

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



This week we celebrate the first anniversary of the Challenge of Peace: God's Gift and Our Response. That pastoral letter of our National Conference of Catholic Bishops I believe has made a major impact in the American religious community and in the nation at large.

One reason for the strong impact was the method followed in its preparation. Public draft documents not only allowed ample opportunity for criticism and refinement of the letter but generated a level of public awareness and curiosity rarely experienced in similar efforts.

Secondly, the document treats a matter of real substance and common interest in a responsible and creative way. The letter in no way denies the complexity of the issue but insists that we can achieve conditions of real peace in the world. That it remains so active a focal point for discussion and stimulus to prayer, I think is testimony to its effectiveness as a pastoral document.

I have found the pastoral letter to be of exceptional personal

importance to me. In the preparatory stages of study and discussion I discovered that many of the attitudes I had about armament, the conduct of war and the possibility for a just and lasting peace had never been seriously re-examined in light of the realities of the nuclear age. In the year since its publication the letter and the activity flowing from it have made me aware of how deeply we all need to work for peace in our daily living.

Two happy occasions of different kinds have highlighted my own observance of the first anniversary of the letter.

The first refers to a visit I made yesterday to our newest parish community, the Church of the Transfiguration in Pittsford. Among some announcements made before Mass was one inviting all parishioners to a prayer service for peace on this and successive Thursday evenings. This and similar initiatives being taken in many other parishes in the diocese are stimulated in large measure by the pastoral letter.

The second event is my trip to Loccum, Germany, to participate in an ecumenical seminar on peace as a mission of

the Church. This gathering which includes Germans, Americans and Russians will represent Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox, Lutheran and Evangelical efforts to deal with issues of arms reduction and peace. Expert theologians will help us to identify the common themes in our respective statements on these issues and they will assist us in understanding more sharply the differences which exist among them.

It's an exciting prospect for me and I ask your prayers for its success. I shall look forward to telling you about it when I return.

The Transfiguration community and the Loccum seminar are both very important as we observe the first anniversary of the pastoral letter. They remind us that prayer is absolutely essential to any work for peace. Peace will never happen without a change of heart. They remind us as well that we must seek to understand the issues as deeply as we can and then act responsibly and courageously on our understanding. Peace to all.

Father Bayer Chancellor

Father Peter T. Bayer, who has been in charge of the diocesan planning office for the past 11 years, has been named chancellor by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

In addition, Father Bayer has been named director of the Division of Support Ministries.

He assumes the duties of Father William Flynn who received a pastoral assignment two weeks ago.

Father Bayer was the first director of the Office of Planning, established by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan in 1973; and he has held that post in its various forms since.

Father Bayer was ordained in 1971. Prior to his ordina-

tion as a priest he worked as a deacon in the Office of Human Development. His first priestly assignment was as associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in Rochester.

In 1968 he was graduated from the Army Chaplain School and served on the suicide prevention team of Memorial Hospital in Long Beach, Calif.

He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

In August, 1972, he designed, maintained and directed the planning and operation functions for flood relief programs in the greater Corning area.



FATHER BAYER



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

DPC Agenda

May 5, 1984
Haggerty School of Religion
St. Joseph's, Livonia, N.Y.

9-9:30 a.m. Opening Prayer - Livingston Region: Regional and Appointed Reports.

9:30-10:30 a.m. Bishop Clark's Open Forum.

10:30 a.m.-noon Presentation of the 1984-85 Diocesan Plan and Supporting Budget by the Ministerial Review Committee.

noon-1:30 p.m. Liturgy and lunch.

1:30-2:45 p.m. Motions on the Diocesan Plan and Supporting Budget.

2:45-3 p.m. Announcements, Evaluations, Closing Prayer - Livingston Region.

Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark Appoints:

Father John Dillon, from associate pastor St. Mary's, Waterloo, to administrator of the Church of the Epiphany, Sodus; and St. Rose of Lima, Sodus Point.

Father Peter T. Bayer, from director of pastoral planning and management, to chancellor and director of the Division of Support Ministries.

Father John DeSocio, from associate pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester, to chaplain at Ithaca College.

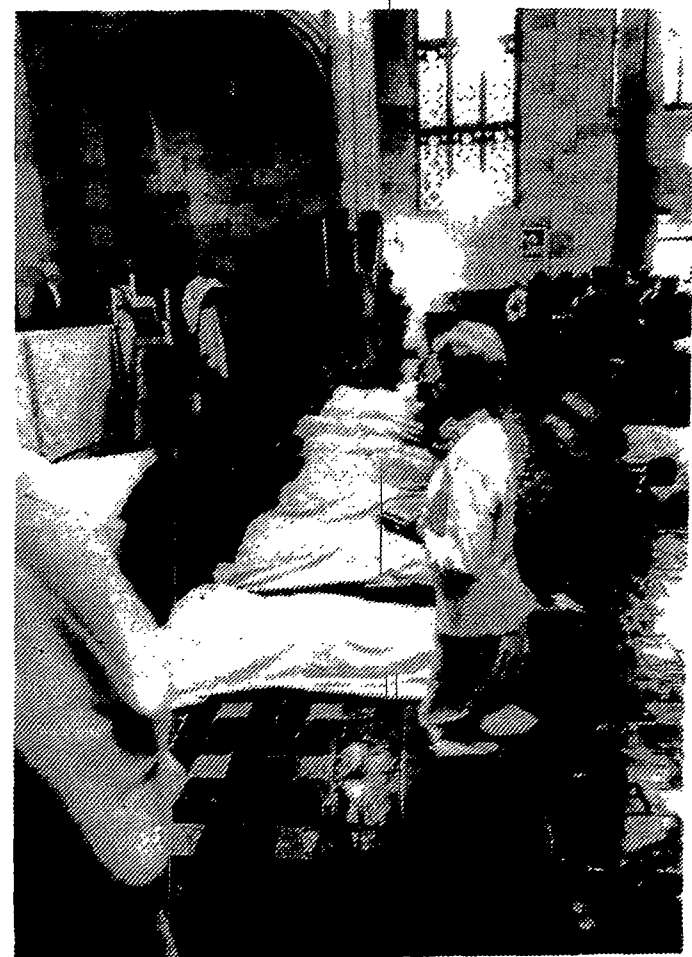
Father Jeremiah, P. Moynihan, from administrator St. Ignatius, Hornell, to pastor St. Ignatius Hornell, and to duties as chaplain at St. James Mercy Hospital.

Father Kevin McKenna, from canon law studies in Rome, to vice chancellor.



Our New Deacons

Sacred Heart Cathedral was filled with family and friends on hand for the ordinations of 11 men to the diaconate -- 10 as permanent deacons, and one, Rev. Mr. Patrick Sullivan, above, with his hands in those of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, as transitional deacon. Clockwise, from below, husbands lie prostrate with their wives kneeling beside; Deacon Peter Battisti is hugged by one of his colleagues; Deacon John M. Boburka kneels before Bishop Clark with wife Yvonne at his side.



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