

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Some notes on the way to New York City and Brazil, Dec. 4.

● Among the passengers on the airplane this afternoon is George Sylvester. We called him Butch 25 years ago when, as a college seminarian, I worked as a counselor in a summer camp for boys and he as a high school student worked in the camp kitchen.

Although there was an age difference and our work kept us on different paths through most of the day, the crowd of us were good friends. As I remember it now, we were together daily at least for prayer and at post taps raid on the camp kitchen.

Today George is a husband, the obviously proud father of five children and the executive vice president for operations of a major computer firm. He flew into Rochester this morning to do business with one of our major corporations and flies to Zurich tonight for the same purpose.

He is also very much a matured edition of the Butch of Camp Tekakwitha -- warm, concerned for others and

operating from the same values I admired so much in him 25 years ago.

As I think about him now and remember him then, I am drawn to that theme of Advent which reminds us that the Lord's life is begun in us and will one day be brought to completion when the Lord comes again in glory.

The good things present in Butch 25 years ago are there in George today. But they are deeper, more mature.

Do you observe similar things in old friends? And how about yourself? Think about it. It can lead to interesting Advent prayer.

● This week the Courier-Journal is publishing a rather complete outline of the first draft of our pastoral letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy.

I sent out a letter to all parishes yesterday asking parish councils to review this outline and to do me the favor of sending in their reactions to it: whether they judge it to be solidly constructed, going in the right direction, in good perspective, etc. If you are a member of a parish council, you

will render an import service as you respond to this invitation. If you are not, I still encourage you to spend some time with the outline, especially with that portion of it which treats of biblical themes and our heritage of Catholic social teaching. I think you will find it a rewarding endeavor.

● Bishops Hickey and Hogan and I have just finished a round of confirmations. I am not sure of the exact number in October and November but I think the number was near 40.

I thank my brother bishops so much for the generosity and kindness of their ministry. I thank also all of the men and women who give so much to help our candidates prepare for this sacrament.

Two growing and pleasing trends I have noted are 1. the preparation programs join to necessary instruction components of spiritual formation and baptismal service and 2. the formation of candidates is more and more seen as a responsibility of the parish community at large and not the work of a very few

Peace to all.

Damian Milliken Returns to African Mission

Father Damian Milliken OSB, a native Elmira, has returned to his mission in Tanzania after a five-month sojourn in the United States, his sister said last week.



A family portrait: from left are Carmen Esposito, Therese Milliken Esposito, Jean Milliken Sweeney-Dunn, Kitty Sweeney, Sister Kathleen, Father Milliken, Denis Sweeney and Mrs. Jean Milliken, the missionary's mother, on the steps of St. Patrick's Church in Elmira.

Father Milliken, a member of the Benedictine Missionaries of St. Paul's Abbey in Newton, N.J. was ordained in 1968 at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop James E. Kearney. He received his mission cross from Bishop Kearney in 1960.

His sister, Sister Kathleen A. Milliken RSM, said that Father Milliken "has served in a variety of places and in numerous positions during his years in Tanzania: as procurator of a mission seminary, as parish priest, as chaplain in a refugee camp, and most recently as teacher

of English and religion in a boy's high school conducted by the government."

Father Milliken's current assignment is Magamba Secondary School in Lushoto, in the northeastern part of Tanzania.

His sister quoted him as saying that education is the key to the improvement of the quality of life, and that he finds the students eager to learn.

"A talented carpenter, he also teaches carpentry on the side, and has engineered several self-help projects for the

villagers, including houses, chicken coops and a pig-gery," Sister Kathleen said.

She described the nation as "a land of subsistence farmers, and in many areas the land is unproductive, causing great hardship and hunger.

Though famine has not struck, the country is described by experts as having a "severe shortage of food."

She said that one of the priest's first impressions on his return to the U.S. was the local abundance of food.

"It seemed as though the bread and fruit were pouring

out of the shops," he was quoted as saying. "and such a short time before I had been with a family who had hardly anything to eat. In fact, they gave me their one meal that day because I was travelling.

The priest also serves as chaplain to a convent of Sisters who teach in a school for girls, and he helps on weekends in nearby missions. He sees the church flourishing in Africa, with no shortage of vocations, and often speaks of the deep faith of the people, his sister said.

Calendar Depicts School's History

Elmira -- Anyone in this area looking for a special Christmas present might turn to an idea from Notre Dame High School.

To help celebrate its 30th anniversary, Notre Dame has gathered its many memories and compiled a commemorative picture calendar which includes photographs of Elmira Catholic High School, the early days and highlights of the first 30 years.

According to Mrs. Isabel Gilroy, public relations/fund developer, "It is an opportunity to say thank you to all the thousands who have touched and enriched our lives over the years. The calendar will be available at Elmira vicinity churches Dec. 9 and 16 and at the school office."

AQ Band Slates Concert

The annual Christmas Concert by the concert and jazz bands of Aquinas Institute, will be given 7 p.m., Dec. 16 in the Aquinas auditorium.

Admission is free. The program will feature the Beginning Band performing selected Christmas carols. The Concert Band will perform "Bugler's Holiday," by Anderson; "Chorale" and "Alleluia," by Hanson; "Bolero," by Ravel.

Human Life Commission Offers Grants

Applications for small grants are currently being offered by the diocesan Human Life Commission to all pastoral groups meeting the following criteria:

- Aimed primarily at

direct counseling, referral and other services dealing with an unexpected pregnancy, for the purpose of bringing the pregnancy to term.

- Not involved in direct services or referrals which help a person carry out a decision to induce abortion or helps to promote abortion in any way.

- A not-for-profit organization.

- Not involved in campaigns of persons running for political offices.

Applications are also being offered to incorporated Right-to-Life organizations to assist them in educational and/or legislative efforts on the abortion issue.

Forms are obtained by calling Anita Maruggi, (716) 328-6400, in Rochester; Chris Granis, (315) 789-2686, in the Finger Lakes area; Cathy Dubel, (607) 734-9784, in the Southern Tier.

Application deadline is Jan. 20, 1985.

On the Inside

At Your Parish.....	18
Bishop Clark.....	3
Books.....	10
Child.....	11
Classified.....	23
Cuddy.....	4
Economy.....	7,8
Editorial.....	21
Faith Today.....	15-18
Hohman.....	9
Liturgy.....	6
Movies.....	14
Opinion.....	21,22
Pope.....	20
Shamon.....	22
Television.....	14

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