

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



On Saturday evening as I enjoyed a parish supper at St. John the Evangelist parish, Humboldt Street, Rochester, I felt a light tap on my arm. I turned to find a handsome young man of six years of age standing at my side.

He didn't speak and, although he looked to be a very cheery kid, he was not smiling at the time. I said, "Hi! how are you?" In response to that he extended his arm and handed me a picture which he had drawn at the Liturgy which preceded the supper.

It was my picture, he told me, and he drew it for me. There is a good bit of detail: the altar is solid and in good proportion; on it one can clearly see vessels for the wine and water. Above the altar is a well drawn sanctuary lamp. I know little about art and much less about the stages of development young children go through in that area, but in my opinion it is an excellent piece of work.

All of it was done with a blue ink ball-point pen. The one exception to that is the zucchetto or red skull cap which I wear for ceremonies. That was done in brilliant red. Because of the

vibrant color and its centrality in the picture it's all the more evident that our young artist converted my skull cap into what is unmistakably a baseball cap!

When I asked him to sign the picture for me he very kindly printed: Matthew Gordon 6.

Matthew is going to be a reminder to me all through Lent of the kind of care for one another which should be the fruit and sign of our prayer and fasting.

He will be a reminder as well that the Lord reveals His love through all of us, no matter what our age or condition.

This beautiful young man will also call me back to some time with the Lord's words, "Unless you become like little children..."

Between the time I write this and you read it I will have spent a few days with all of our priests at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.

I have been working on the talk I am to give at those sessions and have now come to the stage at which my stomach seems to become lighter than air, my knees start to wobble

more than usual, and even I can't make sense of what I have written in preparation for this event!

It's not that the priests are a fearsome audience. They're really kind and quite-receptive. It's much more in me. I would like to do it well and in my effort encourage, strengthen and challenge them in priestly ministry.

That kind of "revving up" of the system can be nature's way of preparing us to meet the challenges of life. I have learned though that I need to remember that having done what I can, I must surrender everything to the Lord's power. When I don't, the natural charge we receive to meet challenges passes beyond due measure and becomes tightness and worry. Those never did help me get much of anything done. Perhaps you experience the same kind of thing from time to time.

In any case, during this Lenten season please pray for all of your priests. We need your prayers and count on them very much.

Peace.

Election Forum Attracts 100 +

More than 100 diocesans attended the day-long workshop titled "Election '84: Faith and Issues", last Saturday at the Blessed Sacrament School Hall.

The workshop was sponsored by the Diocesan Sisters Council and the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace, and featured Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM, coordinator of Network, a Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, D.C.

The program was designed for parishioners, human development committee members, parish councils, and parish staff people.

Sister Nancy answered questions on the connection between faith and politics, and the connection between the U.S. bishops' peace pastoral and the upcoming elections.

"Before the Catholic political agenda was focused on the abortion issue, on right to life issues," Sister Nancy said.

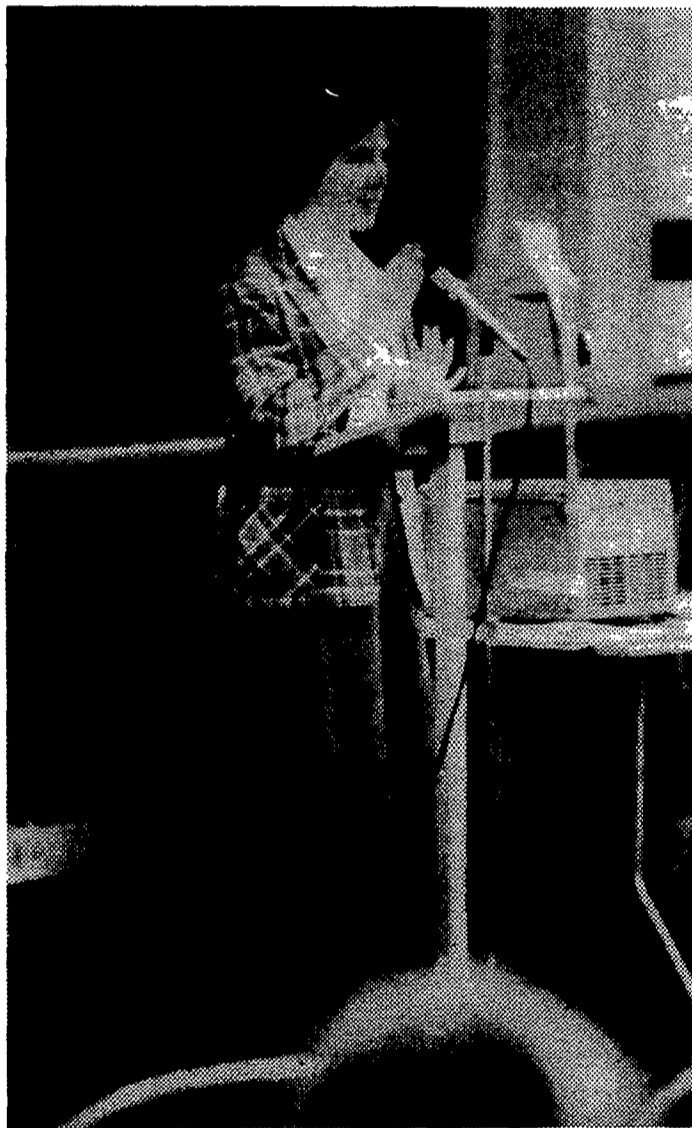
Now, she said, the bishops' pastoral must make people aware that this is not the sole issue. "We must take seriously what the Church is teaching -- be multi-issue people."

