

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Sunday evening.

Some notes on this winter week.

Monday and Tuesday: Heavy snow, high winds and bitter cold caused the postponement or cancellation of many events in this part of the state. Good days for some extra reading and prayer. I appreciated the unexpected opportunity to work on some future projects and to enjoy the company of our household at Sacred Heart.

Wednesday: A good part of the day spent in the office. had appointments with three pastors and two others with staff members at the Pastoral Office. We are blessed in the people who serve in our diocese. Good, honest, generous, dedicated men and women.

Friday: Public hearing at St. Thomas More to gather comment on the first draft of our pastoral letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy. Solid testimony; some of it very moving. There was some criticism of the draft, but most of it came from persons in sympathy with its basic directions. I had hoped for more pronounced differences of opinion among those who appeared. Our letter will be

stronger when persons who have sharply differing points of view listen to one another with a real effort to understand.

Saturday: A session with the St. Stephen Association formed by and for our permanent deacons and their spouses.

Bill and Mary Lu Coffey shared a reflection on ministry. It was a joy to hear them speak of prayer and family life. Their presentation was not in the abstract but dealt with prayer as the soul and energy of their lives.

We are fortunate to have such loving servants among us. As a community of faith we need to join them in reflection on our experience of the restored permanent diaconate so that it will be a ministry ever more fruitful for them and for all of us.

Sunday: St. Thomas More again. This time for a Mass of Hope.

The celebration gathered persons concerned with a broad range of life questions and committed to honor human life at all stages and in all conditions.

I am convinced that the seamless garment approach to life issues is a sound one which flows from the richness and depth of our moral tradition.

It draws into the embrace and care of the community the unborn, those who struggle with unwanted or difficult pregnancies, refugees, disabled persons, the poor, hungry and homeless, the terminally ill and persons on death row.

The seamless garment point of view deplores the buildup of nuclear weaponry, especially as that is built in part on neglect of the poor. It condemns racism, sexism and all systems which demean or in any way depersonalize human beings.

Not an easy challenge nor one which fails to call the church to ongoing reform. There are distinctions to be drawn among the many issues and we must avoid any kind of violence, including disregard for the human dignity of those who oppose us, in living out our convictions.

It will take courage but we'll find our souls when we stand for all life — especially innocent life — because it flows from and is in God's image.

Everyday — loving support from friends. I am grateful for them always but in a particular way for these special gifts this week.

Peace to all.

Comforting Ministry Grows For St. Jerome Parishioners

East Rochester — Since 1982, a handful of St. Jerome parishioners has grown into a 50-person strong Comforting Ministry, serving the elderly, the sick and dying, and the bereaved.

According to Mrs. John M. McDonald, one of the founders of the ministry, recent activities even include hosting parties for those at the Pinnacle Nursing Home on Monroe Avenue.

She said last week that the ministry at St. Jerome arose in 1982, when a parishioner died, and Father Michael Costanza, the associate pastor, was torn between his duty to say the parish Mass, and his duty to be with the bereaved family.

"Father 'Mike' had not only been visiting her at the hospital, but he had also been counseling the family," Mrs. McDonald related. "On that day, he was the only priest available to say the 5:30 p.m. Mass when the family needed him."

In the course of a Bible study meeting that day, "Father Mike told us that he'd like us to think about stepping in at a time like this," she said, "so that one of us could be with the family."

"It so happened," she said, "that I could think of nothing else so I called Father Mike and he asked me to find out if any of the other parishes could help me."

"As it happened, she said, Mrs. James O'Brien of Good Shepherd Parish in Henrietta "came to my rescue. As a

matter of fact, she had just had the first session in three of the training for this purpose — comforting the sick and dying and bereaved."

Once that connection was made, Father Costanza, Sister Lisette O'Brien, Yvette Mulary, Vicki Galante, Mary Kay Parone and Mrs. McDonald, attended the training sessions at Mrs. O'Brien's home.

The sessions included listening to tapes made by Syracuse diocesan Msgr. Joseph M. Champlin and consulting his handbook, "Together by Your Side — A Book for Comforting the Sick and Dying."

"Father Champlin's tapes were an inspiration," Mrs. McDonald said. "They teach one how to be a comforter and consoler."

The ministry also exists in other parishes. At Good Shepherd it goes by the name of "Love Line."

The Church of Assumption of Our Lady in Fairport also has "The Comforting Ministry."

Since those early days, Mrs. McDonald said, she and Ms. Mulary, who founded the Assumption program, visit and pray with the residents at Pinnacle each week.

