

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Thank you very much for your prayers for our retreat for priests at Notre Dame Retreat House last week.

It is always a grace for me to be with brother priests. To be with them as one trying to help them through a retreat experience was a blessing the richness of which will stay with me for a long time.

Certainly, the Lord's Holy Spirit is ever the source of such grace but as so often happens — and perhaps especially during times like a retreat — that grace comes to us in and through the vessel of another's humanity.

Such was the case for me at Notre Dame last week. As I write this, I hold in front of me the names of the priests who came together. Part of my thanksgiving for the retreat has been to review the list remembering the goodness of each of the priests.

Elmer Heindl, the senior priest in the group, brought a spark and verve to our days which could only call us who come after him to new enthusiasm in ministry.

Our youngest member, Joe Catanise, was an impressive

reminder that central to the call of priestly service is a genuine, humble concern for others.

I won't name all of the names but I can tell you that the priests on the retreat through the variety of their experience, personalities and gifts — and most especially in the power of their presence to one another and their love for you — were a source of inspiration and new life for me.

• A note or two about the summer: this week and next are full ones with a number of year-ending board meetings and commencement exercises at Our Lady of Mercy, Notre Dame, De Sales and Nazareth Academy.

July and August will be different in pace. I will be vacationing during the first two weeks of July and hope to make my own retreat before the end of the month.

In August, I look forward to a series of eight meetings with our priests to be held in various parts of the diocese. At those gatherings we'll talk about our Thanks Giving Appeal and other matters of common interest in our ministry.

I have tried to keep the remainder of July and August as unscheduled as possible for reading, writing and some long range preparation for the activities of the coming year.

The need to use the summer in this way is something I have learned from reflection on the experience of my ministry as bishop. That has been re-inforced by one of the strong messages I received through the Growth in Ministry program I mentioned to you earlier this year.

One of the year-round activities I shall continue through the summer will be this column. Although there is a certain discipline to the effort, it is altogether a source of great pleasure for me. The writing provides a concrete occasion when I can remember your faith and goodness and can try to offer you some word of encouragement for your journey.

Thanks for being such good friends. I shall be praying for you through the coming weeks. Peace to all.



The sign, "Human Life Is Precious, reflects the tone of the day.



Some 200 took part in the Walk for Life march.

## 10 Miles, 95 Degrees, They Walked for Life

Ithaca -- More than 200 persons actually walked but about 2,000 participated as sponsors making the Walk for Life here June 9 a resounding success, according to its organizers.

Several thousand dollars were raised in the walk which began at The Commons downtown and which lasted about four hours.

Before the walk began, Rev. Walter Roberts encouraged the marchers to con-

tinue accepting responsibility for the gift of life. Mary Heather Mitchell sang for the marchers and Norbert H. Schickel III, president of Coalition for Life, spoke briefly to the group. He declared:

"We walk today to demonstrate publicly our burning conviction that all human life is precious from the very beginning in the mother's womb. The Declaration of Independence says, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident ...' It is self-evident that

blacks are precious! It is self-evident that Jews are precious! So, too, it is self-evident that regardless of age, regardless of place of residence, all human life is precious!"

The walkers covered a wide range of age, race and religions. Two Vietnamese refugee brothers, Dan and Dien Vu, were sponsored by their sisters who just recently arrived from Vietnam and were to march but were still too weak.

A woman with epilepsy and cerebral palsy covered more than two miles; another woman, with multiple sclerosis, and her two daughters made the entire distance; Linda Jacobs carried her baby the 10 miles; Lynn Boruchowitz, a Jewish

woman, organized the literature on display at The Commons; Annette Hades of St. James parish in Trumansburg was sponsored by her husband at \$10 a mile.

The marchers proceeded from The Commons to Pyramid Mall, through Cornell University, and back to the Commons. More than 75 completed the entire distance in 95-degree heat. At the end, Rev. Roberts, a black, led all in singing "We Shall Overcome."

Joining the local groups in the walk were representatives from Cortland Citizens for Life and the Geneva Right to Life headed by Bob Trexler and Don Peters, respectively.

### Holiday Schedule

Because of the July 4 holiday, the Courier-Journal deadline for that issue will be noon, June 27. As is the custom, the newspaper office will be closed the week of July 1 and no issue will be published July 11.

### Diocesan Appointments



**Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:**  
Father Dennis Bonsignore, from associate at St. Mary our Mother in Horseheads, to associate at St. Vincent in Corning.

Father Richard Beligotti, from associate at St. Thomas More, to associate at St. Michael's in Newark.

Father William Darling, from chaplain SUNY Geneseo to associate at St. Thomas More.

Father Mark Miller, from associate at St. Philip Neri, to associate at St. James.

Father Anthony Mugavero, from assistant in internship at Immaculate Conception in Ithaca, to associate at St. Mary of the Lake in Ontario.

### Sheen Foundation Meeting Features Area Prelates

The Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation slated its annual meeting for last night at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Henrietta.

Scheduled keynote speaker was Art Collings, a Washington, D.C., lobbyist from the Housing Assistance Council.

The meeting also united the leaders of the Roman Catholic and Episcopal churches in the area -- Bishop Matthew H. Clark, retired Episcopal Bishop Robert R. Spears Jr., and his successor, Bishop William G. Burrill.

Photographic coverage of the meeting will appear in next week's Courier-Journal.

### Holiday Deadline

Because of the July 4 holiday, the Courier-Journal deadline for that issue will be noon, Wednesday, June 27. As is the usual custom, the office will be closed the week of July 1; and no issue will be published July 11.

### Schickel Talk Text

Just 125 years ago, serious-minded men and women sat around their dinner tables debating the pros and cons of enslaving millions of black people. Just 45 years ago, serious-minded doctors participated in the burning of 6 million Jews in ovens in Europe. Today, serious-minded doctors cut to a bloody pulp limb by limb precious little babies residing in their mothers' wombs -- one every 20 seconds, 15 million in 11 years.

These horrors happen when some deny the fundamental premise of our country -- that our value does not depend on whether we are wanted or unwanted by someone else, rather we have inherent value because we were made by our Creator. The Declaration of Independence says "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights and among these are life ..." Human laws cannot take away these rights because they come not from humans but from our Creator.

The horrors I just mentioned happen when good people like you and I live lives of spineless silence. But you and I are now engaged in a bold, exciting and noble endeavor. We have cut the shackles from our feet, cleaned the cobwebs from our minds and untied our tongues. We are

standing up, speaking out for the precious babies, for our offspring. The spineless silence of yesteryear is now a courageous coalition of every age, race and religion.

We walk for life today to bear proud witness for all the world to see that we are a spark that will ignite the flame of freedom for the precious babies residing in their mother's wombs. No more can babies be like slaves -- with no rights and no choice. No more can the womb be like slave territory for the babies. Instead, the womb shall be a basin of freedom for the little child to grow. The womb can no longer carry the poison of death, but shall carry the waters of life.

We walk today to demonstrate publicly our burning conviction that all human life is precious from the very beginning in the mother's womb. The Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident ..." It is self-evident that blacks are precious! It is self-evident that Jews are precious! So, too, it is self-evident that regardless of age, regardless of place of residence, all human life is precious! And so, my friends, with heads high we walk today.