

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Bishop Plans Diocesan Youth Convocation



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Bishop Matthew H. Clark with student representatives, from left, Michael Clifford, Aquinas senior; Wanda Sims, Franklin sophomore; and Lee Allen, Cardinal Mooney freshman.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has invited all youths of the diocese, 13 and older, to a convocation from 1 to 7 p.m., Sunday, March 4, at Bishop Kearney High School.

It is the first time, at least in recent memory, that such a diocesan-wide meeting of youths has been convened by a bishop of Rochester.

While the bishop announced that the convocation will afford the opportunity of "exploring ministry in the Church," the event is primarily focusing on the opportunity for the bishop to meet the young people and vice versa.

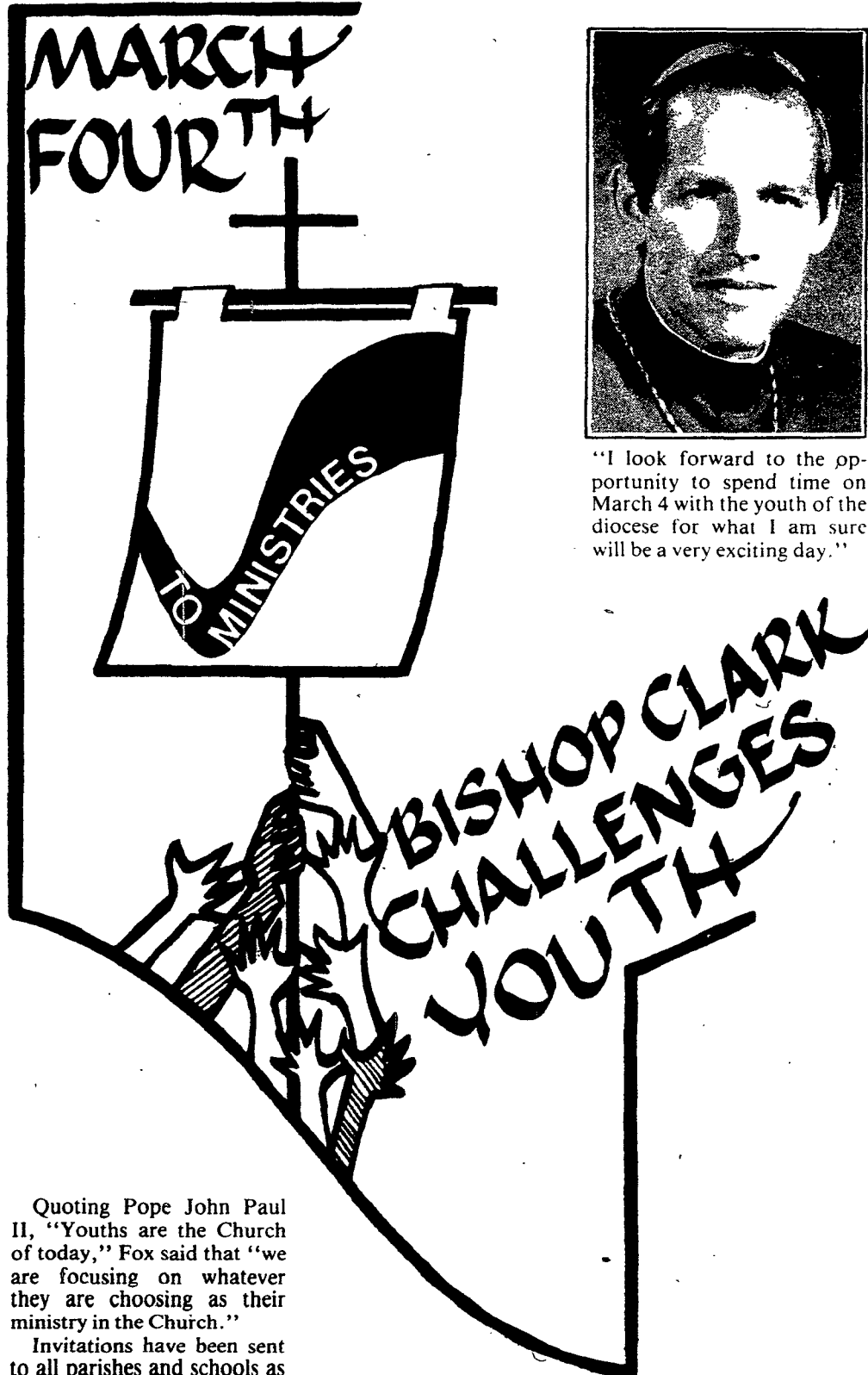
The convocation will consist of an opening address by the bishop, a panel discussion, a series of workshops, dinner and Mass. It has been designed by the offices of Vocation, Youth Ministry, Youth Retreats and a group of youths.

