



The religious gather in prayer at the Rochester meeting.

Bishop Clark addresses religious in Corning

Bishop and Religious Engage in Dialogue

By Sister Ann Habershaw, SSND

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, within the past month, has met with men and women religious in Rochester, Geneva and Corning to share understandings and visions of religious life in the United States, particularly within the Diocese of Rochester. An open forum between Bishop Clark and the religious had been held in the fall.

In spring, 1983, Pope John Paul II appointed a commission of three American bishops "to facilitate the pastoral work of their brother bishops in the United States in helping (U.S. religious) whose institutes are engaged in apostolic works to live their ecclesial vocation to the full."

The letter announcing the appointment expressed some of the pope's understandings of and concerns regarding religious life and was accompanied by a document entitled "Essential Elements in Church Teaching on Religious Life" from the Sacred Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes (SCRIS). The American commission, headed by Archbishop John Quinn of San Francisco, formed a committee of men and women to study religious life in the United States in preparation for a response to Pope John Paul and the sacred congregation.

Every bishop in the United States has been requested by Archbishop Quinn's commission to dialogue with the religious of his diocese in preparation for the May meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops which will contribute to the formation of a response to Rome.

Bishop Clark noted that within the past year his association with religious life has not been limited to the general gatherings. He has visited the sacred congregation in Rome to speak about religious life and matters of common concern. He sees a need to deepen the understanding between SCRIS and American religious. Bishop Clark has also had regular meetings with local major superiors and vicars for religious and experiences a good relationship with religious as he meets them individually and in groups.

In opening each meeting the bishop stated a twofold purpose for convening: to respond to the request of Archbishop Quinn's commission and to deepen an understanding of religious life, making religious feel embraced by the local Church. He continued by commenting upon more than 100 responses sent him by religious

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prior to the gatherings. Religious reflected upon their lived experience of the change since Vatican Council II particularly in the areas of public witness, obedience, vocations and communication with Rome. The responses, with few exceptions, were positive, evidencing an enthusiasm for the renewal of religious life and its accompanying growth for the individual religious. Bishop Clark remarked, "There seems to be a great appreciation for what has happened in the past 20 years."

Reforms of Vatican II have drawn religious into greater responsibility. Religious feel more mature, freer, more a part of the decision making process that shapes their present and future. In reference to this, one speaker remarked that the ideas of obedience, the relationship of people to bishops and the Holy See must be refined. Religious orders have already moved beyond authoritarianism to dialogue and this could serve as a model for the universal Church.

A good portion of the discussion at the Geneva meeting centered on the decline of religious vocation. Those who articulated their views did not speak of the decline as threatening. They spoke instead of the increase in ministry by the laity and the need for all God's people to join together in service. Another speaker felt that young people will continue to respond as they see religious life as spiritual and significant.

Bishop Clark expressed a concern that religious life is not well known in the Church at large. Formerly, people felt comfortable with the image of the religious in a structured

lifestyle within specified ministries. He challenged religious to articulate to the Church community what renewal has meant and how it has enriched their lives and the lives of those served. He sees the study of religious life begun by Pope John Paul II and its accompanying dialogue as contributing to a better understanding of religious life. Through the work of the commission, a better understanding of religious life as experienced in the United States will also be communicated to the Holy See.

Bishop Clark's remarks offered hope as well as challenge for all in the Church of the United States.

"We don't know what the next 50 years will bring. We're at the beginning of a great deepening in the Church, but it will cost. We're going to be sorely tested, especially in America as more and more social realities of our day call us to greater courage. Our charity will be tested on all levels. We have to hold together, empty ourselves profoundly in the years ahead."

Bishop Clark will include these dialogues in the formulation of his report to the commission.

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Sr. Lucetta Marks 50th Anniversary

Sister Lucetta Lougen, SSND, will celebrate her golden jubilee of her profession with a Mass and reception at noon, Saturday, May 5, at Holy Ghost Church. Born in Buffalo, Sister Lucetta has taught in Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vermont and across this state. In Rochester, she has taught at Holy Family, St. Margaret Mary, and, for the last 11 years, at Holy Ghost School. For the last 22 years, Sister Lucetta has been teaching eighth grade, specializing in English and Social Studies.

St. John Knights Slate 1984 Delegates Meeting

The 1984 Delegates Meeting of the New York Grand Commandery and Grand Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. John will be held May 5 and 6 at the Holiday Airport Inn.

Highlights of the meetings will be a memorial Mass at noon, May 5, and a solemn

Mass 10 a.m., Sunday, which the knights will attend in full dress uniform. Celebrant of the Masses, and homilist, will be Msgr. Carl Denti of Utica.

Officers of the commandery and auxiliary include Joseph Cooper, president; Joseph Cimino, secretary; Robert Stich, treasurer; John

Lloyd, guard; and Helen Bittner, vice president. They are all of Rochester.

Committee members in charge of the event are Camilla Haszlauer, John T. Schneider, Ruth Martindale, Robert Stich, Betty Shea, Frank Meleca, Joan Weismiller, John Lloyd, Louisa Schuler, Al Keidel, Dolores Boesel, Leonard Bosseft, Helen Bittner, Arthur Senger, Frances Pilato, John Schneider, Santo DiBella, Santa Meloni, Ned Meloni, Sophia Rafelowski, George Schultz, William Higgins, Joseph Cooper, Joseph Cimino, and Charles Keller.

PCCO Sets Spring Song Celebrations

The Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra (PCCO), directed by Sister Virginia Hogan, SSJ, will have two evenings of dinner and song in celebration of spring, starting 6:30 p.m. May 11, and 4:30 p.m., May 12 at Chamberlain's Island Valley Party House, 1200 Fairport Road.

The PCCO event is styled as a "pops" dinner concert, and will feature traditional American songs and a tribute to composer Richard Rogers.

Both sacred and secular music is on the program, from such spirituals as "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" and "Dry Bones" to "Shenandoah" and the stirring "Battle Hymn of the Republic," sung in honor of

the Rochester's ses-

quicentennial. Following the May 11 concert, music for dancing will be provided by Al Saia's combo, "Pennies Four."

Tickets to the events are \$12 and are reserved by calling 381-8683 or 223-9006, or by contacting Martha Skeet, 48 Buckwheat Dr., Fairport, N.Y. 14450.

Sesqui Soccer

Two college soccer games will be played as a "Sesquicentennial Soccer Special," May 5 at University of Rochester's Fauver Stadium. RIT vs. U of R begins at 5:30 p.m.; Division I Penn State vs. Hartwick at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students.

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