

COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, February 13, 1985

16 Pages 35 Cents

Bishop Sets Out for 'Crossroads III'

Next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, at Ontario County Jail and at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bishop Matthew H. Clark will set out on his Crossroads III journey.

The Crossroads program has been in use in the diocese since 1983, publicizes Bishop Clark's pastoral visitations throughout the diocese, and is used as an opportunity for renewal throughout the community.

Crossroads this year incorporates a new component. The journey will extend through the Lenten season, the Easter season, and now through the octave of Pentecost.

The diocesan Liturgy Office booklet for the program notes three foci this year:

"1. A Lenten focus on the parish level inviting the participation of people on the local level. The prayer and ministry during this season is oriented toward those in your parish who are 'sometimes' missed, those in need of evangelization who search for continued support;

"2. An Easter focus on the regional level that broadens the parish experience by calling one's attention to the regional Church. All parishes will be invited to a regional gathering to pray, discuss, and celebrate;

"3. A June 8 celebration... a diocesan celebration to which all will be invited. It is an opportunity to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the martyrdom of John Fisher (patron of the diocese), celebrate our lives as Christian people, and weave the Lent-Easter experience together."

The office stated, "The purpose of this arrangement is to provide a gradual development of identification with the local Church, the regional Church and the diocesan Church. Thus, allowing a person's perspective of his/her responsibility within the Church to be broadened. Not only are we renewed as individuals during the Lent-Easter season, but we also renew the local Church, the regional Church, the diocesan Church and ultimately the whole Church.

One title for this year's program is "Signs of Hope." The office said that "during Lent the bishop is asking all to recognize the living signs of hope which surround us." A second title is "Inter-Woven," of which the office noted, "during Eastertime the bishop has asked regions to spend some time reflecting on the meaning of the seamless garment and its practical implications in our everyday lives.

The term "seamless garment" was first applied by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin to the breadth of Church concern on social issues in the United States. The Liturgy Office defined the term as "the analogy given to the combination of social issues which people must face today: the nuclear question, abortion, social justice, economic justice. Christian people do not isolate themselves on one issue, but look upon all these social issues as a 'seamless garment.'" The bottom line has to do with a common dignity given to all people."

Elements of the program include publishing the bishop's visitation schedule. Items will be added to that schedule as the season progresses, particularly as the regional coordinators establish dates and places for Evening Prayer services.

Next Wednesday Bishop Clark will visit Ontario County Jail at noon. He also will preside at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral on that day.

My dear people,

As we move toward the holy season of Lent and Eastertime, much must be done by way of preparation. These days can be filled with growth and holiness if parish leaders are prepared and the people are prepared.

Once again this year, I will journey through the diocese during this time. During Lent, I am making a special effort to be present to those people I normally would not see throughout the year. The Easter Season brings the great joy of confirmations, ordinations, and special commemorative events. I want to ask you to actively promote the journey and recognition of "signs of hope."

A June 8th gathering will be the high-point of the Lent-Easter-Pentecost celebration. It has been scheduled so that I can be completely a part of it. I want to ask you now to mark your calendars so that every parish in the diocese is represented.

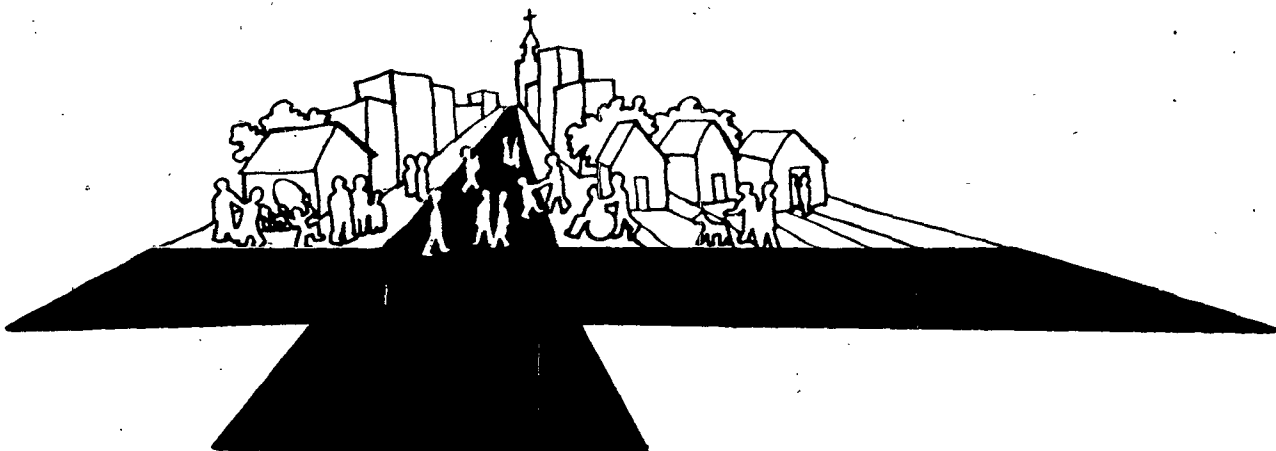
Finally, I would personally encourage all who do Lent-Easter planning to "take time" to pray before the hard work of practical planning takes place. After the Lord has spoken to you, you will speak much more clearly to others.

