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Bishop to Begin Crossroads II

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will begin Crossroads II, a repeat of last year's Lenten journeys throughout the diocese next week on Ash Wednesday, March 4, when he celebrates liturgies at 11:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's in Elmira and at 7:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The theme of Crossroads II is "Renewed Hearts . . . Renewed Church" and the program will include the entire Lenten-Easter-Pentecost season, ending Sunday, June 10, Pentecost Sunday.

In a booklet sent to all parishes, the diocesan Liturgy Office states that this theme was chosen for three purposes:

"1. the Holy Year of Redemption calls the Church to celebrate the mystery of redemption. Reflection on this mystery invites renewal;

"2. In his Evangelization Plan (1983), Bishop Clark called for a conscious effort for renewal within our existing parish communities;

"3. The American Bishops' Pastoral 'A Challenge of Peace' calls for the American Church to consciously pray and study the topic of peace. To do so, calls forth a renewal of heart and mind."

With these three thoughts, Bishop Clark plans to visit as many places as possible and meet as many people as possible. The bulk of his travels will take him to parishes but the bishop also will be visiting hospitals, college campuses, developmental centers, and diocesan field offices. In addition, weekly prayer services have been scheduled at parishes across the diocese.

The Liturgy Office points out that not only are the bishop's travels of significance but so, too, are the prayers and activities contributed to Crossroads by diocesans.

The office recommends that parish planning include "practical people activity as well as prayer and reflection. The philosophy that true liturgy is the Christian activity of the people should be pronounced. . . then the ritual liturgy of the people will be filled with deep, rich meaning."

As was true with the first Crossroads journey last year, the Chrism Mass at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 17 (Holy Week) at the Cathedral will be one of the highlights of Crossroads II. All diocesans are invited.

And while the events of Holy Week, including Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebration are the natural highlights of the journey, the program does not end then. Visits will continue right up to Pentecost Sunday when the bishop will celebrate liturgy at St. Lawrence Church.

As a tangential part of the program, the weekly Liturgy Office columns in the Courier-Journal will focus on Crossroads II themes.

Please Join Me

My Dear People:

The days of Lent draw closer to us. During this Holy Year of Redemption, we are reminded evermore clearly of our great joy as members of the family of Jesus. The season of Lent invites us as a family (young and old, active and inactive, religious-laity-priest) to turn our hearts to God for renewal through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The heart has become the symbol of a person. We all are aware of those occasion on which the heart becomes a vibrant messenger of love and affection. Like all life, the heart needs renewal. To renew our hearts is to strengthen our love and affection.

I invite your participation in my 1984 journey. This year, as I cross the diocese on my pilgrimage, I carry the banner "Renewed Hearts... Renewed Church." I am attempting to share my heart with the people of the Rochester diocese, that, in doing so, it might be enriched and renewed by the love God wishes to share with me.

Your participation can cause renewal within yourselves as well. As in the past, I do not want to follow the journey alone. I want to journey with you. Please try to make your parish, your communities, your families a part of this Lenten pilgrimage. Together, the Church of Rochester will be exhilarated through the experiences of this holy season.

May God bless you now as you prepare and may the rich blessings of the heart of God be yours in the season of Lent-Easter which beckons us forward.

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

+ Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

CROSSROADS II



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RENEWED CHURCH

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U.S. Bishops Suggest Vocations, Women As Vatican Topics

Washington (NC) -- The U.S. bishops in an informal poll have suggested "vocations" and "women in the church and society" as possible topics for the next world Synod of Bishops in 1986.

Msgr. Daniel Hoyer, general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the suggestions have been forwarded to the general secretariat of the synod at the Vatican.

The secretariat asked bishops' conferences to suggest topics, Msgr. Hoyer said, and after an informal survey of U.S. bishops the "top two were sent over to Rome."

"My understanding is that vocations" was mentioned most often followed by the role of women, Msgr. Hoyer said Feb. 21.

While the final topic will be decided by Pope John Paul II, he said, the synod secretariat seeks ideas, refines them according to what a synod could realistically handle and looks at the overall needs of the worldwide church.

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, who was in Rome Feb. 18 for a meeting of the council of the general secretariat of the synod, said the council had not recommended a theme yet because responses were not in from all the bishops' conferences.

At their November 1983 meeting, the U.S. bishops suggested that their 1986 retreat-style meeting in Collegeville, Minn., also deal with the topic of vocations to

the priesthood and religious life or the role of women in the church.

Their third suggestion for that meeting was the

development of lay ministries.

During the 1983 meeting the bishops voted to begin a pastoral letter on the role of women in church and society.

Christians, Moslems Urge Peace Plan, Lebanese Ceasefire

Beirut, Lebanon (NC) -- Christian and Moslem religious leaders in Lebanon have put forward a three-point peace plan calling for an immediate ceasefire between the warring factions and the unconditional release of all prisoners.

The plan also proposes the reopening of traffic and communications between east and west Beirut, which have been split in the February fighting.

The religious leaders pledged to take their plan to Lebanon's political leaders and to establish a committee to organize a Lebanese religious summit.

The plan was announced in a joint statement released Feb. 22 after a one-day meeting in the Greek Orthodox cathedral in east Beirut.

Of the major religions in Lebanon, only the Druze were absent.

The Christian leaders present included Maronite Catholic Patriarch Antoine-Pierre Khoraihe, Melkite Catholic Patriarch Maximos V Hakim and Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius IV Hakim. All have jurisdiction in Lebanon.

Moslem leaders included representatives of Shiite and Sunni sects, who were driven under armed guard to the cathedral in predominantly Christian east Beirut.

Most of the February fighting has occurred in the western half of the city, where Moslems are a majority. The fighting has pitted Moslem and Druze militias against the Lebanese army.

How Many Commandments Of the Church Are There? How Many Do You Know?

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