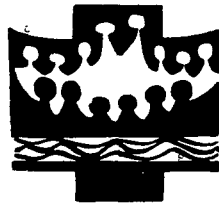


Insights
In Liturgy

By Pam Schaeffer



separate from either Lent or Pentecost. These mysteries are closely intertwined and each is a preparation for the next. The same is true as each season flows into the next or as each liturgical year flows into the one that follows.

**Crossroads
Of the
Season**

Each experience during a lifetime, every event which in our humanness we label either a success or a failure, is, in reality, a preparation for what lies ahead. How many times has each of us come to this realization in retrospect? Yet, so often during a time of crisis or triumph we have become so bogged down or so exhilarated that we have lost sight of this stabilizing viewpoint. But, no matter how frozen it seems we are in the overwhelming situations of the present, forward movement is taking place, we are growing, changing and progressing.

A good example of this irrevocable, yet intangible growth and change might be that of the experience of the student. Parents who send their youngster off to school at the tender age of five watch with awe the rapid growth and various methods of approach prach to problem solving that the child progresses through. But, to the student wholly immersed in the educational system, it may seem at times that he/she is getting nowhere very quickly. In fact, the student may be heard to cry out: "Not that again! We already did that last year!" They are so involved in the process that they are almost completely unaware of the changes taking place and the different ways they are using past information to build

upon. At the age of eighteen or twenty-two or so, diploma in hand, it starts to become clear that a time of preparation has been accomplished. Looking back the student sees that he/she is not the same person as the one who entered school at five; he/she has changed a great deal, grown both physically and intellectually.

The student also knows, or very soon realizes, that the time for learning, growing, preparing is not over. We do not finish one part of our lives and then go on to a completely new one. On life's highways (to use a phrase heard at commencement exercises) we carry with us all that we have collected (and found worthy) along the way; we build upon it, move forward with it and share who and what we are with those we encounter on the road. Life cannot be compartmentalized, it is constantly flowing, integrating and progressing in a motion of connected events.

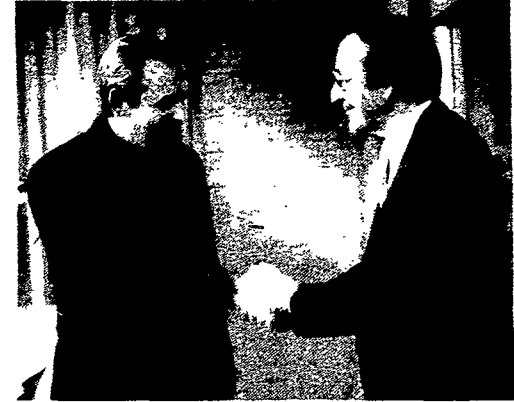
The same is true of the life of the Church. The Church uses the liturgical year as a measure of time for our human concept of time; we are given Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, Ordinary and Lent-Easter-Pentecost times. These are the seasons of the Church Year and they are seen as integral to the whole of the year, and therefore integral to each other. In other words, we cannot view the Lenten season (the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter) as something

So, each year as we approach the Lenten season we cannot say, "It is Lent again," or "Easter is coming again," or "Pentecost, again," for we have moved out of our last experience of these seasons. During the intervening time we have traveled various roads, our lives have crossed the paths of many others' lives, we have learned new things, been influenced by new ideas and acquaintances and approach Lent changed (perhaps unknowingly changed like our student) from the last time. We are not exactly the same person that we were last year (or the year before that!), our road is not approaching Lent from the same place; this is not Lent again, this is Lent now! We were renewed last Lent and our travels since have caused us to grow, we need this new Lent to renew us again, to encourage further growth, to prepare us for the new highways we will be traveling into Easter and Pentecost and into the future weeks and months to come.

