

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



A reprise on our trip to Mexico. I have told some of you in conversation since we returned how difficult it has been to return spiritually from Oxolotan. Somehow my experience with our mission team and the people — brief as it was — made a strong impact on me. It is a different world there.

People are poor and, because of their poverty, struggle daily with problems which, although not unknown in our country, are beyond the experience of most of us. I mean things like ordinary medical care, a simple nutritious diet, any kind of relief from worry about tomorrow. These concerns are with most of the people of Oxolotan and the surrounding rancherias.

In addition to these elemental human everyday struggles which sap energies and make progress very difficult they face hard political realities. Many lay leaders in local faith communities are in jail because they promoted protest of government confiscation of peasant land without decent compensation. Many people live in fear which perhaps more

than hunger can drain the strength of a person.

I'm not surprised about the after effects of the trip because I had a similar reaction when I returned from a visit to our sisters in Brazil and Chile three years ago. What moves me is the fact that the same kinds of questions arise now as came up after that trip.

Those questions relate to my own life — the way I live, the things I take for granted, my awareness of and sensitivity to the poor, the priorities I have in use of time, energy, material goods and other God-given resources.

It's not always easy to deal with issues like these but I do so with a certain enthusiasm because I am convinced that such challenges always lead to deeper levels of life.

I have been helped further by some readings I have done lately. "Gracias" by Henri Nouwen is a journal of his experience in Peru from October 1980 through March 1981. His extraordinary ability to articulate his spiritual experience in the Latin American context has been of considerable assistance.

A second challenging piece I have read is a chapter from "I Believe in Justice and Peace," a book by Bishop Casadalinga with whom our sisters, Jean Bellini and Suzanne Wills, now work in Brazil. His reflections on poverty, the Church and ministry raise hard questions; but questions which are very exciting. I am anxious to read the rest of the book.

You have a fair idea now of what my own spiritual orientation is as we approach the Lenten season. Renewed hearts...Renewed Church is the theme under which we as a diocesan family enter this time of grace. As I see it now my own call to renewal is along the path outlined above. I am willing to move that way — especially with the support of your prayers.

Let me encourage you to spend this week before Lent in prayer that the Lord will lead you in special love through these weeks of grace. If you are aware of any need for renewal or deepening of life, now is a powerful time to ask for it. I offer you my prayers in support of your Lenten journey.

Peace.

Auburn's 'Mother Church' Notes Sesquicentennial

Auburn — Holy Family Church, the "Mother Church" of Auburn Catholics, launched its sesquicentennial celebration last weekend with a repeat of last year's Alumni Big-East Weekend, a series of basketball games, played and coached by many alumni of Holy Family grammar school and high school. It was, in the words of Father Richard Shatzel, associate pastor, "a bit of nostalgia for the old days when Holy Family was a power in the field of athletics in Auburn."

The day following, the "Blue Lights" band played for a dance for alumni, parishioners and friends.

Since the parish was founded by Irish settlers, the second celebration on the schedule will be a St. Patrick's Party, 1-7 p.m., Sunday, March 4 in the parish hall. Irish music, ham and cabbage, and a variety of booths will be available to entertain the entire family.

A number of other events have been scheduled to mark the parish anniversary.

A parish brunch will be served following the 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sunday, April 29 at Diana's Restaurant.

A jubilee concert will be given 7:30 p.m., Sunday, June 10 in the church. Robert

Nolan, church musician, will direct a combined choir of volunteers from other Catholic parishes in Auburn for the occasion.

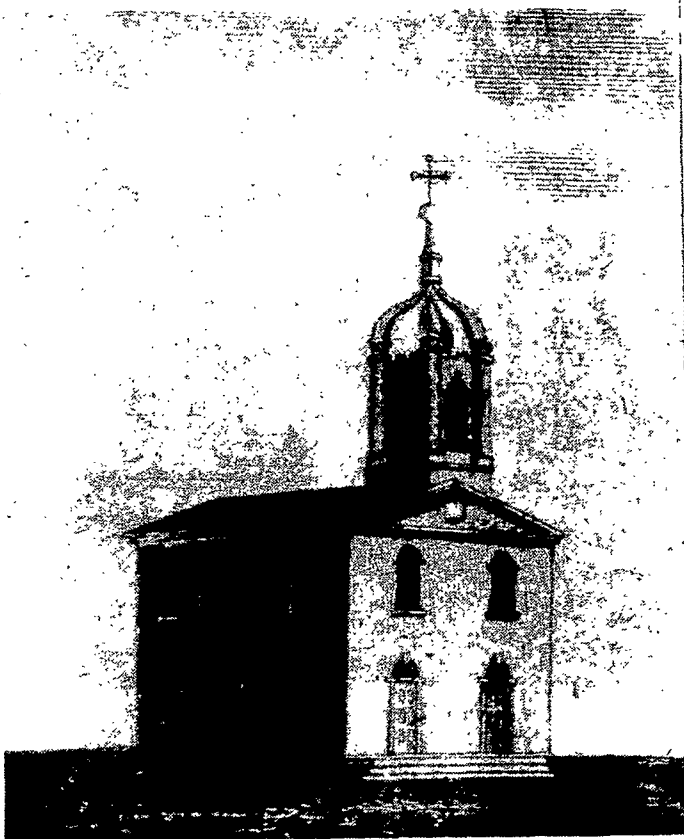
A parish auction and garage sale will be conducted June 23 on the church grounds.

