

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Today is the feast of the birth of John the Baptist. The great prophet-saint and his relationship with Our Lord are a source of meditation for me on a quiet Monday morning after the 6:30 Mass.

I remember that Jesus referred to John as the greatest ever born of women, and we all recall that John judged himself unworthy even to fasten and release the laces of Jesus' shoes.

Greatness and emptiness, value and insignificance. It seems to me that these themes are close to all of us as we move through our years. We all want to do good and we all want to do well. And — it seems to me at least — we all want somehow to live our lives and do what we do in relationship with others who support us with their love.

All of this leads me this morning to think about young people.

I have had the pleasure this month to attend graduations at seven of our Catholic high schools and will attend the graduation of Nazareth Academy this evening. What I remember most about them are the addresses given by the students.

They have been thoughtfully prepared and well delivered. Each speaker had something to say and said it effectively, sometimes with particular grace and humor.

What impressed me most were two things:

• They are grateful people. The students communicated an awareness in what they said that they were not isolated individuals without roots or references to others. They are aware that women and men have gone before us to whom we owe great debts for a heritage received. They expressed this as well in their expressions of gratitude to family, friends, administrators and faculties of the school

• They are humble people. They presented themselves as persons who know the challenge and joy of living by conviction in a world which can appeal so often to the senses and passing whims. But they also impressed me as persons who know their own continued need for growth and support. I knew I was with people who didn't think they were finished or who had all of the answers. I was with

people who had ability, strong principles and the commitment to live by those principles.

If all of this seems far from John the Baptist, let me call it back in by saying that I learned a lot from our young people this month, as I do whenever I can be with them. I thanked them for their inspiration at the time but wish to give a new dimension to that gratitude and share it with you by expressing it here.

It's a way of remembering that we are all graced — and so, great — in Christ and that we are all — even from our earliest years — very important to one another as we try to grow in His life.

Summer often affords opportunities not always available during the school year to spend time with our young people. If you foresee such occasions during the months ahead, you may wish to take some of them to tell your children or group neighbors how good you think they are and how they have helped you to know and love Christ more.

Peace to all.

## Vatican 'Backwards' On Alcoholic Priests

Cherry Hill, N.J. (NC) -- The Vatican took "a step backwards" on alcoholic priests when it stopped letting bishops dispense them from using wine in Mass, a specialist told a national meeting on alcoholic clergy June 18.

"From a therapeutic viewpoint" it is "imperative" to have the permission reinstated, said Father John O'Neill, executive director of the National Clergy Council on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems.

It has been estimated that about 10 percent of the nation's priests, like the rest of the U.S. population, are alcoholics or potential alcoholics.

Last September the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith revoked an indult, or special permission, which since 1974

had allowed U.S. bishops to let alcoholic priests celebrate Mass without consuming consecrated wine.

If he was the only celebrant, a priest with the permission could use unfermented grape juice. If he was concelebrating, he was allowed to receive Communion only under the species of bread.

The Vatican document said those priests who have already received permission not to use wine may continue not to use wine, but no new permissions may be granted.

The new directive offers only one alternative for alcoholic priests: They may receive Communion by intinction, or dipping the host in the consecrated wine, letting someone else drink what remains in the chalice. If the priest is the lone celebrant, a lay person may be designated

to drink the rest of the consecrated wine.

Father O'Neill read to participants at the symposium a report he had submitted to Archbishop Edward O'Meara of Indianapolis, NCCA episcopal moderator, to forward to the Vatican in support of a request by the U.S. bishops to have the indult reinstated.

Emphasizing the concept of alcoholism as a disease, Father O'Neill said he cited in his report "four major points" about the therapeutic value of the indult:

• An important part of rehabilitation for some patients is the use of "a medication which when taken in combination with any form or amount of alcohol produces violent sickness and can even result in death."

