

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Every now and then, and always after the Christmas holidays, I stun the people around Sacred Heart by cleaning my room.

I sort out, file away and otherwise dispose of circular mail, catch up on personal correspondence and do the best I can to put everything in its proper place.

This year I went a step further and plunged into the mystery of what had accumulated behind cabinet doors during almost four years of living at Sacred Heart. I didn't find any half-eaten peanut butter sandwiches nor will I bore you with long lists but let the following exemplify what was there: an official green and silver road sign for the hamlet of Podunk (near Trumansburg), a pewter dish commemorating Elmira as Gliding Capital of the World, a tape recorder I borrowed two years ago and forgot to return, a hurricane lamp and countless clippings I was altogether certain I'd use one day and never did.

All had particular memories or hopes attached to them. As a result, the cleaning project took longer than it should have but was more delightful than I ever thought it would be.

The deepest delight came from photographs which I have

accumulated. To go through them slowly was to be made aware anew of how kind the Lord has been to me in the people I have met through the years and especially in these years in the Diocese of Rochester.

Among them were pictures of young friends like Amy Keenan who is now in college but who had just finished eighth grade in the photo she sent me on the day I arrived in Rochester. The young girl in the blue jogging suit reminded me that the Lord constantly blesses His people with new life and wants each of us at whatever age to keep growing.

Our great priests came to mind when I looked at a picture of the ordination class of 1940 and me taken the day we gathered at St. Patrick's, Aurora, to give thanks to God as they celebrated 40 years of priesthood.

A third photo was of a smiling Sister Mary Louise Blaakman and her large and handsome family taken shortly before Sister's death from cancer at age 40. Charity and valor and the moving faith I see daily in so many flowed through the moments spent in her memory.

Other pictures were of . . . my five nieces through the intriguing stages of their lives . . . my beloved father who has

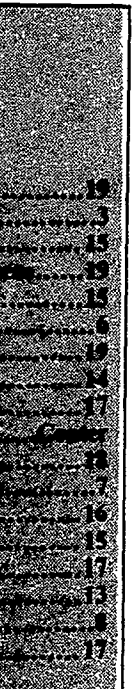
gone to God . . . my mother who unlike most of us grows younger each day . . . persons I have never seen since the picture was taken . . . persons whom I hardly knew who now are treasured friends.

Anyway . . . what began as a chore, pure and simple, turned out to be a graced and prayerful few hours.

My room is once again close to being declared a disaster area. But there is a lasting effect of that house cleaning experience. That is the prayer/New Year's resolution I have made to try to be worthy of the loving kindness the Lord has shown me in all of you. If I could choose to do that in a particular way, it would be to be a peacemaker and reconciler in the Spirit of Christ. I think there is no better way to remind people of the enduring love of God for His people.

● When you read this, I'll be in the middle of a retreat with the bishops of New York State at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Huntington, Long Island. I ask you to pray for all of us and I promise you a fond remembrance in my own prayers each day.
Peace.

tailback
ives over
pponents
n in the
Memphis,
re bowl
een two
-- which
the "Ro-
me -- saw
t Boston
Notre
rry Faust
shoulders
players
victory.



JOURNAL
w H. Clark
ent

Costello
&
anager

igliucci

Hohman
dvisor

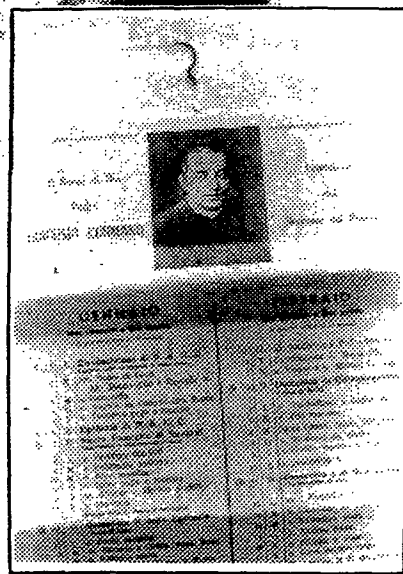
January 11, 1984

SPS 135-580)
ept week after
by the Rochester
ation. Subscrip-
py 35¢. 1 year
15. Canada and
14 South Union
N.Y. 14607.
d Class Postage
N.Y. POST-
ress changes to
S. Union St.,
7.



