

# Bishop Clark Issues 1st Pastoral; Women in the Church Is Its Topic

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April 28, 1982

My dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am happy to present to you with this week's Courier-Journal **THE FIRE IN THE THORNBUSH**, a Pastoral Letter I have written on Women in the Church.

It is my sincere hope that each member of the Church of Rochester will read this letter with care and reflect on it prayerfully during the coming weeks. During the next year we will, as a faith community, enter into a period of study and dialogue on the contents of the letter, the questions it raises and the directions to which it points.

During the Summer a study guide will be prepared which will assist our diocesan consultative bodies and agencies, parish councils and other interested groups to engage in a year-long in depth discussion of the Pastoral Letter and the common journey into the future to which it calls us all. Additional copies of the letter are available now from the Diocesan Pastoral Office.

I am grateful to our Diocesan Pastoral Council who called for this effort. Thanks also go to the men and women who so ably and generously assisted in the preparation of this letter by suggesting material for its content and for giving it its first shape.

I am asking them to continue to serve the diocese in the year ahead as a Task Force on Women in the Church. To encourage you to make the study of this letter a work of your spirit, let me share with you my own experience. Through the listening, study, prayer and sharing in dialogue involved in this effort, I have come to realize more deeply the experiences, needs and hopes of women in our diocese. I hope I can repay the many who have kindly taught me during these many months by becoming a better teacher myself.

This work was born in the hearts of our people and the theme it treats is ever more widely recognized as a major challenge to our universal faith community. It is my firm conviction that your faithful response to this challenge will strengthen our life as a local Church and be a significant contribution to the life of the Church in its wider dimensions.

Please accept my respect, affection and best wishes in this Easter Season.

Your brother in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*  
+ Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester



*The Fire in the Thornbush*  
A PASTORAL LETTER ON WOMEN IN THE CHURCH  
MOST REVEREND MATTHEW H. CLARK, D.D.  
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has issued his first pastoral letter, "The Fire in the Thornbush," the topic of which is women in the Church.

The complete letter is inserted in this edition of the Courier-Journal.

The bishop has asked "that each member of the Church of Rochester" read the pastoral and "reflect on it prayerfully during the coming weeks." He said that during the next year, the diocese "will enter a period of study and dialogue on the contents of the letter."

## William Moorby To Be Ordained

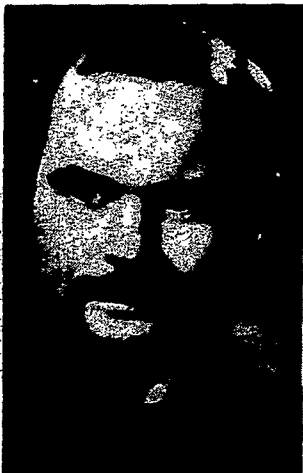
Bishop Matthew H. Clark will ordain to the priesthood for the Rochester diocese Rev. Mr. William A. Moorby, 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 30 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Rochester.

The 32-year-old ordinand, son of LeRoy and Anne Clarke Moorby, is a native of Oneonta, where he attended St. Mary's School. He also attended Seneca Street School in Oneonta, Oneida Junior High School, New Hartford Central School in New Hartford, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College, Nazareth College, and St. Bernard's Seminary.

He took degrees in accounting and in business administration from RIT, and a masters in divinity from St. Bernard's.

He served two years as a personnel management specialist with the Army at Fort Dix, N.J., and almost two years as the produce manager for Bonanno's Gates Big M Supermarket.

He took his field education at St. Monica's in Rochester and at the State Agricultural and Industrial School at Industry, and his Clinical Pastoral Education at the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church in Portland, Me.



REV. MR. MOORBY

He was ordained a deacon Oct. 4, 1980, and has served his internship at Lourdes under the supervision of Father John L. O'Connor, pastor.

A prayer vigil for the ordination will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 30 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Rochester.

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark discusses the pastoral letter with Sara McLaughlin, left, and Katherine Heining, two members of the diocesan commission that assisted him in its preparation.