

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Sunday Evening:

I am always happy when the public work of the evening is completed. That's pajamas and bathrobe time for me around Sacred Heart.

That's the time for recreating with the priests I live with, the time for remembering the day, the time for turning to tomorrow. It's an important part of the day for me because, although work done and work to come may still be a part of me, it's always a peaceful time.

On this Sunday evening that peace is touched by a particular strain of joy. And I can best understand that gift of joy when I root it in the memory of the goodness I have seen this week in all of you.

From Sunday to Sunday that goodness has been all around me.

It has been present in moments of thankful celebration such as those shared at St. Anthony's in Elmira and St. George's in Rochester. Each parish community in music, color, praise, joy and motion sang a beautiful song of thanksgiving to God. When any of us sing like that all of us

are calmed and drawn closer to the peaceful center of God.

Two other events this week were stitched through with the kind of peaceful joy born only in thankful hearts.

One of those events was the celebration of silver and golden jubilees by our Sisters. We assembled at Geneva for a day of prayer and friendship. They in their open and humble way thanked the Lord for the blessings of the years. I did the best I could to thank them for you and all whom they have served so lovingly.

Another jubilee event celebrated marriage. Our annual gathering at St. Mary's, Canandaigua, was for me as it is always an invitation to remember two great spiritual truths: the fidelity of God and the great peace which comes from self-giving. I am particularly grateful tonight to the couples who shared that day and to all who celebrate each day the sacramental joy of marriage.

If there was joy rising from the privilege of sharing in such rich acts of thanksgiving, joy was also there in the growth of new life.

Visits to Nazareth College and St. John Fisher College tapped me into the spirits of our young people in a way which always leaves me stronger.

I am always put at ease by the peace of their worship and ever encouraged by their open-heartedness. They remind me that the Lord always loves his people and never tires of blessing us in the home he raises up among us.

And there were so many other experiences — four days at St. Joseph's Seminary to assist in the Holy Father's study of American seminaries, golden moments at Sampson Park with so many people just like you, prayer for peace in our churches by hundreds of people.

God has been exceedingly good to me this week. And as so often the case, I am aware on this Sunday night that this goodness comes to me through you.

I hope that as you read these words you can be aware of the grace you are to so many others. If you can, take a moment to remember the day. I am sure you will find the Lord in the memory.

Peace.



600 Attend Conference

More than 600 diocesan teachers attended an annual conference on Friday, Sept. 30 at Cardinal Mooney High School. Guest speaker was Father John Aurelio of Buffalo, left, who also spoke at the Southern Tier session of the conference the previous Friday in Elmira.

CFC Gets National Accreditation

The diocesan Catholic Family Center has received notice of accreditation from the national Council on Accreditation for Services for Families and Children, James Maloney, executive director of the diocesan agency, announced last week.

"Accreditation, which is for a four-year period, means that an agency has met certain requirements that

have been carefully worked out to help ensure quality service," said Jeffrey P. Hanover, director of the national council.

"Accreditation provides assurance," he said, "that the agency is performing services which the community needs, conducting its operations efficiently and managing its funds wisely."

The procedure involves a

detailed self-study and a probe by a national council team, closely examining the agency's operation.

Members of the national council include the Child Welfare League of America, the Family Service Association of America, the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, the Lutheran Social Service System and the National Conference of Catholic Charities.

It accredits private voluntary and proprietary agencies as well as local direct service public agencies, more than 458 of them in the United States and Canada.

NFP Class

Horseheads -- A Natural Family Planning Class will take place Friday evening, Oct. 28, at a site to be determined in Horseheads. Sponsored by Natural Family Planning of the Southern Tier.

Assisi House Sets Open House Nov. 5

Christ's admonition to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the imprisoned, is something taken literally by St. Francis of Assisi Church at its parish outreach project, Assisi House, 231 Lyell Ave.

To acquaint the public with the project, Assisi House will have an open house, noon-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 5.