Remembrance Of a Saint

Ermenea Mary Romano, 81, of Rochester, holds some of her remembrances of Father Giacomo Cusmano, recently canonized by Pope John Paul II. Father Cusmano was the founder of the girls orphanage in Palermo where Mrs. Romano spent a part of her youth following her mother's death in 1909. Right, Father Cusmano's picture heads a page from a 1951 calendar, printed in Italian.



Right to Life Unit Sets Prayer Vigils

The Rochester Area Right to Life Committee is sponsoring two prayer vigils from 8 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, Jan. 21, the eve of the 11th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand. The vigils are scheduled at Westside Baptist Church, 3955 Mt. Read Blvd., and St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave.

Prayers will be offered for justice for the unborn and for

an increased awareness of the support needed by pregnant women to carry their child to delivery.

Catholic and Protestant clergy will alternate every half-hour at the two locations. All are invited to the vigils for all or part of the evening.

The 1973 Supreme Court decision has resulted in 1.5 million abortions each year. On Jan. 22, thousands will gather in Washington, D.C.

St. Thomas Sets Series By Powell

Jesuit Father John Powell's movie series "Families" will be shown 7-8 p.m., Tuesdays, at St. Thomas the Apostle School, 41 Colebrook Dr.

"Messages" will be shown Jan. 17; "Memories," Jan. 24 and "Meaning of Life," Jan. 31.

The series deals with a Christian perspective of the family and offers practical suggestions for improving the quality of family life.



'Manos Juntas' Joins Hands to Help Orphans

"Manos Juntas," an organization the name of which in English is "Joined Hands," will sponsor a sock hop 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 21 in the auditorium of Holy Family Parish.

The sock hop will feature the music of the '50s and '60s and some of the proceeds will benefit an orphanage run by Father Kenneth Myers in El Salvador. The remainder of the money will be used here to help disadvantaged students in Holy Apostle/Holy Family School, according to Jim Del Vecchio, an organizer of the event.

Manos Juntas was organized to help the orphans and displaced children of El Salvador by Sister Bernadine, SSND, and Father Edward Dillon. Others aiding the effort include Judy Borrelli, Deacon Nemesio Martinez and Mike Yarger.

Del Vecchio said that they were spurred to the effort by Father Nicolas Menjibar, a priest of El Salvador, now living at St. Francis Xavier rectory.

The hop will have continuous music from WGMC Radio Musical Road Show and Bon Lindquist and his TNT Production Co. Live disc jockeys will spin the platters.

Parking will be supervised by the youth group from Ss. Peter and Paul Parish.

Tickets are \$4 per person and are available from Holy Family Rectory, 328-3110; the parish recreation hall, 235-7070 or at the door.

Pope Meets With Head of Opus Dei

Vatican City (NC) -- Pope John Paul II met Jan. 2 with Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, head of Opus Dei, and reportedly plans to visit an Opus Dei youth center on the outskirts of Rome Jan. 15.

The Vatican did not release details of the meeting, as is customary with private audiences. Nor would the Vatican confirm reports of the planned visit to Centro Ellis, the Opus Dei youth center, in mid-January.

The visit to the parish is one of a series of visits which Pope John Paul regularly makes to Rome churches. The center serves about 400 youths through its activities and social center and through a vocational education program which offers training in electronics, metalworking and watch repair.

Opus Dei was founded in Spain in 1928 to support the church in business and political circles.

Barn Mass

Text, photos
By Robert F. Carson

"Uncle Bill's Auction Barn" was the setting for the annual children's Christmas Eve Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Hamlin.

About 400 children of all ages braved fierce weather to huddle together to celebrate the first Christmas Mass of 1983. Father William J. Amann, pastor, celebrated the Mass. In his homily, he spoke of E.T., the extraterrestrial who was popular a Christmas ago, and of Cabbage Patch Kids. Such figures come and go, he pointed out, unlike the Baby Jesus who is always with us.

The children's choir performed and as the celebration drew to a close a visitor from the North Pole stopped by.

