

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Happy Thanksgiving everyone - and very best wishes for an Advent season of joyful anticipation and new hope.

A lot has happened since the last time I wrote this column. Most of the days were spent in Washington for the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Our session was a busy one. As I look back at it now I think its principle achievements were the approval in final form of a pastoral letter on Hispanics in the United States and the decision to develop another pastoral letter on women in the Church and society.

The former will be published as soon as amendments made at the meeting are incorporated in the text. Our hope is that it will be a significant pastoral contribution to the Church in our country.

The second letter will be developed over a three to four year period to allow ample time for the research, hearings and writing required for such a major effort.

Our diocese will be very much a part of both efforts. Our Board for the Hispanic Apostolate worked hard to contribute

to the now completed letter on Hispanics and I have been invited to serve on the committee working on the pastoral letter on women. All of the work you have done on The Fire in the Thornbush during the past year will be a strong contribution to our national effort.

It is for signs of life such as these that I am grateful during this season of the year.

On a more personal note I must say that hotel living made me that much more grateful for my home at Sacred Heart. It also reminded me to pray for the men and women in our diocese who travel a lot during the week. If their experience is anything like my own, road-loneliness is very much a part of their lives, and they are very happy when it's time to return home.

Since returning from Washington I have been recovering from some minor surgery on my left knee. I am grateful for the skills and care brought to their work by the doctors and other personnel at Strong who cared for me. I am also happy to tell you that the work was successful.

I am not moving very fast these days but already have begun to do some of the exercises which will build my leg up again and allow normal activity.

Thank you all very much for your greetings, support and prayers during these days.

Sacred Heart will be the site of my own Thanksgiving celebration this year. We'll have Mass at 9:30 a.m. This year my mother, sister, brother-in-law, and five nieces will come to Rochester for a few days. Joining them will be Father Tom Powers who is home on vacation from his job as director of the Graduate Department of the North American College in Rome. We have a large home but to add eight to a house already accommodating five presents a major challenge!

I look forward very much to their company and to the joy of the season.

Please accept my best wishes and prayers as you give thanks for the blessings in your life.

Next week - a word about Advent. Peace.

Celebrating Advent, Holy Year 1983-1984

A Potpourri of Suggestions -- From Daily Mass to Advent Wreaths

By Father Robert F. McNamara

During the Holy Year of the Redemption (March 1983 to Easter 1984), Pope John Paul II encourages us to live "an ordinary year in an extraordinary way." Spiritually extraordinary, of course.

What has our parish done, what have we done thus far to make this year of jubilee one of deeper spirituality? Of profounder repentance?

Advent and Christmastide 1983 offer us many opportunities for intensifying our prayerfulness. The jubilee is meant to call to mind our redemption by Christ. It is fitting, therefore, that we prepare our souls for Jesus' birthday in Bethlehem.

Here are some suggestions for parish, family and personal Holy Year observances during the coming Advent.

• **Daily Mass** -- Why not attend Mass each weekday in Advent?

• **Pilgrimage** -- Have we or our parish or parish groups made our Holy Year pilgrimage? Advent is a good time for it.

• **Self-denial** -- Why not voluntarily abstain (from meat) or even fast (only full meal per day) on Friday, Dec. 9 or Friday, Dec. 16 and give what we save to the hungry?

• **Parish retreat** -- Advent is a good time for a parish pre-Christmas retreat (one week) or triduum (three days) or even just a single day of recollection. Pastors might like to bring in outside priests as preachers.

• **Sacrament of Reconciliation** -- Most parishes have at least one penitential service during Advent. You can make your jubilee confession to a priest on that occasion. Even apart from a penitential service, don't forget that a good confession before Christmas is the best birthday present you can offer to the Christ-child.

• **Parish celebrations** -- Here are some possibilities:

1. **A novena of grace** in honor of St. Francis Xavier (Nov. 25 to Dec. 3). This is one of the most famous novenas. Jesuit priests usually give it but not necessarily.

2. **Triduum of Immaculate Conception**. Our Lady under this title is patroness of the U.S.A. Why not have three days of prayer in preparation for her feast, Dec. 8, praying for the welfare of our nation, the end of unemployment, the return of prosperity, the recovery of Christian ideals? Or at least one day of preparation?

3. **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Dec. 12.

Mary is patroness of Latin America under this title. Attendance at Mass on this day would be a recognition of, and a prayer for, our Hispanic fellow-Catholics.

