

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Pope John Paul II, wherever he goes, speaks for life. This he does in several ways: in his clear, consistent and strong defense of the unborn; in the emphasis he places on the irreplaceable dignity of every human person; in his advocacy for the poor and the oppressed of the world.

his recent trip to Canada offers two more examples of this theme. Repeating an earlier expressed theme, our Holy Father told his Canadian audience that societies are judged by the treatment they give their weakest members. He also told them — much to the dismay of some interests in Canada — that the poor judge with the very voice of Christ those who oppress them for financial profit or other gain.

That kind of strong teaching comes back to me as I reflect on the lessons and call of Respect Life Sunday. Surely we are called to defend with courage and perseverance the human rights of the unborn. It is also part of our Catholic Christian mandate to be tireless in honoring the dignity and rights of every human being, and most especially of the poor, the weak and the innocent.

That is why our efforts at absorbing and living out "The Challenge of Peace" is so important. The obscene race to produce more and bigger nuclear arms not only places all humankind in ever greater peril, it is as well an insult and injustice to the poor of the world who do not have enough to eat.

That is why our conference of bishops is preparing a pastoral letter on economic systems and their effects on societies — and especially the poor of the world.

I have not yet seen the first draft of the letter but I anticipate that it will present a major challenge to many of the ideas and ways you and I take for granted in our affluent society. How much of our prosperity is at the cost of the poor in other countries? Does our foreign policy contribute to their oppression?

If all of this seems remote because the issues are so large and complex, let me share with you some examples of persons around our diocese who daily lives offer us a lesson in what it means to respect life.

I think of Sister Eileen Conheady SSJ and her work to help persons escape a life of prostitution — and Sister Barbara Moore RSM whose life and energies bring hope and encouragement to prisoners — and our friends in the Hispanic Apostolate who promote the welfare of the thousands of migrant workers who work in our fields and orchards from May until December — and those persons in Rochester, Geneva, Auburn and Elmira and elsewhere who with gracious hospitality offer food daily to the hungry — and of the people at our schools who add abundant love and care to the other education they offer children from minority groups.

All of these persons — and many more like them — remind us of our own poverty which can be greater by far than the poverty of those in material need.

They remind us as well that it is in the poor — indeed, in our own poverty — that we discover the radiance of Christ. Peace.

## Take 'Long, Loving Look at Real:' Burghardt

A sense of wonder is essential to human existence, Father Walter J. Burghardt SJ said at St. Mary's Church last week. The Jesuit theologian, lecturer and author, who spoke on "A Catholic Spirituality for the 80s," was the first speaker in the church's Sesquicentennial Lecture Series.

Father Burghardt described wonder as a reaction to God's creation — "great things and unsearchable," and said he feels we need to recapture our sense of wonder without which Christian life is meaningless.

To capture this sense of wonder, he said, try contemplation: "a long, loving look at the real." He said

we become involved too much in activity and feel guilty if we have "nothing to do." In contemplation, however, our whole being is alive, delighted, captivated and we discover the holy.

Realizing this capacity to contemplate requires a "desert experience," he said, an experience of being face-to-face with solitude, developing a feeling of festivity, trying not to possess the object of our delight, and making friends with those who have taken a "long, loving look at the real," like St. Augustine, Miguel Cervantes, Dag Hammarskjold and Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

He recommended beginning contemplation in youth. "It's hard to begin

at 65!" he exclaimed.

He also noted that learning to suffer is a way of relating to God in wonder.

"I cannot prove my pain is redemptive," he told the assembly, "It only makes sense if Christ has shown his face to us." He said that we need to put our reasoning to rest, and live simply in God's presence, shaped to the dying and rising Christ."

In benediction, he wished the crowd, "May you be lost in ceaseless wonder at the works of God around you."

Father Burghardt's most recent book is, "Seasons that Laugh or Weep; Musings on the Human Journey."



Father Burghardt points out a passage in a recent book to Sister Joan Sobala SSJ of the St. Mary Parish staff.

## Cosby Show to Benefit Mercy Sisters' Education

The connection between a doctor in education and a liturgical art consultant can seem somewhat remote, but a case can be made for the link when the doctor is comedian Bill Cosby and the consultant is Sister Mary Estelle Martin, a Sister of Mercy of the diocese.

The connection? Cosby will entertain at the Eastman Theatre, Sunday Oct. 28, for the benefit of ongoing education of members of that congregation;

and Sister Estelle has just reaped the fruits of four years of study, receiving an MA in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame this past summer.

