

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Thanks so much for your prayerful support of us bishops who were on retreat at Huntington last week. I attribute to your prayers much of the grace and peace I experienced during those privileged days.

Our retreat was very much like the retreats which most groups make. Msgr. John Strykowski of the Diocese of Brooklyn offered two conferences a day and the homily at the Eucharistic Liturgy. The conferences were at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. We celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy at 11:15 a.m. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings we gathered to reflect upon pastoral questions, opportunities and demands of common interest. On Wednesday evening, we celebrated a simple but very moving penance service at which some of the priests of the seminary faculty assisted with confessions.

John drew his themes from the Gospel of John and through his comments on them led us to consideration of prayer, Eucharist, service and ministry, proclamation, sacrifice, vocation, reconciliation and new life. No surprises there! But there was an inviting freshness to the experience because I, we had a retreat master who is obviously a person of faith and

attempted to share with us his own experience with the Lord and 2. all of us approached the retreat eager to bring our personal experience and questions to the compassionate presence of the same Lord.

Because of all that, I had the wonderfully consoling realization that I was with 16 other persons who regard themselves as pilgrims who are daily and deeply in need of the Lord's grace.

As is so often true of God's grace, it spilled over into a remembrance and appreciation of all of the pilgrims who people our wonderful diocese and the remarkably diverse ways in which the Lord's goodness shines through them.

That sense of being one with my brother bishops and with you during those days of prayer was, I think, the greatest gift of the retreat. I guess that's always true when we're in the company of those who understand us and who share so much with us of our own daily experience. In this instance my awareness of deep spiritual bonds with you was unusually strong.

If that was a general blessing of those days, a particular one was a conversation I had with our retreat master. It had to do

with an interior struggle I had been experiencing for a while and which seemed to be consuming more spiritual energy that it should have.

I wanted so much to speak with him but I went through the usual runaround I give myself on such occasions -- "This is silly" . . . "He won't understand and I'll be embarrassed" . . . "He knows me too well" . . . "I'm grown up; I don't want to seem like a kid who can't handle things." But . . . I finally did. John's response was as ordinary in some ways as the issue with which I was wrestling. In easy words, he recognized the simple humanity of what was going on, allowed as how he, too, grappled with like things; and, most important, reminded me that there is no struggle, no work, no prayer, no human effort which is not known and accepted as a precious gift by a Lord who gives us his own life.

All of this is by way of thanking you for your prayers. It also bears the hope that you will be unafraid of your own humanity; and that, if you're ever on the verge of that, you'll seek out a friend to walk with you for a while. If you do, you'll surely meet the Lord along the way.

Peace.

Area Right-to-Lifers Slate Jan. 22 Actions

A host of activities of interest to diocesans will mark the annual observance of the Supreme Court's 1973 decisions which legalized abortion on demand.

The anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision is Jan. 22.

St. Mary's Church in Auburn will host a prayer vigil to mark the occasion at 3 p.m. The public is invited to the rites to pray for the protection of unborn human life.

The vigil is sponsored by the Cayuga County Right to Life Committee and the Seneca-Cayuga Region of the diocesan Human Life Commission.

In Ithaca on that day, several activities are planned under the heading of "Coalition for Life Symposium." The event will feature a movie by Women Exploited by Abortion (WEBA); speakers covering such topics as the biblical and legal perspectives on abortion; a March for Life to Planned Parenthood and the Ithaca Commons; a theatrical performance; and the display of literature.

The Ithaca program will be 2-5 p.m., at the Women's Community Building, 100 W. Seneca St.

Moreover, at midnight a bus will leave the Woolworth parking lot in Ithaca for the

Sunday Is Human Life Day

President Reagan has officially proclaimed Sunday, Jan. 22, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. Termining the loss of 15 million unborn children through abortion since the 1973 Supreme Court decision "a tragedy of stunning dimensions," the president asks that next Sunday all Americans "give thanks for the gift of life."

Jan. 23 March for Life in Washington. As of press time, seats at \$28 a person are still available. Those interested are asked to call Sally Sincock, (607) 273-7134.

Buses also are leaving the diocese that evening from Rochester and Waterloo.

In Waterloo, Mass will be celebrated at 10 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Following Mass, two buses, one reserved for those wishing to make the trek a pilgrimage, will depart the church parking lot at 11 p.m. Sister Chris Lloyd, youth coordinator at the parish will be spiritual leader of the pilgrims.

Further information is available from Kathy Peters (315) 539-8006. The cost of a seat on either bus is \$25; however, it has been noted

that scholarships may be available for those who cannot afford the cost of the trip.

