

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



I am very conscious of the Church tonight. That may be because today is the Feast of Pentecost on which we are called to contemplate the mystery of our common life in the Holy Spirit and our common mission to proclaim the Good News to all.

It may also be because of the inspiring and generous service I have experienced as I have moved among you during this week.

Some of the service has been offered publicly and some in very hidden ways. Your gifts have been offered in teaching, hospitality, silence, suffering, prayer and companionship.

At times it has been offered by the very young; on other occasions it has been the living legacy of golden jubilarians and beyond.

So many have served and given. Their particular gifts were directed in some cases to specific persons or groups. In others, they were not.

But because they were given with the affection and care of Christ Himself we are all built up by them.

Let me offer a few concrete examples I remember tonight:

- the people of St. Ann's, Hornell and St. Charles

Borromeo, Greece who gathered at St. Charles yesterday for the ordination of Father Jim Willsey.

In God's providence they loved Jim into his priestly vocation and will sustain him in it. In his priestly ministry our new servant will return the gift by extending it to persons he has not even met as yet.

- Our priests who celebrated golden and silver jubilees this week. Their years of service total 500. We'll all be with the Lord before we know fully the stories of their priestly lives. Until then we rejoice in and give thanks for the parts of these stories we do know.

- the men and women who assisted those confirmed this week in their preparation for that sacrament of initiation. It's a marvelous work, if not always an easy one. But it's a great personal gift to our young people who need your witness and who, by the way, can often be more lonesome than we realize.

- Monsignor Leo Schwab who lives at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira and who recently celebrated the 65th anniversary of his ordination. I stopped to visit monsignor on Tuesday but he was out to a funeral. The serving goes on! If you want to get on monsignor's calendar you have to sign up early.

- Linda Park who lives in Canandaigua. I was running in that city on Wednesday before Confirmation. As I was finishing I heard light footsteps behind me. I turned to find Linda rapidly catching up to me. I am glad she did because we circled the block together and we got to be pretty good friends. We should all have some friends who are 10 years old. They can be like Linda, great teachers of kindness.

These are just a few of the memories of the week which come back to me on this great feast.

Since they touch in and out on a theme of vocation and of belonging to one another, please let me conclude by offering these questions for your consideration:

- Do you experience your vocation as a source of your holiness and as a gift to all of us?

- Do you love your vocation enough to encourage our young people to consider serving God and His people in the same way?

- Have you thought about/discussed with your family and friends the complementary nature of vocations to marriage, the single life, religious life and priesthood?

Thanks for hearing the questions. They're all meant to suggest that we belong to one another in very deep ways - and that we must support one another in our common mission to proclaim the Good News to all.

Itinerary Released For Poland Visit

VATICAN CITY (NC) -- The Vatican on May 17 released the program for Pope John Paul II's June 16-23 trip to his native Poland, a program which has a strong spiritual tone emphasizing Marian devotions.

The visit, the pope's second to Poland during his pontificate, will take the pope to several of Poland's major cities, including Warsaw, Cracow, Wroclaw and Poznan, and includes nine public Masses, stops at several shrines and the crowning by the pope of six Marian statues honored by Poles because of miracles attributed to Mary's intercession.

The schedule does not specify whether the pope will deliver a speech at all the public ceremonies. If the pope delivers speeches according to the pattern of previous trips, he would give 15 to 20 public addresses during the eight-day program, notably fewer than during his 1979 visit. In 1979, during quieter and less tense days in his homeland, the pope gave more than 40 formal addresses.

The pope's 1979 visit, during which he strongly supported labor organizations independent of the government, is generally credited as a major factor in generating the pride and initiative which led a year later to the formation of the independent labor union Solidarity.

The advent of martial law in Poland in December 1981 and the outlawing of Solidarity in November 1982 have provoked regular and sometimes violent confrontations between Polish citizens and their government. Vatican sources speculated that the number of the pope's public appearances in his homeland in June had to be limited at the demand of the Poland's government.

The schedule provides for the pope's final day to be free of formal commitments. Vatican sources said that this day would him provide the opportunity to meet individuals and groups of his choosing.

A visit with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa is not specified in the program, but it could quite likely come during that final day, and government leaders have told the press that they would be incapable of preventing such a meeting.

Poland's President Henryk Jablonski is scheduled to welcome the pontiff upon his arrival in Warsaw from Rome June 16. Other government leaders are scheduled to meet the pope June 17 in Warsaw's Belvedere Palace. The schedule does not say whether Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Polish prime minister and head of the Communist Party, will attend.

On June 22 in Cracow, the pope is scheduled to beatify Father Raphael Kalinowski, a 19th-century priest known for his skill and kindness as a confessor. Father Kalinowski gained his reputation as a confessor in Wadowice, the small town near Cracow, where the pope was born.

Gdansk, the Baltic seaport which gave birth to the Solidarity movement, is not among the papal stops, but the schedule calls for the pope to dedicate a new church in Nowa Huta, an industrial center near Cracow which is a Solidarity stronghold.

The itinerary released by the Vatican with the local time in Poland and English Daylight Time in parenthesis:

Thursday, June 16

● 5 p.m. (11 a.m.), arrival in Warsaw on Alitalia airplane. At the Okęcie Airport the pope will be greeted by dignitaries, including Henryk Jablonski, president of the Council of State, and Cardinal Jozef Glemp, primate of Poland.

The pope will then go to the St. John the Baptist Cathedral, where he will celebrate Mass in memory of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński of Warsaw.

