

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



I had the joy this weekend of spending time with people in the Southern Tier. Although the calendar was fairly full the days were pleasant and relaxing. The weather was beautiful, the countryside impressive and the people of the region as generous and hospitable as ever.

The weekend's travel began on Friday morning at St. Mary's, Waterloo, for a teachers' convention for the Catholic schools in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes region of our diocese.

Some 300 administrators and teachers and our diocesan staff celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Following the mass, Sister Edwardine Weaver RSM addressed the assembly and then I had the opportunity to speak on the day's theme, "Accepting the Challenge of Peace."

It was a pleasure to spend part of the day with a group of persons who have such an important mission in our faith community — the care and education of so many of our beautiful young people.

Our next stop was St. Margaret Mary in Apalachin. I had been invited to take part in what turned out to be a happy and

stimulating evening the central theme of which, like that of the morning gathering, was our pastoral letter on peace.

We enjoyed a dish-to-pass supper at 5:30. At 7:30 we went to church for a beautifully prepared evening prayer. I spoke for a half hour about ways in which the parish could study and respond to the pastoral letter. We concluded the evening with almost an hour of questions and answers and other sharing around the themes raised by the letter.

On Saturday morning Father Lou Vasile and I traveled about 100 miles west to St. Ann's in Hornell to join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for their annual memorial Mass and luncheon. The Catholic Daughters' presentation of a generous gift for the education of our students for the priesthood offered me an occasion to update them on the excellent programs Father Tom Valenti and his co-workers have developed to foster vocations.

We stopped next at St. Vincent's in Corning on Saturday evening for the celebration of the feast of their patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The children of the parish were very active in the liturgy during which we celebrated a communal Anointing of the Sick.

It was a great pleasure to share the evening meal with the

priests and lay leaders of the parish. Many parishes have begun that practice and, I must say, I find it a delightful experience to relax with men and women who serve their parish communities in such a generous spirit.

Our final stop was a visit this morning to the Elmira Correctional Facility for Mass with about 100 of the inmates and our team of chaplains. If the rich themes of today's readings reminded us of the mercy and magnanimity of our God, the assembly this morning brought vividly to mind the reminder that all of us are beneficiaries in Christ Jesus of that mercy and great goodness.

Visits to such facilities always make a great impact on me. I came away deeply grateful to and proud of Sister Josepha Twomey SSJ, Mike Stanley and Father Ed Golden who are our chaplains to the prisoners of Elmira.

This sampling of the week's activities give you, I hope, some idea of the vitality and variety of the faith life going on in our 12 counties.

Please pray for the communities and persons I have mentioned here. You have the consolation of knowing you are a part of their prayer.

Peace.

Regional Appeal Chairpersons Named

The regional chairpersons for the Thanks Giving Appeal — 1984 were named last week.

According to their regions, they are:

North Region: Mitchell Sepaniak.

Sepaniak and his wife Jean have three children. A member of St. Salome's Parish for 30 years, he is a retired department head of the Eastman Kodak Co. He has served as Thanks Giving Appeal regional chairperson for two years, and is involved in the parish Stewardship program.

Northeast Region: Mrs. Bernice Kleinhammer.

Mrs. Kleinhammer and her husband John have three children. She has been a parish worker on the Thanks Giving Appeal for three years at St. James Parish where she has been a member for 22 years. She is vice president of the parish Rosary Society, is a lector, and is on the welcoming committee.

Northwest Region: Elmer Harnischfeger.

Harnischfeger and his wife Joan have a son. A member of St. Michael's Parish for 16 years he has served there on its parish council (former chairman), and on its finance committee. He is an administrator with Eastman Kodak Co. On the diocesan level, he has served as Thanks Giving Appeal regional coordinator for two years, is a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and is a member of the region's executive committee.

Southeast Region: James Predmore.

Predmore and his wife Jane have four children. He has worked on the Thanks Giving Appeal in his parish of 28 years, St. Paul of the Cross in Honeoye Falls for three years. He is also parish festival chairman, a lector, a Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the parish council.

In addition, he is a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and is treasurer of the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry. He is retired from Delco, and now teaches accounting part-time at National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Southwest Region: Mr. and Mrs. William Sponn (Kay).

Members of St. Helen's Parish for 30 years, the Sponns have six children, and have worked as Thanks Giving Appeal regional chairpersons for three years. In the parish Sponn is chairman of the parish council, Eucharistic Minister, and works with the Boy Scouts. Mrs. Sponn is chairperson of the liturgy committee, past president of the Altar Society, CCD teacher, past president of the school board, and vice president of the parish council. Sponn is self-employed as a consultant for exhibit planning.

