

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Sunday evening. We are at the evening of the first day of the first full week of Lent. Already I feel blessed by what I have been privileged to share with you in the short time since Ash Wednesday.

I have just returned from a morning visit to St. John the Evangelist in Clyde and an afternoon celebration of the Rite of Election at St. Alphonsus in Auburn with persons from 16 of our parishes who will receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter vigil.

The celebration of the Eucharist at Clyde was an edifying experience for me primarily because of the spirit of quiet joy brought to it by the parish community. It's difficult to explain exactly why that was but as I reflect on that gathering I remember these elements: the prayerful and inviting ministry offered by the folk group, the excellent proclamation of God's word offered by the reader, the easy comfort with which the assembly entered into periods of reflective silence, the attentiveness shown by the congregation to the very young among them. Much of that I am sure is the fruit of the work done in the parish for years; I am equally certain that Father

Tom Nellis' love for the liturgy has also made a significant contribution to what we shared today.

At St. Alphonsus there was also a great deal of happiness. Persons preparing for baptism and others seeking full union with our faith community assembled with their sponsors and others who love them to be formally chosen as candidates for the sacraments of initiation at Easter.

They begin now -- as do we all -- a special time of Lenten prayer and penance in preparation for a full-hearted celebration of the Easter mysteries.

There was evident among the candidates and sponsors and all present affection, support and a thoroughly uplifting sense of sharing a common journey. Inevitably, at this event the candidates are touched by the presence of others from many parish communities who have travelled a path very much like their own.

It was most encouraging to note that seven more parishes in the eastern part of our diocese have initiated the catechumenate this year. They are the parishes served by the

Cauyga Team Ministry, St. Dominic's in Shortsville, St. Joseph's in Weedsport, Sacred Heart in Auburn, St. John's in Clyde, All Saints in Lansing and St. Aloysius in Auburn.

To date half of our parish communities have begun to enjoy this life giving experience. In doing so they offer a major contribution to their parish, our diocese and the whole Church.

I shall be spending from Monday afternoon until early Wednesday afternoon at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua with the priests of our diocese.

It is an event to which I look forward with great joy largely because it is the one time during the year that we gather as a body to reflect in an explicit fashion on the ministerial priesthood that we share. It is also a time in which I am renewed in my conviction that we are richly blessed by the priests who serve the Diocese of Rochester.

You can be sure that we shall be praying for you and your intentions, and especially in gratitude for the countless ways in which you teach us about the Lord.

Peace to all.

Father Raymond J. Epping Dies, Former Pastor of St. Theodore

Funeral rites were celebrated last week for Father Raymond J. Epping, former pastor of St. Theodore's Church and great grandson of a Rochester pioneer. Father Epping died Feb. 25, 1985. Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated Feb. 28 at St. Theodore's Church. Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Ann's Home the following day.



FATHER EPPING

Father Epping, the son of Julia Miller and Frank Epping, was born June 12, 1896.

He attended Immaculate Conception School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and Niagara University.

Father Epping was ordained June 11, 1921 by Bishop Joseph H. Conroy of Ogdensburg in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester.

He was first assigned as

named pastor of St. Theodore's Church in Gates.