A diocesan spokesman said that part of the impetus for the day came from Bishop Clark who in his travels about the diocese is "always listening to young people who engage him in questions on ministry. This will be his opportunity to share his thoughts."

Father Thomas Valenti, director of the diocesan Office of Vocations, said the bishop feels he doesn't see enough of young Catholics, especially those not in Catholic high schools, as they grow in their relationship to God.

"Thus the bishop will be the main focus of the day. He is challenging youths to participate, he will facilitate the panel. It will be an excellent opportunity for our youths to get to know the bishop and he them."

The director of the diocesan Department of Youth Ministry, Patrick Fox, stressed that "this is not the older idea of a vocation day. We've had a shift in meaning - we will be talking about ministry whatever it may be today - not just in the future. We often think adults only are involved in ministry but youths share in the baptismal call to work for the Church and to serve others. We will be talking about Religious life, the priesthood and lay people in the Church today."



"I look forward to the opportunity to spend time on March 4 with the youth of the diocese for what I am sure will be a very exciting day."

## Msgr. Ball Dies, Longtime Pastor

Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled today, Jan. 11, for Msgr. John M. Ball, who died Sunday, Jan. 8, 1984, at St. Ann's Home.

A Mass of Christ the High Priest was to be said last night.

Msgr. Ball, 69 years a priest, was known for his service to the cause of both religious education and the Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Born May 24, 1889, he attended St. Monica School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained June 12, 1915.

His first assignment was as a teacher at Rochester Catholic High School, the forerunner of Aquinas Institute.

In 1918 he was named assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church, Auburn. The following year, he assisted at St. Ann's, Palmyra; and yet a year later, he was renamed to St. Mary's.

In 1925 he was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Cato, and St. Thomas, Red Creek.

Nine years later he was named pastor of St. Rose Church in Lima, a position he was to hold until 1967, when he retired.

That same year, he was asked by Archbishop Edward Mooney to attend a Rural Life Conference in St. Paul, Minn., to investigate which of their programs would be useful in this diocese. He reported back to the archbishop on the necessity of establishing the Rural Vacation Religious School and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Two years later, Archbishop Mooney named the priest



MSGR. BALL

diocesan rural life director, the first to hold the title here. During his term, which he held while still serving as pastor of St. Rose, Msgr. Ball established 44 rural schools, which were later placed under theegis of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

In 1954, Bishop James E. Kearney named him dean of Livingston County, and two years later, Pope Pius XII bestowed on him the title of monsignor.

In 1965, on the occasion of his golden jubilee of ordination, he remarked that one of the highlights of his priestly career was a trip to Rome and a semiprivate audience with Pope Pius XII. On that occasion, Msgr. Ball presented the pontiff with a spiritual

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## Pro-Lifers Plan Washington Trek

Pro-life demonstrators in the Rochester area are planning to join the Right to Life March, Monday, Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C.

Plans call for a prayer service 8:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 22 at Guardian Angels Church, followed by a showing of the movie, "Matter of Choice."

A bus will leave for Washington at 10 p.m. Reservations for the journey are required and are made by calling Dee Dries, (716) 334-7562. The cost is \$25 per person.

After a day of marching and visiting with legislators, the bus will return to Guardian Angels between 11 p.m. and midnight, Jan. 23.

Quoting Pope John Paul II, "Youths are the Church of today," Fox said that "we are focusing on whatever they are choosing as their ministry in the Church."

Invitations have been sent to all parishes and schools as well as a direct mailing to some 3,500 young people whose names were gleaned from participation in parish activities, Teen Seminar, Genesis, Jeremiah, etc.

According to the planners, the panel will consist of two priests, one from an order; a female and a male Religious; a single man; a single woman and a married couple. Workshops will concern a variety of ministries, followed by the dinner and a

concluding Mass. The liturgy will fulfill the Sunday obligation.

The March date was chosen to coincide with Lent, which begins the following Wednesday, and the Holy Year.

Father Valenti said that the bishop is eager to have as many young people from as

wide an area as possible and to this end has asked the planning committee to coordinate transportation from across the diocese - "he wants all people from all 12 counties of the diocese to participate."

The vocations director continued: "I look forward

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## 'Faith Today' In Center Section

"Faith Today," a new Courier-Journal weekly special service which explores the connection between God and the human situation, may be found in the center pullout section.

Intended as an education tool for people of all ages, "Faith Today" is appropriate for use in religious classes in schools. Joan M. Smith, Raparounk editor, will be coordinator of the new section.

The weekly section asks how God relates to the areas of life that are most important, investigating the connections between faith and everyday life.

Produced by National Catholic News Service in Washington, D.C., "Faith Today" features a Food for Thought section to generate discussions of other material in each week's presentation; regular material on scripture, and a children's story, along with suggested resources for parents and catechists.

It may be found weekly as a center section.