

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

RESUME.

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John II has announced that he will visit seven Central American Countries and Haiti from March 2 to 9. The visit will include Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize and Haiti.

Vatican City (NC) — U.S. Vice President George Bush held a 45-minute private meeting with Pope John Paul II on Feb. 7 in the papal library of the Vatican.

As with all private audiences, the Vatican released no information as to what was discussed.

CROSSROADS TO LIFE

Canon Law Surprise: We May Get More Holy Days

By NC News Service

The new code of canon law lists 10 holy days of obligation to be observed throughout the Latin Rite Church. The United States observes six holy days currently.

The 10 holy days of obligation are the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1; Epiphany, Jan. 6; the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19; Ascension Day, a movable

observance 40 days after Easter Sunday; Corpus Christi, a movable observance; the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, June 29; the Assumption of Mary, Aug. 15; All Saints Day, Nov. 1; the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, and Christmas, Dec. 25.

The six holy days of obligation currently observed

Continued on Page 4

Experts See No Change

By Jerry Filteau
NC News Service

The new Code of Canon Law will most likely require no changes in U.S. Catholic rules regarding holy days of obligation or fast and abstinence, according to the judgment of several leading U.S. canonists.

The U.S. bishops, of course, could initiate changes under the new code, just as they could have done before the new code was promulgated.

The code's general laws for holy days, fast and abstinence are different from the special laws in force in the U.S. But top Church law experts, who did not want to be quoted by name because they had not actually seen the newly published code, said this does not mean that U.S. rules will have to change or that the country's bishops will have to do anything special to keep the current practices in place.

The reason, they said, is that the laws on holy days and on fast and abstinence in the new code are essentially the same as the laws that existed before, when the U.S. exceptions to the general laws were made. In other words, particular laws making exceptions to the general law do not have to be changed unless the relevant general law changes.

The lawyers also cautioned that their judgment was based only on a reading of the pertinent texts of the new code to them by NC News. When they were contacted the new

"Crossroads to Life," a special program to enable Bishop Matthew H. Clark and the people of the diocese to note Lent in an especially prayerful way, has been planned by the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

Designed for Lent-Easter-Pentecost, "Crossroads" will be "an invitation to diocesans, as people of faith, to enter into the season's Paschal Mystery as Church," according to a booklet published by the Office of Liturgy to outline and explain the program.

In a letter to diocesans, Bishop Clark described the journey: "I have decided to embark upon an exciting Lenten experience which will bring me into contact with many people from various walks of life throughout our diocese. The 'Crossroads to Life' is my journey and I am inviting your participation."

The bishop will begin his "journey" next week, Ash Wednesday, when he visits inmates at Monroe County Jail in the afternoon and presides at a special service at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 7:30 p.m., to which all are invited.

Another of the highlights of the program will be weekly evening services, led by the bishop, and scheduled at various parishes throughout the diocese. All parishes are urged to schedule such services of their own.

Another feature of the journey will be the Chrism Mass scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, at the cathedral. All diocesans are invited to participate in the Mass.

Father Thomas Mull, director of the diocesan Office of Liturgy, explained that the design of the Crossroads program is simple — "1. Bishop Clark will visit ministries and action places on a 'crossroads' journey to meet with people and to support the wide range of human service activities at work; 2. the bishop will celebrate evening prayer with people who will gather at regional 'crossroads' as he moves throughout the diocese; 3. the people will be encouraged to follow suit by living out their baptismal commitment through prayer, service and supportive action; 4. all will be invited to Sacred Heart Cathedral for the Chrism Mass, and 5. as renewed Christians we will celebrate Christ's victory — our salvation — in the Easter Vigil liturgies the evening of April 2 in our home communities."

Services on Easter Sunday "do not conclude 'Crossroads,'" said Pamela K. Schaeffer of the Liturgy Office. The journey will continue to Pentecost "and parishes should make use of the season to keep alive the spirit of prayer and service cultivated during Lent. In this way, we are encouraged as we move into the days, weeks and years to come to recognize our growth and commitment."

Special Visitor



Bishop Rafael Garcia, right, ordinary of the Tabasco, Mexico diocese, visited Rochester recently and spent time last Saturday meeting with Spanish-speaking members of the Permanent Deaconate program at the Divinity Schools. With the bishop is Deacon Nemesio Martinez. Members of the program met at Colgate-Rochester this past weekend for a variety of workshops and discussions in which Bishop Matthew H. Clark also participated. More photos, Page 4.

Bishop Asks All To Join Journey

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent of 1983 will soon be here. It is a time when we, as Christian people, pause to reflect, to pray and to renew the commitment of our Baptism. It is a time when we are called by the Church to revitalize our sense of mission.

This year, I have decided to embark upon an exciting Lenten experience which will bring me into contact with many people from various walks of life throughout the diocese. The Crossroads to Life program is my journey and I am inviting your participation.

I would ask parish pastoral teams throughout the diocese to take time over the next few weeks to review my schedule of visitations. I would very much appreciate your support and encouragement when my journey crosses your path. Your personal invitation to your people, your own presence at the regional Evening Prayer Services, your encouragement of the people to reach to the roots of their Christian mission will go far in making Lent 1983 a deeply enriching experience for myself and all the people of this diocese.

I would also like to extend a personal invitation to you and your people to join me in the celebration of the Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday, March 29. This celebration will allow the many roads that I have traveled during the weeks of Lent to converge at one place, so together we can celebrate the priestly call and baptismal anointing of all God's people.

My thanks for your anticipated support and enthusiasm. With every blessing, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

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

18 Become Cardinals Story, Page 12