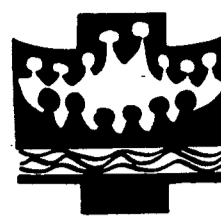


Among Bishop Clark's stops on his Crossroads Journey last week were the diocesan Clergy Conference, above, at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, and a visit to the Veteran's Administration Hospital in that city last Wednesday afternoon. Left, the bishop greets Robert Wegerski, a patient at the hospital. Below, some of the more than 200 diocesan priests who attended the two-day clergy gathering.



Insights In Liturgy

By John M. Kubiniec



Crossroads And Evening Prayer

"In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no North or South."

So go the words of an early American hymn, and such was the case last Wednesday evening as people converged at a crossroad in the diocese, namely St. Francis Parish in Phelps. People, young and old, from a number of parishes in the region, came to join with Bishop Matthew H. Clark in a celebration of Evening Prayer. They came, bringing their joys, their problems, their concerns and raised them in prayer to God. They left that evening to return home, probably not having any of their concerns or problems being solved, but left having been strengthened by the experience of prayer and the pledge of continued prayer by those present. They left knowing there were others who had similar struggles and problems as their own.

Lent is a time traditionally characterized by prayer, fasting and almsgiving. While at first glance these may seem to be separate facets, in reality they are very much intertwined. Fasting opens up our hearts and minds to a deeper experience of prayer. Almsgiving, usually associated with monetary contributions, also encompasses giving from our heart as we dig into our pockets in a spirit of love for those around us who are in need. And this reaching out needs to be rooted in prayer if it is to be fruitful.

If we stop and reflect on our life's faith journey we soon realize that we were not able to get where we are on our own. In the past we were dependent on other people and upon God. As we move forward the same holds true. We need the mutual support given by others through words of encouragement and by the support felt as we join in prayer for and with each other.

The Christian life needs to be rooted in prayer, both personal and communal. Each of us needs to have a

personal relationship with God in which we can present ourselves before him and in silence listen for his response. The hectic pace our lives tend to follow makes this relationship all the more necessary. Our prayer should not end here, but should also include prayer with others. Prayer with those whom we live within parish organizations, with our larger parish family and with our diocesan family.

The Lenten season presents a number of these experiences which we can take part in. In our parishes we may have the opportunity to join together in the celebration of Evening Prayer. We may also join in prayer with our larger diocesan family as we travel the roads and join in prayer with the Bishop — for Evening Prayer, the Rite of Election, and the Chrism Mass.

While the season of Lent presents these opportunities for communal prayer, we should not limit such prayer solely to this season. Our journey of faith extends beyond the Lenten season, it extends throughout our lives. Beyond Lent we should seek out opportunities to join in prayer with others in our parishes and in the diocese. In doing so we come to realize: "In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no North or South. But one great kinship of love, throughout the worldwide earth." (John Oxenham, 1908)

Parishes Develop Crossroads Idea

Across the diocese parishes are taking the official Crossroads to Life program and are developing unique adjuncts to it, Pam Schaeffer of the Liturgy Office said recently.

Those parish responses to Crossroads to Life cover a wide range, from developing homilies based on the Crossroads themes, through convening prayer services, to the design of a complete parish program of renewal.

