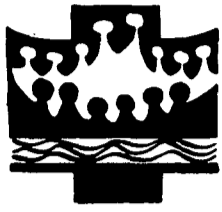


Insights
In Liturgy

By Father Thomas P. Mull



**Crossroads
In the
Church**

Lent 1983 is the time when our bishop has chosen to give an example of outreach and concern. In his role as pastor of our diocese, he has the responsibility for being pastorally with and concerned about his people. Practically, he shares this pastoral dimension with his pastors under whose leadership individual parishes have been entrusted. The pastors, in turn, need the collegial support of other priests, Sisters, and lay people in order to allow the Christian community to come alive in worship, service and love.

The people of the diocese need the witness of the whole of our diocesan Church intermingling and working together for the building up of the entire Body of Christ. Whatever the bishop does, wherever he gathers with his people — there the diocesan Church becomes present in its fullness and beauty. With this thought in mind, today (Ash Wednesday), as diocesan Church we begin our journey: Crossroads to Life.

It is no secret that every day of life finds people's paths crossing: the "kitchen table" conversations in comfortable, home environments that reflect life and life's activities; the daily contacts of business associates, neighborhood gatherings, car-pool mates, shopping excursions, as well as the basic family nucleus call us to share in the life of one another. The Crossroads program attempts to sanctify these daily activities. Its goal is to allow all people to see that "who they are" and "what they are about" in their daily lives is meant to give glory to God.

The bishop's purpose and the visits themselves will be simple. So often, a bishop's visit is synonymous with an annual happening (Confirmation, Ordination, Dedication, etc.), something

out of the ordinary, but Crossroads supports the specialness of the ordinary. The Christian community will be gently guided to a deeper understanding of its faith-life being well-integrated into daily life, and not something to be "put on" for extraordinary (special) occasions.

Bishop Clark will be crossing the roads of the diocese to meet people, pray with people, and to encourage and support those involved in ministry to the imprisoned, hospitalized, impoverished, etc. It is an opportunity for the bishop, personally, to meet people he might otherwise not be able to visit — because of their infirmity, lack of freedom, isolation.

But where does the rest of the Church of Rochester fit into this plan?

On two levels: 1. to prayerfully follow our bishop, realizing his presence to those many forgotten, ill, lonely, or isolated people is our presence to them as well; and 2. to follow his example and see how our daily lives do/should integrate our Baptismal commitment to the Lord... to renew this commitment (as is the purpose of Lent)... to use this Lenten season as an opportunity to begin again.

Many parishes have planned events and services in conjunction with the bishop's diocesan journey, and your prayerful support and physical presence allow these to become enriching experiences. The Courier-Journal will be publishing the weekly events of Crossroads; your prayer and pride can help to "spread the good news."

Finally, the presence of diocesans from each parish joining the bishop for the diocesan Chrism Mass on Tuesday, March 29 (7:30 p.m.), allows all roads of the diocese to lead to the Cathedral; there, to renew the promises of priestly service and to receive the holy oils which will be used to renew and heal the people of God in the coming year.

Lenten Regulations

Today, Ash Wednesday, is a day of fast and abstinence from meat. Good Friday is the only other day of both fast and abstinence.

Other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

The fast is defined as one full meal a day, with two lighter meals. It is required of those 21-59 years of age.

The prohibition against meat on Fridays applies to those 14 years of age and older.

A Catholic should not lightly excuse himself from these practices.

Open Wide Your Hands

Following is the text of the pope's 1983 Lenten Statement, provided by NC News Service

"And all who believed were together and had all things in common; and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need." (Acts 2/44-45)



These words of St. Luke echo vividly in my heart at this time when we are preparing to celebrate once more the liturgical season of Lent. These are precious weeks offered by the Church to all Christians in order to help them reflect upon their profound identity as children of the heavenly Father and as brothers and sisters of all human beings. It is also meant to help them find a renewed enthusiasm for sharing in a practical and generous way, for God himself has called us to base our lives upon charity.

