

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Monday morning.

It is dark and rainy this morning. The early arrivals at Sacred Heart School are bundled up in weather clothing and look quite determined to reach their destination as soon as possible.

I am not fond of this weather, especially when it arrives on Monday morning. But today it reminds me of a contrast I'll soon experience. This noon I'll be leaving for St. Petersburg, Fla., to offer a retreat for the priests of that diocese.

Bishop Thomas Larkin, a native of Mt. Morris and an alumnus of St. Bernard's Seminary, invited me to this happy task. I accepted in recognition of his deep ties to our diocese and also because Tom and I were ordained bishops together in May of 1979.

Another circumstance adds a particular note of interest to this retreat. Last month, the Holy Father established two new dioceses in Florida. They are the Dioceses of Venice and Palm Beach. St. Petersburg lost some of its laity, priests and religious women and men to each of the new dioceses.

In recognition of that change, Bishop Larkin has called for an assembly of his priests in retreat. It will be an exciting

occasion I am sure because the Lord never places significant challenges before us without offering all kinds of new life at the same time.

The business week will conclude with an opportunity to participate in the life of yet another local Church. I shall be in Boston to give a talk on spirituality to the alumnae of St. John's Seminary as they continue their celebration of the centenary of that institution.

I shall be grateful for your prayers that God will bless us through these activities.

● Some notes about days past:

-- I had the opportunity yesterday to visit two of our smaller communities of faith.

In Moravia, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the erection of St. Patrick's Church (the parish is 12 years older). From among the very joyful aspects of that day, two special memories remain: the beautiful sense of community and hospitality evident among the people and their awareness of and gratitude for their Catholic heritage.

We celebrated Confirmation at Holy Cross, Ovid, yesterday. The good spirit of the assembly, the exciting presence of

the candidates and the prayerful celebration of the Liturgy were all strengthening. The occasion was also a happy reminder that it was at Holy Cross that I confirmed for the first time in the Diocese of Rochester.

-- Other stops along the way this week included Confirmations at St. Mary's, Dansville, and St. Anne's Church on Mt. Hope Avenue in Rochester.

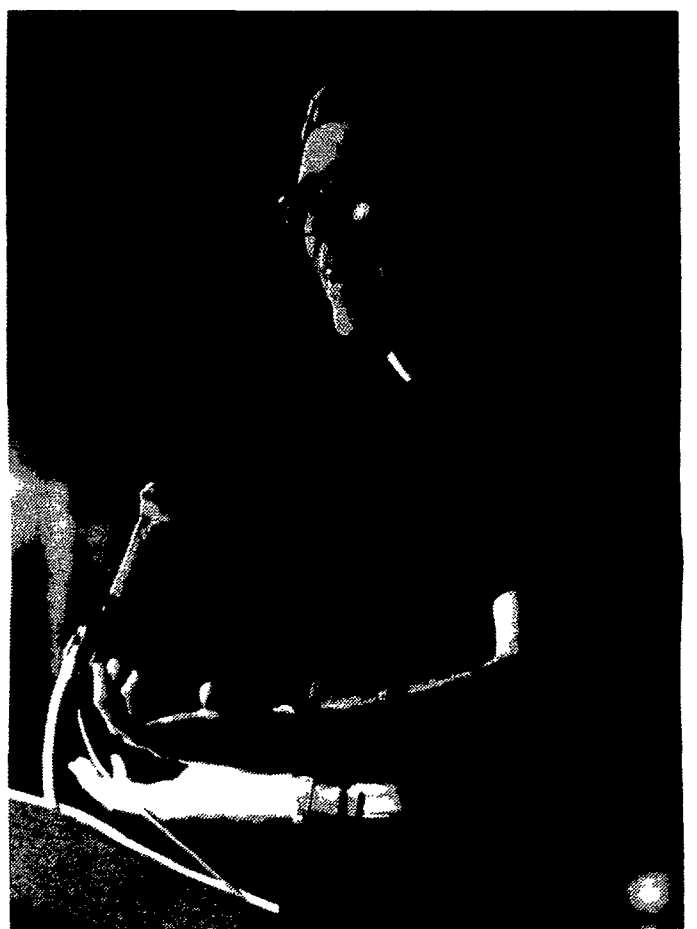
At the end of a week like that I am mindful of the variety of parish communities which make up the diocese. Some are large; some are small. Some are in central city; others are in small towns. Some are over 150 years old; others are less than five years old.