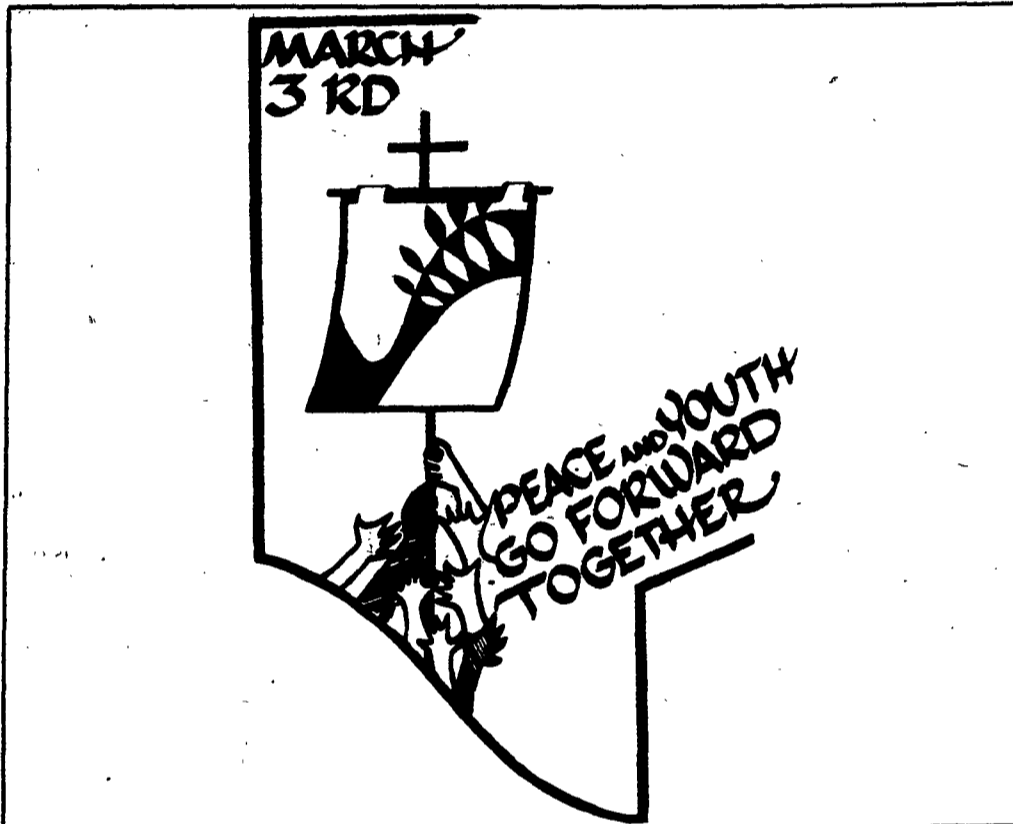
He held the pastorate for 23 years.

During his time there, a new church and a new school were built, convent facilities were doubled, and properties renovated.

Father Epping retired active duty June 28, 1960, and moved to Florida where he assisted chaplains at various military stations. He also assisted at San Pedro Church in Plantation Key.

In 1977 he moved into Rochester's *The Heritage*, and transferred, three years later, to St. Ann's Home.

Father Epping once made note of his roots in the Rochester community, saying that his great grandmother, Mrs. Mary Wattell, was a member of the household of Col. Nathaniel Rochester "for several years before she married John Wattell."



Bishop's Youth Day Adds Mexican Project

The March 3 Bishop's Day with Youth will provide an opportunity for youths attending to write notes of encouragement to young people in Oxolotan, Mexico, it was announced last week.

According to Patrick Fox, diocesan director of Youth Ministry, "In order to more closely establish ties with our brothers and sisters in Mexico, the youths who attend on March 3 will be given an opportunity to send notes of encouragement to those in Oxolotan."

He explained that during Bishop Matthew H. Clark's recent visit to the Rochester diocesan mission in Oxolotan, he met with youths who have formed a group there. The work, Fox said, "is flourishing and is part of diocesan youth ministry."

Blue Army

The monthly vigil of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will be celebrated 9 p.m.-midnight, Friday, March 1, at Holy Rosary Church. Fathers William Leone, John O'Malley and James Willsey will lead the rites. Mrs. Mary Kelly also noted that because of Holy Week, the vigil will not be observed in April.

He noted, "The entire day's theme, 'Youth and Peace Growing Together,' is one which reminds people of our links to one another. This day will give everyone an opportunity to reach out and touch someone hundreds of miles away.

"The arms of the diocese need to embrace all of its members. The young people in Mexico have sent their greetings to all those in Rochester. The teens who meet together on Sunday, March 3, will be able to return those greetings to Mexico."

