

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Following are some notes I made prior to departing on Sunday for the meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. You will read this when the meeting is over but I hope it will be of some help in our ongoing challenge to work for peace.

● Never before going to one of our national meetings have I realized so consciously and explicitly the faith and strength of our diocesan Church.

In the long months which have led to these days in Chicago I have appreciated as never before the depth of commitment which so many of you bring to this question.

Our task force of the International Justice and Peace Commission has done a superb job of helping us to understand the issue.

This newspaper has done as good a job as I have seen in keeping us updated on drafts two and three and on the discussion they have engendered.

Most of all you have contributed to this work by your letters, your testimony at our public hearing and by the comments you have made to me as we have met along the way.

All of these efforts have given me your strength and I am grateful for it.

Most of all I thank you for the power of your prayers. This has come from Corning and Geneva, from Dansville and Clyde — literally from every section of our twelve counties.

And it has come from a remarkable cross section of our people — tiny school children and terminally ill patients, religious women and police officers, from community activists and people who live quiet and unseen lives.

Your response has convinced me, if I ever needed the convincing, that we have not erred in naming this a critically important moral issue.

● Three elements keeping circling in my spirit as I try to think and pray about what peacemaking calls us to.

They emerge in part from what I judge to be the call of the pastoral letter but they also seem important to me in terms of our daily living.

The three are:

1. Prayer: If peace is God's gift to us, then we must be available to the Giver if we are truly to receive and cherish the gift. The gift is not a mechanical exchange as one made from robot to robot. It is a spiritual exchange as one made between lovers.

Prayer — availability to God — is that privileged moment wherein we know and love the Giver and in that experience come to reverence more deeply His precious gift.

2. Simplicity: This flows from prayer which makes us more like Christ whose sole purpose was to do the will of His Father. In Christ, that is our purpose as well.

Prayer simplifies us because in it the Spirit of God teaches

the difference between strong convictions and rigidity, between flexibility and uncommitted existence, between standing for one's rights and building barriers to the reconciliation we all need.

Ego trips don't disappear but they grow shorter and shorter in those who pray. That puts us on the edge of simplicity.

3. Perseverance: There's no easy way to peace, nor is peace in this life ever achieved once and for all.

Peacemakers and reconcilers need steel in their spines because they walk under the weight of their own sin and that of sinful social structures which burden all of us.

But the steel can not be foundary forged. It must be the steel of God's own strengthening Spirit.

● In a week filled with blessings of all kinds I think of one particular moment now. After a parish celebration a young mother told me that she and her family had talked about my request to think about fast and abstinence for peace.

They had prayed about it and discussed it at the family table. Now all had decided to make that sacrifice for the cause of peace — even the little ones who were going to pass up some special treats so dear to them.

I think of that family in particular now not only for the encouragement they are to me but because they represent a great number of persons who are making unseen sacrifices and prayers for the sake of peace.

We owe them a lot.

Bishop to Ordain George R. Norton

Rev. Mr. George R. Norton will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Rochester by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 13 at Our Mother of Sorrows Church.

The 46-year-old ordinand is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster who presently anchors the diocese-produced "Listen and Proclaim" radio program, 9 a.m., Sundays over WPXN.

The theme of the ordination is "The journey is essential to the dream," a phrase from the book by Murray Bodo, OFM, "Francis: the Journey and the Dream."

The native of Lee, Mass., was educated at St. Mary's School, Lee; Cranwell Preparatory School, a Jesuit institution in Lenox, Mass.; and Providence College in Providence, R.I., before he entered St. Bernard's Seminary in 1976.

He earned a Master of

Divinity degree from St. Bernard's.

During his time in this diocese, Rev. Mr. Norton worked at St. John the Evangelist in Greece, St. Ambrose, St. Christopher in Chili, the Monroe Developmental Center, Rochester General Hospital. In addition, he was assigned for one summer to St. Agatha's Church in Woonsocket, R.I.

He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence.

He has worked at Mother of Sorrows since August 1981.

Father Norton will celebrate Masses of Thanksgiving 5 p.m., May 14, at Mother of Sorrows; 5 p.m., June 4, St. Agatha's; and 11 a.m., June 19, St. Mary's in Lee.

The ordinand lists among his other activities membership in the Lay Fran-



REV. MR. NORTON

ciscans, charter membership in the State of Rhode Island Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, honorary membership in the International Association of Firefighters and lifetime membership in Our Lady of the Cenacle Council, 3892, Knights of Columbus in Greece.

Parish to Fete Pastor

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will celebrate Msgr. Leslie Whalen's 25th anniversary at the parish with a dinner, Wednesday, May 18 at the University Club of Rochester.

