

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

## Appeal Leaders

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, right, speaks last week to area vice chairmen for the Thanks Giving Appeal coming in November. The meeting took place at the Pastoral Center. Thirty-eight men and women will serve under seven area chairmen during the appeal.

## Elmira Changes Made

Clergy changes in Elmira were announced this week. Father Richard C. O'Connell, pastor of St. Peter and Paul, has been named administrator of St. Cecilia, replacing Father William Amann, who has been assigned to three months study at the Institute for Theological Education in Rome.

Father Amann was named to the temporary administration of St. Cecilia's earlier this year, from the

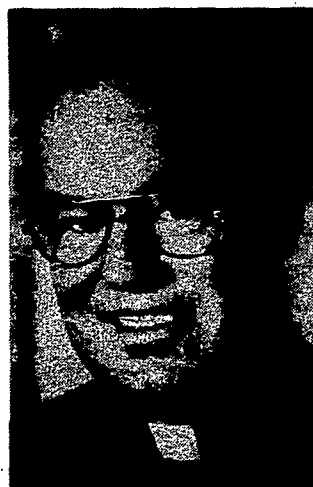
parish of Our Lady of Mercy in Rochester.

St. Peter and Paul Parish is now under the care of the Carmelites.

In addition to those changes, it was also announced that Fathers Richard Brickler and Joseph Hart have been elected to three-year terms representing special workers on the Priests Personnel Board.



FATHER AMANN



FATHER O'CONNELL

## Catechetical Sunday

My dear Brothers and Sisters:

We will observe Catechetical Sunday in our diocese on September 20. The theme for this year is "Called to Share in the Work of the Lord."

Catechetical Sunday in and of itself is a reminder that all of us are called to share in the work of the Lord, to make all things new.

Being "called to share in the work of the Lord" is inspiring, but it is also challenging. Pope Paul VI put the challenge for us as religious educators strongly when he wrote in *On Evangelization in the Modern World*, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." (Number 41)

As we begin another year of catechetical ministry, may the Holy Spirit enable us to be true witnesses to Christ, to minister to one another with a lively faith and a cheerful hope.

Please join me in a prayer of thanksgiving for the many people throughout the diocese who dedicate their lives to this ministry. We thank God for transforming the lives of so many through them and ask God's blessing that all of us may grow together in sharing the work of the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*

Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, DD  
Bishop of Rochester

## 40 Haitian Refugees Jailed at Raybrook, OBM Report Charges

By John Dash

"Forty Haitian refugees are incarcerated, forced to comply with jail rules, are wearing convict uniforms at Raybrook penitentiary. They have no past or present criminal record and there is no judgment against them," a startling report distributed last week by the Office of Black Ministries asserts.

Raybrook is the former Olympic Games housing at Lake Placid, now a federal penitentiary.

The report is based on observations made Aug. 28 by Rev. John Walker, executive director of OBM; Mrs. Jocelyne Gregoire, staffer at Catholic Family Center; and Lionel Honorat, member of the Cuban/Haitian Refugee Committee.

They were joined at Raybrook by Father Steve Gratto of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, James Cashen of the Council of Catholic Charities Directors and Mrs. Jane Berger of the Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights.

The local report asserts that "since their incarceration . . . the refugees are barred from leaving their living quarters; . . . the refugees have been flown to Raybrook deceitfully as they have been told they were being transported to a place where they will work; since their detention, the refugees have been cut off from the outside world and received no mail; the spiritual needs of the refugees have not been met since their incarceration; . . . the Haitians have not adapted to the prison diet and as they refused the food served them, the most vocal among them are locked into solitary confinement."

Cashen, an attorney, said last week in a telephone interview from Albany, that in addition there is "an overwhelming sense of dismay and frustration, after we told them we couldn't help them (legally). They are just without any sense of what's happening to them or the legal

process they should be following."

A number of the Raybrook refugees have sought from Immigration and Naturalization Service political asylum in the United States.

The OBM report claims that "the petitioners for political asylum have unanimously claimed having been persecuted by the secret police of the actual Haitian regime."

Nevertheless, Cashen noted, without an understanding of political asylum, and without access to lawyers and the proper information on the legal system, the Haitians will have a difficult time at best in upcoming INS hearings.

As their confinement lengthens and their frustrations increase, Cashen said, several are saying they want to return to Haiti, even though it may mean further incarceration.

The OBM report, however, also lists a number of somewhat positive factors in the refugees' lives: their cells are kept in good sanitary condition and are not

overcrowded, and they have received medical attention.

On the other hand, the OBM report states: "The detention of the refugees may provoke the following immediate reactions:

"Mental breakdown; appearance of homosexuality where the first victims will be the children; development of kaposi's sarcoma and pneumocystis; violence outbreak."

The report recommends that the Haitians be transferred to New York or Miami where are available legal aid and bilingual personnel. At Raybrook, the only two U.S. employees who could interpret for the refugees are being transferred.

As of late last week, however, a judgment was passed down not to transfer the refugees, Cashen said.

In addition, the OBM report recommends that "the minors be, with no delay, released to organizations, individuals, families who have already manifested their willingness to sponsor them."

THE  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
TO  
*Frank & Rosemary Sponzo*  
Commemorating the  
*25th*  
Jubilee  
of Your Wedding  
Blessings and Felicitations  
*Frank & Rosemary Sponzo*  
Office of Family Life      *Matthew H. Clark*  
Bishop of Rochester

## Jubilees

Couples celebrating their silver or golden anniversaries will be honored at a special celebration Oct. 18 at St. Mary's, Candandaigua. Special certificates, the work of Mikki Peter, will be presented the couples. Story on Page 2.

## Archdiocese Denies Charges

Chicago (RNS) — A federal grand jury is seeking to determine whether Cardinal John P. Cody illegally diverted nearly \$1 million belonging to the Chicago Catholic archdiocese to a step-cousin, according to a copyrighted story in the Chicago Sun-Times.

The article said financial records of the archdiocese, the cardinal and Mrs. Helen Doan Wilson, his step-cousin, were subpoenaed last January by Thomas Sullivan, the outgoing U.S. attorney.

Following is the text of a statement issued by Francis

A. Brackin, vicar general and delegate for administrative affairs of the archdiocese:

"The cardinal is deeply saddened by charges against him, the church and his own family, which have been leveled by the Chicago Sun Times.

"Known for his 50 years of loyal service to the Roman Catholic Church and adherence to the rules of the church, he has never violated the trust that dedicated Catholic priests, religious and lay people, as well as many

from other religious communities, have placed in him.

"Allegations that he has misused church funds are wrong and misguided. Innuendoes about dear members of his family are erroneous and tragically painful.

"The Sun-Times presents charges that are so ambiguous as to hamper a point-by-point rebuttal. This standard of journalism lacks professionalism and is misleading. In a close family, is a step-cousin not a cousin? Isn't it the warmth of a family fabric that is important? Those who have been raised

in adoptive families are eloquent testimony to this truth.

"The cardinal is governed by the norms of church law and tradition. As chief shepherd of the archdiocese, he has faithfully honored his responsibilities to his people.

"The cardinal, with his bishops and staff, steadfastly deny the charges and the implications made by those charges."

Cardinal Cody himself on two occasions over the weekend denied the allegations as "innuendoes and half-truths."