Visit to the sanctuary of the patroness of the capital, Our Lady of Grace.

Friday, June 17

● 10 a.m. (4 a.m.), meeting at the Belvedere Palace with state officials.

● 12:15 p.m. (6:15 a.m.), visit to the church of the Capuchin Fathers, where the urn containing the heart of King John III Sobieski is kept.

● 1 p.m. (7 a.m.), ecumenical meeting in the residence of Cardinal Glemp.

● 4 p.m. (10 a.m.), meeting with the senate and the professors of the Catholic University of Lublin.

● 5:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m.), near the sports stadium, the pope will celebrate a Mass and deliver a homily for the Catholics of Warsaw and the dioceses of Lonna.

Saturday, June 18

● 9:30 a.m. (3:30 a.m.), visit to Niepokalanow in honor of the founder of the City of the Immaculata, St. Maximilian Kolbe.

● 10:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m.), Mass in honor of the saint.

● 5 p.m. (11 a.m.), arrival in Czestochowa and visit to the cathedral.

● At the sanctuary of Jasna Gora, concelebrated Mass at which Cardinal Glemp will preside.

● 8 p.m. (2 p.m.), meeting with youths and talk.

● At the hour of vesper prayers, the pope will impart the apostolic blessing.

Sunday, June 19

● 10 a.m. (4 a.m.), Pope John Paul II will concelebrate Mass with the delegates of foreign episcopates and deliver a homily.

● 4 p.m. (10 a.m.), after a concelebrated Mass, at which Cardinal Franciszek Macharski of Cracow will preside, the pope will crown the miraculous images of Our Lady of Zieloniec of the Diocese of Kielce; Our Lady of Brdow of the Diocese of Wroclaw; Our Lady of Lubaczow of the Archdiocese of Lubaczow; and Our Lady of Peace of Stoczek of the Diocese of Warmia.

● 9 p.m. (3 p.m.), after vespers, the pope will impart the apostolic blessing to the inhabitants of Czestochowa.

(Note: at Czestochowa, Pope John Paul will reside in the monastery of Jasna Gora, from which, on Monday, June 20, and Tuesday, June 21, he will go to the celebrations in Poznan, Katowice, Wroclaw and Mt. St. Anne.)

Monday, June 20

● 9:30 a.m. (3:30 a.m.), arrival in Poznan.

● 10 a.m. (4 a.m.), in the Kultury-Legi Debinskie Park, Mass and homily for the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Poznan and nearby dioceses.

● Visit to the cathedral of Poznan.

● 4 p.m. (10 a.m.), departure for Katowice.

● 5:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m.), Marian celebration before the miraculous image of the Madonna of Piekary.

● Visit to the cathedral of Katowice.

● 8:30 p.m. (2:30 p.m.), return to Czestochowa.

Tuesday, June 21

● 9:30 a.m. (3:30 a.m.), arrival in Wroclaw.

● 10 a.m. (4 a.m.), Mass and address for the Catholics of the Archdiocese of Wroclaw and nearby dioceses, at the race track. During the Mass, the statue of Our Lady of the Snow will be crowned.

● Visit to the Wroclaw cathedral.

● 5 p.m. (11 a.m.), arrival at Mt. St. Anne, Diocese of Opole.

● 5:30 p.m. (11:30 a.m.), in the square near the sanctuary, Pope John Paul will participate in Marian vespers and give a speech, then crown the miraculous image of Our Lady of Opole.

● Visit to the Basilica-Sanctuary of St. Anne.

● 7:15 p.m. (1:15 p.m.), return to Cracow.

● 8 p.m. (2 p.m.), visit to Blonie Karakowskie.

Wednesday, June 22

● 8:15 a.m. (2:15 a.m.), visit to the Jagiellonian University.

● 10 a.m. (4 a.m.), at Blonie Krakowskie, beatification ceremony for Father Raphael Kalinowski.

● 5 p.m. (11 a.m.), at Mistrzejowice-Nowa Huta, Pope John Paul will consecrate a new church dedicated to St. Maximilian Kolbe.

● 7 p.m. (1 p.m.), in the Wawel cathedral, the pope will participate in the closing of the provincial synod of Cracow.

Thursday, June 23

● 4:30 p.m. (10:30 a.m.), at the Balice Airport in Cracow, departure ceremony, with the participation of state authorities and members of the Polish episcopacy.

● 5:15 p.m. (11:15 a.m.), departure for Rome on Polish airliner.

Bishop Urges Hatch Support

My dear People:

The protection of innocent life is one of the key principles in the recent pastoral letter of the United States bishops on nuclear disarmament. It is the consistent application of this same principle which is fundamental to our opposition to abortion.

The U.S. Senate will, within the next week or two, be considering once again an amendment to the Constitution which would reverse the 1973 Supreme Court decision. That decision allowed abortion on demand as a higher value than life itself. While the Hatch-Eagleton Amendment in no sense ends the issues of unexpected pregnancy and abortion as a solution, it is an important first step: It would represent a reversal of the legal endorsement of death for unborn children. If this is the only step which can be taken now, then that is the step we must take.

I want to urge you all to let your voice be heard by our two senators in the manner suggested by our Human Life Commission. On this issue, the innocent cannot speak for themselves, cannot cry out for justice. It is only our voices which will be heard on their behalf.

With every best wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

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Bishop of Rochester

Diocesan Appointments



Father Michael Bausch to director, Southern Tier Office of Social Ministries.

Father Neil Miller to diocesan mission team to Tabasco, Mexico.