

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



● On Friday night I had the great joy of ordaining Rob Bourcy to the priesthood. To ordain a priest is always a special grace for me. It certainly was at this celebration at the new parish church of St. John of Rochester.

Part of that joy comes of course from the occasion it offers to remember the love and mercy of God shown to us in Jesus Christ, our High Priest. Some of course comes from the realization that a human being like Rob is willing to offer himself to serve as Jesus did in the midst of the community.

And it comes to me in stronger and stronger measure at ordinations lately how richly and beautifully God blesses you, His people, with gifts for service and how generous you are in making those gifts available to the rest of us.

I have often thought of and prayed for Rob in the hours since his ordination and when I find myself doing that I discover as well that you are a part of the prayer.

You are there as people Rob will serve through the years of priestly ministry. You are there even more importantly as men and women whose goodness and generosity have sparked in our newest priest a desire to serve in this way.

● This Sunday, Msgr. James McAniff celebrates 50 years

as priest of the Diocese of Rochester.

The heart of his observance, as has been the heart of his priestly life and ministry these years, will be the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy at Old St. Mary's Church.

Fidelity and love for the Church, intelligence and wit are qualities of spirit I think of first when I remember Msgr. McAniff during these moments.

His service to the Diocese of Rochester and St. Mary's Parish during 50 years of priesthood are a gift to you and to me, to Rob Bourcy and to countless others who have gone before.

He goes on generously and we all thank him for the many ways he serves God's people every day.

● I am somewhere between Jim and Rob in years of priesthood. As I think of them both today it rekindles my own excitement about and gratitude for the vocation with which God has blessed me.

Like your own life, mine is one of challenge and growth, success and failure; like you I must accept the realities of my life not always as sources of pleasure but as challenge to new

growth in Christ.

One interesting opportunity I share with all of our priests these days is participation in our program of growth in ministry.

In that plan I ask seven people who know me to evaluate my ministry. They will do this according to a standard instrument to be used for all of us. When my friends have completed their work, one of the priests in our Ministry to Priests team will sit down with me and, using the comments made by the seven persons, help me to identify my stronger points and also suggest ways in which I can grow in priestly service. I look forward to that. When I get the results, I'll mention it to you.

● On Friday, I'll be having a minor bit of knee surgery which will keep me at slow pace for a few days. I have been having some difficulty with the knee and will appreciate very much the relief the operation will bring. I'll appreciate your prayers and promise you my own during the short period of recovery the work will require.

Peace.

Msgr. McAniff Reflects on 50 Years

By Kathleen A. Milliken, RSM

"Very happy years!" is how Msgr. James C. McAniff describes his 50 years as a priest, 31 of them as pastor of Old St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester. He retired from active duty in 1980, and still resides at the rectory on South Street, from which he guided the parish through many years of change from 1949 until his retirement.

Msgr. McAniff celebrates his 50th anniversary of ordination on Dec. 5; he will be honored at a jubilee Mass on Nov. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's. He will be celebrant of the Mass and Father Charles Bennett will be the homilist. A dinner for parishioners, family and friends will follow at the Mapledale Party House.

"The people at St. Mary's are tops!" he remarked in a recent interview. "There was never a harsh word from them; they were cooperative and generous with their money, time and effort. No one could have had a happier pastorate, and 60 percent of my ministry has been spent here."

Assigned to St. Mary's in November 1949 after the death of Dr. George Kettell, Msgr. McAniff served longer than any other pastor of the downtown parish which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 1984.

Continuing the work of Dr. Kettell, the new pastor redecored the church, installed a high altar in memory of his predecessor, arranged for the building of a new organ and rebuilt the rectory with a new addition.

Changing times and rising costs necessitated the closing of St. Mary's School in 1951, but "we provided for the cost of educating our students wherever they went," he observed.

At the 125th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone in 1978, the reconstructed bell system was inaugurated, a gift of Kilian and Caroline Schmitt. This was another highlight of his pastorate, and today the chiming of the "Bells of St. Mary's" is heard regularly throughout the downtown area.

The eldest of four children of Bernard and Julia Cross McAniff, Msgr. McAniff was born in Canandaigua,



Msgr. McAniff kisses Pope John Paul's ring in St. Peter's Square at 50th anniversary reunion in October.

Aug. 16, 1909. His sister, Mrs. Francis Dollard, lives in Rochester; he also has several nieces and nephews. Two brothers, Bernard and Edward (a priest of the Rochester Diocese) are deceased.

He attended St. Augustine's School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries in Rochester before beginning studies in Rome in 1930. He received a doctorate in theology (S.T.D.) at Gregorian University and a licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical Institute of Civil and Canon Law, with additional studies at the Rota (Marriage Tribunal) and other sacred congregations.