• The indult protects the "anonymity" of the alcoholic priest, whose recovery from the disease is hindered if he is forced to mark himself publicly as "singular or different from other men." The intinction requirement would have the effect of marking him publicly as an alcoholic every time he celebrates Mass.

• Because of scrupulosity many alcoholic priests, particularly older ones, "will return to the alcoholic substance" because the new Vatican directive revives or reinforces concerns they have had over the licitness of using unfermented grape juice for Mass.

• The new solution of intinction is no solution for "certain recovering alcoholic priests" who "due to age, retirement, sickness or a particular kind of apostolate, must by necessity say Mass privately," because in such cases "there is no one available" to consume what is left in the chalice.

Father O'Neill said there has been no Vatican response yet to the request of the U.S. bishops to restore the indult. He said the NCCA, which has been trying to help alcoholic priests for 36 years, has tried to work quietly, loyally and obediently through channels to get the indult restored.



More than 50 attended the foundation's annual meeting. Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

## Sheen Foundation Meets At St. Peter's Church

By Terrance J. Brennan

More than 50 people attended the 16th annual meeting of the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation on Tuesday, June 19, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church on East Henrietta Road.

Keynote speaker was Art Collings of the Housing Assistance Council, Inc., of Washington, D.C., who spoke on "Meeting the Urban and Rural Housing Challenge of 1985."

"As housing advocates, I feel we really have to pick up our tempo," he said. "We can't afford to go at a slow pace and expect someone else to pick up the slack."

The meeting opened with a prayer from Rev. Marilyle Sweet Page, vicar at St. Peter's. Karen Noble Hanson, BSEHF president, then spoke on the foundation's involvements during the past year.

According to Mrs. Hanson, the foundation worked with 19 families to obtain their own homes, and granted some 20 families emergency assistance that ranged from \$100 to \$500 each.

Mrs. Hanson also said that of a balance of \$173,349, the foundation has some \$63,000 to spend on projects this coming year.

Also, this year the foundation received its first state grant from the Division of Housing and Community Renewal, "to work more directly in the rural portions of our 13-county area," Mrs.



Episcopal Bishop Robert R. Spears Jr. listens as BSEHF president Karen Hanson reads the inscription on a plaque presented to the bishop on his retirement.

Hanson said. Under this grant, the foundation will hire a Rural Housing Specialist on staff.

Prior to the public session, a dinner-meeting at St. Peter's featured the election of officers for the coming year. Gilbert Veconi, board member and chairperson of the nominating committee, announced that all officers would remain the same -- Mrs. Hanson was re-elected as president, Victor Hadeed as vice president, Rosemarie Horvath as secretary, and Edward Short as treasurer.

In attendance were foundation trustees Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Episcopal

Bishop William G. Burrill, and also retiring Episcopal Bishop Robert R. Spears Jr., who was lauded for his service to the foundation and presented with a plaque and a book of photographs.

A brief reception followed the closing prayer from Father Charles Mulligan, diocesan director of the Division of Social Ministry.

The foundation is a non-profit organization established to lend money and support to individual families for home ownership and to organizations planning to provide housing for low and moderate income families.



Bishop Maher, Archbishop Beltritti and Father Kraft at the investiture ceremony in Jerusalem.

## Father Kraft Knighted

Father William A. Kraft, a Rochester native, now priest of the Diocese of San Diego, has been invested as a Knight Priest in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

The investiture took place in the Cathedral of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem with his beatitude Archbishop Giacomo Beltritti, Latin Patriarch, conferring the honor. Bishop Leo Maher of San Diego was in attendance.

Father Kraft, graduated

from Nazareth Hall, Aquinas Institute and St. Andrew's Seminary. He studied at St. Bernard's Seminary for four years, before transferring to Immaculate Heart Seminary and subsequent ordination for San Diego.

He founded St. Therese of the Child Jesus and Good Shepherd parishes in San Diego, and is now executive director of the diocesan Office of Financial Programs and Planning.

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