Spiritual Programs Scheduled

Word of spiritual programs of interest to diocesans has been received from both the Cenacle Renewal Center in Rochester and the Jesuit Retreat House in Auriesville.

Father Richard P. English, SJ, former director of the St. Ignatius Retreat House in Clarence, will lead men on retreat, Nov. 4-6 at Auriesville. Father James J. McGinley, SJ, international retreat director and former rector of Canisius College, Fairfield University, will lead men on retreat Nov. 11-13. Further information on either program is available by calling the house secretary, (518) 853-3003.

Father John Walchars, SJ, will lead a retreat for men and women, "Failures Mature Our Characters," Nov. 18-20 at the Cenacle Renewal Center. A series on "Stress Management and Prayer," given by Father William McCusker, SJ, counsellor at McQuaid Jesuit High School, is slated 7:30-9:30 p.m., Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Dec. 5 at the Cenacle. The fee for the first program is \$45; for the second, \$25. Further information on either program is available by calling the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.

Located a few miles from the parish complex, Assisi House is a parish-sponsored outreach center to the local community, serving people without regard to religious affiliation.

The center offers counseling, clothing, tutoring, and often, just a place where people can convene, relax, talk and sip a cup of coffee.

Assisi House was founded about four years ago, in response to the closing of nearby St. Patrick's Parish along with its neighborhood outreach programs. Since then, Assisi House has expanded its own services and has moved to its present location.

The center is staffed by parish volunteers, a Sister of St. Joseph, and a part-time, professional, Maxie Venuti Bartolotta, a recent Nazareth College graduate.

She said, "All of us here try to do what we can to help the people in our community

who are in need. I guess our primary purpose though, is simply to offer hospitality.

She agreed with her predecessor, Sister Elizabeth Conheady, RSM, that Assisi House is a "vehicle for ministry, a place the Lord uses to spread His love."

Services provided at the center include personal and family counseling, referrals, visitation and assistance in selecting clothing.

In addition, Sister Marie Therese Warth, SSJ, a volunteer, runs a tutoring program for children who need help with English or mathematics.

Ms. Venuti Bartolotta said, "Our emphasis is ministry. It is just as important to minister to the unchurched as to the worshipping community. Most of the people who come here are unchurched. And we help them not because we are trying to convert them but because we respect their rights and dignity as human beings."

Presbyterian Church, Theater Offer Help

New Parish Moves Site of Masses

The Church of the Transfiguration, the new parish formed last summer to serve an area in Pittsford and Mendon, as of Oct. 22 has relocated its weekend Masses, according to Father Jerry Appelby, pastor.

Father Appelby said the parish was pleased to accept the offer of Rev. William Brown Jr. of Christ Clarion Presbyterian Church and his board to use their Thornell Road church for the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Masses.

The Sunday morning 8, 10 and noon Masses will be celebrated at the Jo-Mor Theatre in Eastview Mall. Father Appelby reports that William Yantz of Jo-Mor has made the theater as well as the lobby available so the church can continue its practice of coffee and fellowship between the morning masses.

The church, which does not as yet have a permanent place of worship, has been

celebrating its weekend liturgies in a barn, which Father Appelby said has been of special meaning to the young parish. In announcing the move for the winter to his parishioners, Father Appelby told them, "You are pioneers. When you joined us you risked the uncertainty, the sacrifice and the pain of separation to found a new parish. Maybe this is why God has so clearly blessed our community already. Because, as a community, we have no physical possessions. We have only Him and each other."

Almost 200 families have already registered in the parish, with an average weekend Mass attendance of 600. More than 200 children are registered for Religious Education and more than 50 teenagers have affiliated with a parish youth group that meets weekly for prayer, scripture study and discussion.

Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark announces the following diocesan appointments:

Father Leo Mans, temporary leave of absence.

Father Jeremiah P. Moynihan, administrator of St. Ignatius Church in Hornell, and chaplaincy duties at St. James Mercy Hospital.