

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



(Following is the text of a column written by Bishop Matthew H. Clark while he was still in Rome.)

ROME — The garden of the inner courtyard of the Casa Santa Maria is a place of peace. I can remember here and appreciate anew what silence is, how much we need to watch and listen for the Lord and the wonderful ways he comes to us in the beauty of creation.

To look up from where I sit is to see the sky, a clear blue except for the occasional puff of cloud, and tall against the sky, a bell tower dated A.D. 1655.

To look around is to see palm and peach and olive and orange trees; vines; flowers; two white doves and a brown one to whom the white ones are not very kind; a pool which is home for 20 goldfish and a niche in which rests a simple statue of the Blessed Virgin.

To look down is to see the engaging patterns of the small square stones which form the center area and main pathways of the garden. At this moment it is to see as well an intriguing column of very busy ants racing back and forth in completion of some project obviously known to them but a complete wonder to me.

The only sounds in the place are the music of the waters and the soft cooing of the doves.

I come here before supper each day — sometimes to write letters, to read the newspapers or an article related to our studies. But mostly I come here to watch and listen for the Lord.

In our first days here I heard a lot of interior noise generated by motors hard to shut down in a very short time. It takes a while for that to happen. When we try to attend to the deepest, most important questions we become aware that other, less important, matters can claim our hearts with great urgency. At least, they can with me.

Now, thanks to experiences like the ones I have had in this garden I have come to greater interior

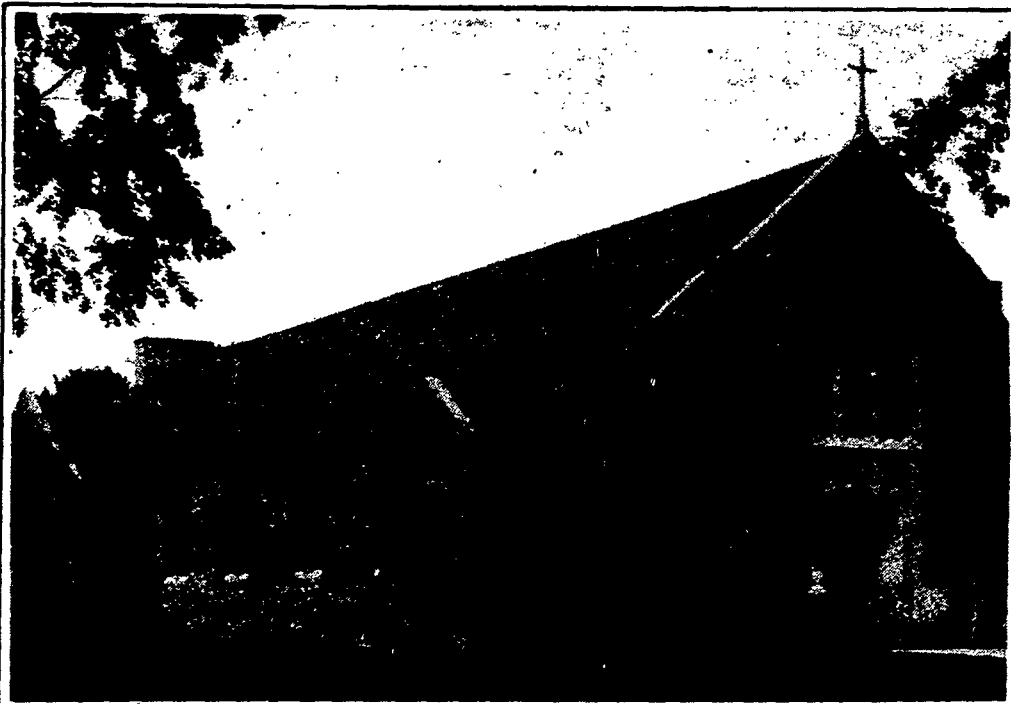
quiet and peace; and I can think and pray about things which really matter to me: God and you, justice and peace, the common call and grace we have to find God in one another and in all creation.

I am aware that these are especially privileged days and that soon enough life will become much more hectic. But I thank the Lord for this reminder that even then — especially then! — I need times in my life when I can see the colors and hear the sounds and truly meet the people who are His gifts.

In the spirit of these comments, let me ask you to be aware of how you, in the company of the Lord, watch and listen for the moments and questions and persons of deepest importance to you.

In a world filled with noise and amidst lives of high pace, this can be a formidable challenge. But with the grace of God it can also be a door to profound joy.

Peace.



St. Vincent De Paul, Corning

Our Pilgrimage Churches Holy Year 1983-84

By Father Robert F. McNamara

Until 1913, Corning had two Catholic churches on the south side of town (St. Mary's, 1848; and St. Patrick's, 1902), but none on the north side of the Chemung River. To remedy this, Bishop Thomas F. Hickey of Rochester set up a northside parish in July, 1913, and named as its founding pastor Father John A. Conway, previously chaplain of the Elmira Reformatory. The date of his appointment was July 19, 1913, the feast of St. Vincent De Paul. So Father Conway chose St. Vincent as patron of the projected church.

