

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Monday morning.

It is good to be home after our week in Washington, D.C. for the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Those who were able to follow the press reports are aware that the center piece of this year's meeting was the introduction of the first draft of our pastoral letter, Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy. Initial reaction includes praise of the effort, encouragement to deepen and refine the work, and sharp criticism for our naivete and vanity.

The next time we meet will be in June at Collegeville, Minn. There we hope to review the second draft of the latter. The immediate challenge is to review this first draft in all of our dioceses and to send in any suggestions we have to improve the letter.

Although the effort attracted the greatest amount of publicity, the conference also approved statements on the

permanent diaconate and the continuing education of priests, both of which will be helpful and encouraging, I think.

For all of the excitement and interest of the days in Washington, I was happy to return on Friday evening. As I have said to you before, I am not fond of hotel living.

The weekend was a busy one. On Saturday our Diocesan Pastoral Council met at St. John of Rochester in Perinton. Men and women from all regions of our diocese gathered to reflect on, advise and counsel about the basic pastoral needs of our faith family.

Normally I am present for the full length of the meeting. This week was an exception since I left early to attend a program devoted to raising vocational awareness among the youths of our Hispanic community. The young men and women who attended seemed to enjoy the program. Our hope of course is that through the stimulus of sessions like this one these young people will be much more aware of their holiness in the Lord and of the loving service to which that holiness calls them. An added hope and prayer is that some of them

will be interested in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

On Saturday evening I attended the Seton Ball at the Rochester Plaza Hotel. This event, the 29th in a series initiated by Bishop James E. Kearney, is for the benefit of St. Mary's Hospital and calls together hundreds of men and women in the community who loyally and generously support the work of this great institution.

Sunday was a day devoted to confirmations — two at Good Shepherd in Henrietta and a third at St. Ambrose in Rochester. I think I confirmed a total of close to 200 young men and women in those three celebrations. It is obvious that a day like that one is tiring. It may be less obvious that such a day is also an extraordinary grace for the association it offers with our beautiful young people.

Please accept my best wishes for a joyful celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. It seems to me a rich feast because I believe that a heart opened in gratitude to the Lord is never quite the same again.
Peace.

DPC Urges School Planning

In a unanimous vote, the Diocesan Pastoral Council urged local Catholic schools to adopt as policy the new planning guidelines developed by the diocesan Schools Office.

In an unrelated development, the council did not change its constitution which reads that married couples may not serve as elected members of the body.

Surprisingly little discussion preceded each vote at the meeting last Saturday at St. John of Rochester in Fairport.

The constitutional change, introduced by Ronald and Martha Jodoin, read, "A married couple may be elected as one representative."

The question has generated heated debate in the past.

On the school planning guidelines, the council voted following a presentation by Sister Roberta Tierney SSND, diocesan director of the Division of Education, who gave the rationale for developing the guidelines.

The situation facing parochial schools today, she said, is such that "they can no longer evolve, but must plan."

Decreasing enrollments and the subsequent rise in educational cost-per-pupil necessitate such measures.

The guidelines, among

other aspects, call for the establishment of "Christian Formation Committees" at the parish level. These committees, in conjunction with the local school administration and the parish finance committee, develop and monitor the annual school budget, all with the approval of the parish council and the ratification of the pastor.

In larger measures, the bishop and the diocesan director of education also take an active role in direction and monitoring of educational programs and structures, the guidelines say.

The guidelines call for parishes to develop a multi-faceted planning process which will also involve, to some degree, central pastoral services.

The DPC also was charged by Bishop Matthew H. Clark to consider a paper he has drawn up on the development and coordination of diocesan ministries.

"In a spirit of inquiry and with a view to some corporate reflection on these matters I place before you this outline of questions and issues. It is not an exhaustive list by any means, but is meant to be a stimulus to personal and corporate reflection in our consultative bodies among their respective constituencies," he bishop's paper said.

"Its immediate purpose is

to generate responses which will refine or sharpen what is here, drop what is not helpful and add pertinent questions and issues not mentioned.

"Its long range purpose is to prepare for a thoughtful, prayerful and carefully prepared effort to respond as maturely as possible to the developing ministerial needs of our local Church."

The DPC will consider nine issues and questions:

"1. to work together to interiorize and give effective public expression to our conviction that we are a priestly people; to locate the ministerial priesthood in the midst of and at the service of that people. How do we shape this effort to teach this well and live it faithfully?"

