

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Yesterday all of us in the Diocese of Rochester were graced in a special way. I refer to the blessings given us through our program with youth, March Forth to Ministry, at Bishop Kearney High School.

One thousand-five young men and women from our 12 counties gathered to celebrate their faith, to enjoy one another and to open their minds and hearts to the life-invitation the Lord offers to each of us.

It was a day of prayer, of laughter, of study, of sharing and searching. It was fun. It was exciting. It was holy.

I would be hard put -- still so close to the event -- to say in any systematic way all that I'd like to share about the day. In view of that and with an eye toward the deadline against which I write, I place the following before you.

● Thanks to all. I refer to those who: planned and organized the event, offered hospitality and conducted workshops, helped us to pray in song, proclaimed the word, ministered the Eucharist, encouraged the kids to come, prayed for the success of the day, fed us, drove the buses and cars which got everyone there, made the unseen sacrifices at home

so the rest of us could attend.

● Because of the delightful and surprisingly large turnout we were later starting than we planned. The committee did a superb job adjusting to the circumstances and all who came were remarkable in their patience. If patience marked the beginning, humor and goodness and generosity and beauty and faith and curiosity were notes of the passing hours. All of these converged in the powerful joy of the Liturgy.

● Young people are great evangelizers, i.e., they make us aware in countless ways, often unknown to them, of God's love for us in Christ! Example: After only five minutes with the kids in the registration area a woman said to me, "I left home thinking I'd be losing an afternoon and now I'm so happy to be here. There's something beautiful about this." Example: The youth ministers and leaders from Chemung County gathered during one of the workshop sessions. To spend a few moments with them was to experience people more alive with Christ-life because of their work with the young.

● It is part of being molded and shaped and brought to life

by a loving God that we yearn to love and be loved. I guess I have not always had some appreciation of that truth even if I have not always lived it as I should. Yesterday the simplicity, vulnerability and generosity of our young friends deepened in me the realization that I am loved and made me want to be as generous in love as they are. Their gift to me is one we're meant to share with others every day of our life.

● Yesterday did not happen in a vacuum. The generous efforts being carried on in our parish communities, the work of our Vocation Office and Youth Ministry Office, the initiatives of our young people and those who work with them all came together in a special moment of celebration and grace for our entire faith community. We give thanks for that -- and we move on, trying to respond to the gift we received.

Please be a part of that motion. Pray for our young people. Work with them. Talk with them. Make them curious about Jesus and the Church by the way you live. You'll make wonderful friends!

Peace.

Pilgrim Virgin Statue To Tour in Diocese

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be on a series of visits from April 6 through April 29 in the Rochester diocese. The visit of the statue represents an opportunity for parishes and persons to be consecrated to Mary and to implement her peace plan for the world as revealed at Fatima -- the daily rosary for the conversion of Russia, confessions and communions of reparation, and consecration to her shown by wearing the brown scapular.

The shrine at Fatima has been a source of inspiration and devotion and the scene of many miracles for more than 60 years. Despite the fact that thousands of pilgrims, including Pope John Paul II, visit Fatima, there are millions who will never have the opportunity. For these, five replicas of the statue of Our Lady at Fatima were blessed by Pope Paul VI, each to be carried to one of the five continents.

In 1967, the bishop of Fatima brought the statue for the United States to Columbus, Ohio, where it was met by Cardinal Carberry and viewed by more than 100,000 people during its stay

in that diocese. Since then, the statue has been carried to almost every American diocese.

Alfred Williams, national custodian of the statue, will accompany it to the Rochester diocese. Father Albert J. Shamon, will join him. All are invited to attend the visitations. The schedule:

7 p.m., Friday, April 6 to 10 a.m., Saturday, April 7, Holy Rosary, Rochester; 5 p.m., Saturday, April 7, to 10 p.m., Sunday, April 8, Sacred Heart, Auburn; 1:15 to 2:30 p.m., Monday, April 9, DeSales High School, Geneva; 4 to 10 p.m., Monday, April 9, St. Stephen's, Geneva; 1:15 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, April 10, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rochester; 1 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 11, St. Joachim, Canisteo; 8 to 10:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 11, St. Vincent, Corning.

9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, April 12, St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads; 10:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, April 13, St. John's, Greece; 1:30 to 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 13, St. Augustine's, Rochester; 8:30 to 10:30 p.m., Friday,

April 13, St. John's, Greece; noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 14, St. John's, Spencerport; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday, April 16, Abbey of the Genesee, Piffard.

10:30 to 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 17, Mercy Motherhouse, Rochester; Wednesday, April 18, to Sunday, April 22, St. Mary's, Waterloo; 4 to 9 p.m., Monday, April 23, Holy Cross, Rochester; 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, St. Patrick's, Owego; 8 to 10 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; 3 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, St. Leo's, Hilton; 8 to 10:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, St. Theodore's, Rochester.

4 to 7 p.m., Thursday, April 26, St. Felix, Clifton Springs; 8:30 to 10:30 p.m., Thursday, April 26, St. Patrick's, Victor; noon to 4 p.m., Friday, April 27, St. Mary's, Dansville; 8 to 10:30 p.m., Friday, April 27, Queen of Peace, Rochester; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 28, Holy Spirit, Penfield, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, April 29, St. John's, Port Byron.

