

Diocesan Youth Day: On March 4, All Roads Lead to Bishop Kearney

Transportation plans are being made to enable as many young persons as possible to attend the Bishop's Day with Youth March 4 at Bishop Kearney High School. Blue-Bird Coach Lines will run buses from Ithaca, Auburn, Geneva, Canandaigua, Corning, Elmira, Bath, Dansville, Hornell and Seneca Falls.

All youths, 13 and older, are invited to the convocation called by Bishop Clark. Scheduled from 1 to 7 p.m., it will be the first time such a gathering of youths has been called by a Rochester bishop.

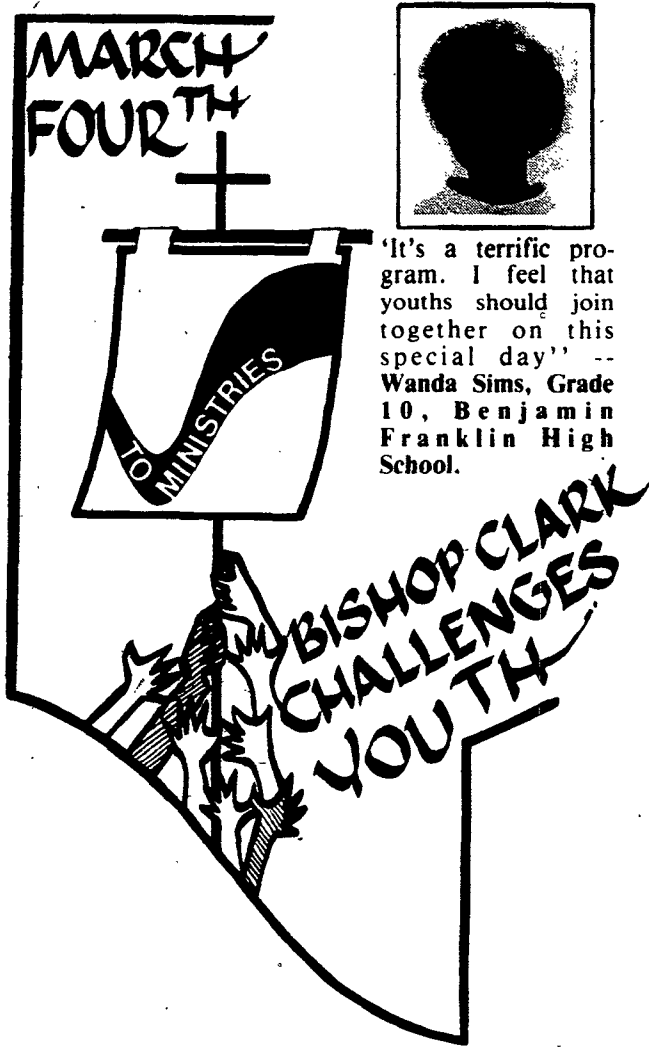
Bishop Clark will deliver the keynote address and facilitate a panel discussion. A dinner and Mass will follow a series of workshops.

The day is sponsored by the offices of Vocation, Youth Ministry, Youth Retreats and a group of youngsters themselves. Patrick Fox, diocesan director of Youth Ministry, reports a lively interest from across the diocese.

Invitations have been sent to all parishes and schools as well as a direct mailing to some 3,500 young people who have been involved in parish activities, Teen Seminar, Genesis, Jeremiah, etc.

For those who sign up, registration material will include information on bus trips. Buses will be staggered to arrive properly for the starting time at Bishop Kearney High School. Departures will be arranged for immediately after the convocation.

Impetus for the meeting has come from Bishop Clark who, in his travels around the diocese, has heard many youngsters' questions on ministry. It will also afford the bishop the opportunity to meet and talk with diocesan youths.



"It's a terrific program. I feel that youths should join together on this special day" -- Wanda Sims, Grade 10, Benjamin Franklin High School.

Church Invites Unemployed Go on Retreat

The employment concerns committee of the Catholic Family Center has invited unemployed persons of all faiths to a two-day retreat.

The event, slated Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 15 and 16 at Camp Stella Maris, is free and is entitled "To Leave the Past Allows Me to Enter the Future."

A diocesan release says the event "is designed to help persons out of work cope with this critical life change."

"Participants should find the retreat a change of pace

and an opportunity to share fears and frustrations, to discover ways of coping and to explore creative uses of their time."

Coordinators of the program are Deacon Victor Yanaitis, head of the diocesan Blue Collar Ministry; and Giovina Caroscio and Carl Ritz of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry.

Persons wishing to register for the event are asked to contact Deacon Yanaitis, (716) 247-1193.

Diocesans Attend USCC Symposium On Peace Plans

Washington -- James Lund and Sister Christine Wagner, SSJ, represented the Diocese of Rochester at a special symposium to develop longterm implementation of "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response" last week.

Lund is social ministry education and training coordinator and Sister Christine is a staffer for the International Justice and Peace Commission.

The symposium was sponsored by the United

States Catholic Conference's Department of Education.

Father Thomas Gallagher, USCC secretary for education, said the symposium "will serve as a springboard for the sharing and development of resources for diocesan, parish, school and family use."

He added that the symposium proceedings will be published and that a comprehensive program manual will be made available for symposium participants who plan to conduct similar events at the diocesan level.

Nursing School Wins 8-Year Accreditation

Elmira -- St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing has been awarded an eight-year accreditation of its academic and clinical programs by the National League for Nursing Board of Review. The eight-year accreditation is the longest period for which the board grants approval.

