

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Some Sunday evening notes on a rewarding week. A busy week. I remember regional meetings in Dansville, Horseheads and Rochester with parish leadership teams for the Thanks Giving Appeal, visits to Nazareth Academy and Aquinas Institute which, as always, left me excited about our young people; and the first meetings of the new year with our Priests' Council and our Diocesan Pastoral Council.

On Friday, the annual Red Mass for the legal community, law enforcement officers and fire fighters was held at St. Mary's in Rochester.

Today, I had the joy of sharing in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Immaculate Conception in Ithaca.

If those happy events kept me on the road, other matters called for attention in the office. Among those were: our mission in Tobasco, Mexico, ministry with and among our Hispanic Community and our continued effort to respond as fully and responsibly as possible to the beautiful gift of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

There is a joy connected with the memories of such a week which is hard to describe. It relates to vitality and life and

struggle and to the extraordinary care so many persons offer to others.

I wish you could have been with me to experience the same things. I think it would have spoken to you very deeply about participating in the life of a large and diverse community of faith.

I ran into many individuals around the diocese who are working hard at changing some of the patterns and habits in their lives.

Some individuals try — and try again — they fail to break the smoking habit. Others are convinced that they should moderate or cut out altogether their consumption of alcohol. I also meet persons who take no caffeine, saccharin or sodium, etc. The list is long; you may be able to add other items.

The one I hear most about is food. People seem quite conscious these days about their weight and its relationship to their general well being. They speak of salad, fish, raw vegetables rather than sundaes, sirloin steak and sour cream.

A common note in the conversation of persons working on any of the above is the difficulty of the task. Nervousness,

tension, headaches and lethargy are some of the effects which often accompany the early days of such withdrawals. It seems a high price to pay but those who make it through the early pain rejoice in their new freedom from dependence.

I am very much in tune with any of you who are involved in such a struggle these days. My doctor told me when I had my annual physical that if my weight changed every year the way it did this year I would tip the scales at a ton and a half — if I lived that long!

In the early weeks of working on that I became acutely aware of how I can reach for food not to satisfy physical hunger, but to pacify heightened emotions. I may have had a completely adequate meal at six o'clock and want to eat a gallon of ice cream at eleven.

The early results of this mild struggle are very pleasing. That reminds me to thank my doctor for his kind encouragement. It also leads me to encourage you to persevere in any similar efforts you're making. It's well worth the early pain!

Peace.



Kay Jeffery has made sure that Bishop Matthew H. Clark's appointment book is up to date as she readies plans for her retirement to take place Sept. 21.

After 19 Years at the Hub, Kay Jeffery Is Retiring

Kathryn S. Jeffery should consider herself a pretty fortunate person. After all, how many people in whatever job can look back over 19 years and exclaim, "I enjoyed every minute of it!"

"Kay" Jeffery has known all the Rochester bishops since James E. Kearney, working closely with many of them and as secretary to the last two, Joseph H. Hogan and Matthew H. Clark. On the eve of her retirement which will be Sept. 21, she refused to be drawn into any comparisons of the diocesan leaders over the past two decades, saying only that the bishops "were all nice."

Mrs. Jeffery's youthful countenance belies her age, which she will not reveal, admitting only that she "is not taking an early retirement."

Bishop Clark spoke glowingly of Mrs. Jeffery's service to the diocese: "She served as secretary to both Bishop Hogan and myself. I enjoyed her competence and dedication and wish her every joy in all the years the Lord will give her. I am deeply grateful to her for all her years of work."

What does a secretary to an ordinary do? "Everything, literally everything. Anything that has to be done," Kay said. Though she is "looking forward to traveling" with her husband Clarence, also retired, she has no particular long-range plans. The Jefferys have a son, John, a vice president of Lincoln Chase Bank.

Mrs. Jeffery was working for Kodak back in the 1960s when she filled in for a diocesan employee who was going on vacation and "I've been here ever since."

She began as secretary to Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, then auxiliary in Rochester. When he moved on to become ordinary of Paterson, N.J., Mrs. Jeffery's work shifted to the Department of Education, working for the then superintendent, Msgr. William M. Roche.

Since then she has worked in Religious Education, for the Diocesan Pastoral Formation Committee, for the Year of Renewal, for the diocesan high school fund drive and Joint College Fund and for the administrative assistant under Bishop Hogan before becoming secretary to the two most recent ordinaries.