Sister Nancy Sylvester To Lead Election Forum

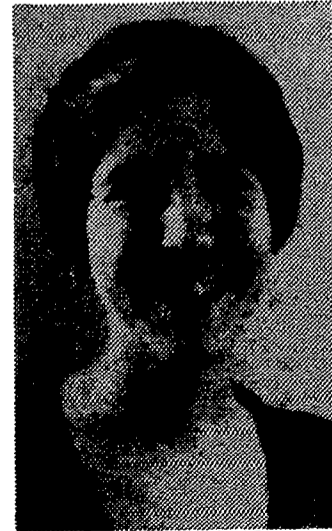
Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM, coordinator of Network, a Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, D.C., will lead a day-long program, "Election '84: Faith and Issues," March 10 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall, Monroe Avenue at Oxford Street.

The program, designed for parishioners, members of human development committees, parish council members, and parish staff members, will explore such questions as:

"What is the connection between our faith and politics?"

"Which candidates best reflect your values, beliefs and priorities?"

"What is the connection between the powerful bishops' peace pastoral and the electoral issues of 1984?" a



SISTER NANCY program flier states.

"Many issues of justice and peace have a political dimension because they are embedded in public policy. But the fact that they are also political is no excuse for

denying the Church's obligation to provide its members with the help they need in forming their consciences. We must learn together how to make correct and responsible moral judgments," the brochure says.

The event is co-sponsored by the Diocesan Sisters Council and the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace.

Sister Nancy has been on the Network staff since 1977. A Sister Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Mich., she holds degrees in philosophy and political science, and in economics and theology.

She is also now co-chairman of the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, and is on the board of the Instituto Historico Centroamericano.

Bowling Tournament Scheduled

More than 3,000 bowlers from 130 cities will vie for \$30,000 in prize money during the 59th annual Knights of Columbus National Bowling Tournament, Eastern Region. The tournament will run for eight weekends, from March 17-18 to May 12-13, except for Easter weekend, at two sites -- Terrace Garden Lanes and Maiden Lanes.

Host council for the tournament is Trinity Council #4618 of Webster.

More than 100 local teams have been pledged. They have been sponsored by local businesses and are staffed by K of C councils in Rochester as well as Webster, Greece, Geneva, LeRoy, Lockport, Fairport, Irondequoit, East Rochester, Canandaigua, Penfield and Henrietta.

Opening ceremonies have been scheduled at noon, Saturday, March 17 at Maiden Lanes in Greece. The Opening Day Banquet will be later that day at the Webster Columbus Center, Barrett Drive.

Evening Of Prayer Scheduled

Women interested in religious life are invited to an evening of prayer sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, at the Prayer Center, 4490 Lake Ave.

The evening is part of the Mercy Sisters' monthly Faith Sharing Program which provides women an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the call to religious life.

A "Ministry Experience" the weekend of April 13-14 is scheduled as the next event in the program.

For further information on either event, contact Sister Sheila Stevenson, Faith Sharing coordinator, at 716/244-2175.

Sunday Dances

The 31/61 senior group Sunday dance will be 2-5 p.m., March 11 at the Hof Brau Hall, 406 Lyell Ave. The club is a non-profit organization. Further information is available from Dot Benner, 436-7032.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

How Pray With Bible?

Dear Father Hohman,

Much more than ever before our priests and the leaders in our parish keep telling us how important it is to pray the Bible. They tell us that this is essential to our spiritual life. I have really tried. Whenever I sit down with the Bible, there are so many things that I just can't understand that after a while I tend to give up. It all seems all so remote from my own experience that I don't really know how to handle it; and it's very difficult to get interested in it. If we are supposed to be reading the Bible, how can we overcome this?

J.L.

Dear J.L.

Most parishes are trying to introduce their people to the Bible through various courses especially introductory courses which give the background and history of the Bible. These things are very important for the study of the Bible. I might also recommend any of the books of John L. McKenzie who is a top biblical scholar, but who also is able to get down to the level of the ordinary person and give many insights toward the reading of the Bible.

I also think that we can get a better handle on the Bible if we have a commentary and use the commentary as we go along in our reading. One that many people like is the Daily Bible Study Series by Dr. William Barclay, which is very pastorally oriented and makes applications of the Bible to ordinary life in a way that is very helpful.

Another commentary on the Bible which is useful and easy to follow is the series put out by The Liturgical Press. As a matter of fact, they just revised and extended that series so the entire thing can be obtained for \$25.

Finally, I would like to

mention the fact that there are many, many sections of the Bible which lend themselves to prayerful reflection. The trouble often is that we feel we have to read much of the Bible, whereas we would be far better off to read only a few lines which we would reflect upon in terms of our own situation and our own lives. That is hard to do when we are oriented toward accomplishment, that is, the need to "read the Bible."

Another help in reading the Bible is to take the stories and to inject ourselves into them in the sense that we place ourselves in that particular scenario and experience it as something alive and real. The people then come to life as well as the place and circumstances. This is the kind of contemplation which St. Ignatius made popular and is extremely helpful in bringing us to a sense of the Bible's relevance.

One final recommendation -- whenever we engage in a study in a group we're going to gain insights which other people have, and especially when it is a guided study. Perhaps there are Bible study groups in your parish, and I would highly encourage you to at least try one of them.

Volunteer Families Needed

Qualified host families are currently being sought for American Foreign Studies Program (AFSP) international exchange students.

These students will spend one month this summer experiencing the United States with an American family. Host families provide room and board for the student.

Families interested in participating can obtain more information by contacting Patricia Roesch, 69 Madison Terr., Rochester, 14617; 716/342-9323.