"Accreditation means that we can assure our students of a quality education," said Sister Remigia McHenry, director of the school. "We are very proud of this measurement of our standards and will continue to provide an educational background for our graduates that is second to none."

Along The Way
Bishop Matthew H. Clark's column, "Along the Way," will resume next week.

DPC Election Process Begins

The process for electing delegates to the Diocesan Pastoral Council began last week with letters sent to parishes, throughout the diocese.

The elections will be held in the diocesan regions in April.

A letter signed by Mrs. Judith Ann Kollar, executive director of the DPC, stated: "As the most broadly based of the consultative bodies, we hope to have willing, energetic persons elected. We count on you to help us arrive at such membership."

"Since the new constitution calls for a three-year term, we suggest you stagger

the delegate terms in whatever manner you choose. It is our hope to have 1/3 of the council changing each year to provide for the best continuity."

The DPC constitution lists its members as: the bishop, ex officio without vote; the executive secretary, appointed by the bishop, without vote; three priests, one a member of the Priests Council; three Sisters, one a member of the Diocesan Sisters Council; regional representatives, elected by the regional conferences (three from each) at least two of whom are to be lay persons. A married couple may be

elected as one representative; four youth members, appointed by the bishop, two high school and two college representatives; one Brother, appointed by the bishop; one deacon, appointed by the bishop; five to ten other members, representing minority groups and special ministries, appointed by the bishop.

The constitution calls on its members:

"To devote adequate time to prayer and study of the needs and resources of the diocesan Church;

"To enhance discussion through future-oriented thinking, balanced assess-

ment and a constructive attitude;

"To regularly attend scheduled meetings and become involved in committee responsibilities;

"To interpret deliberations of the DPC to constituents and constituent concerns to the DPC."

Delegates to the DPC must possess a number of qualifications. As they are spelled out in the constitution:

"Any Roman Catholic in the Diocese of Rochester is eligible who has evidenced a real concern for the mission of the Church and a personal commitment to service; "Proposed nominees are

to have a reasonable understanding of the time, effort, travel and responsibility involved in regular attendance at council meetings and committee activities. They must express willingness to serve on the DPC if elected;

"Selection of nominees should be made following prayerful reflection and deliberation."

In encouraging both potential delegates to step forward and parish councils to begin the nomination process, Mrs. Kollar noted, "The pastoral council can work most effectively in presenting broad views to the



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bishop when all areas of the diocese are properly and energetically represented."

Consultation — Rochester Style

Over the course of the next few months groups throughout the diocese will deliberate sending representatives to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Following is an essay on the council, penned for the Courier-Journal, by the executive secretary of the DPC.

By Judith Ann Kollar

Do you know that in our diocese you have a forum where your concerns are presented on a regular basis to Bishop Matthew H. Clark?

Bi-monthly, the Diocesan Pastoral Council meets 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on a Saturday with Bishop Clark, and consults with him about issues that concern the people in the diocese and the Church at large.

What are some things that have been begun and followed to completion by the DPC?

● "Fire in the Thornbush," the bishop's pastoral letter, was strongly recommended as a result of a study on women in the Church.

● The creation of the Diocesan Board of Education was a result of study and recommendation by the pastoral council.

● The Evangelization Event was co-sponsored by the DPC and its Task Force on Evangelization.

● There is now money set aside for the education of pastoral assistants due to a recommendation by the pastoral council.

And many other things have been discussed and recommended.

The council recommends and the bishop takes the recommendations under advisement and directs them to the appropriate diocesan divisions.

The people of the diocese currently on the Diocesan

'There is a lively meeting of minds and hearts and a great deal of trust between the bishop and the council.'

Pastoral Council are: three priests, five Sisters and 33 elected persons from the 11 regions; in addition, there are 13 people appointed by the bishop to represent various ministries and groups in the diocese: Brothers, deacons, the handicapped, the Spanish community, the elderly, renewal groups, youth, and young adults among them.

These people meet, discuss, vote and challenge each other to study and reflect on the Church and the ministries, then to make recommendations to the bishop for forging the future of the Church in our diocese.

The Ministerial Review Committee, the most active of the standing committees, reviews programs and the diocesan budget. Members listen to plans, review programs and recommend the budget for each fiscal year. The review and the recommendations are made in light of the diocesan goals.

One little known fact is that the bishop makes himself immediately available for questions for the raising of concerns at each pastoral council meeting. On the agenda

you read printed in this paper, there is an item called Open Forum.

The delegates use the time to bring to the bishop's attention items of concern to them and the people they represent. Those things which he can address immediately, he does; issues which require investigation, he reports on at the following meeting. Those items he must refer to the various diocesan division, he does.

Since 1979, Bishop Clark has answered every question brought by the delegates, or reported the results of his inquiries. He has initiated studies and reported progress on all issues.

Whether a panel for information, a report or a question to be grappled with, one thing is clear — There is a hopeful and hope-filled sense of Church evident at each pastoral council meeting.

The members are deeply committed to the Church and they are willing to give up six Saturdays to help forge the future of the Church.

They are willing to give their best advise to the bishop, and to bring the concerns of their constituents to him. There is a lively meeting of minds and hearts and a great deal of trust between the bishop and the council.

We are living in a time when people question the commitment of the Church to the concerns of the people. People complain that the Church doesn't listen. The Diocese of Rochester is not such a place.

The bishop is open and present to the Diocesan Pastoral Council and he listens and responds to the concerns raised. There are difficult areas but no closed doors.

The consultative process and the body known as the DPC is alive and thriving in Rochester.