The Waterloo events are being coordinated by Geneva Area Right to Life (GARTL).

Buses will depart the parking lot of Guardian Angels Church, Henrietta at 10 p.m., after a prayer vigil and showing of the movie "Matter of Choice." The vigil begins 8:30 p.m. Bus tickets are \$25 per person, \$15 for students. Information is available from Dee Dries, (716) 334-7526. The event is sponsored by the parish's Queen of the Americas Guild.

On all of these activities, Anita Maruggi of the diocesan Human Life Commission commented that March for Life participants "will visit the offices of the congressmen and senators in the morning (of Jan. 23) and join thousand of other participants promoting reverence for all human life by marching in the capital.

"The march, a sight beyond belief, begins at the Ellipse, continues to Pennsylvania Avenue past the White House to the Capitol.

"The 24-hour journey is not sightseeing tour but an exhaustive commitment to defend innocent life."

Two Rochester churches will have ecumenical prayer vigils Jan. 21.

At West Side Baptist Church, starting at 8 p.m., a Protestant or Catholic religious leader will lead half hours of prayer. The schedule calls for Rev. Dan Williams to begin the evening, followed by Father David Mura, Rev. Theodore Georgian, Sister Jane Schorr, Rev. Carley Touchstone, Rev. Mr. John DeSocio, Rev. George Grace and Father Rosario LaDelfa.

On the city's east side, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will begin the vigil at 8 p.m. at St. Thomas More Church. He will be followed on the half hours by Rev. Ron Domina, Father Jim Walter, Father John Steger, Rev. Dayton Reynolds, Father James Hewes, Rev. Raymond Graves and Father Frederick Bush.



Dr. King Remembered

Civil rights activist Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy chats with Sister Mary Sullivan, RSM, dean of the college of liberal arts at the Rochester Institute of Technology, last Friday prior to speaking at the college's celebration of the birth of the late Martin Luther King.

Pastoral on Peace Training Scheduled

More than 32 parishes will participate in a diocesan training program for parish facilitators on the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

According to the training coordinators, Jim Lund and Maribeth Mancini, training is scheduled from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3; from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4; and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 3.

Training each day will take place at two locations -- at the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, 160 High St., Elmira, and at Good Shepherd Church, chapel annex, 3264 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta.

In Elmira, Lund, Social Ministry training coordinator, and Kathy Dubel, coordinator of Justice and Peace for Southern Tier Social Ministry, will do the training. In Henrietta, Sister Christine Wagner, coordinator for Task Forces of International Justice and

Peace; Mrs. Mancini, diocesan consultant for Adult Religious Education, and Anne Wegman, diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, will do the training.

Each parish participant will receive a facilitator's manual and have the opportunity to purchase additional

resources related to the bishops' pastoral.

The facilitators training is part of the response of the diocese to the pastoral letter, which is being coordinated by the departments of Religious Education, Continuing Education, Youth Ministry, and Southern Tier Social Ministry.

Renewal Personnel Forming Federation

A federation of spiritual directors and persons attached to renewal and retreat facilities is being formed in the diocese, at the invitation of Sister Muriel Curran, SSND, and Msgr. Gerard Krieg, vicars for religious.

Less than four months old, the gathering has decided to issue a "composite picture of the retreat/renewal facilities that are available... as well as the types of programs and service offered..." said Sister Ellen Frawley, RC, spokesperson.

Included in that composite picture, she said, will be a listing of individuals who are not attached to a retreat or renewal center.

The group's third meeting is slated for Jan. 23. Sister Ellen described the first two meetings as "rich with enthusiasm and sharing."

She said, "The bond of sharing, prayerful support and discovering ways to ensure the best use of talents and facilities called for the desire to form a continuing federation," emphasizing the word "federation," to describe the group.

DPC Agenda

Diocesan Pastoral Council
Saturday, Jan. 21, 1984
St. Anne's Parish, Palmyra

- 9 a.m. — Opening Prayer
- 9:05-9:30 — Report from Steering Committee on "Challenge of Peace"
- 9:30-10 — Highlights of Regions and appointed constituents
- 10-10:15 — Coffee Break
- 10:15-12:30 p.m. — Ministerial Review Committee - Larry Michael
- 12:30-1:15 — Liturgy and Lunch (please bring your own lunch, drinks will be provided)
- 1:15-2:15 — Motions based on the Ministerial Review Report
- 2:15-2:50 — Bishop Clark's Open Forum
- 2:50-2:55 — Announcements and Evaluation
- 2:55-3 — Closing Prayer