

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Monday morning, Sept. 10

I am grateful this morning for the people I met this weekend. Their faith, their willingness to serve, their acceptance of suffering in a spirit of joy, their concern for others all shone out to me as strong examples of how the Lord calls us all to live.

I met these people in four stops over the weekend: meetings at St. Mary's, Canandaigua, with the lay leaders of our Thanks Giving Appeal and our diocesan Board of Education; a Eucharist at St. Christopher's in Chili and a followup picnic with our Divorced, Separated and Widowed group; a Liturgy at St. Mark's in Greece celebrating 20 years of parish life; the Eucharistic Liturgy with the patients, volunteers and staff at the Monroe Community Hospital.

It is not possible to spend time with such persons without being inspired. I think of Mary at the hospital who faces the prospect of back surgery for the tenth time. She so dreads it that she wonders aloud if she would be better off just enduring the pain she experiences now. And — although she has her

dark moments and her tears — she speaks of all of this with faith and an infectious kind of joy.

Joan is a divorced woman raising two teenaged children. In our conversations she acknowledges that being a single parent is a major challenge. She does not say that in a complaining way, but in simple acknowledgement of her need to depend on the Lord and of the strength she draws from the others in the Divorced, Separated and Widowed group.

Mary Anne and Ken, with their daughters, Allison and Kate, are one of the families I had the pleasure of sitting with for lunch at St. Mark's. Allison is five years old, a pupil in kindergarten. She was quiet during our time together and altogether pleasant. Kate was thoroughly delightful, but hardly quiet. Kate, who is two, ate with her hands. Between bites she waved her arms after the manner of an orchestra leader and had us all diving for lobster bibs! It was a delight to be with them. I drove away very much touched by the loving care with which Ken and Mary Ann treated their beautiful

daughters.

The Saturday meetings with our Thanks Giving Appeal leaders and our diocesan Board of Education were fresh instances of what I am privileged to witness every day: the high level of commitment to the Church which exists among the laity.

The persons at these meetings traveled considerable distances on a beautiful September Saturday to serve all of us. They carried on their business in an efficient and able way and — at least in my perception — brought considerable joy to one another. I know they brought it to me.

All of these gatherings would have been a grace for me at any time. On this weekend when we were especially reminded of the debt of love we owe to one another and of the responsibility we should take for one another they were special blessings.

Thanks to all who were any part of them.  
Peace.



Chien, Viu and Trung.

## Together Again!

### Vietnamese Family Reunited, Thanks to Parish Effort

Text by Grace T. Carson  
Photos by Robert F. Carson

**Hamlin** — Three Vietnamese youths were reunited this Summer through the efforts of the Human Development Committee of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish.

Viu Thia Pham, 17, and her two brothers, Chien Van Pham, 25, and Trung Van Pham, 16, suffered hunger, fear and the deprivation and brutalities of refugee camp life before finding their way to a haven here.

Viu, the first of the three to escape from Vietnam, was held in a refugee camp until she was sponsored by the Catholic Refugee Resettlement Program and brought to the United States. After her arrival she lived for a time with Phil and Linda Grant here.

At the February 1983 meeting of the parish Human Development Committee, Dale and Retha Tyo, chairpersons, presented diocesan literature about the Refugee Resettlement Program. Linda Grant was at the meeting. She knew about Viu's two brothers in an Indochinese refugee camp and appealed to the committee to

sponsor their resettlement to reunite the family.

At the April Parish Council meeting, the Tyos proposed that the parish sponsor Chien and Trung. The council approved.

Through the cooperation of the Human Development Committee and Hamlin United Methodist Church, the three now are receiving the help and support they need to adapt to American life. All speak English and Viu and Trung are beginning school in Brockport this month. Chien attends English class twice a week in Brockport and is looking for a fulltime job.

The brothers and sister lived in a tiny apartment on Main Street for a while but have moved into a more spacious home.

Chien has a wife, Cay, and a baby daughter, Van, whom he has never seen, still in a refugee camp in Indochina. He and the Tyos have co-sponsored them to come to America and are praying for their arrival by Christmas.

