to older people, particularly those ancient doddering on the brink of senility.

Some people might take umbrage at such straightforward criticism, but mothers of teenage daughters know better. I thanked her for her ob-

servations, promised to try harder and in the proper obsequious tone, asked if there were anything else on her mind.

Well, she said, she didn't like to bring it up, but since I had asked, there were a few other things, namely: I was far too permissive — with her younger brother and sister and much too strict with her; too many starchy meals had been served in recent days and I'd never heard of sirloin; didn't I think her room ought to be the first done over in a general sprucing up of the house; had I ever thought of hiring a housekeeper, she'd been doing dishes for more than half her life; how did I feel about her flying down to Florida to join her grandparents for a respite? and why is it that I seem to treat the dog better than I do her?

To the first two items I responded quite wittily. "Is that so?", the next three earned an unequivocal "No" and to the last "Because the dog doesn't give me any lip."

Registration

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until after Sunday (the Fordham conference day), she quipped.

Dr. Stein explained that in Buffalo, the first 900 registrants, by mail, on a first-come, first-served basis, have been accepted. An additional 100 people will be accepted at the door on Saturday morning.

According to Rochester's Sheila Holly, who, with her husband Terry, has coordinated the diocesan promotional effort for the conference, there are an estimated 400 registrants from the diocese who last week received notice their registrations could not be honored.

"I feel crummy," she said.

The meeting will be held in Talbert Hall on the SUNY Buffalo Amherst Campus. "People will have to get there awfully early if they want to attend," her husband said.

The conference will include 10 workshops covering the themes of: Families and the Economy, Families and the Workplace, Housing and Communities, Growing up in the 80s, Families and Health, Families with Special Needs, Families and Schools, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity, Changing Family Life, and Families in Stress and Crisis.

The Hollies have distributed, at six locations throughout the diocese, background information on each of the workshops, covering a wide range of topics under each general heading.

Holly last week urged persons attending the meeting from the diocese to obtain a copy of the background information. The pick-up points are:

Office of Family Life
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester

Dick and Eleanor Eckert
5 Meadow Dr.
Webster

John and Linda Brunner
102 Buckley Pl.
Henrietta

Terry and Sheila Holly
57 Sturbridge La.
Pittsford

Father Louis Sirrianni
31 Erie Ave.
Hornell

Father Neil Miller
318 Madison Ave.
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ALL our 1980
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Robby Len
Danskin

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