The new pastor set about building a brick structure combining a temporary church on the first floor, and school space on the second. Bishop Hickey dedicated this duplex building on March 29, 1914. St. Vincent was for several years a small parish, but especially after World War I new northside residential developments increased the parish population considerably. In the 1950s, the parish was ready for a real church building. Joseph P. Flynn was engaged to design a church and connecting rectory. Although Flynn was a Rochester architect, he was a native of Corning, and had always dreamed of planning a church for there. The attractive new structure built of grey Llenroc stone from Ithaca, was dedicated on June 25, 1955.

June 23, 1972 was a day of doom for Corning. The great flood of that date engulfed the St. Vincent neighborhood. Its muddy water rose inside St. Vincent's Church as high as the stations of the cross, and washed the statues from their bases, leaving upright only the statue of St. Vincent. Flood waters also invaded the first floor of the rectory so that the assistant pastor and the two housekeepers had to be rescued by boat from the second story. In reconditioning the church after this deluge, the pastor, Father Joseph J. Hogan, restored it to its pre-flood appearance. Except for the addition of a temporary altar facing the people, there had been no alterations made in the sanctuary along lines suggested by Vatican II.

The people of St. Vincent's could well say of God, "He reached out from on high and grasped me; He drew me out of the deep waters" (Ps. 18,17). Pilgrims to this church in the Holy Year of Redemption could well ponder Noah's Ark in the flood as a symbol of our Redemption.

Larger pilgrimages may wish to park in the parking lot and then, led by a crossbearer, move in devout procession around the block on the sidewalk to the front entrance. Please call to make arrangements: St. Vincent De Paul Church, 222 Dodge Ave., Corning (North Side); (607/936-4688).

Vocations Team Adds Two Members

Father Thomas Valenti, director of vocations and seminarians, announces the addition of two new members to the diocesan vocations team: Brother Raymond Powers, CSC, and Sister Marjorie Maybee, SSJ.

Other members of the team are Father Valenti and Sister Sheila Stevenson, RSM.

Brother Raymond's last appointment was at Cardinal Mooney High School where he was dean of students this past year. Prior to that, he was director of campus ministry at Holy Cross High School in Flushing, and assistant professor of sacramental theology at St. John's University in Jamaica. From 1979-1981, Brother Raymond was the eastern province vocation director for the Holy Cross Brothers.

Sister Marjorie has been involved in the Formation Program of the Sisters of St. Joseph since 1976. Prior to 1981, she spent time at three diocesan high schools teaching

Spanish: St. Agnes (1976-81), Nazareth Academy (1970-76), and King's Prep (1967-70).

"The main purpose of the team is to coordinate all vocation education/awareness efforts in the diocese," Father Valenti said.

In carrying out this responsibility, various projects have been undertaken: information and education materials are provided for parishes, regions and schools in the diocese. One recent effort is the poster that is currently being used to promote the national observance of vocation awareness week, Oct. 9-15.

Members of the team also travel across the diocese to present vocation programs in schools and parish youth groups and meet with prospective candidates to the religious life and the priesthood to provide vocation counseling.

Any individual needing more information should contact Father Thomas Valenti, 1150 Buffalo



BROTHER RAYMOND



SISTER MARJORIE
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or call 716/328-3210.

Cardinal Cooke

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Reagan. The president was in New York to speak at the United Nations.

During his years in the hierarchy, Cardinal Cooke also campaigned for peace in war-torn Lebanon and against abortion and pornography.

Since 1968, he was president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

In 1975, Cardinal Cooke became chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities. In that capacity, he spoke out repeatedly about the church's mission to protect human life at every stage of its existence.

A week before his death, Cardinal Cooke issued a statement to be read in all archdiocesan parishes Oct. 9 urging Catholics to oppose abortion. The letter said life is "no less beautiful when it is accompanied by illness or weakness, hunger or poverty, mental or physical handicaps, loneliness or old age."

The cardinal was a strong backer of traditional church teaching on other

moral issues as well, supporting Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical, "Humanae Vitae," as well as the 1976 Vatican declaration on sexual morality.

Cardinal Cooke was born March 1, 1921 in Manhattan.

Ordained in 1945, he was assigned as an assistant pastor and later to a children's home. He studied social work at the Catholic University of America from 1947 to 1949, when he earned a master's of science degree.

From 1949 to 1954, Cardinal Cooke directed youth activities for New York archdiocesan Catholic Charities. From 1954 to 1956, he was bursar at St. Joseph's Seminary and also taught at Fordham University.

He was named personal secretary to Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York in 1957, becoming vice chancellor in 1958, and chancellor in 1961.

The cardinal served as auxiliary bishop and vicar general from 1965 to 1968, when he succeeded Cardinal Spellman as archbishop of New York.