Cosby will appear at the invitation of the Founders Club, a group of lay friends of the congregation which raises funds for the education of the Sisters, especially for graduate studies.

Sister Estelle serves as chairperson of the diocesan Environment and Art Com-

mittee, a standing body of the diocesan Liturgy Commission.

Its aim, she said, is to help parishes align their church environment more with the spirit of Vatican II documents, in order to create a better environment for liturgical worship.

As consultant at the parish level in relationship to the building and renovating of churches, she recently spent a week in Anchorage, Alaska.

A former art teacher and currently a free-lance graphic designer, she had never thought about using art in liturgical expression prior to 1979. That year she got interested in integrating art and liturgy when she was asked to be responsible for the design and setup of the Community War Memorial for Bishop Matthew H. Clark's installation.

Tickets for the Cosby show are available at Ticketron outlets.

### Adoration Mass

The annual Mass and supper of the Nocturnal Adoration Society will begin 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18 at St. Helen's Church. Father L. John Hedges, pastor, will preside and preach. Father Dennis Sewar, associate pastor, will speak at the supper. Kenneth F. Georger is chairman of the event.

## Bishop Gumbleton To Speak on Peace

Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit, one of the authors of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace," will speak at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 12, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 549 Humboldt St.

Bishop Gumbleton was born on January 26, 1930 in Detroit. He attended Sacred Heart Seminary, St. John's Provincial Seminary, and received a Doctorate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

He was ordained a priest on June 2, 1956, and later ordained a bishop on May 1, 1968. He supervises the Central Service Offices of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Bishop Gumbleton is president of Pax Christi, U.S.A., and is also president of a hunger lobbying group, Bread for the World. He is Adjunct Professor at St. John's Provincial Seminary and Mercy College of Detroit.

He was also one of the representatives to the Ameri-



BP. GUMBLETON

can hostages in Iran in 1979.

Bishop Gumbleton has been recipient of many awards and honors, among them the Isaac Hecker Peacemaker Award, 1975; Pacem in Terris Award, Daventry, Iowa, 1979; Justice and Peace Medal, St. Bonaventure University, 1981; and Honorary Doctor of Law, Seton Hall Law School, 1981.

"We are extremely pleased to have Bishop Gumbleton with us to speak on this very crucial topic," said Father Kevin Murphy, St. John's co-pastor. "He will bring his years of involvement in peace and justice work to reflect with us on his topic, 'Being a Person of Peace... A Person of Hope.'"

Bishop Gumbleton's talk will be followed by a period of questions and discussion, and is open to the public.

## Workshop Planned On Parish Music

Tom Conry, composer and liturgist, will present a day-long workshop Saturday, Oct. 20, at St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua, for parish musicians, staff members and liturgy committees.

Sponsored by the diocesan Liturgy Office and diocesan Music committee, the workshop, "Developing the Parish Music Program," will guide participants toward ways to develop the parish music program as an integral part of the parish worship program.

Conry is a campus minister at Portland State University in Oregon. He has spoken at a number of conventions of

the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, as well as serving as a musician and liturgist for the North American Forum on Catechumenate. He has two collections of music, "Ashes" and "We the Living," published by North American Liturgy Resources. A new collection of his works will be published shortly by Oregon Catholic Press.

The workshop hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; the registration fee \$12 (lunch provided). Further information and registration is available from the Office of Liturgy, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624 (716) 328-3210.

## Diocese Issues Voter Pamphlet

The diocesan Department of Justice and Peace has issued a voter education pamphlet on the topics of economic justice, abortion and peacemaking.

The tract is being mailed to all in pastoral work, and is available from diocesan offices for 9 cents each.

The introduction to the brochure states: "This year many issues have a profound moral dimension. Any discussion about public policy and morality tries to inform not only voter's minds but also our hearts and consciences. It is in this area where the Church has a responsibility to try to provide helpful guidance and promote dialogue between voters and candidates."

The pamphlet, which contains statements by the National Catholic Conference of Bishops and individual bishops on specific issues, nonetheless concludes, "It is our hope that this pamphlet will help you to make choices. We recognize and rejoice in the fact that the choice is uniquely your own."

The pamphlet is available from the Office of Justice and Peace, 750 West Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611.

Actual Number Copies of Single Issue published nearest to filing Date  
15 49,368  
7 6  
72 48,838  
79 48,844  
23 120  
02 48,964  
00 400  
3 4  
05 49,368  
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