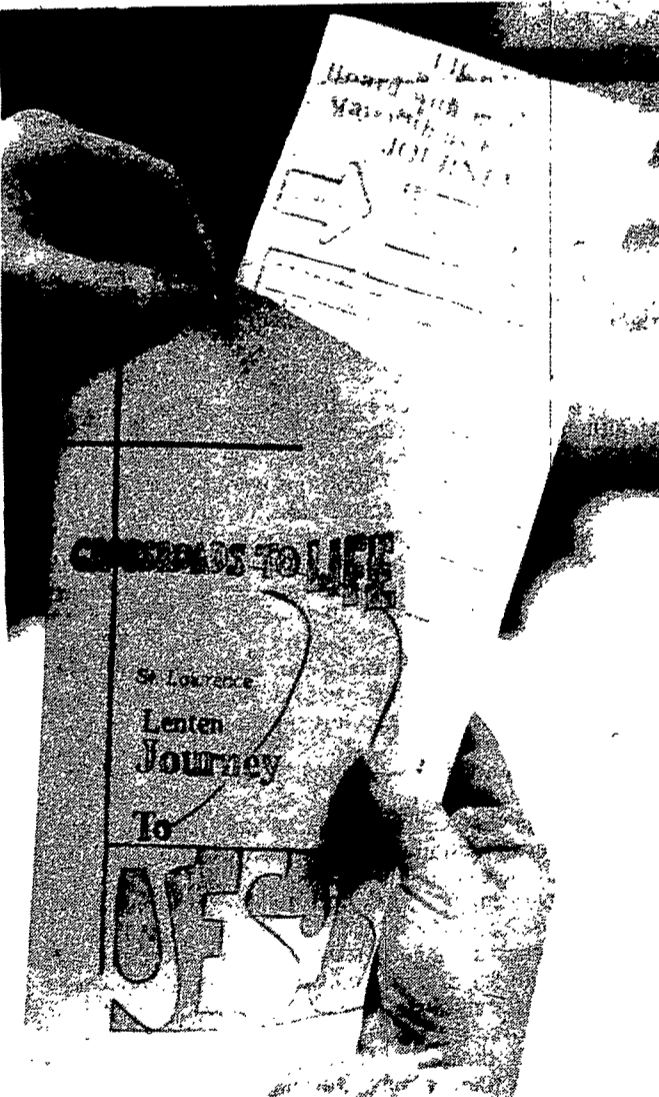
St. Lawrence parishioners, for example, were given a cleverly designed bulletin, laid out and packaged to resemble an airline ticket.

The bulletin lists the weekly Crossroads themes, offers suggestions for action, and gives the entire paschedule for Holy Week. In addition, the bulletin advertises a parish renewal for the fifth week of the season.

According to Helen Halligan, music director at St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Churchville, the parish choir and the parish bell choir are preparing to participate in the Chrism Mass and the Crossroads themes are tied into the weekend liturgies.

Father Raymond Booth, pastor of St. Christopher's Church in North Chili, said that specially scheduled evenings of prayer are tied into the parish observance of Crossroads to Life, as is the parish adult catechumenate program.

St. Boniface Church is using the Crossroads program in a number of ways, Father Winfried Kellner, pastor, said last week. In addition to organizing car pools and other transportation so that parishioners may attend the specially scheduled events, homilies are being tailored to the Crossroads themes and



sacramental events, principally penance services, are being developed with an eye to Crossroads to Life.

Parish church life is not the only arena for carrying out the Crossroads to Life idea. Holy Cross School, under the direction of Sister Carolyn Knipper, RSM, principal, has devised a Crossroads to Life program. She said last week that she, Kathleen Curtis and Donna Magliocca developed a program more particularly geared to school children.

That program, she said, also relies heavily on the creativity

of each teacher to generate activities appropriate to each grade level. Each week the children are guided through readings and reflection to special action.

She noted that in addition, a Franciscan Communications booklet, Family Services for Lent, has proved valuable to the program. She further said that the Holy Cross Crossroads to Life attempts to instill the awareness in the children that they are a part of a larger church, and that the season of Lent is also but a part of a larger scheme.

The Bishop's Journey

Third Week of Lent

March 6, 2 p.m.	St. Stanislaus, Rochester	Family Life Conference
March 8 4:30 p.m.	Monroe Community College Newman Community	
7:30 p.m.	St. Agnes, Avon	Evening Prayer
9 1 p.m.	Livingston County Infirmary	
7 p.m.	St. Mary's, Dansville	Family Life Conference

"The Need for Nourishment"

Readings: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9.

Reflection: The parable of Sunday's Gospel reminds us of our need for nourishment. The fig tree needed special nourishment; we, too, need special nourishment during the various stages of our lives. The love of family, loyalty of friends, guidance of teachers, a sense of belonging, of community, are places we look to in our moments of need.

Suggested Action Response: This might well be the week to look to our families . . . to those in school, in college . . . to those who are elderly, alone . . . what nourishment can we give to them and what have we received? Both spiritual and physical nourishment are needed in today's world. To broaden the perspective, there are those in our communities who are starving, there are many alienated and frustrated people who need spiritual nourishment. Evangelization, reaching out, is a very necessary part of every Christian's life.