"2. to deal with a decreasing number of ordained priests and religious women and men. What are our projections about these vocations through the year 2000?"

"3. to clarify through reflection on experience and study of pertinent Church documents what ministry truly means. How do ministries begin? How are they 'validated' ('given public recognition and support')? How are they incorporated into our common life and coordinated with other ministries."

"4. to consider our collective responsibility to provide systematic and first rate

training and growth opportunities for all ministries.

"5. to help all ministers in the Church cope with heavy work loads and to deal with issues which are complex and numerous. Who should do what?"

"6. to give proper spiritual, emotional and financial support to persons engaged in Church ministries."

"7. to foster cohesiveness, mutual respect and support, more fruitful cooperation among all ministers in the Church. How can we support priests who struggle with the questions: 'Who am I?' and 'What is left for me 'to do' that others can't?' How can we support lay ministers who ask: 'What am I all about? No one cares or takes me seriously because I am not a priest.'"

"8. to continue to implement all levels of our pastoral letter on women."

"9. to reflect on the place of the diocesan bishops vis a vis the ministry of the baptized: enabling the development of new forms? in missioning them? in subsidizing their initial/ongoing education/formation? in coordination of their placement?"

"My hope," the bishop's paper stated, "is that at the end of a year's meetings we will have a clearer picture of present realities and future needs and possibilities so that we can respond to them in a thoughtful and systematic way."

In other council business, delegates reported to Deacon Claude Lester on their contacts with parish council chairpersons in their regions.

The agenda also included a presentation by David Scholl, a former DPC member now director of development for the diocese.

Scholl gave the council a spirited discussion of deferred and planned giving.

Scholl also is presenting will seminars to interested diocesan groups.

"Seventy per cent of Catholics die without wills," he said.

Officers Named

Mrs. Deborah Rennalevy, chairperson of the art department at Cardinal Mooney High School, has been elected president of the Central Western Section of the NYS Art Teachers Association. In addition, Mrs. Carmella Warren, also of the art department, has been elected secretary.

Fr. Eugene Scheg Dies, Was New Jersey Pastor

A memorial Mass of Christian Burial for Father Eugene R. Scheg will be celebrated 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 24 at Holy Family Church.

Father Scheg, a native of Rochester, died Nov. 13, 1984, in Holmdel, N.J., where he was pastor of St. Catharine's Parish.

A graduate of Holy Family School and Aquinas Institute, Father Scheg was ordained a priest at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1956.

With a licentiate in sacred theology, Father Scheg was assigned to teach at Bishop Fallon High School in Buffalo. Three years later he was named vocations director of the Oblate Seminary in Newburgh.

He was appointed chaplain at Christian Brothers

Academy in Lincroft, N.J., in 1963. While there he assisted in nearby St. Leo, St. Gabriel, and St. Catharine parishes.

In 1970, Father Scheg, with ecclesiastical approval, was incardinated in the Diocese of Trenton from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Since that time he served first as assistant at St. Catharine, and from 1982, as pastor.

Father Scheg was active in many church and community activities. He served as chairman of the Juvenile Conference Committee and the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Committee. He was chaplain of the Holmdel Police Department and the Father McGivney Council Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his



FATHER SCHEG

mother, Mrs. Ida Scheg; his aunts, Miss Margaret Frank and Mrs. Marie Blanchard; his uncle and aunt, Joseph and Katharine Frank and several cousins.

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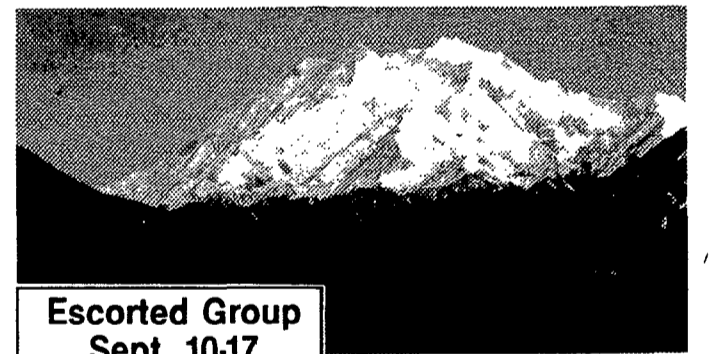
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9:00AM- 8:00PM

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