My very best wishes for a holy and spirited season.

Your brother in Christ,

+ Matthew H. Clark

+ Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester



CROSSROADS III

The graphic for Crossroads III is an adaptation of the original Crossroads to Life logo done by Kristin Malone for the diocesan 1983 Lent-Easter-Pentecost journey.

Don't Politicize Synod, Cardinal Asks Catholics

CHICAGO (NC) — The extraordinary synod announced by Pope John Paul II is a "unique opportunity" for the church, but it should not be "politicized" by Catholics, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago said Jan. 31.

Writing his regular weekly column in his archdiocesan newspaper, The Chicago Catholic, Cardinal Bernardin asked Catholics to "simply take Pope John Paul at his word and not read someone else's agenda or fears into the synod."

The pope made a surprise announcement Jan. 25 that he was convoking an extraordinary Synod of Bishops this Nov. 25-Dec. 8 to review the Second Vatican Council's teachings in light of 20 years of experience since the council.

Cardinal Bernardin is a member of the permanent council of the synod

secretariat and has represented the U.S. bishops at several previous synods.

The cardinal noted that some people immediately began to speculate that the pope was taking the occasion "to turn back the clock, at least in certain areas," from the directions established by the council.

He attributed this speculation chiefly to two groups — "some who are unhappy with at least some of the changes" and want them reversed, or "others who are very much committed to the council" but "interpret Vatican II more liberally than the texts themselves seem, at times, to warrant."

He expressed the hope that Catholics would see the synod as an opportunity for dialogue and not politicize it by applying "pressure for their own point of view — and that alone."

Besides tensions from those who reject council teachings or want to read more into them than is there, there are internal tensions from the council itself that the church still must face, Cardinal Bernardin said.

"I'm thinking, for example, of the reaffirmation of the hierarchical structure of the church... alongside the concept of the church as the People of God," he wrote.

The "task of synthesizing" both the new insights and the older church tradition expressed in council documents "has not yet been completed," the cardinal said.

The synod can "provide a forum" for moving the church toward "the needed doctrinal and pastoral synthesis" of what was begun with Vatican II, he said.

Fr. Firpo To Head Diocesan Division

Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced plans for the renewal of the Division of Social Ministry at a Jan. 29 meeting for social ministry boards and staff leadership.

At the meeting, Bishop Clark named Father John Firpo as the new Diocesan Director of Social Ministries. Father Firpo will step into the new position in July when current director Father Charles Mulligan goes on sabbatical.

As part of the renewal of social ministry, the division will create a new regional office, the Genesee Valley Office, to join the two existing regional offices in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions. The Genesee Valley Office will represent Monroe and Livingston counties. There will be a new Diocesan Board of Social Ministry, as well as a board for the new regional office.

Bishop Clark also announced that Father Michael

Continued on Page 4

Scots Bishop Says Synod No Cause for Reform Alarm

London (NC) — Archbishop Thomas Winning of Glasgow, Scotland, has "totally rejected" criticism that the extraordinary Synod of Bishops called by Pope John Paul II will lead to a turning away from the Second Vatican Council.

In an interview with The Universe, an English Catholic weekly newspaper, the archbishop described the synod, scheduled for Nov. 25-Dec. 8, as "a positive step toward consolidating the present spirit of the renewal in the church."

Announcement of the synod by Pope John Paul Jan. 25 also drew comment from Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster, president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and from The Tablet, a weekly Catholic magazine also published in London.

Cardinal Hume said the announcement emphasized the

pope's commitment to the council and its implementation.

"After 20 years, it provides an opportunity for the local churches to rededicate themselves to the continuing implementation of the council," he said.

In a lengthy front-page commentary, The Tablet described the synod as "a great challenge for the bishops."

The magazine said that although some Catholics strongly dissent from views such as those held by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "criticism is rejected as disloyal" by some at the Vatican.

Warning that the synod could be a triumph for the whole church or a disaster, The Tablet said, "It would be the latter if the proceedings were to be fixed and the bishops manipulated in an attempt to turn back the clock and reverse the direction of the council."

HOTELS * PACKAGE * SENIOR CITIZEN FARES * CRUISES