4. **Dec. 15: Diocesan Day of Prayer for Peace**. Bishop Clark has set this day as one of intercession for world peace. May we all join in prayers for this intention.

5. **Dec. 23: Feast of St. John of Kanty**. Why not attend Mass on the feast of this popular Polish saint in order to pray for the Church in Poland?

6. **Holy Innocents, Dec. 28**. Attend Mass today and offer special prayers that our nation may finally recognize the right-to-life of unborn infants.

7. **Holy Family, Friday, Dec. 30**: How about having the whole family attend Mass today, and then treat mother to a special party?

• **Parish bulletins**: Share the December Holy Year "Focus on the Beatitudes" through the pages of your parish bulletin. This "focus" is mailed to the pastor monthly in 1983-1984.

• **Homilies**: Preachers during Advent should not fail to return constantly to the theme of repentance and confession as the keynote to preparation for Christmas.



• **Your own suggestions**: Maybe you can think up other good ways to deepen the jubilee spirit of this Advent: Bible study on the birth of Jesus? Evening prayer during Advent, using the official prayer of the Church? Group discussions of Pope John Paul's "Familiaris Consortio" on the family? Group prayer? Group charitable projects?

• **Advent wreaths**. The best Advent symbol is the Advent wreath. Each parish and each home should have one, and to follow the prayerful rite of lighting the candles.

The Advent wreath says, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Remember, he came among us for one purpose -- to redeem us.

May we show our gratitude for that redemption by welcoming His coming with humble and repentant hearts!

Now's Time to Apply For CHD Project Aid

Application materials for 1984-85 funding from the Campaign for Human Development are available from the diocesan CHD office, 750 W. Main St. Rochester, N.Y.

14611. While the deadline for submission of the forms is Jan. 20, potential applicants are encouraged by the office to use the pre-application

process which has a Dec. 2 deadline.

In the last 13 years, CHD has helped 2,000 self-help projects throughout the U.S. In the Rochester diocese, 26 national grants totaling \$771,600 have been awarded.

To obtain CHD support a project must benefit the poor, be a self-help project by poor or oppressed people, aim to bring about institutional change by attacking the root causes of poverty.

The potential of becoming self-supporting through CHD funding enhances a projects chances of receiving CHD help.

Further information is available from (716)328-6400.

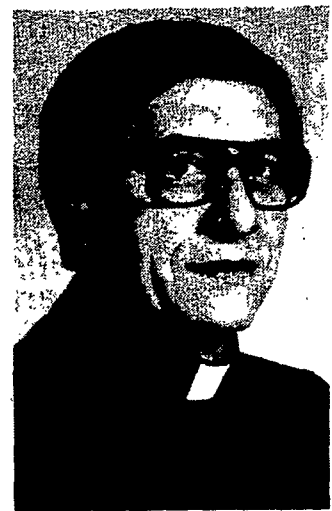
Anniversary Celebration Planned for Fr. Ventura

Father Gennaro Ventura, pastor of Holy Ghost Church, Coldwater Road, will be feted on his 40th anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Father Ventura will be the celebrant of the 9:30 a.m. and the 12:15 p.m. Masses, which will be followed by a dinner-dance party in his honor at Lodge on the Green Party House, 2888 Ridgeway Avenue.

Father Ventura was assigned the Holy Ghost pastorate in 1980, after a decade at St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva.

Tickets for the anniversary party are \$15 per person. Reservations should be made



FATHER VENTURA

before Dec. 1 by calling Carmen at 889-9210.

Fr. Cuddy To Lead Special Day

A Day of Praise and Prayer with Father Paul J. Cuddy, priest director of the day, is planned from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, Dec. 2 at Holy Trinity Church, 1460 Ridge Road in Webster. All parishioners as well as people of the community at large are welcome.

Opening prayers will begin at 10 a.m., followed by two conferences. A Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart will be said at 11:15 a.m. Lunch hour will be at noon and each participant is asked to provide a brown bag lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

Parish Has Holy Year Pilgrimage

Seneca Falls -- A pilgrimage celebrating the Holy Year of Redemption will depart St. Patrick's Church parking lot, 1:30 p.m., Nov. 27 bound for St. James the Apostle Church in Trumansburg.



Honored

TSgt. Steven R. Bower lifts a pot of balloons during celebrations at which he was named military person of the quarter by the Cobb County, Ga., Chamber of Commerce. Brower, a native of Henrietta, has served in the Air Force 12 years and has had assignments at Norton AFB, Calif., and Tahkii Royal Thai AFB in Thailand.