

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



The letter began: "I'd like to congratulate you on a decision you made."

You know me well enough by now to realize that this sentence hooked me into reading on with great interest.

The letter came from a young woman of high school age who was much disappointed when two priests at her parish were transferred last year. She thought a great deal of them and was sure that none coming after them could quite fill their shoes.

With the passage of some time, she discovered that the priests who replaced her friends turned out to be good people too. Although they were different from their predecessors, they managed to serve the parish community with good spirit and considerable skill.

I mention that letter now because it seems to me that our young friend taps into a theme very important to all of us at this time of year — adjusting to new relationships and circumstances.

My own rounds put me in touch with a good amount of

that: we ask our newly baptized to work at growing in their new relationship with the Risen Lord, and with their brothers and sisters in faith; our newly confirmed are asked to rise to an extra measure of service and responsibility in within the community and the world.

We encourage our graduates to be strong in meeting the challenges of contemporary life. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, men and women pledge themselves to one another in a relationship which well may take them along roads they never dreamed of traveling.

All of these challenges mentioned by way of example are exciting ones, but we know well that in the long run all can be very demanding. First fervors die easily and the strength of conviction necessary for the long road develops slowly.

You may not be involved directly in any of the above mentioned events, but I'll bet that even a few moments of thinking and prayer would bring you in touch with a call to some kind of growth and change in your life

It may be that you need to accept the fact tht someone

you love very much has changed in a way that is difficult for you to accept. How will you meet that challenge?

It could be that some person, event or circumstance has affected you that you experience the need to change in some way and are not sure that you have the strength or the courage to do that. What happens now?

I wish I could provide detailed answers to the questions I have raised, but I cannot. What I can do is share with you two things I try to do in similar circumstances.

First I try to place the concern, person, challenge or question before the Lord in as simple and open a way as I am capable of at the moment. In doing so I ask for the wisdom to know what is right and the courage to do it.

Second I try to share that story with one who knows me very well and who will be willing to give honest comment to what I have said.

Our young friend started all of this. I thank her for the lesson in life she offered.

Peace to all.

## Area Mercy Sisters Attend Annual Federation Meeting

Four Rochester Sisters of Mercy will join nearly 100 of their co-congregationalists from the United States and Newfoundland for the annual meeting of the Federation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, June 10-14, in Burlingame, Calif.

The meeting will focus on the "Mercy Futures Project," a four-year-old collaborative project among independent Mercy congregations and those within the 4,300-member Union of the Sisters of Mercy to develop a governing structure that would unite more than 9,000 Sisters of Mercy in the

United States and in Latin America into a single unit.

The federation is the organization of the major superiors of all congregations and provinces of Sisters of Mercy in North, South and Central America.

Members of the Rochester congregation who will attend are Sister Jean Marie Kearse, superior general; Sister Marie Joseph Crowley, assistant superior general; Sister Elizabeth Hughes, congregational Mercy Futures facilitator; and Sister Joanne Lappetito, executive director of the federation.

## Bishop Hickey Confirms Group Home's Residents

Four residents of the United Cerebral Palsy Association's community group home on Kings Highway were confirmed recently at Christ the King Church.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey presided at the rites for Eugene Skrynka, George Dalle, Florence Lomio and Richard Raymo, who have lived at the home since its opening in April, 1982.

The four are parishioners at Christ the King and worship there each Sunday.

The association's community residences help disabled adults live in neighborhood settings, according to Cheryl Testa, director of residential services for the UCPA. In the past, she said, many disabled adults were placed in large institutions, a practice she termed "unhealthy and unnecessary."

The association was founded by parents of children with cerebral palsy in 1946. The organization today provides a variety of community-based therapy and educational services to handicapped persons of all ages, said Richard Ensmann, spokesperson for the group.

### Exhibit 'Inspirational'

New Orleans — The Vatican art treasures being exhibited at the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition are "an inspiration for all persons because ultimately beauty leads us to God," said Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans during special preview ceremonies May 6. Nearly 40 works of art from the Vatican and works from other collections, including masterpieces by Raphael, Caravaggio and El Greco, are on loan to the New Orleans Vatican Pavilion, scheduled to be open May 12 to Nov. 11. The pavilion, the theme of which is "Jesus Christ Our Redeemer in Art: Ages, Images and Impact," is sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. "I hope that all those who have an opportunity will view the pavilion and will carry from it a guideline for their lives," the archbishop said.