"We never leave them without showing our affection for them with a hug and a kiss," she said. "They tell us how they look forward to our visits. We'd feel very empty if we couldn't spend that time with them. We receive much more than we give."

Deacon Seeks Halfway House To Aid Hispanic Prisoners

Deacon Nemesio Martinez, charged by Bishop Matthew H. Clark with the spiritual well-being of Spanish-speaking inmates of Monroe County Jail, is hoping to develop a halfway house for Hispanics and other ethnic groups.

The proposal was put forth at a recent meeting at Mt. Carmel Church.

Present at that meeting, Deacon Martinez said, were Sister Clare Roland SSJ, director of diocesan Chap-

laincy Services; Mario Caseres, executive director of Ibero-American Action League; Israel Alizea, representative of Catholic Family Center; Carolyn Portanova, also of CFC; and Father Edward Dillon, also chaplain at Monroe County Jail.

Deacon Martinez said that the return rate among Hispanic prisoners is extremely high. In many cases, he said, "I help them to be released from jail and two weeks later they come back to jail."

"So we need a follow-up program to prevent that," he said.

The establishment of a halfway house is such a program, he noted.

He also asked for help in preparing such a program. Persons wishing to participate in the development have been asked to contact him at 328-6539; or 467-3330 from 7-10 p.m., Mondays, at the Casa Cristiandad, Inc.

CDA Valentine

The annual Valentine Party sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for the children at Monroe Developmental Center will be held Feb. 21. The CDA asks donations of baked foods and silent money. Rose Hendrickson, Jane Crews and Carrie LaDelfa are in charge of the event. The CDA also announced a bandage rolling meeting Feb. 13 at the home of Bea Schmitt.

Advisory

Correspondents are advised the Courier-Journal is restricted by law from publishing any notice of games of chance, the prizes won in such games or the winners of such prizes.

'Kidney Ski' Slated at Shadow Lake

Shadow Lake Golf Club in Penfield will host the third annual "Kidney Ski," a cross-country charity event benefiting the Upstate Kidney Foundation, at 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 3.

The event is being sponsored by Champion Products, My-Tee Muffler Brake, and WMJQ Radio.

Participants will collect pledges for the total number of kilometers they ski, up to a maximum of 50 kilometers. The course at Shadow Lake is five kilometers.

All participants turning in \$25 or more in pledges will receive a long-sleeved, hooded "Kidney Ski" shirt. Top fund raisers will receive special prizes, including a weekend at Bristol Bed and Breakfast, and gift certificates from Snow Country and area restaurants, among others.

Registration forms may be picked up at Champion Products Outlet stores.



Neighborly Welcome

Third graders at Guardian Angels School recently presented the play "The Shoemaker's Guest" for the students of the School of the Holy Childhood. The play was presented as part of Guardian Angels Parish's welcome to their new Henrietta neighbors. The School of the Holy Childhood recently moved into the old Gillette Building on Groton Parkway.

Jeanne M. Darling Wins Scholarship

Jeanne M. Darling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Darling of Rawlinson Road and a senior at Nazareth Academy, has been awarded a \$6,000 academic scholarship to the University of Dallas, Texas.

The award was based on Miss Darling's performance on the recent National Com-

petitive Scholarship Examination.

According to the university's admissions director, Michael Heater, Miss Darling's performance "has shown an outstanding breadth of knowledge."

Miss Darling intends to major in chemistry.

Lifeline Working At Hornell Hospital

Hornell — Lifeline, St. James Mercy Hospital's system of personal emergency response, has completed its first year of service.

Lifeline enables participants to signal for emergency help by pressing a button on a transmitter which may be attached to clothing or worn on a neckchain. When the button is pressed it signals a telephone communications unit to call the hospital emergency room. A computer at the hospital prints out the name of the person signaling for help as well as other vital information.

Emergency room personnel then contact the person's home. If the telephone is unanswered, a pre-designated responder is contacted to go to the home.

In the first year, the hospital had 57 subscribers and handled 17 emergency calls.

The hospital recently the program's success at a get-together of personnel, subscribers, responders, donors, and volunteers. William

Connors, hospital administrator, welcomed the guests.

Clem Webb, RN, Lifeline coordinator, used a map to point out the locations of 28 subscribers in the Hornell area, 6 in Bath, 4 in Corning, and others in Alfred, Canisteo, Jasper, Troupsburg, Almond, Cohocton, Elmira and Wayland.

Dr. Janis Conklin, Lifeline director, thanked those involved as well as donors who contributed \$8,645 to the general assistance fund.

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