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Bishop Reveals Plan for New Parish

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has designated a new parish to be established in Southern Monroe County in portions of the towns of Pittsford, Mendon, Rush, Henrietta and Perinton.

The founding pastor of the new parish, to be called The Church of the Transfiguration, will be Father Gerald J. Appelby, currently diocesan director of the Division of Special Ministries.

Bishop Clark said today that the need for the new parish is based on the size of existing parishes and projected population growth in the area. Bishop Clark informed the pastors of the

parishes affected by the establishment of the new parish by letter.

The parish most affected is St. Louis in Pittsford. Other parishes affected are St. Catherine in Mendon, Good Shepherd and Guardian Angel in Henrietta, and St. John of Rochester in Perinton.

"Now is the most opportune time to institute the parish," the bishop explained, "because St. Louis is entering a state of transition with the introduction of its first new pastor in 30 years, and because of the availability of a very able priest, Father Appelby, to

serve as the founding pastor."

Father John A. Reddington is retiring as the pastor of St. Louis Church. Bishop Clark announced two weeks ago that Father Reddington's successor is Father Louis J. Hohman, who has been the pastor of St. Vincent's in Churchville for the past eight years.

Father Appelby is a Rochester area native who was ordained at Saint Bernard's Seminary in 1959. He was an assistant at Sacred Heart Cathedral until 1966, when he was appointed chaplain at Rochester Institute of Technology, a post he has

held until the present time. In addition, Father Appelby was director of the Department of Campus Ministry for the diocese from 1968 to 1977, and he has been the director of the Division of Special Ministries for the past six years.

From 1970 until the present time, Father Appelby has been director of the Department of Campus Ministries at RIT, and from 1970 to 1982, he was chairman of the board of Diocesan Directors State Campus Ministry.

"I recognize that this decision will meet with some dismay in some circles in the

affected parishes," Bishop Clark said. He was in Mendon Sunday afternoon to preside at Confirmation ceremonies at St. Catherine's. "In our very mobile society," he said, "a parish is no longer defined solely by geographical boundaries, but rather by the sense of community that the parish engenders. We recognize that the residents of this new parish may have strong traditional and spiritual ties to the church they now attend and may choose to continue their attendance there after the new parish is sated. This, of course, increases the



FATHER APPELBY

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Role of Women in the Church To be Discussed, Bishop Says

By Terrance J. Brennan

More than 500 diocesans attended a liturgy commemorating the first anniversary of Bishop Matthew H. Clark's pastoral letter on women in the Church, "The Fire in the Thornbush," last Friday night at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The special liturgy featured women participating widely — giving the readings, acting as Eucharistic ministers, and Margot Van Etten of St. Mary's Parish for the Deaf joining with the bishop in delivering the homily.

The only restrictions on their participation were in acting in the ordained capacities of priest and deacon.

During his part of the homily, Bishop Clark praised those who had responded to his pastoral and joined in discussing it among parishes.

"The more you engage in this beautiful work, the more the language begins to sound like the Word of God," the bishop said.

The bishop also said he felt that the issue of expanding the role of women in the Church will be on the agenda at the Fall meeting of American bishops in Washington.

Mrs. Van Etten is the wife of Deacon Laurence Van Etten who also participated in the liturgy. Bishop Clark opened the homily, then remained standing as Mrs. Van Etten continued the

sermon from another lectern. "I, too, feel drawn to the diaconate of the Church," she said, expressing her pain in not being able to live out her own calling because she could not be ordained.

"I believe this has made me more sensitive to the pains of others," she continued. "We're called at this time to see what it means to be principals of peace with the Prince of Peace when confronted with the sufferings of the world... even though we have a different idea of what we want our ministry to be."

According to Church law, only those ordained may preach the homily at Mass. But because the celebration

carried a special theme, that restriction was waived.

The pastoral, published on April 29 last year, did not call for the ordination of women to the priesthood. It did outline both sides of the argument for ordination. When the letter was published, Bishop Clark asked for diocese-wide response from as many groups as possible.

At the time it was released, only seven other bishops across the country (out of more than 200) had issued pastorals on the subject. Bishop Clark said that in the last year bishops in Milwaukee and Boise, Idaho have also published similar letters.



Sister Elizabeth Ann LeValley, superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph, as eucharistic minister during communion.



Bishop Clark, left, and Margot Van Etten joined in delivering the homily.

All Catholics Seen Challenged by Letter

Washington (NC) — All American Catholics will be challenged by the U.S. bishops' war and peace pastoral, and many could be led by it to try changing U.S. defense policies or even to civil resistance, said Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit just before the meeting of the U.S. bishops in Chicago at Courier-Journal presstime Monday.

In Washington for a final meeting of the pastoral's drafting committee before the meeting of the U.S. bishops to debate and vote on the document, Bishop Gumbleton told an audience of about 100 in downtown Washington that the draft which the bishops would be discussing "is a very strong, clear exposition of church teaching" which "calls for a change" in U.S. defense policies.

He said the document is primarily "educational" in thrust and is meant to lead American Catholics to analyze the moral issues involved in U.S. military policies and to make their own decisions in conscience about existing policy.

He predicted that as Catholics begin to form their consciences in light of the conclusions of the pastoral letter, many would begin to become actively engaged in seeking changes in areas of U.S. deterrence policy that fail to measure up to the moral judgments made by the document.

In response to a question about the implications of the proposed pastoral for Catholics in public office or in military service, Bishop Gumbleton said, "This is going to cause many, many difficulties, conscience problems, for those in the military."

He noted that the draft document reiterates the position enunciated by the U.S. bishops in 1976 in another pastoral letter, which he summarized as saying, "No Catholic in military service may give blind obedience."

"We hope that as military personnel ask these questions, they will receive guidance from military chaplains, from pastors...but we insist that they must make conscience decisions," he said.