

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Saturday evening.
 Tomorrow I am travelling to Mexico to visit our diocesan mission team serving at Oxolotan in the Diocese Tabasco.
 The journey has been in my schedule for many weeks but the demands of every day living have not left me with a great deal of time to anticipate the joy of these coming days.
 It was not until this evening when I went through the exercise of packing that I began to get excited about what lies ahead.
 It will be a grace to see Bishop Rafael again and to share however briefly in the lives of the beautiful people of Oxolotan and the surrounding rancherios served by our mission team.

Most of all I look forward to spending time with Mark Kavanagh and Valerie Smith who have served in Oxolotan since the beginning of our efforts there. They have been remarkable in their generous and effective service. Most new ventures of this kind carry some hardship. Ours has been no exception but our friends have moved through the challenges with a spirit that I admire very much. I shall bring them your love, gratitude and the promise of our continued support.

Two new members of our mission team will be joining us. If all airline connections work out as we hope they will, Father Paul Ryan and I will meet in Mexico City and fly to Villa Hermosa together. Paul will spend a few days with the community at Oxolotan and leave for several weeks of preparation at Cuernavaca. Sister Marilyn Pray SSJ has nearly completed her training and will be joining the mission team just before we leave.

Father Jim Callan of Corpus Christi in Rochester will be arriving with Marilyn. Jim has very graciously agreed to serve in Oxolotan until Paul finishes at Cuernavaca. Fathers Paul Freemesser and Paul Tomasso have also served on a temporary basis. I take this opportunity to thank the three of them for their generosity. At the same time I thank their parish communities (Cato and Red Creek, Paul Freemesser; St. John of Rochester, Paul Tomasso) for their kind understanding.

Lastly, I thank Father Neil Miller, a veteran of our Tabasco mission, for his willingness to fill in for his three confreres. Neil has lived a nomadic life for many weeks and has done so in typically peaceful spirit.

One last note for now about the trip to Mexico. Before leaving from Mexico City I shall pay a visit to the motherhouse of the Missioneras Guadalupeanas del Espiritu Santo. Their sisters have been serving in our community for several years. I am happy to have the opportunity to express our thanks to all of them for their generous support of the life of our local church.

A note or two about last week:
 We had the first meetings of two newly established groups: our Diocesan Commission on Women and the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese Rochester. You will read more about each of these in other parts of this week's paper and in this space in the near future. Please pray for God's blessings on these new ventures.

This morning at St. Mary's Canandaigua we celebrated the Mass of the Resurrection for Father Leo Lynch, a good and faithful priest of our diocese whom we shall all miss very much. Please pray for his eternal rest and for the consolation of the loving family he leaves behind.

Peace to all.

Bishop Convenes Commission on Women

Bishop Matthew H. Clark last week convened the first diocesan Commission on Women.

The commission was established in response to a recommendation made by his follow-up task force on "The Fire in the Thornbush," his

pioneering pastoral letter on the role of women in the Church.

In a letter to commission members, Bishop Clark quoted the recommendation as "to establish a new diocesan Commission on Women in the Church to assist me in my participation in the in the planned endeavor of the United States Bishops to write a Pastoral Letter on Women in the Church, and to provide an on-going body to bring to the attention of the Diocese of Rochester matters related to the participation of women in the Church."

The bishop further said that the role of the commission, "is to develop means to ensure Diocesan follow-up on my pastoral letter on women in the Church and on the Report of the task force on the pastoral letter. Secondly, members from this commission and from a Subcommittee will develop the means for local review of drafts of the pastoral letter on women in the Church which the U.S. Bishop's will be preparing."

"I would seek your own collective wisdom and advice on the content as well," he said.

Commission members are:

Mrs. Carmen Bird, Mrs. Mary Kay Bolan, Father Joseph Catanise, Sister Joan Cawley SSJ, Ms. Marjorie Coppola, Sister Diane Dannie SSJ, Ms. Rebecca Gifford, Nathan Kollar, Mrs. Sara McLaughlin, Sister Barbara Moore RSM, Father Thomas Mull, Mrs. Judith O'Brien, Father James Schwartz, Msgr. William Shannon, Ms. Helen Snyder, Sister Mary Sullivan RSM, Sister Marlene Vigna RSM, Mrs. Gaynelle Wethers.

Father Leo E. Lynch Dies, Was Chaplain and Pastor

Funeral rites were celebrated last week for Father Leo E. Lynch who died Jan. 30, 1985. Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated Feb. 1 at St. Mary's in Canandaigua, where Father Lynch had resided since 1983. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the day following at the same church.

Father Lynch was born in 1918 in the Rochester suburb of Greece. He studied for the priesthood at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and was ordained Dec. 18, 1943.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor to St. Mary's Church in Elmira.

In 1951, he was named chaplain at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, a post he

held for six years. He was then named chaplain at St. Ann's Home, where he served 12 years.

In 1969 he was named pastor of St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls.

Father Lynch resigned his pastorate in 1978 and took on an associate pastorate at Guardian Angels in Henrietta.

He was next assigned as associate in residence to St. Helen's Church.

In September, 1983, he took up residence at St. Mary's in Canandaigua.

Father Lynch is survived by four brothers, Warren of Hamlin, Edward of Gaithersburg, Md., Walter and Bernard of Rochester; three sisters, Sister Mary Ida SSJ, Sister Mary SSJ, and

Mrs. Curtis (Gertrude) Amesbury, all of Rochester; and several nieces and nephews.



FATHER LYNCH

Correction

In a story about the Com-forting Ministry of St. Jerome's Parish, the founder of a similar ministry at neighboring Church of the Assumption of Our Lady was misidentified. According to Yvette Mulary, the founder is Helen Bennett.

Senior Crafters

Rochester's Eldercraft Shoppe, sponsored by the Regional Council on Aging, is seeking crafters over 55 to join its venture. The shop carries only handmade goods created by seniors. Further information is available from John C. Briggs at the council office, 454-3224.



St. Joseph's Gets New Organ

Father James Moynihan, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Penfield, stands behind parish organist Donna Barney at the keys of the Allen Digital Computer Organ installed two weeks ago. The previous church organ was 18 years old and, according to Father Moynihan, had deteriorated to the point where it could not be repaired. Parishioners donated the nearly \$50,000 needed for its purchase.

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