One could compile a long list indicating that variety. The great advantage to it is the richness of life it offers. The challenge is that, preserving this God-given variety, we seek always to grow in the life-giving unity to which the Lord calls us.

I shall be thinking of you as I head for the sun today. Please pray for me.
Peace.



More than 250 attended the Fall Ministry Conference in Waterloo, which featured Msgr. Charles Fahey, right, as keynote speaker. Below, Father Thomas Mull, director of liturgy, chats during a break with Pat DiFabio, religious education coordinator at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and Sister Diane Branch, Cathedral pastoral assistant.



Aging Is Ministry Topic

Waterloo -- More than 250 diocesan representatives -- including religious and lay ministers -- met last Tuesday for the Fall Ministry Conference at the Holiday Inn here.

The all-day program was titled "Aging and Retirement." The morning session included a two-part presentation on growing older by keynote speaker Msgr. Charles Fahey, director of the Third Age Center at Fordham University.

"This is an enormous issue," Msgr. Fahey said. "There is much interest in how the older person can serve the Church. Soon there

are going to be lots of people (the frail elderly) that only the Church can help."

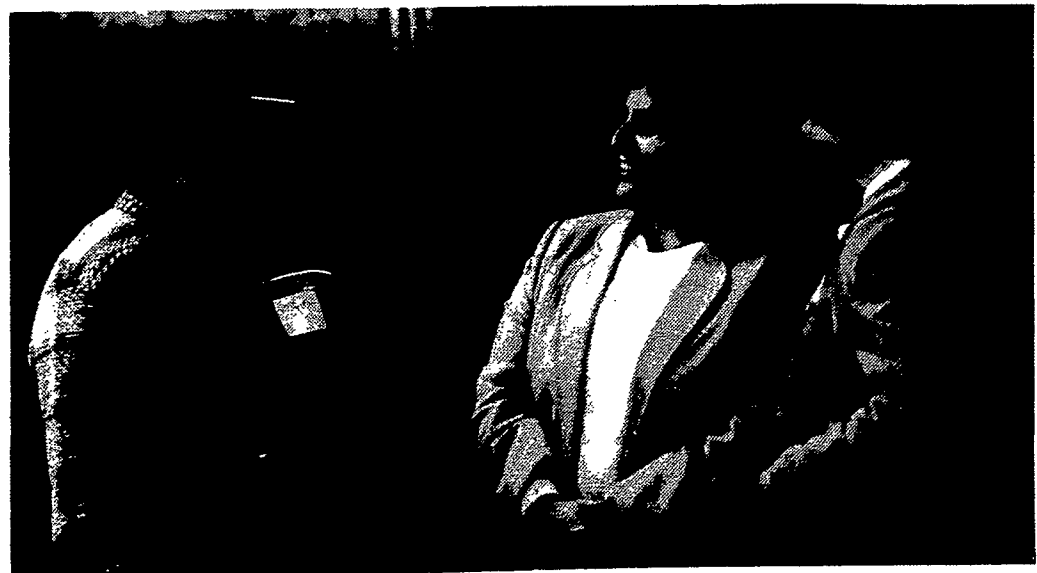
Following lunch, various workshops were offered. Fathers Charles Latus, James Schwartz, James Moynihan, Charles Bennett and Thomas Wheeland combined to present a workshop on priests retirement.

Mercy Sisters Anne Maloy and Mollie Brown led a workshop titled "Aging Parents"; "Mid-Life Ministries" were discussed in a session led by Sister Kathleen Milliken RSM, and Deacon Ken Scarciotta; Dr.

Nathan Kollar discussed teaching the young about the old, and the old about the young.

"The emphasis is not on ourselves," Father Schwartz, chairman of the conference planning committee, said. "Rather, it is 'how do we minister to those that are frail?'"

In addition to the workshops, a panel discussion moderated by Sister Mollie presented Kollar, Father Benedict Ehmann and Frances Nardone, director of volunteers at St. John's Home.



The Trench Coat

Burberrys invented the trench coat for British officers during World War I. It has been a standard ever since. This model in dacron and cotton is double breasted and has a button-in wool lining. \$465. There are other single and double breasted styles in stock and women's models may be ordered.

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