Chemung-Schuyler Region: Mrs. Carol Mechalke.

Mrs. Mechalke and her husband Robert have five children. This is her first year working with the Thanks Giving Appeal. A member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Elmira for 24 years, she teaches Sunday School there, is on the parish council and belongs to the Rosary Guild. She is secretary and bookkeeper for East Side Neighborhood Action Committee in Elmira.

Livingston Region: Daniel Mullin Phd.

Mullin and his wife Jean have two children. He has previously worked on the Thanks Giving Appeal as a parish worker. A member of St. Mary's Parish in Geneseo for 19 years, he is a lector, Eucharistic Minister, altar server, and parish council member. He is assistant to the president at SUNY Geneseo for community relations.

Seneca-Cayuga Region: Mrs. Karen Prave

Mrs. Prave has been Thanks Giving Appeal regional chairperson for four years. She and her husband John have three children. A member of St. Michael's Parish for 14 years, she serves on the parish council, the liturgy committee, as lector, in the Confirmation program and Pre-Can Program. She is a science teacher at Romulus Central School.

Steuben Region: Ralph Simon.

Simon and his wife Janet have six children. A member of St. Patrick's in Corning for 30 years, he serves there as chairperson of the parish council and as lector. On the diocesan level he is a member of the diocesan pastoral formation committee. He is an engineering associate at Corning Glass.

Tompkins-Tioga Region: C. Donald Munroe.

Munroe is a life-long member of St. Patrick's Parish in Owego (66 years). He and his wife Suzanne have nine children. He has previously worked on the Thanks Giving Appeal as parish worker. His other parish duties include ushering and membership on the finance committee. He is retired manager of customer service for Security Mutual Life Insurance.

Yates-Ontario-Wayne Region: Mrs. Shirley Toole.

Mrs. Toole, former chairperson of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and member of the ministerial review committee, is embarking on her first duties with the Thanks Giving Appeal. She and her husband Frederick have three children. A member of St. Stephen's Parish in Geneva, she serves there on the parish council, education committee, and human development committee.

SSJs Note 20th Anniversary of Brazil Mission

A liturgy held in the motherhouse chapel inaugurated the commemoration by the Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph of the 20th anniversary of their Brazilian mission recently.

Present for the occasion were immediate families of the past and present missionaries who have served in Brazil.

"Our gratitude abounds," said Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley, superior general, as she welcomed the assembly. She cited the courage and vision of the congregational administration of 1964 which began the venture.

Members of the 1964 administration, Sister Agnes Cecilia Troy, former superior general, and Sisters Florentine MacCarthy, Mary Patrice Messner and Margaret Adelaide Owen, her council members, were present at the liturgy.

Sister Elizabeth Anne also thanked the families and friends of the missionaries as well as the diocese for support of the mission.

In his homily, Msgr. William Shannon, motherhouse chaplain, inserted a challenge to the

assembly. Using the theme of fraternal correction presented in the gospel, he suggested that an imaginary program called "Voice of Latin America" (similar to the "Voice of America") might include some fraternal correction.

"Does not," he quoted from the imaginary program, "the Christian gospel suggest... that the superabundance you have belongs not really to you, but to the poor? If you were to dare to become more poor, you would be able to eliminate poverty elsewhere."

He urged the group to face up to the prevailing mentality of "acquisitiveness and possessiveness that could destroy us and our future." He urged all to learn, as have the returning missionaries, that "there is much to be done and much to pray for."

Speaking of the critical need for the United States to "learn from South and Latin America and listen to the voice that has so long been ignored," he maintained that this learning is essential if we are to move into a future based upon "love, solidarity and human strength."



Sister Agnes Cecilia Troy (third from left), former superior general who inaugurated the Brazilian mission in 1964, with, from left: Sister Rosalma Hayes, first Brazil mission director; Sister Florentine MacCarthy, Sister Mary Patrice Messner, Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen, 1964 council members; Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley, superior general; and, in the second row, Sister Barbara Orczyk, a member of the present mission team.

Following the liturgy, there was a supper at which reminiscences were shared and family acquaintances were renewed.

A highlight of the day was

a phone call which came in just before the beginning of the liturgy. It was from the Sisters in Uberlandia and the three Brazilian postulants.

They sent their "thoughts,

wishes, prayers, and *abracos* to all their religious community, family and friends gathered in Rochester.

The official commemoration of the anniversary

will be marked by a celebration in Paranaquara, Brazil, Dec. 7. Sister Rosalma Hayes, the first director of the mission project will attend the event.