

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Friday evening, July 20.

From September of 1973 through June of 1974 I had an experience of prayer and spiritual renewal for which I shall always be grateful.

In those months, I had the joy of making the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in daily life. My commitment during those months was an hour of prayer of the Scriptures each day, another quarter of an hour reflecting on that prayer and a weekly meeting with Father Ed Malatesta, S.J., then a professor at the Gregorian University, during which I was expected to tell him about my prayer and experience of God, life and myself since our last meeting.

It was a turning point in my life for a number of reasons. Among those I think of tonight are:

1. The realization that for the Christian prayer nourishes life and life nourishes prayer; and

2. That a committed prayer life is an essential foundation for a life lived in the land of freedom to which our faith calls us.

I admit with some reluctance, but in truth, that I do not always pray as I should. But I most certainly know my need to be a person of prayer and thank God and that experience in 1973-4 for the desire to keep working at it.

Tonight all of this is on my mind because early tomorrow

I'll be leaving for an eight-day directed retreat at the Center for Spiritual Growth conducted by the Jesuit Fathers at Wernersville, Pa.

I am looking forward to the privilege of these days and hope to be open-hearted to all that the Lord will offer to ask of me. For my part I have been praying for the grace of greater freedom of spirit in my life and ministry and a deeper awareness of God's personal love for all of us.

I shall be offering the Eucharist each day for the intentions of all in the Diocese of Rochester with the particular hope that we will continue to grow together in Christ, Our Lord.

There will be two dear friends at Wernersville who will remind me to do that and will make it a particular joy. Sister Mary Alice O'Brien, RSM, and Father Bob Collins are will

into the 30-day retreats they are making at the center.

Let me, finally, ask for your prayers for the three of us as we try to listen to the Lord and open our hearts to anything He may desire.

I thank all of you dear friends for the many ways in which you inspire me and give me encouragement by the way you live your faith.

If you are aware at times that your life of prayer is not what you would like it to be, please accept that realization not as a cause for discouragement, but as a graced invitation from the Lord to move on to something better.

The Lord is always with us — calling us to deeper life in Him. Please don't ever be afraid to accept the invitation.

Peace.

## Diocesan Appointments



**Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:**  
Father Laurence Tracy to the Spanish Apostolate as pastoral assistant for the Rochester area.

### Mentally Ill

The monthly meeting of Family and Friends of the Mentally Ill and Emotionally Disturbed will be 7:30 p.m., Monday, July 23 at Reformation Church, 111 N. Chestnut St. The speaker will be Catharine McHugh who will discuss the New York State Commission on Quality Care for the Mentally Disabled.

### Adoration

The monthly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at noon, Thursday, August 2 at Blessed Sacrament Church. The afternoon includes recitation of the rosary at 12:15 p.m. and benediction at 5 p.m., preceding the regular 5:20 p.m. Mass.

## NOBC Sets Conference

**New Orleans** — The National Office of Black Catholics has scheduled its biennial conference, and concurrently, a conference for youths, Aug. 8-11 at the Sheraton Hotel here.

A major participant will be Dr. Nathan Jones, head of Ethnic Communications Outlet for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Dr. Jones will address not only the delegates to the biennial conference but will also present programs during the youth conference.

The biennial conference is open to all black Catholics and all those interested or involved in the apostolate to the Church in the black community, NOBC literature states.

"We encourage the participation of as many concerned ministers and volunteers as possible. NOBC is again asking that

every Catholic parish in the United States with a sizable black population sponsor at least two participants," the conference brochure said.

The registration fee for each conference is \$60 and checks are made out to the NOBC. Sheraton Hotel costs are \$60 for single rooms, \$75 for doubles each day and are in limited supply.

A featured speaker will be Ivan Van Sertima, a native of Guyana, who has studied at London University and Rutgers Graduate School. He holds degrees in African Studies, Linguistics and Anthropology.

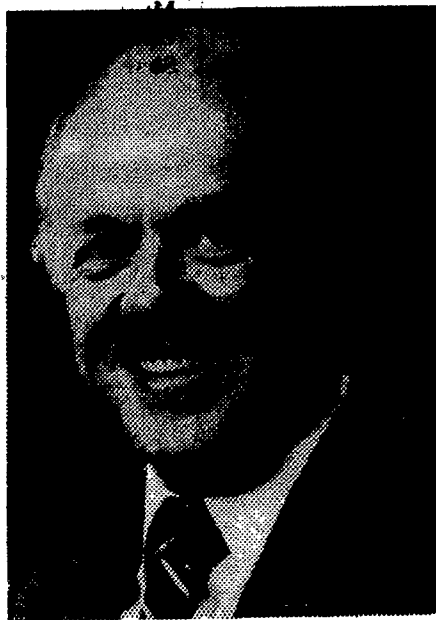
He is an associate professor of African Studies at Rutgers, editor of the "Journal of African Civilizations," and author of "Caribbean Writers," a collection of critical essays on the Caribbean novel.

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