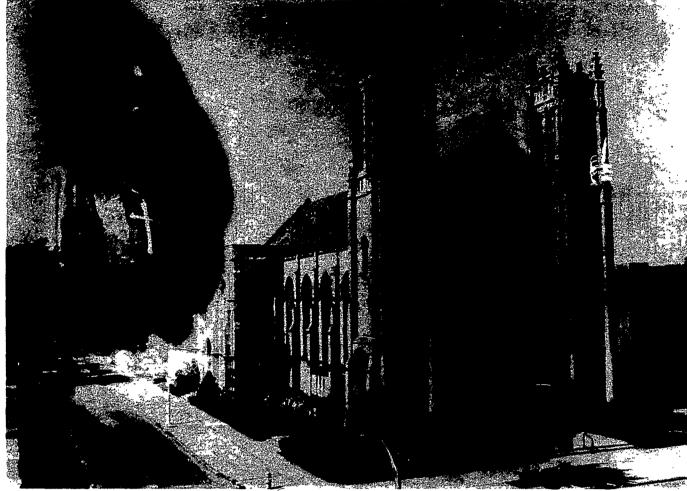


# **Bishop Unveils 3-Year Renewal Plan**



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Bishop Clark will celebrate Mass at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, the feast day of St. John Fisher, at the cathedral as the first diocesan observance of the Holy Year. St. John Fisher is the patron of the diocese.



Celebrate Holy Year, Bishop Urges

#### My Dear People,

When Pope Paul II opened the Holy Year Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, he inaugurated a Special Holy Year of Jubilee for Catholics throughout the world in honor of the 1950th anniversary of the Redemption. During this year, which runs to Easter of 1984, the Holy Father invites us to rediscover Christ, the "center of history" and Redeemer of all people. He challenges us to make the entire year holy by living "an ordinary year in an extraordinary way."

Our diocesan Holy Year Committee has been working hard making arrangements for the observance of this Jubilee. They have developed a program with the Beatitudes at its center. Each month' various parish activities will be suggested based on one of the Beatitudes. In this way, we hope to incorporate the theme of Redemption into life's "ordinary activities."

#### By John Dash

Geneva — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has called all parishes in the diocese to a three-year plan of individual and community renewal.

The bishop specified actions for the next two years, and announced that in the third year "I shall call all parishes to a special year of spiritual deepening and renewed mission and shall ask our Office of Pastoral Services in conjunction with our consultative bodies to develop ways for this to take place."

A week earlier, he told the Diocesan Pastoral Council some of his plans, but their full extent was not revealed until his homily at the close of the "Harvest a Hundredfold" evangelization event at Hobart and William Smith colleges here last Saturday.

He cautioned the DPC, however, that it was not his intention to set up programs and committees, but to "invite with gentleness" the "change of heart" intrinsic to Church renewal.

"We don't need a lot of new statements and program," he said at that time, observing that some parishes, "a lot of them, a lot of them," have not yet undertaken studies of current documents, including his own pastoral letter "The Fire in the Thornbush," or to have fully entered into the spirit of liturgical renewal.

Speaking to more than 1,100 delegates from 137 parishes across the diocese, Bishop Clark said:

"We need to help one another realize the holiness of this our common vocation, and we need to sustain one another by our prayer, encouragement and faithful witness.

"We do this not only when we are willing to make our gifts and spirit available for the service of one another and all of God's people... "We do it as well in this

new age of the Church when

The full text of Bishop Clark's address appears this week in his column, Along the Way, on Page 3.

we engage in the hard business of the reform of ecclesial and societal structures which are oppressive.''

The bishop asked "every parish community — with an explicit awareness of belonging to the people of God in the Diocese of Rochester and the Church universal to incorporate into their plans the following basic goals for the next three years."

He listed the first year's goals as:

"Enhance your own role as evangelizers by wholehearted involvement in the prayers and activities of this Holy Year of Redemption.

"Pray for the personal and corporate change of heart which will help us to appreciate God's gift to us in Christ and strengthen us to live our part in His saving mission.

"Join with our local Church in our consideration of one of the Beatitudes each month and the other observances to be suggested each month.

"Devote the season of Advent to a consideration of our call to be peacemakers."

In the second year, Bishop Clark asked parishes, "Please reach out to inactive Catholics and those in need in our parish communities; invite personally to the hospitality of our communities all who are alienated or estranged from our life; make every effort to name the needs of our people; identify and help deliver existing resources for them; develop new pastoral responses whenever possible; establish among the homebound an apostolate of prayer for the needs of the parish and the whole Church; invite our young people not only to learn about Christ by the study of doctrine, but to find Him in the service of those in need.



## Cathedral Mass to Open Holy Year

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will open the diocesan observance of the Holy Year of the Redemption by celebrating a Mass at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, at the Cathedral. June 22 is the feast day of St. John Fisher, patron of the diocese of Rochester.

Sacred Heart Cathedral, as the official church of the bishop of Rochester, and mother church of the diocese, is the chief pilgrimage church. Holy Year officials say it would be appropriate for at least one group from each parish to direct its pilgrimage there.

Auxiliary pilgrimage sites also have been established. They are:

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North: Christ the King, 445 Kings Highway S.

Northwest: Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park; St. Francis of Assisi, 77 Whitney St.

Northeast: Church of the Assumption, 20 East Ave., Fairport; Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 1427 Blossom Road.

Southeast: St. John the Evangelist, 549 Humboldt St.; Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave. Southwest: St. Theodore, 168 Spencerport Road.

Ystes-Ontario-Wayne Region: St. Stephen, 48 Pultency St., Geneva. Seneca-Cayuga Region:

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While the Holy Father invites pilgrims to make a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome, the 1983-84 Holy Year is unique in that it is intended also to be parish-centered. I would ask pastors and ministerial teams to be conscious of this special opportunity for grace and that local celebrations, as well as diocesan celebrations, be supported and encouraged.

It is the pastoral wish of our Holy Father that the celebration of this Jubilee draw Christians into a deeper awareness of the need to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance privately. He has also encouraged creative use of sacramentals and those devotions which lead one to a deeper personal piety (e.g., praying the Rosary and following the Stations of the Cross).

The theme of "Redemption" itself is so all-embracing that it can easily encompass most parish programs: evangelization, renewals, family ministry, youth ministry, voluntary Friday abstinence, parish outreach programs. In this way, we really make the "ordinary, extraordinary."

To reach our goal, the Holy Year of Redemption calls each person of faith to prayer for its success. I would ask that parishes, besides encouraging private prayer, would remember this intention in the Sunday General Intercessions.

Is is my hope that this Holy Year might be a genuine opportunity for all to celebrate as Church, to rejoice as a

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Evangelization Meeting, Page 10

### **Bishops' Pastoral** In This Issue

The entire pastoral letter of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," is included in this week's edition.

In it is a message from Bishop Clark in which he asks: "Please read this letter. Please pray over it with a heart that is open to God's loving concern for the peoples of the earth ... please act upon your convictions and share them with your family, with friends and with those who influence public policy."