She, of course, also knew well Bishop James E. Kearney and Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, who was ordinary when she worked in the Education Department.

Probably over the past 19 years, no single individual has come into contact with so many people throughout the diocese, has worked as closely with the top diocesan leadership and has been so privy to the inside workings of the diocese as has Kay Jeffery. From all accounts, she has handled the responsibility well, her competence and good nature serving as examples of what Church work should be all about.

Mrs. Arlene Jones has been chosen the new secretary to Bishop Clark.

Father Eugene McCarthy Dies

Mass of Christ the High Priest will be celebrated 7:30 p.m. tonight in Holy Rosary Church for Father Eugene W. McCarthy who died Sunday, Sept. 16, 1984.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will preside and preach at tonight's ceremonies. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside and preach the Mass of Christian Burial, 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 20 at Holy Rosary.

Father McCarthy had most recently been serving in Melbourne, Fla.

Ordained in 1943, Father McCarthy spent most of his life with the United States Navy.

His diocesan assignments included St. Bridget's in Rochester and Holy Family in Auburn.

He was commissioned in the Navy in 1949.

He served aboard the USS Duxbury Bay, USS Windham Bay, and USS Coral Sea.

His assignments overseas included Argentina, Newfoundland and Japan. In the United States he served in Virginia, South Carolina, Illinois and California.

He retired the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander in 1969.

At the time of his death he was a member of the Knights of Columbus fourth degree in Melbourne.



FATHER MCCARTHY

Kidnapped Priest Has Rochester Relatives

By NC News Service

Three priests, including one American, were kidnapped in southern Sudan Sept. 4 during an anti-government guerrilla attack on the oil town of Bentiu, according to church officials in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital.

The officials said they had received a radio message attributing the kidnappings to "guerrillas," but had no further information.

The American was identified as Father Peter Curtin Major, 45, of Skaneateles, N.Y., a member of the Mill Hill Missionaries who was working at the Mission of Bentiu, in the Diocese of Malakal, about 500 miles southeast of Khartoum.

(Father Major is the grand-nephew of the late Msgr. Joseph Curtin of the Clyde-Savannah parish and second cousin to Father John Dillon of Sodus Point. His uncle, aunt and cousin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Curtin and Judy Curtin, live in Rochester's Queen of Peace parish. According to Judy Curtin, Father Major's brother Charles of Skaneateles received a letter from the priest just before Labor Day though it was dated Aug. 5, which reported "lots of confusion" in the area.)

The two other priests are Mill Hill Father John

Ashworth of Great Britain and Father Zakariah Chatin, a Sudanese who was a diocesan priest of Bentiu.

The Sudan government had no immediate comment or details on the kidnapping. Archbishop Gabriel Wako of Khartoum said the church does not know who captured the priests.

At a Sept. 12 press conference, State Department spokesman John Hughes said there was an unconfirmed but reliable report from the U.S. embassy in Khartoum on Father Major's kidnapping.

"The Sudanese government is aware of the situation and of the U.S. government's concern that all appropriate action be taken to obtain the early, safe release of the American citizen involved," Hughes said. No further information was available, but the State Department would continue to follow the situation, he said.

According to Mill Hill Father Liam Armour, Bentiu is "a very sensitive area as far as rebel activity was concerned." Father Armour, who was interviewed by telephone at a Mill Hill superior's office in Yonkers, said Father Major and Father Ashworth were the only two foreigners left in that part of Sudan.

Bentiu has been troubled since the resurgence of the rebellion last year of the

southern non-Moslem minority against northern Moslems who dominate the government.

Father Major, 45, worked in Borneo, Malaysia, for 10 years before going to Sudan, where he served for four years, two in Bentiu. He was engaged in pastoral duties at the mission and did small-scale work developing agriculture and adult education, Father Armour said.

Pontiff Praises Liturgy Dancers

Ottawa (NC) — Pope John Paul II praised the "artistic" dimensions of a Sept. 11 Mass in Montreal which used about 50 liturgical dancers.

Canadian bishops and liturgy officials in Ottawa said it was the first time liturgical dance had been used during a papal Mass in North America. The male and female dancers, dressed in bright yellow tops with loose, billowing sleeves, preceded the papal procession to the huge altar in Montreal's Jarry Park.

They ringed one of the lower levels of the multitiered altar platform, where with hand and body movements they added dramatic highlights to various parts of the liturgy.