An outdoor Mass, followed by a parish picnic, is set for 2 p.m., Sunday, June 29 at the Polish Home Camp. The public is invited to the event.

A special children's day will be held Sunday, Sept. 23 in the parish hall. It will feature fun, food and games for the children.

The high point of the jubilee year will be a visit from Bishop Matthew H. Clark. He will celebrate the Jubilee Mass 11:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 21, and will be feted at a reception following in the hall.

The following Sunday, a jubilee dinner-dance will be held at the Holiday Inn. Featured will be a formal dinner, with special guests and dignitaries, including



The first Holy Family Church, as it appeared in 1834.

priests and women religious who have served the parish over the years. The Frank Mucedola band will provide

music for dancing. The patronal feast of the parish will be observed on the last Sunday of the year, Dec.



Holy Family Church today.

30. "Each mass that weekend will be observed in honor of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and will serve as

a fitting conclusion of this 150th Jubilee Year for Holy Family Parish," Father Shatzel said.

Priests Council to Alter Constitution To Match New Code of Canon Law

By John Dash

The diocesan Priests Council is considering a change in its constitution to bring it in line with the new Code of Canon Law.

In addition, several other changes in the constitution have been proposed by a special council committee.

According to a memo filed with all priests in the diocese, the drafters hope for ratification of the new constitution at the April 3 meeting.

The first change is "a provision for ex officio and appointed members as required by the new law, while at the same time keeping the council at approximately the same size it is now," the memo stated.

The draft of the constitution revision calls for membership of the bishop, 11 elected regional representatives, 2 elected religious representatives, 4 ex-officio

members, and up to 4 appointed members to be named by the bishop.

The revision also calls for the ex-officio members to include a priest from the Office of Support Ministries, one from the Office of Personnel, one from the Office of Social Ministry, one from the Office of Urban Ministry and "any member of the College of Consultors whose term on this council shall otherwise expire while he is still a consultor, for the duration of his term as a consultor should he choose not to resign."

Canon Law makes a distinction between the priests council and college of consultors, stating, in part: "From among the members of the council of priests, the diocesan bishop freely appoints not fewer than six and not more than twelve priests, who are for five years to constitute the college of consultors."

At least from the text

published by Collins Liturgical Publications of London, it is difficult to determine the exact function of such a college. An article of Canon 501, however, states, "When the see is vacant, the council of priests lapses and its functions are fulfilled by the college of consultors."

Another canon (419), in describing how a diocese is to be run during the time when there is no bishop in possession of it, states:

"While the see is vacant and until the appointment of a diocesan administrator, the governance of the diocese devolves upon the auxiliary bishop. If there are a number of auxiliary bishops, it devolves upon the senior by promotion. If there is no auxiliary bishop, it devolves upon the college of consultors, unless the Holy See has provided otherwise. The one who thus assumes the governance of the diocese

must without delay convene the college which is competent to appoint a diocesan administrator."

In other changes, the revision committee proposed that block elections take place according to regions only, with the exception of retirees, who will be divided into two age blocks; that the entire presbyterate vote on the entire electoral slate, with nominations of candidates coming from the region; and that the month for the elections be changed from May to December, members taking office in January.

The last proposal is occasioned by the practice in this diocese of issuing the majority of new clerical assignments in June. Therefore priests elected in May would sometimes be required to vacate their positions on the Priests Council because of a transfer in assignment.

Peace Program Planned March 3

A Celebration of Peace, featuring Susan Savell in Concert will take place March 3 at the First Baptist Church of Rochester, 175 Allens Creek Road.

Dr. Elly Haney of the United Church of Christ Peace Theology Team will deliver the keynote address.

Billed as "a fun peace conference for adults and children," the celebration is sponsored by the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Peace and Justice Commission of the Rochester Episcopal Diocese, the Peace on Earth Task Force of the Genesee Valley Presbytery and the Peace Task Force of the American Baptist Churches of the Monroe Association.

Blue Army

The March vigil of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will be dedicated to St. Joseph, 9 p.m.-midnight, Friday, March 2 at Holy Rosary Church. Leading the rites will be Father William Leone, Father Rosario LaDelfa, and Father Frederick Eisemann.

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