

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



In the last 10 days I have spent time with many of our young people -- and that has been a grace.

I confirmed 250 of them at St. John's, Spencerport, St. Thomas More, Brighton, and St. Joseph's, Penfield.

On Friday I attended my first high school basketball game of the year, between Bishop Kearney High School and Nazareth Academy.

Our Office of Black Ministries provided another occasion to be with young people when it invited me to an exciting vocations luncheon and program for black young men and women from our diocese and the Diocese of Syracuse.

At all of these events I met young people who are gifted, generous, and fun to be with! They are for me, among other things, reminders that the Lord never stops lavishing His love on His people through the gift of new life.

We rightly think of them as our hope for the future but I also try to remind them that they are already good and holy gifts for the life of the community. They bless us in generous

service, contagious enthusiasm, thoughtful challenge to our set ways and in their search for values which bring lasting peace to their hearts.

Part of the joy in these meetings with the young is the presence of the adults who work with them in all of these endeavors. Whenever I speak with them about their collaboration with young people the adults say two things: 1) their work with young people keeps them very much on their toes and 2) they are convinced that they come away with much more than they were able to offer.

I can understand both of those comments because they are part of my own experience as well. That may be a latter day realization that the Lord reveals Himself in a powerful way to and in the young.

All of this gives me renewed enthusiasm for our day with youth scheduled for March 4 at Bishop Kearney High School. I become more excited about it as the day draws near and especially as I meet more kids who themselves are excited

about going.

If you are 13 or older, I would like to extend an invitation to you to take part in what I am sure will be a rich and happy day. You will find more details in the Courier-Journal or at your parish house. (If like me you're beyond the age, please pass this on to a young friend in your household or neighborhood!)

● I am leaving this morning for Waterford to celebrate the funeral of my Aunt Margaret Carter, who died this weekend. She was the 11th child of 13 in my mother's family and a joy to anyone who ever knew her. Please remember her and all of our beloved departed in your prayers.

● From Waterford I go to St. Paul's Seminary at Minneapolis-St. Paul to continue the seminary study we began last October. I look forward to returning to Rochester on Friday and will pray for you in the meantime. Peace.

New Rexville Church All-Purpose Unit

Rexville - When Bishop Matthew H. Clark dedicates St. Mary's Church here at 11 a.m., Feb. 19, the rite will be held in a building "containing facilities for all of our present and anticipated future parish events," Father Thomas Burr said last week. Father Burr is pastor of the dual parish which also includes St. Joachim's in Canisteo.

Father Burr listed the features of the new building, among them: a reconciliation room which can also be used as an infant crying room, an office, and a bedroom if the pastor wishes to stay overnight; a chapel for the reservation of the Holy Eucharist which can also be used as a daily Mass chapel; a sacristy rear the main entrance vestibule; a fully furnished basement for meetings, dinners and religious education (including folding panels which may be used to create six classrooms; and a



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religious education office and resource center.

In addition, he said, "It has a fully equipped kitchen for dinners and wedding receptions. The ceilings are low for heat efficiency; it is completely insulated."

The church's heating system is a three-zone, gas-fired, hot water radiant

system that is completely automatic, programmed to turn on and shut off for all regular functions.

The old church, which burned down three years ago, had no plumbing, Father Burr said. The present structure has a completely self-contained water and waste system and three rest rooms.

Among the church's appointments is a new stained glass window in the sanctuary area. The subject is a Madonna and Child, and was designed by the Pike Stained Glass Studios of Rochester, using some glass salvaged from the old church. There are also two small stained glass windows in the Eucharist Chapel that were transferred from the old rectory chapel, and which in turn came from the St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell.

"The bell from the old church fell into the stairwell of the tower during the 1981

fire," Father Burr said. "It was beyond repair. It is now mounted on a pedestal in front of the new church as a memento. Through gifts and memorials, money was raised to purchase an automatic electronic carillon from the Verdin Bell Co. of Cincinnati. It plays automatically daily and before weekend Masses."

Other furnishings either already being used or probably will be used from the old church include the altar, a vestment case, assorted statuary and art works, and the electric organ, Father Burr said.

The architect of the church, which has a seating capacity of 200, was Peter R o m e o o f Starks-Wurzer-Patterson-Romeo of Rochester. The build-

er was Parvin Construction of Elmira.

The cost of the structure was \$415,000.

Monarchs Return

With the entire team returning from last year minus one graduate, the Our Lady of Mercy High School varsity basketball team is facing high expectations after coming off a colossal 1983 season.

"Having to contend with the expectations people have for a team coming off of a 20-1 season can be a problem," said Shirley Hess, Our Lady of Mercy basketball coach. "If we can continue to take one game at a time," she added, "and remember the qualities of caring for each other, the individual, and the team effort that brought us to a 20-1

season last year, we will be well on our way."