Our relationships with our neighbor are therefore of prime importance. And when I use the word "neighbor" I obviously mean the people living side by side with us, in our families, where we live, in our village or town. But it is just as much a matter of the people whom we meet at work, and the people who are suffering or sick, or lonely or really poor. My neighbor also includes all those who are geographically very far away, or who are exiled from their own country, or who are without work, food and clothes and often without freedom. My neighbor includes all those people who have suffered and have been almost or completely ruined by unforeseeable and tragic catastrophes which have plunged them into physical and moral misery, and also in many cases, into the grief of losing those most dear to them.

Lent is really an earnest appeal from the Lord to undertake inner renewal, both personal and communal: renewal in prayer and a return to the sacraments, but equally through the manifestation of charity, by the personal and collective sacrificing of time, money and resources of all sorts, so as to meet the needs and the distress of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Sharing is a duty that cannot be shirked by any people of good will, least of all the disciples of Christ. There are many

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possible forms of sharing, ranging from voluntary work in which one offers one's services with a spontaneity worthy of the Gospel, from generous and even repeated offerings from our surplus and sometimes even from what we ourselves need, to offering work to the unemployed or to those who are giving up all hope.

Finally, this Lent of the year 1983 will be a special grace, for it will coincide with the opening of the Holy Year of the Redemption. This is an event that can deeply stimulate the lives of Christians so that they correspond still more closely to the divine calling which is theirs: to become children of God and true brothers and sisters of all, after the model of Christ.

On the day of the solemn inauguration of my pontificate I said: "Open wide all your doors to Christ!" And today I say to you: Open wide your hands in order really to give all you can to your needy brothers and sisters! Do not be afraid! Each and every one of you, be new and untiring dispensers of the charity of Christ.

The Journey

First Week of Lent

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| Monday, Feb. 20 | St. Mary's, Canandaigua | Family Life Conference |
| Tuesday, Wednesday, Feb. 20-21 | Notre Dame Retreat House | Clergy Conference |
| Wednesday, Feb. 23 | VA Hospital, Canandaigua | |
| Wednesday, Feb. 23 7:30 p.m. | St. Francis, Phelps | Evening Prayer* |
| Friday, Feb. 25 | St. Anne's, Rochester | Family Life Conference |

*Public is invited.

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:8-13; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13.

Reflection: "The word is near you, on your lips and in your hearts." St. Paul tells us. The time to speak is now. In prayer together we raise our voices in praise of God. By action, we give form to our words. This first week of Lent calls us to listen, then speak.

Suggested Action Response: There are those in our homes and neighborhoods who deserve more dignity and recognition. This week could be an ideal time to focus on the dignity of others and ways in which we can enhance this dignity.

Catholic Press Month

'Good News for the People of God'

Rockville Centre (NC) — Messages for Catholic Press Month from the president and honorary president of the Catholic Press Association stress the role of the religious press in transmitting the good news of Jesus Christ.

The theme for the month, February, is "Good News for the People of God."

"Modern day messengers, we in the Catholic press are called to present the good news clearly and correctly, even when — as sometimes happens — the news is bad."

said Redemptorist Father Norman J. Muckerman, CPA president and editor of Liguorian magazine.

In his message, the CPA honorary president, Bishop Norbert F. Gaughan of Greensburg, Pa., said the task of those in the Catholic press "is to report what happens because the good news came into the world through Christ, and what possession of it means in our day to Christians, to the local churches and to the Church of the world."

Touching on some

erroneous attitudes toward transmitting the good news, Bishop Gaughan said, "There are indeed some who want the Catholic press to automatically deny all wrongdoing, to conceal injustices even when it is claimed that they are done for the good of the Church, not well upon our projects which were misdirected, badly done, or which might bring some unfavorable publicity (as they might view it) upon the Church and its works."

"There are yet a few in the Catholic press who will only

report the happy news, or treat some irrelevant or minor Church doings as major, describe the comings and goings of the clergy as if these were signs of the parousia, the coming of the Lord.

He said the good news "is not just a celebration of the glories of man, but an understanding that in uniting our works with the passion and death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we can go about our tasks and duties in this world with the sure knowledge that He will transform pains and hurts."