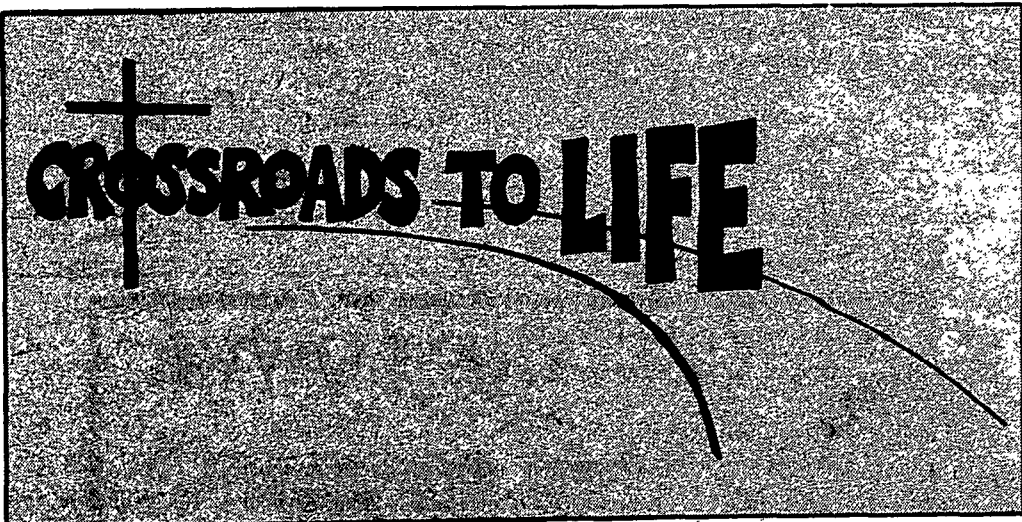
As Church, we celebrate our mutual journey and the many paths which cross. As Church we celebrate those sacred moments shared throughout the seasons. Life moves along, extra baggage bends us down from time-to-time, but through reconciliation we die to sin and rise again to new life, changed, renewed a little better, a little stronger and a little further along on our journey to bring about the living presence of the Lord.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark officiated at the Ash Wednesday service at the Cathedral, blessing the ashes, above, as Deacon Leo Kester, Father Thomas Mull, Father Robert Miller, partially hidden, and Father Louis Vasile look on. Below, some of the congregation receiving ashes. Right, Bishop Clark was greeted at the Monroe County Jail by Sheriff Andrew Meloni following the service in the jail chapel.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan



The Bishop's Journey

Second Week of Lent

Sunday, Feb. 27
Sacred Heart Cathedral
Monday, Feb. 28
Tuesday, March 1
Tuesday, March 1
Tuesday, March 1

St. Mary's, Elmira
Notre Dame H.S., Elmira
Elmira Correctional and Reception Center
Ss. Peter & Paul, Elmira

Rite of Election
Rite of Election
Family Life Conference

Readings: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28-36.

Reflection: "Take as your guide those who follow the example that we set," quotes St. Paul. We reflect this week on the transfigured Christ. It is no small challenge to work to transfigure ourselves into better images of Christ present in the world.

Suggested Action Response: This week people are called to pause and see what they witness for others. It could be a good time to call all parish groups together for prayer and discussion — are they truly witnessing the love of God by the activities of their groups?



Bishop Clark joined in the discussions at the first regional conference on family life last Sunday at St. Mary's, Canandaigua.

**YOW Region Hosts
Family Life Meeting**

Canandaigua — A series of regional meetings to discuss the Office of Family Life special task force report began Sunday at St. Mary's here.

Yates/Ontario/Wayne Region meeting.

Conducting the first of a series of five meetings to be held across the diocese were Frank and Sue Staropoli, directors of the family life office.

Parish and regional leaders, including staff, parish council members and parish committee members, were invited to the

They presented a brief background of the report and then the approximately

70 persons present split up for small-group discussion on "In what specific ways does our parish currently help our families live a rich home life?"

Bishop Matthew H. Clark attended the meeting, sat in on some of the group discussions and offered his own comments on the subject.