### Diocesan Appointments

**Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:**  
**Father Eugene Sweeney**, from pastor of St. Pius V in Cohocton and Sacred Heart of Jesus in Perkinsville, to pastor of St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls;  
**Father Charles Manning**, from chaplain at Bishop Kearney High School, to chaplain at SUNY Geneseo.  
**Father John Forni**, from associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament, to chaplain at Cornell University.  
**Father Robert Downs**, from administrator of St. Benedict in Odessa and St. Pius X in Van Etten, to administrator of St. Michael in Montezuma and St. John in Port Byron.

### Solzhenitsyn Honored by Holy Cross

Worcester, Mass. (NC) — Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Nobel prize-winning Soviet author now living in Cavendish, Vt., was awarded an honorary degree from Holy Cross College May 25. His presence was a surprise to the 638 graduates and their guests, because Solzhenitsyn had insisted there be no advance publicity about his appearance at the college. Presenting the degree, Jesuit Father John E. Brooks, the college president, said, "In an age in which authentic courage is rare, your writings and your life have transmitted strength to all who share your dedication to the truth."

### Cenacle Retreat

Father Francis A. Cegiela, SAC, will direct a retreat Friday, June 8, to Sunday, June 10 at the Cenacle. Father Cegiela is the author of the book "All Things New" and comes from the Infant Jesus Shrine, North Tonawanda. Anyone interested in reservations or further information should call the Cenacle Ministry office at (716) 271-8755.



### Nobel Nominee

First lady Nancy Reagan joins Father Aloysius Schwartz and children of Boystown and Girstown in Seoul and Pusan, South Korea, Nov. 13, as children perform for their special guest. Father Schwartz, a Washington native who has been a missionary in Korea for 25 years, has been proposed for the Nobel Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md. (NC Photo)

## NCAN Criticizes Vatican Document

Chicago (NC) — The board of the National Coalition of American Nuns said the 1983 Vatican document on "Essential Elements of Religious Life" exhibits "theological inconsistencies," "rampant sexism" and "insidious classism."

The document, a summary of norms for religious life issued by the Vatican's Congregation for Religious, holds a "static view of life," the NCAN board said in a statement in the May issue of NCAN News.

NCAN, formed in Chicago in 1969 to address issues of social justice, is a coalition of 1,800 of the nation's 118,000 nuns.

The summary of religious norms was put out in conjunction with the formation of a papal commission, headed by Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco, to study the decline in numbers of U.S. men and women Religious and seek more cooperation between bishops and Religious.

disproportionate to the intrinsic value of its contents," said the NCAN board.

In its critique the board said that some of the norms listed as essentials "were quite alien to the life and work of Jesus." Among these it listed requirements that Religious wear a distinctive garb, that they maintain a cloistered area in community houses, and that they accept "a particular obedience to the Holy Father in virtue of the vow of obedience."

The group also argued that the authority of local bishops over Religious as described in the Vatican document threatens "the autonomy of religious congregations."

The document is "permeated with...overt sexism" and seeks to impose on women Religious "a male world view," said the NCAN board.

"Throughout the document no effort has been made to portray God as anything but male.... Not surprisingly, this document teaches us that one knows what the male God wants by consulting the male hierarchy," it said.

### Info Meeting Scheduled On Adoptions

Love the Children, a state licensed adoption agency, will have an informational meeting for interested families at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 7, at the First Baptist Church, Main Street, Leroy.

The agency places more than 300 children from Korea each year. Applicants must be married for three years. Those interested in infants must be between 25 and 40. The process takes about six months from application until the arrival of the child. Fees for the American and Korean agencies and the airfare total \$5,100.

Last year, 68 children were placed through the Rochester office. The majority were under 12 months. However, the agency has a continual need for families for children between 4 and 14 years. More than 30 children in that age range currently wait for permanent adoptive families.

Families who are interested but unable to attend the June 7 meeting may call the local office of Love the Children at 223-1868 or write the main office at 221 W. Broad St., Quakertown, Penn. 18951 for further information.

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