

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



If there is any one aspect of ministry which has occupied my time and energy more than others this month it is that of administration. More specifically, I have been busy with preparations for our fourth annual Thanks Giving Appeal.

When you read these words I shall have completed eight meetings with our pastors to update them on this year's effort. In addition to these, we have had two long sessions with the excellent group of pastors who serve as advisors for the appeal and several sessions with staff.

Meetings of this kind — and they go on throughout the year — do not bring me the kind of joy I experience when I celebrate the Eucharist with you or confirm you, run with you or enjoy a cup of coffee with you. But I have no trouble at all accepting such effort as an important aspect of my ministry among you.

A passage from some summer reading helps me express the "why" of that. Some 150 years ago Catherine McAuley, the

remarkable foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, said, "Since there is little good can be accomplished or evil avoided without the use of money, we must look after it in great as well as small matters."

It is in that spirit that I work on and contribute to the Thanks Giving Appeal, and it is in that spirit that I invite your generous participation. We speak about money and finances, of course, but those things as they enable us to serve people, respond to pastoral needs and meet the responsibilities borne by a vital, active diocese in the contemporary Church.

For the remainder of this column — and for the next two or three weeks — let me share with you some of the themes, directions and decisions we addressed at our meetings this month.

As we approach this year's appeal, we can look back with gratitude to three successful efforts. Our pastors, parish staffs and diocesan regional and parish workers have been generous and effective in their leadership. Our people — you! — have

responded in an outstanding way to a new way of supporting our common mission.

Your response has placed our parishes in better financial position than they were four years ago, and it has allowed us to respond to pastoral needs we would not otherwise have been able to meet. In other words, our appeal and your kind response have much strengthened the capacity of our diocese to respond to our common responsibility and have enhanced the general financial condition of our parish communities.

One major factor in this regard — and it is important to repeat this often — is that our appeal replaces a system which taxed the ordinary income of each parish each year. Under that system, your pastor sent a healthy check to me each month. Our change to the Thanks Giving Appeal has done away with that procedure, thereby leaving several millions of dollars available for the pastoral needs of our 170 parish communities.

Peace to all.

Director Appointed For Family Life Office

Margaret DeMeo has been named director of the diocesan Office of Family Life. Her job entails coordinating family ministry with parishes.

Ms. DeMeo says an important part of her job is training leadership people in parishes to be conscious of family needs and to use that consciousness in peer ministry and group leadership. "I see myself as a resource person to parishes and family life centers," she said.

A marriage and family life counselor and educator, Ms. DeMeo comes to the diocese from Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes in Geneva where she was Family Life director for four years.

"When you look at family life there really isn't one concrete need to address," she said. "It helps to ask pastors what are one or two needs they see in people of the parish."

That is why Mrs. DeMeo sees her mission as consciousness-raising regarding family needs and issues and conflicts in families. "There's a tremendous need for affirmation for couples and families. To say, 'yes, you are doing a good job.' As parents and people in the church we really don't focus



MARGARET DEMEO

enough on the positive things that are going on."

She sees peer ministry as a way to achieve some of those goals. "I really want to look at parish as community for families. By linking people together in peer ministry." She sees peer ministry as the ideal way for addressing such family problems as parent-teenage relations and alcoholism.

A graduate of St. John's University in Queens, she has a master's degree in Marriage and Family Life from Columbia University. She is in

the doctoral program in Counseling and Family Life at the University of Rochester. She lives with her husband Raymond and four children in Transfiguration parish in Pittsford.

Ms. DeMeo replaces Frank Staropoli who left the position after nearly seven years. Other staff members are Angela Gallo, who coordinates ministry to divorced, separated and widowed Catholics, and Donna and Jim Fitch who handle pre-Cana, New Horizons and marriage enrichment programs.

Friendship Fair Scheduled For Newark Developmental

The seventh annual Friendship Fair is scheduled from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9 at the Newark Developmental Center. Raindate for the fair is Sept. 16.

According to a press release from the center, the carnival "is meant to provide a very special day of sun, music, events and friendship for all developmentally disabled clients of the Newark Developmental Disabilities Service Office," which includes Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties.

Registration and orientation for the fair will begin at 10:30 a.m.; volunteers will meet their "friend for the day" by 12:30 p.m.; a parade will begin the festivities at 1 p.m. on the north side of the center grounds.

Over 3,000 attended last year's fair, which is free of



Some of the more than 3,000 that attended last year's fair.

charge and staffed and supported by area businesses, service groups and volunteers.

There is still a need for

volunteers, escorts, exhibitors, and entertainment groups for this year's fair. For more information, contact the developmental center at 315/331-1700, ext. 535 or 536.

Nazareth Academy Receives Grants for Sexuality Programs

According to a school press release dated Aug. 14, Nazareth Academy has been named recipient of two grants to supplement its guidance program.

A \$4,000 grant from the Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation, Inc. will fund a program that "seeks to instruct and guide teenagers to make choices regarding their sexuality and counsel pregnant teens regarding viable options available to them after the birth of their babies," according to the release.

A program which will provide counseling and support group sessions will be developed, as well as an instructional curriculum to be integrated into both the guidance and religious studies programs.

"Our hopes are for expanding our present program for pregnant students and for developing a preventive educational program before pregnancies occur," said Sister Nancy Werner, guidance department chairperson. "Essentially

we're helping students to develop their decision-making skills. They do need to clarify their values in a Christian setting."

In addition, Nazareth also received a grant for \$225 from the Human Life Commission of the diocese to further the program for pregnant teens.

According to the release, this money will be used in conjunction with the larger grant for "materials acquisition and curriculum development."



RAYMOND PFEIFER

Pfeifer Reappointed

Raymond P. Pfeifer of Williamson has been reappointed master of the Fourth Degree of the Fifth New York District, Knights of Columbus.

Pfeifer, who has been active in the Knights for many years, is a member of Trinity Council in Webster and Bishop James Kearney Fourth Degree Assembly of Rochester. He also serves on the state council as the decent media chairman.

Support Group Meets

A self-help support group for families and friends of the mentally ill and emotionally disturbed will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 27, at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 111 N. Chestnut St.

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication.

10K Race To Benefit MDA

The second annual Citibank/MDA 10K road race will begin at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 2, at Brighton High School. Proceeds from the race will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association during the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

The race is open to runners of all ages. All runners and volunteers will receive free refreshments. Citibank/MDA mugs will be given to the first 800 entrants. Merchandise

awards will go to winners as well as the top 10 percent finishers in each age category.

Entry forms are available at all Citibank branches and many sporting goods stores. Entry fee is \$5 prior to the race, \$6 on the day of the race. Further information is available from Citibank/MDA Race Director, 3399 Dewey Ave., Rochester, telephone (716) 663-5236.

Healthy Woman Class Planned

A class for healthy women, "Well Women's Health," has been scheduled by the Red Cross from 7 to 10 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 29, at the Red Cross, 50 Prince St.

"What we try to do is give healthy women the information they need to stay that way," said Kathy Keck,

health education specialist. "Health is not just a physical science — it includes emotional and mental aspects as well."

Further information is available from Red Cross registration, 461-9800, ext. 326.

Faith Today

"Faith Today," the highly esteemed religious education supplement published by the Courier-Journal, will resume its place in the center of the paper Sept. 5.

"Faith Today" is produced by National Catholic News Service in Washington, D.C. It features a "Food for Thought" section to generate discussions of other materials in each week's presentation, which include regular material on Scripture, a children's story, and a list of suggested resources for parents and catechists.

"Faith Today" is published weekly through the school year.

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