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JOURNEYS . . .

... Bishop Clark To Selma

By Carmen J. Viglucci

Time. One gets the impression that Bishop Matthew H. Clark wished he had more than four days of that commodity when he visited diocesan Sisters on mission duty in Selma, Ala., recently.

The bishop's description of his visit is punctuated by such expressions as "in the limited time" and "as time allowed" and "in the short time." Such phrases were interspersed throughout the narration of his experiences in Selma and it was obvious that he was deeply affected and impressed by the work of our diocesan Sisters in that southern city.

"I went there," he said, "because it is very important that people who serve the Church outside of our own diocese never think of themselves as people without the full care and support of our local Church."

"I wanted the trip to symbolize my conviction that our people there are very much an extension of all of us . . . to convey to them our gratitude for the ways they do extend our life in that area and the ways in which they enrich us for what they do in the name of Christ."

He said that a second purpose was "to inform myself

about their mission so that I can, in ways open to me, tell their story to our people here."

"And," he continued, "I was very anxious to get to know them personally in their own place of mission — and to the degree possible to meet the people they serve — God's people in the Archdiocese of Mobile."

Generally, the bishop spent days visiting the various places of work staffed by the Sisters and in the evenings led Eucharistic celebrations. His trips took him to hospitals, clinics, mission offices, parishes, city streets and rural roads, but mostly to the people.

"One of the joys of my journey," he said, "was to see the delight in the eyes of those the Sisters serve."

He went to such places as Pine Apple, where Sister Mary Maloy, SSJ, and Sister Jane Kelly, CSJ, (the latter from St. Louis) are on staff at a federally funded rural health project which serves poor and isolated people "who otherwise would have no health services."

Bishop Clark said that the Sisters not only serve through their skills but they help "through the witness of their religious life and their personal and loving care."

Sister Judy Hamm, RSM, and Sister Shirley Casler, SSJ, also are involved in health care — at a clinic in Rahoboth which they helped establish.

"They are very efficient and an attractive team," the

“I didn't speak with any Sister who didn't mention very specifically that they were impressed with the piety and profound trust in God evident in the lives of many of their friends . . . In my limited time there, I was able to appreciate exactly what they meant.”

bishop said. "Sister Judy is especially gifted with medical ability and Sister Shirley handles the other considerable work of the clinic — records, outreach, organization and the like."

At Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Selma, the bishop had the opportunity to observe work of Sisters Maureen Finn, SSJ, and Albertine Devereaux, SSJ, —

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... Bishop Rafael To Rochester

By Carmen J. Viglucci

Bishop Rafael Garcia of Tabasco is a man with a mission.

He was about his Father's business for five days in Rochester last week. He wants the Rochester diocese to sponsor a team of four permanent missionaries to help him spread the Gospel of the Lord in our tropical sister diocese of Tabasco, Mexico.

Why would a bishop of predominantly Catholic Mexico need such help from this North Country area?

"Because," he explains, "there are one and a half million inhabitants of Tabasco and only 65 priests. And we need to train our lay people to do the job."

And what is the job?

"To provide human services, spread doctrine and to teach."

Four people are needed for this job, he said, "and I hope one will be a priest."

The Diocesan Pastoral Council has already heard the proposal, according to Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, coordinator of the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

The Sisters Council had it on last Saturday's agenda. And although Bishop Rafael spent most of his time in Rochester meeting with the Hispanic community, perhaps his most important stop was his visit to the Priests Council last Wednesday when he presented his request.

Could just four people make much of an indent in such a large populace? They could, Bishop Rafael said, by developing a local lay apostolate to do the job.

"It (the need) is not just because there are so few priests," the energetic 56-year-old native of Guadalajara explained, "but because it is the role of the lay people to do such work anyway."

In Tabasco most people are Catholics — 90 percent have been baptized but "they have not been evangelized."

"Evangelization is one of the essential missions of lay people people," he said, "especially among families and youths."

His own people cannot get the ball rolling primarily because of lack of proper education. Thus, the bishop is turning to his sister diocese for help.

Lest anyone should get the idea that this is a one-sided

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... Bishop Off On 'Crossroads'

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will begin his "Crossroads to Life" journey today (Ash Wednesday) when he visits the Monroe County Jail in the afternoon and leads a special service this evening at Sacred Heart Cathedral, to which all diocesans are invited.

"Crossroads to Life" is a special program designed to enable the bishop and diocesans to note Lent in both prayerful and active ways.

The bishop's journey throughout the Lent-Easter-Pentecost season will take him to many centers of activity across the 12-county diocese. In addition to visiting penal institutions, he also will be stopping at hospitals, schools, colleges and rural ministry offices to emphasize the care

and concern the diocese has for those involved in such apostolates.

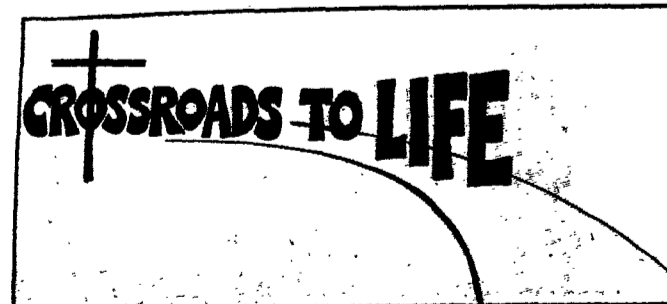
In addition, weekly evening prayer services have been scheduled at parishes across the diocese.

The bishop has invited the participation of all diocesans not only at evening prayers when he is present but also to emulate his own journey by sponsoring such ceremonies on their local scenes.

One of the features of the "Crossroads" journey will be the Chrism Mass at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, at the cathedral. All diocesans are invited.

Significantly, the bishop's Lenten journey will begin at this evening's cathedral prayer service and also will end at the see church with the traditional Holy Week events.

However, the Easter week activities will not conclude the program. The journey will continue to Pentecost with parishes encouraged to continue to build upon the spirit generated by the Crossroads activities.



Inside on Page 5

• Pope John Paul calls on Christians to open their hands in charity, particularly during Lent.

• Bishop Matthew H. Clark's Crossroads to Life schedule for next week appears.

• Father Thomas Mull, diocesan director of the Liturgy Office, comments on the Crossroads to Life program.

• The official Lenten disciplines are stated.