Junior Kelly Lane, who averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds a game, and junior Anne Peacock, last season's assists leader, will be contributing factors to Mercy's play this season. Other members are seniors Eileen Dolan, Linda Haas, and Karen Paradies; juniors Theresa Franklin, Maura Hanley, and Andrea Hynes; sophomores Katie Fitzsimmons and Colleen Sheehy, and freshman Beth Wambach.

Joan Kelly will share coaching duties with Hess.

Diocesan Service Corps Serving in Finger Lakes

The Diocesan Service Corps, offering persons who wish to serve the Church a community in which to offer their skills and experience, is in its first year of operation in rural areas served by the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry in Geneva.

The program, coordinated by Giovina Caroscio, director of that office, developed from the work of a task force chaired by Father Kevin Murphy, and appointed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark in 1982.

Three persons, ages 20, 35

and 70 serve in the region as youth minister, soup kitchen attendant and outreach worker.

The only requirements for community service workers are that they be at least 20 years old and be willing to accept the simple life style and spiritual values of the program, a diocesan release said.

A parish, a diocesan service agency, a Catholic school or a combination of any of these groups can sponsor a corps worker, as can human or social service

agencies or educational institutions.

A sponsoring agency must provide a direct supervisor of the community service corps worker and accept the financial responsibilities for support of the worker, including housing, food costs, personal stipend, transportation and medical service.

Persons interested in entering the program are asked to contact Ms. Caroscio, Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, 21 High St., Geneva, N.Y. 14456; (315) 789-2686.

Seminar to Underscore Christian Political Action

"Elections '84: Faith and Issues," a day of workshops for information analysis and reflection on the current political scene, will be led by Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM, of NETWORK from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 10, at Blessed Sacrament School Hall, Monroe Avenue

at Oxford Street.

An agenda of the day will propose answers to such questions as "What is the connection between faith and politics?" "What is the connection between the Bishops Peace Pastoral and election issues of 1984?" "Which candidates best reflect my

values, beliefs and priorities?" "How does the Christian move from discussion to witness and action?" A special training session for political action will be conducted between 3 and 4 p.m. Fee, \$5. The program is jointly sponsored by the Diocesan Sisters Council and the Diocesan Department of Justice and Peace.

NETWORK is a Catholic social justice lobby based in Washington, D.C. Sister Nancy Sylvester, its present coordinator, has been on the NETWORK staff since 1977 as a researcher and lobbyist. Sister Nancy also will be speaking on "Peacemaking and Spirituality" at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 9 at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

Also on the Spring schedule of events is Father Charles Curran, Catholic University, who will speak on "Ethical Issues Raised in the Challenge of Peace," at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 13 at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School auditorium. Donation, \$2.

For more information please call: Department of Justice and Peace, Rochester (716)328-6400; Elmira (607) 734-9784; Geneva (315) 789-2686.

Diocesan Clergy Reallotted

Superior, Wis. -- Eighty communities and 30 to 50 priests will be affected by a proposed redistribution of priests and a "clustering" arrangement of parishes in the Diocese of Superior. Under the new plan, communities will be "clustered" in relation to a priest, but the laity will assume a more active role in continuing normal parish activities, services and liturgies, said Bishop George A. Hammes and Coadjutor Bishop Raphael M. Fliss in a January letter announcing the plan. No churches will be closed, but 16 parishes will be required "to relinquish regular weekend liturgies and some other obvious services," the bishops said. "Many more will need to consolidate efforts and share programs."



Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints: **Father John J. Hempel** to temporary administrator of the Church of the Epiphany, Sodus; St. Rose of Lima, Sodus Point, effective March 1.

Father William Most Here To Address Laity, Clergy

Nationally known Scripture scholar Father William Most will speak on current questions of Church teaching and the Scriptures, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

Father Most's theme, in the words of Father James Callan, pastor, "will be the teaching of the Church on Scriptures with emphasis on some of the current questions about interpretation of Scriptures, both Old and New Testament."

The day following, Father Most will lead a discussion on

"The Consciousness of Christ," for priests, 1:30 p.m. in the rectory of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

The address to the laity, "is part of a program to promote the Holy Year's theme of reconciliation and renewal, along with the teaching authority (the Magisterium) of the Church," Father Callan noted.

Father Most, 69, is widely known for his articles on Scriptural questions in such journals as Catholic Biblical Quarterly, Homiletic and

Pastoral Review, and the Encyclopedia Americana.

A member of the Catholic Biblical Association, he is regarded for his work on St. Paul.

His most recent book is "The Consciousness of Christ," published by Christendom College Press in 1980.

Father Most is known in the Catholic press for taking issue with the written opinions of other Scripture scholars on a number of points, his method and arguments of the classical school of theological debate.

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