

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Sunday we went to Rexville for the dedication of the new St. Mary's Church which replaces the church destroyed by fire two years ago.

It was an exciting celebration as dedications usually are. That may be because the words and gestures of the ritual and the spirit of the people are more clearly one in this celebration than in most others.

I find that true in a couple of ways: 1. there is a clear sense of corporate joy and a sense of achievement and pride in the people who gather for the day and 2. all of this is recognized and given expression in the language and action of the ceremony.

The celebration reminds us that we are beloved as God's holy people, that we are the living stones who with Christ, the cornerstone, make up the living temple which is the Church, that this gift of life in the Church should make a difference in how we regard one another, the poor and the dispossessed and -- most especially -- those who may treat us poorly.

To enter into the celebration is to be taught by word and

ritual what the Church is. To share the dedication with others is to experience that reality.

Among the life-giving developments in the Church these days is the participation of the parish community in the building and renovation of churches. Parishioners are actively involved in the process from the very early and general planning to the concrete decision by which the basic plan is carried out.

It is a strong experience of learning about the Church and expressing that knowledge in a practical way. For example, how does one determine where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the church building? What are the factors to be considered in making such a decision. There are excellent reasons, clearly expressed by the Church, why a practice different from the one we grew up with has been adopted. When understood, the new arrangement can bring a more enriching understanding of both the Eucharistic Liturgy and our tradition of reservation. When it is not well-understood, it can seem like a lessening of devotion for the Blessed Sacrament.

Because they have gone through a long careful process leading to the construction of a new church building, the people of St. Mary's parish, Rexville, have an even stronger experience of what it is to be a community of Roman Catholic believers.

Is their pilgrimage over? No. They'll need to pray, study, serve and sacrifice if they are to continue to grow in the love and knowledge of God. But they have had a watershed experience of that and I expect it leaves them thirsting for more of the same in the future.

By these words, I mean to thank Father Tom Burr and the people of St. Mary's, Rexville, for their faith, courage, hospitality, generosity and many other good things.

I wish also to suggest to you that, as we anticipate Spring and Summer, you might think of visiting St. Mary's, Rexville. It is in the southwest corner of Steuben County. I can't think of a more pleasant way to experience something of which I always remind you -- that the Church is a large communion, rich and varied in her life. Enjoy the trip.

Peace.

Notre Dame Voices Concern Regarding Regents Action Plan

Elmira — Robert Best, Regent for the VI Judicial District in New York State attended a Notre Dame High School faculty meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 7 and discussed the impact the Regents Action Plan would have on the school.

After introductory remarks by Sister Mary Walter, principal, Walter Herbst, vice president of the Board of Governors, Anthony Pucci, chairperson of the English Department and Sister Mary Beatrice Curran, chairperson of the Social Studies Department discussed the implications of the plan for Notre Dame. Herbst outlined the financial ramifications of increased days, increased personnel and additional materials. It was reported that the estimated cost for four additional days for 1984-85, one additional person and the needed materials to be \$38,985. According to a school news release this increase would have significant implications for tuition and registration.

Pucci's presentation

focused on the inflexibility of the program and the restrictions it would have on student choices in elective offerings. The new regents requirements would limit the regent student to one- and-a-half electives through his four years in high school and the students working for a local diploma would have only four-and-a-half units for electives. Pucci pointed out that because at Notre Dame, a value-centered education is at the heart of the school's philosophy and four units of Theology are required of all students, the impact of the proposed action plan would result in diminished opportunities.

Sister Mary Beatrice presented an alternative to the fourth year requirement in Social Studies stating that what the action plan wants to achieve by mandate, Notre Dame is already accomplishing through courses in the Theology Department. Sister Mary Beatrice called for flexibility in the mandate

for an additional unit of Social Studies.

Best commended the presentations and said the school's timing was superb because he sees the action plan "undergoing considerable evolution." He expressed the Board of Regents strong concern for non-public schools who educate 600,000 students, 17 1/2 percent of the state's student population and according to Best a "healthy non-public school system is essential."

12-6 Says It All

The boys varsity basketball team at Bishop Kearney, coached by Tony Ferrara, ended its season with a 12-6 overall record. Team members are: Seniors Kevin Healy, Bobby Jones, Dan Kelly, Mark Maring, Mike Mull; Juniors Bruce English, Mike Falk, Lu Fusilli, Chris Koczot, Jim Nash, Greg Nicolay, Angelo Panzetta, Dan Sorokti, Darren Washington; sophomore Bobby Young and freshman Eric Jones.



Charitable Donations

Anne Marie Marasco and John Lebens share a kiss in the name of charity at the Gadget's Restaurant in Marketplace Mall. The restaurant sponsored a "Kissing Booth" to benefit Camp Good Times and Special Days, a camp program for children with cancer. Warner Leisure, Inc. owner of the restaurant chain, will match the money raised at the event.

Good Shepherd Launches Drive For Stewardship

Henrietta — Good Shepherd parishioners have been advised by Father Roy Kiggins and Father Edward Palumbos, co-pastors, that the parish will conduct a house-to-house canvas of each parish family.

The program will seek a 15-month commitment of "time, talent and treasure" from each family and/or single adult. The co-pastors stressed that it is necessary for more parishioners to become actively involved in parish activities and programs if the parish is to maintain its current level of services and, at the same time, develop new programs to serve better the needs of the more than 2,000 families who claim affiliation with the church.

In addition to the need for time and talents, a substantial increase in revenue is needed to meet the parish's operating budget as well as to provide for necessary improvements and building renovations, Father Palumbos noted.

"Unlike vintage wine, the parish buildings do not improve with age, and our plant is aging," he said.

"Another of our concerns in this program," Father Palumbos added, "is that parishioners have the opportunity to express their needs and give input to the parish staff." This will be done in the privacy of the parishioner's home and returned in a sealed envelope.

The program is under the leadership of co-chairpersons Marlene Hellenschmidt, John Guarre and Victor Palumbos. They are now recruiting division leaders and team captains.

A total of 350 persons will be recruited to assist with the appeal. A goal has been set to raise the weekly collection by \$1,000.

In addition to seeking a commitment of time, talent and treasure, the volunteer workers will seek to obtain a completed census for each family. It is hoped that the census will highlight areas where parish staff attention may be necessary and update parish records in order to respond to areas of need among members of the parish family.

The program will kick off Feb. 29, and will be completed March 6.

Prioress Elected In Elmira

Elmira — Sister Miriam of the Cross, OP, has been elected prioress of the Monastery of Mary the Queen here.

Sister Miriam entered the monastery of the Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary in 1960 and professed her final vows in 1965.

A convert to Catholicism, she is the daughter of Mrs. Timothy McCarthy of Rochester. She succeeds Sister David Marie as prioress. The community elects a new prioress every three years.

Winter Escape Offered

It's that time of year again! so said an Aquinas news release. Just when the weather is starting to get you down, the release further stated, Aquinas offers an evening to lift spirits - the school's annual card party and buffet, 8 p.m., Saturday, March 31, in the school cafeteria.

Tickets are \$5 per person to play at the school, and \$2.50 for home play. Deadline for reservations is Friday, March 23. For more information call Mary Reifsteck at 247-7098, or Jean Dettman, 247-5512.



Altobelli Visits School

Joe Altobelli, manager of the world champion Baltimore Orioles and a member of Holy Ghost parish, signs autographs for the children during a visit to the school on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Altobelli was presented a plaque from the children for his generosity to the parish.

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