Ordained on Dec. 5, 1933 in the North American College Chapel with 33 other young men by Francis Cardinal Marchetti-Selvaggiani, vicar general for the diocese of Rome, Msgr. McAniff recalls the occasion vividly: "My biggest thrill was that my mother came to my ordination," he remembered. "I hadn't seen her in four years."

He returned to Rochester in 1938 after completing his studies and was assigned temporarily as chaplain at St. Ann's Home, followed by his

appointment as vice chancellor for the diocese in May 1939. Keeping of historical records and marriage tribunal work were typical of his duties at that time.

In 1947 he was given the title of monsignor, and became chancellor of the diocese in December 1947. He also served as a vicar general from 1953 to 1966, sharing with Bishop James E. Kearney in the administration of the diocese as well as serving in his role as pastor of St. Mary's since 1949.

A special event of this anniversary year for Msgr. McAniff was a trip to Rome

School for Cantors Planned in Diocese

The Office of Liturgy and the Music Committee of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will play host to a School for Cantors.

The school will be one of the programs offered to church musicians by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and its leadership will give its program April 23-27 at Keuka College in Penn Yan.

This school, which is one of nine to take place nationally, is designed to pro-

vide education and training for parish cantors. Participants are expected from several Northeast dioceses.

James Hansen will head the faculty for the school. He is the former cantor for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. and has had 15 years of continuous service as a cantor. He also was the official cantor for the 1976 Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia.

in October for the reunion with his classmates, 11 of whom concelebrated Mass once again in the chapel where they were ordained. As they shared many memories, the "years just melted away" for him.

Asked what he would say of St. Mary's today, as he looks now from his viewpoint as retired pastor, he spoke unhesitatingly: "St. Mary's is in good hands. The staff has had the courage to break all frontiers, and are much concerned about the faith and holiness of the present day parishioner of St. Mary's"

Bishop Clark, Religious Meet

At the invitation of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, about 400 men and women Religious met Sunday, Nov. 6, at Bishop Kearney High School to participate in a "listening session." The meeting was called in response to Pope John Paul II's letter asking for a study of religious life and the accompanying text from the Sacred Congregation for Religious concerning essential elements in Church teaching on religious life.

Sister Muriel Curran, SSND, vicar for Religious, expressed her hope that the evening serve as a model within the Church as all her members continue the renewal process initiated by Vatican Council II. She reminded participants that all Religious have learned from the struggles of dialogue within the past 20 years as they examined their lives, renewed their institutes and revised their constitutions.

Bishop Clark said that the evening was the beginning of a process of listening to the reflections of Religious on the documentation. He expressed gratitude for the presence of so many and for their willingness to share. Bishop Clark said that he couldn't tell what would happen following the meeting but that a substantial amount of agenda time for the November meeting of the U.S. bishops in Washington concerned this issue.

"I hope you and I can find ways with all of our people to reflect on Religious life, to pray about it, to promote it, to love it more deeply and to do all that we can to realize

its powerful presence in our local Church," he said.

Eight speakers from among the women Religious presented prepared statements. Evident in most of the presentations was concern about the procedure used by Pope John Paul and the Sacred Congregation in addressing their material to the bishops rather than to the Religious congregations.

Representing the Sisters of Mercy council, Sister Jean Marie Kearse asked, "Do we believe deeply that our experience as Religious in the United States has a unique and credible validity? Do we trust that? Let us represent and reflect upon that life."

Although Religious have engaged in dialogue among themselves throughout the process of renewal, there has been no forum to conduct this dialogue within the wider Church. Sister Elizabeth Ann LeValley, superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph, commented on this void in one of six points of her presentation. "I believe," she said, "and our administration believes, and I hope our sisters believe, that we have gifts to give and to receive from others. So where is the arena for this larger sharing?"

Additional speakers commented on various elements of the documents.

Gratitude was expressed by Bishop Clark for his openness and willingness to dialogue with the Religious. He said that additional contact would follow the national bishops' conference. -- Submitted by Sister Ann Habershaw, SSND.

CFC Names Supervisor

The Catholic Family Center announced on Monday, Nov. 7, the appointment of Carolyn Portanova to supervisor of the Restart

Drug Program.

Ms. Portanova will assume responsibility for the program's office at 55 Troup Street, as well as the Restart workers in North Chili and the Restart Program in Corning.

She had worked for 10 years in the program, most recently as senior caseworker. She replaces Roger Battaglia, who recently accepted a position as assistant executive director at St. Joseph's Villa.

DPC Meeting Changed

The Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting scheduled for Nov. 19 has been rescheduled for Dec. 10 at St. Francis De Sales in Geneva.