

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



When I think about celibate chastity now -- what it means to me, what it demands, the grace that it is -- I am beginning to think as a grandfather.

True enough. An ever-growing number of my contemporaries are or soon will be grandparents. My appreciation of celibate chastity today is different from what it was when I was 19.

Then a great deal of the challenge and pain had to do with reconciling a renunciation of married love with all of the human sexual urgings and desires which do not cease with a choice for celibacy.

These desires continue as the years pass, more strongly present at one time than at another. Friends tell me they don't stop until we're three days dead! But they gradually take second place to a longing for children and for that kind of day-in, day-out spiritual union and friendship which one can hope to enjoy with a spouse.

Now in this grandfatherly time I am more aware that I shall leave no one behind, that there is no one of my blood and name behind me to whom I can pass on the things which I cherish.

These note say something about the difficult past. Celibate chastity always has and, I suppose, always will present its challenge. But it has also been a great source of maturity and a school of love over the years. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

I am able to say that because we have a compassionate infinitely patient God who loves us so deeply in Christ and because I have the support, encouragement and witness of so many like you.

For example, I think of the married couples I have known who by being kind enough to share their struggles with me have saved me from the illusion that marriage is carefree and always romantic. Special thanks to the woman, the beloved of her husband and family, who told me this week, "Even in the best of times, marriage is very hard work."

My gratitude also goes to a young woman who wrote, "As an unmarried adult who prays and waits for marriage and family in the Lord's time, I feel I need encouragement and support. Young singles in their twenties and thirties

face a daily barrage of free sex, worldliness and materialism in a society that supports self-centeredness. The essential philosophy is: If it feels good, do it."

I remember as well a priest friend who is an author. He wrote recently, "I do think that the discussion of clerical celibacy has to be moved into the broader area of celibacy for the singles. Many of the things that bother single people who are trying to lead a chaste life are the same things that bother priests. Perhaps we should look at the problem in a wider perspective."

We have much to learn from one another -- about loneliness and appropriate expressions of affection, about discipline and giving from the heart, about love that is selfless and therefore truly in the interest of the other.

I thank all of you -- with special gratitude to the three mentioned here -- for the ways in which you have continued to teach me what love is.

It's a comfort to know that horizons can expand and that we have the possibility of growing in freedom and love even as grandparents!



Balloons Open Lilac Festival

More than 200 lilac colored balloons rose from the grounds of St. Boniface School last Friday, May 13, opening the annual Lilac Festival in the city. Each student released a balloon at noon through a prearranged signal from a local radio station. Various other schools in the Rochester area also participated. Following the balloon launch, the St. Boniface students feted the day with a picnic lunch on school grounds.

Two SSJs Slate Final Vows

Sister Nancy DeRycke

Sister Nancy DeRycke will make her profession of final vows as a Sister of St. Joseph during a celebration of the Eucharist, 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 20 at the Church of the Resurrection in Fairport.

She has chosen as the theme, "The abundance of life that God has promised to

all people." Sister Nancy considers it, "a real privilege and joy to be involved in the ministry and life of the Church as a Sister of St. Joseph." She said she hopes the gathering "will be a true celebration of the struggles and joys of each person, as we work toward justice and

peace, discovering life with God and each other."

Fathers James Lawlor and Robert Kreckel, pastor, will be the concelebrants for the occasion.

Sister Nancy is director of religious education at the parish, and will shortly become its pastoral assistant.

The daughter of Raymond and Lois DeRycke of St. Pius

Tenth Parish is a 1970 graduate of St. Agnes High School. She holds a BA in religious studies from Nazareth College and an MA in pastoral ministry and religious education from Seattle University.

She has previously worked in religious education at St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street and at Holy Spirit in Penfield.

Sister Donna Marie Cucci

Sister Donna Marie Cucci will make her profession of final vows as a Sister of St. Joseph during the celebration of the Eucharist, 2 p.m., Sunday, May 22 in the chapel of her congregation's motherhouse.

Father Brian Murphy will be the celebrant and the Perosian Choir from Nazareth Academy, taught by Sister Donna Marie, will sing at the Mass.

She has chosen as the theme of the rites, "The fidelity of the Lord endures forever." She will receive a ring from the congregation as a symbol of her commitment.

Sister Donna Marie is the daughter of William and Seraphine Cucci of Our Lady of Lourdes.

A 1969 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School, she holds a bachelor's degree in music from Nazareth Col-

Bishop to Ordain James E. Willsey

The Rev. Mr. James E. Willsey will be ordained a priest by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, 11 a.m., Saturday, May 21 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Rochester.

The theme of the ordination is from Psalm 150, "Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord."

The following Sunday, May 22, Father Willsey will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving, 12:30 p.m., at St. Charles where he has completed a year of internship as a deacon, in preparation for his priestly ministry.

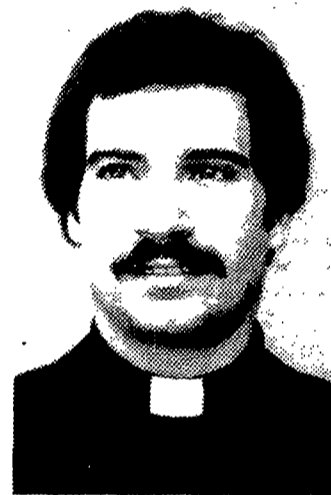
On Sunday, May 29, he will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish, St. Ann, Hornell, at noon.

The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Willsey of Hornell, Rev. Mr. Willsey was graduated from Hornell Senior High School in 1973.

He received a BA degree in biology from St. John Fisher College in 1977, at the conclusion of four years of training at Becket Hall.

His preparation for the priesthood included Clinical Pastoral Education at Williamsport Hospital, Williamsport, Pa.; assistant chaplaincy at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, and pastoral work at the Church of the Assumption.

In the Summer of 1980, he went to Santiago, Dominican Republic, where he studied



REV. MR. WILLSEY

Spanish at the Center for Pastoral Awareness.

His other experiences include coaching football for both St. John Fisher College and Hornell High School. He worked for several summers as counselor at the diocesan Camp Stella Maris, and in 1978, he was appointed co-director there.

The ordinand did graduate studies at St. Bernard's Seminary and at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J. and received a Master of Divinity degree from St. Bernard's Institute in 1982.

In February that year he was assigned to St. Charles Borromeo where he is completing his internship.



SISTER NANCY



SISTER DONNA MARIE

lege and a master's in music education from the Eastman School of Music.

She teaches vocal music at Nazareth Academy.

Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:

Father William Laird to study Canon Law for service in the diocesan Tribunal, from associate pastor of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads.

Father William Darling to chaplain at SUNY Geneseo, from associate pastor of St. Helen in Rochester.