Organizers of the second annual Bishop's Day with Youth have slated 33 workshops on a wide range of topics, among them, communication, racism, peace and justice, acceptance, stress, prayer, reconciliation, sexuality, sisterhood, the U.S. bishops' forthcoming pastoral on the economy, women in the Church, brotherhood, chemical dependency, Hispanic ministry and priesthood.

"The workshop presenters are ready," Fox said. "The teen leaders are standing by.

The committee has made its plans. Now it is up to each person who decides to spend a day celebrating the joy which is youth in this International Year of Youth."

The event will be held at Bishop Kearney High School.

New Project Introduced

Wayne Alber, CSW, has joined the staff of The Catholic Family Center's Preventive Project. He will be offering preventive services exclusively to parents with limited intellectual functioning and in need of a fine tuned program of parenting skills and counseling.

The specialized parenting group will begin Feb. 18.

For further information call the Family Center at 546-7220.

Charismatic Mass

Elmira -- A Mass will be celebrated for the Charismatic Renewal community of the Elmira area 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 8 at St. Cecilia's Church, 950 Lake St. The public is invited.

Wine Benefits Hearts

When the ninth annual St. Mary's Hospital Wine Tasting party takes place from 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, March 8, at the Otto A. Shults Community Center at Nazareth College, it will mark the first time that the hospital staff auxiliary and Seton have combined on a hospital benefit.

The efforts will benefit the Cardiology Department, an area of increasing growth and development for St. Mary's. The Coronary Care Unit and

the Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase II program have been a support for patients.

Highlight of the tasting party will be more than 100 wines and champagnes from France, Italy, Germany, California and New York. Selection was made under the guidance of Sherwood Deutsch, adviser each year.

The wines will be complemented by assorted cheeses, crackers, breads and fresh fruit. Also on hand will

be the Sheriff's Tactical Accident Reduction unit to perform educational breathalyzer tests. Coffee and dessert also will be served.

Chairpersons are Mrs. Muriel Trunfio of the staff auxiliary and Mrs. Suellen Graney of Seton.

Cost is \$12.50 per person and admittance will be by advance reservation only. Reservations and information are available from 271-4179 or 464-3255.

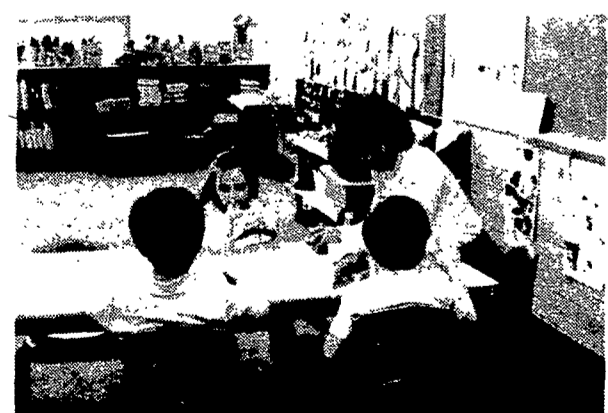
Parents Anonymous Group Sets Dance

Parents Anonymous will sponsor the second annual Cabin Fever Party on Friday, March 1, at the Burgundy Basin Inn in Pittsford.

All around rock and roll, blues, funk rhythm, and blues and swing dance music will be provided by the Untouchables. Doors will open at 8 p.m. with dancing from 9-1 a.m. Advance tickets are \$4; at door, \$5.

Parents Anonymous works with parents who want to improve their relationship with their children through group meetings and offers a 24-hour toll free crisis counseling and information service. Proceeds will benefit ongoing services to parents. For more information and/or tickets, call 454-5066.

Catholic Education Difference where it counts



Registration Week March 4-8 — 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

St. John of Rochester Fairport, N.Y. 248-8836

Any questions please call Sue Fay 377-5654