Sister Nancy led workshops in the morning and afternoon, and was joined in the latter session by Father Charles Mulligan, diocesan director of social ministry.

Sister Nancy joined



Sisters Judith McKay, director of St. Joseph's Villa, and Elizabeth Anne LeValley, Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, among the crowd at the workshop Saturday.



Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM.

Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced: Father Douglas Hoffman has resigned from active ministry.

DPC Agenda

- March 24, 1984
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- St. Louis Parish, Pittsford
- 9 a.m. Opening Prayer, Executive Committee
- 9:15-9:30 Announcements
- 9:30-11:20 Panel on Laity, moderated by Sara McLaughlin
- 11:20-11:30 Maribeth Mancini, consultant for Adult Religious Education
- 11:30-12:15 The Mexican Experience -- Bishop Clark, Ms. Lourdes Perez-Albuerne
- 12:15-1:30 Liturgy and Lunch
- 1:30-2 Small group discussion on Laity in the Church
- 2-2:30 Feedback and Questions
- 2:30-2:55 Open Forum with Bishop Clark
- 2:55 Evaluation and Closing Prayer

Trappist Ordained By Bishop Clark

Brother Joseph Stanton, O.C.S.O., a Cistercian monk of the Abbey of the Genesee, was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Matthew H. Clark on Friday, March 2 in Piffard.

A native of Fairhaven, Mass., Father Stanton, 61, had been an industrial engineer, a married man and a grandfather before entering the monastery in 1973.

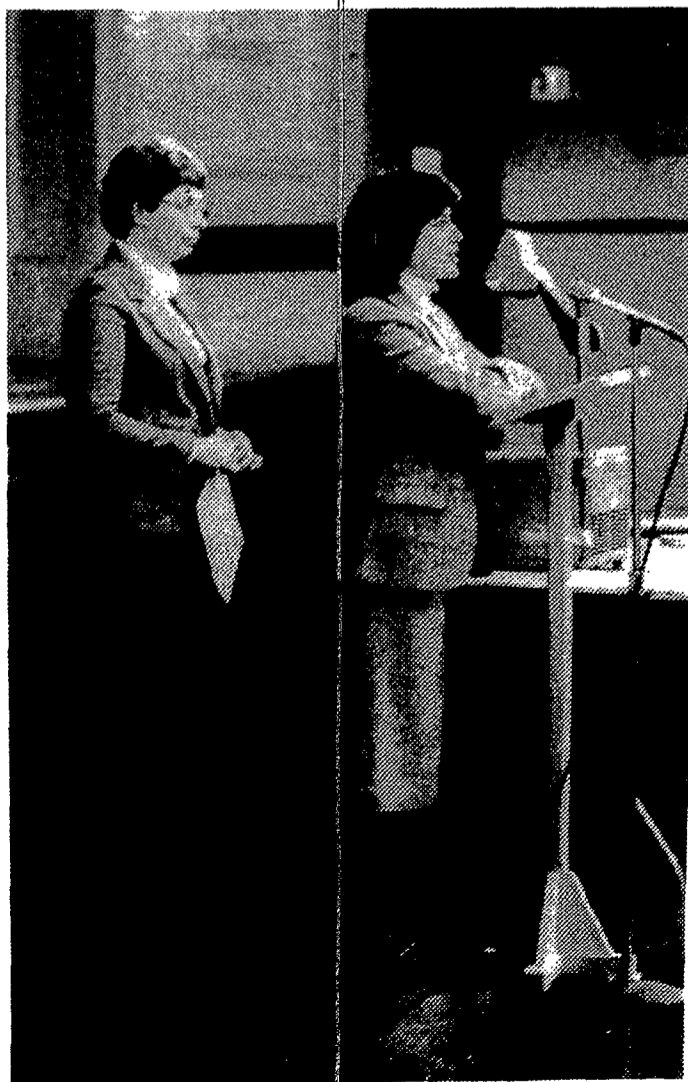
Present for the ceremony were his son, daughter, and numerous grandchildren.

In the Trappist tradition, Father Stanton's ministry will be limited to the service of the monastery, its guests and retreatants.

Presently, 10 of the 40 monks at the Abbey of the Genesee serve the community as priests.



FATHER STANTON



Sister Susan Schantz, SSJ, left, president of the Diocesan Sisters Council, and Mary Heidkamp, director of the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace, introduce the workshop.

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