The Phams attend St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a short walk from their home.



The Phams and Retha Tyo, second from left, being interviewed by Grace Carson.

## Immaculate Conception Celebrates 100 Years

**Ithaca** — Immaculate Conception School will celebrate its 100th anniversary during the current academic year, opening with a noon Mass and rededication of the school, Sept. 16. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside.

Following is an historical account of the school, provided by the school's centennial committee:

Solicitous about the faith, Bishop Bernard McQuaid, and the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Father Alfred J. Evans, set about building an elementary school for the children of the parish in 1883.

At once a storm of local opposition began to rage. Ithaca was blessed with fine schools culminating with Cornell. A lowly parochial school would be bad news. When the building was completed, Senator Esbree stepped forward and offered to purchase it and donate it to the city for a hospital! But faith prevailed and plans for inaugurating the Catholic school continued.

On Sept. 5, 1884, the seven Sisters of St. Joseph arrived from Rochester to staff the school.

They were Sister Teresa Powers, principal, and Sisters Beatrice, Amelia, Anselm, Claudia, Pantratia and Emily, the teachers.

Bishop McQuaid dedicated the school three days later — Sept. 8. On that day, 326 children commenced their Catholic school education, ranging from the first through the eighth grade.

Within a year, local opinion about the quality of education at Immaculate Conception changed favorably. All eight of the eighth grade graduates in June 1885 passed their Regents examinations admirably. A tradition of sending well-prepared students to the high school has been maintained to this day.

### Anderson to Give Lecture at Fisher

John B. Anderson, who received almost 6 million votes as an independent presidential candidate in 1980, will speak at 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28, at St. John Fisher College's Kearney Auditorium.

The first graduation class provided a future priest for the diocese, Father Michael Nolan, and a future sister of St. Joseph, Sister Ferdinand, the former Margaret Troy.

Over the decades, pastors and parishioners have taken great pride in the school and have improved it steadily with the addition of new buildings and modern equipment.

Highlights were the addition in 1915, the new convent constructed over the original structure in 1927, the new school of 1949 to replace the one gutted by fire in 1946 during the pastorate of Msgr. William F. Byrne, the new addition in 1956, and the modern gymnasium built in 1965-66.

Traditionally, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester have staffed the school. In more recent times, they have been joined in their educational endeavors with de-

icated, well-trained lay teachers. Parents have aided the school in countless ways over the years.

On Feb. 24, 1933, the Parent-Teachers Association was formed for the school, and has continued actively to this day when it is called the "Home-School Association." In 1933, the PTA purchased maps and dishes for the school. The Home-School Association has purchased gym equipment and computers most recently. Fund-raisers are also sponsored and directed by the Home-School Association.

Today's student body numbers 248 pupils. Four Sisters, eight full-time and three part-time lay teachers instruct the children.

The priests, Sisters, teachers and parents still look on the school as a faith project, but always a school that must provide a quality education.

## DPC Agenda

Keuka College, Penn Yan  
Friday, Sept. 14

- 7:30 Mass, installing the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the new diocesan Regional Coordinators. The public is invited to the rite.
- 9-9:15 Opening Prayer — Brian McNulty
- 9:15-9:30 Claude Lester — Director of the Office of Parish Services
- 9:30-10 Presentation of the Amendment to the Diocesan Pastoral Council Constitution
- 10-12 Bishop Clark and Pat Defendorf  
Going Forward Together — Pat and the Bishop will present their hopes and plans for the coming year.  
The Bishop will have his Open Forum.
- Fr. Vasile and Sr. Hilaire Gaelens will answer questions concerning the responses by the Division Directors to the Ministerial Review Committee.
- 12-12:05 Introduction of the Tabasco missionary who will be present and available to talk with council members over lunch.
- 12:05-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-2 Reports from regions and appointed members who will state the concerns they have about (or from) their Region or constituency.
- 2-3 "Exercising Peace" presentation.  
Closing Prayer — Ron and Martha Jodoin.

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