Invitations have been sent to all parishioners by the pastor, Father John L. O'Connor. The parish life committee, headed by Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Braunsdorf, has named Mr.


and Mrs. Benedict J. Messner as chairmen. They are assisted by Mr. and Mrs. William Bergin, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Camardo, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crough, Mr. and Mrs. Welling G. Lifka, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Parinello and Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Rick.

Msgr. Whalen was appointed pastor by Bishop James E. Kearney in March 1958. As pastor, Msgr. Whalen saw completion of the present church on Rhinecliff Drive in Brighton. During his pastorate, Our Lady of Lourdes School was consolidated with Our Lady Queen of Peace School.

Msgr. Whalen retired the administration of the parish in 1980, but he resides at the parish rectory and remains a vital factor in all parish activities.

Past parishioners and friends who wish to attend the dinner are asked to call Mrs. Bergin, (716) 271-3803.

Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:

- Father Gerald Appelby, to pastor of new Church of the Transfiguration parish.
- Father Joseph P. Brennan, to pastor at St. Mary of the Assumption, Scottsville.
- Father Robert Donovan, to chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, from pastor at St. Dominic's Church, Shortsville.
- Father James Sauers, to chaplain at Rochester Institute of Technology, from associate pastor at St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua.

Cambodian Holocaust Communist Regime Reportedly Murdered Hundreds of Thousands

Washington (NC) —The Communist regime which ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 killed hundreds of thousands of people and systematically destroyed religious groups, according to Amnesty International.

"What happened in Cambodia was governmental murder of monstrous proportions," said background information provided by Amnesty International to accompany a photo exhibit of the period.

The exhibit opened in Washington April 25 and is scheduled to end May 13. Amnesty International is a private organization monitoring human rights violations.

From 1975 to 1979 Cambodia was ruled by the Khmer Rouge, a pro-Chinese Marxist guerrilla movement which defeated the pro-United States Lon Nol government in a civil war. The Khmer Rouge were overthrown in 1979 by neighboring Vietnam, supported by the Soviet Union, and a pro-Vietnamese government was established.

Religion was brutally suppressed by the Khmer Rouge, said Amnesty.

"The Cham, an Islamic minority, were singled out for especially harsh treatment," it said.

"It is now conservatively estimated that more than half of the total 1975 Cham population of 400,000 was killed between 1975 and 1978," it added.

Buddhism, the major religion, was also roughly treated, Amnesty said. There were between 40,000 and 60,000 Buddhist monks in 1975, but "by late 1979, eight months after the ouster of the Khmer Rouge, fewer than 1,000 monks had returned to their former monasteries," Amnesty said.

"The Catholic cathedral in Phnom Penh was removed stone by stone from its site on Monivong Avenue. Buddhist temples, Moslem mosques and Protestant churches were demolished or converted to warehouses," Amnesty International said.

Also killed in large numbers were minority groups including Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotians and Thais, it added.

One tactic was to put prisoners in concentration camps, said Amnesty. The records at one concentration camp, Tuol Sleng, showed that at least 15,000 people were killed there, added Amnesty.

"Many people were randomly executed and minor infringements of work discipline or criticizing official instructions could result in death," Amnesty said.

"The mass graves found throughout Cambodia with their hundreds or thousands of skulls, are mute witnesses to events," it added.

Nestle Says Some Complaints Valid but Progress Made

By Liz Schevtchuk Washington (NC) — Nestle S.A. may have violated World Health Organization guidelines and its own corporate policies in marketing infant formula overseas but the international corporation is taking steps to correct the problems, said the chairman of the company-initiated Nestle Infant Formula Audit Commission April 21.

Edmund S. Muskie, a former secretary of state and Democratic senator from Maine, said at the press conference in Washington that the nine-member commission, most of whose members serve without pay, had received 78 complaints about Nestle marketing

practices in the Third World between February and October 1982.

Nestle founded the commission to review its performance regarding infant formula.

"The complaints have indicated violations of the (Nestle corporate formula marketing) instructions and of the (WHO) code, but the responses have indicated a sincere attempt to correct the deficiencies and to resolve the tough implementation problems," Muskie stated in his report. "Nestle's record is not perfect, but it is honoring its publicly stated commitments."

Nestle developed its own guidelines on corporate com-

pliance with the World Health Organization's code on marketing infant formula in the Third World. Infant formula has been blamed for severe infant health problems in the Third World, where mothers can unwittingly mix it with dirty water, dilute it too much or otherwise misuse it while thinking it is better for their children than breast milk.

Because work on the complaints received by the commission is still proceeding, the details of the allegations against Nestle cannot yet be revealed, Muskie said. However, he promised, when the investigations are finished, a "complete report" will be made public.