

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Monday morning.

You have never heard me brag about my willpower or about my ability to make and keep resolutions. That's because I rank at about five on a scale of ten in each.

The mere sight of chocolate for example can make me forget a resolution made not five minutes ago to cut back on the calories. I can manufacture excuses to postpone exercise when I could easily get at it. Books pile up next to my chair notwithstanding my intention to be a faithful reader. And — it did take me 18 years to quit smoking.

There's no doubt that I am weak! But even in that weakness there was one resolution I was sure I would never break. I was absolutely positive that nothing on earth would ever make me go shopping on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Now, dear friends, there's nothing left!

Oh, I know you'll be nice about it. You'll understand that when your mother begins it all by saying, "There's a place in

Albany that sometimes has just the right dress," it's very hard to remain strong. When your oldest niece chimes in with, "Oh, yeah — and you promised me a driving lesson!" most remaining resistance drifts away like a puff of smoke. And when your eight-year-old niece on tip-toe with excitement gives you her most impassioned "Oh, pretty please!" the issue is settled.

I won't go into all of the details of the day partly because it's all too painful to review it now, but also because I am sure you have had days very much like it.

Some of its highlights come back to me now:

- Grace drove very well indeed except for two moments when her driving technique elicited collective deep-lung gasps from her three passengers. She told me later it was the first time she was ever in traffic.

- Save for some calming ice cream on the way home, we

bought nothing — not a penny's worth. Oh, we looked plenty and checked thousands of hangars — and if we ever want to buy something, we'll know exactly where it is. But not so much as a straight pin did we buy.

- I escaped major injury. My ribs are healing nicely, thank you, and my nerves, I am sure, will calm gradually as the days go by. Even though I'll always have to live with the knowledge that I went shopping on that Friday I'll always know the consolation that I lived to tell others about it.

The weekend is now a happy memory. I am sure that our excursion to the shopping center will be the centerpiece of that memory for a long time to come for the four of us who made the trip.

I know that I shall cherish the day not only for the laughter it provided but for the happy memories it brought me of my father. It was he who taught me how to drive and it was he whose dark stories first shaped in me the resolution never to shop on the Friday after Thanksgiving.

I'm not doing much better than he did.

Peace.

Salvador Missioners Memorial Set

"The Four and Forty Thousand," a memorial service for the four American churchwomen killed in El Salvador in 1980, will be at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2 at Old St. Mary's Church, downtown.

The service will commem-

orate not only the deaths of Sisters Maura Clarke, Dorothy Kazel and Ita Ford and missioner Jean Donovan, but also the violent deaths of over 40,000 Salvadorans since 1979.

The service will highlight a candlelight procession and

words of the four women will be read and reflected upon. Dr. Lou Buttino of St. John Fisher College will speak about his recent trip to Nicaragua.

The Corpus Christi folk group will sing in English and Spanish, and the service will

end with a procession of offering for the people of Central America. Participants are asked to bring not only a candle, but an offering — medical supplies (bandages, aspirin), hand tools (hammers, screwdrivers, nails), school supplies, or toys (blocks, puzzles, small dolls) — for the procession.

The service is sponsored by the diocese, the Rochester Committee of Latin America (ROCLA), and Mutuality in Mission. For further information, contact Sister Christine Wagner SSJ, at 328-6400.

DIABETIC CLASS

Hornell — A free diabetic class, sponsored by the Dietary Department of St. James Mercy Hospital, will take place at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 28, in DeSales Hall of St. James Mercy Hospital.

DEATHS

Mary McMillan Cooper

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 14 for Mary McMillan Cooper who died Nov. 11, 1984, following a brief illness.

The rites were celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Corning, where Mrs. Cooper was born and where she lived until recent years.

A graduate of Corning Free Academy and St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Paterson, N.J.,

Mrs. Cooper was well known for her community service activities.

She served as president of the Corning Deanery of the National Council of Catholic Women, as president of the John P. Eaton American Legion Post Auxiliary and of the St. Vincent de Paul School Parent Teacher Association.

She was a charter member of the Corning Chapter of the Catholic Daughters of the

Americas, and served as a volunteer instructor for the Corning Chapter of the American Red Cross.

She is survived by her daughters, Marilynne (Mrs. Gerald) Sullivan of Rochester, and Natalie (Mrs. Frederick) Woehrlen of Churchville; a brother, Bernard McMillan of Dunedin, Fla.; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



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IN INDIA: POOR CATHOLICS

In Vadakekara, India, many of the 210 Catholic families will not be able to attend Mass on Christmas. The nearest church is many miles away from their home. For the sick, the aged and the children regular attendance at Mass is almost impossible. Father James, the parish priest, advises that these poor faithful have contributed what they can afford from their meager wages to build a church of their own. \$5,000 more is needed to complete the project. Will you share with these poor as your special gift to the Christ Child? We'll send Father James immediately your gifts (tax deductible in the U.S.A.) in any amount — \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5. A memorial plaque can be placed inside the church in memory of your loved ones if you complete it all by yourself (\$5,000). Your gift will truly bring Christ to Vadakekara for Christmas.

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To share this year in the Masses, hardships and good works of our Bishops, priests and Sisters overseas, enroll yourself now (as well as your children, nephews, nieces and friends) in this Association. We'll send them a certificate. . . . The dues are used for the poor. Family membership: \$100 for life, \$10 for a year. One person's membership \$25 for life, \$5 a year.

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41 _____ RJ
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