

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Sunday evening, the second of Lent. The story of the Transfiguration in the gospel today gave us a glimpse of the glory of Jesus. We contemplated Him as the beloved of the Father, as the friend of Peter, James, John and us, as the one who sums up and gives full expression to God's special loving attention to the people Israel. There is something lustrous and warm in the belovedness of Jesus and in His desire to share them with us.

This week has been filled with events — even to the overflowing! — with gatherings which have been touched with the warmth and luster of Christ alone and serving in you His people. Let me mention some of the, adding a note or two about each.

Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday. I met with the priests of our diocese at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua. Because of numbers and space considerations we met in two groups: one from 2:30 on Monday until lunch on Tuesday, the second from 2:30 on Tuesday through lunch on Wednesday.

Both were sessions which I found most rewarding because of all that our priests gave to me and to one another by their willingness to come together to pray, to reflect on the beautiful vocation of priestly ministry and to share with one

another the blessings they receive in ministry.

I told them among other things of my affection for and desire to serve them and of the reverence and respect with which you regard them. My responsibilities were fairly heavy in that I spoke eight different times over that forty eight hour period. If I left Notre Dame tired, it was with a happy fatigue and with a sense of having shared good hours with some great priests.

Wednesday-Friday-Saturday. We celebrated the Rite of Election on each of these three days. The first two were held here at Sacred Heart; the third at Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmira. In the four Rites of Election we celebrated this week (remember St. Alphonsus last Sunday!) we elected a total of 441 men and women as candidates for the Easter Sacraments.

Besides being sources of joy for a great many people these rites also reflect the fact that the growth of the restored Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is an even stronger sign of hope in our local church. Over 90 of our communities have initiated the process.

I thank all of these communities who through their efforts build up the Body of Christ and I encourage all of our parishes to move in this direction.

A special nod to St. Mary's, Elmira — with 25 catechumens and candidates they are diocesan leaders.

Sunday: Two more gatherings today. This morning in the context of a peaceful, joyful prayer service at their motherhouse our Sisters of Mercy of Rochester elected Sister Jean Marie Kearse RSM to serve a second term as their superior general.

Our sisters are blessed — and so are we — to have a person of such ability, sensitivity, and integrity in that position of leadership. I spoke to the Sisters of your affection for them and of our commitment to pray for them in gratitude for their merciful presence among us.

This afternoon about 900 of our young people met for Youth Day at Bishop Kearney High School. My own participation included an hour long question and answer period with them, supper and a celebration of the Eucharist.

My impression was that the kids enjoyed the whole day. I can tell you for sure that I enjoyed the portion of the event I was able to share with them. We are deeply blessed in our young people. We need to be faithful to that gift by giving them the very best our tradition of faith has to offer.

Peace to all.

Parish Youths Team Up To Help Pay Heat Bills

Young adults from Blessed Sacrament Church are organizing a Folk Music Cafe to help Corpus Christi School pay its heat bills.

The event, featuring the Pentatonics, Jean & Scott, Mary Matson, Harmony, and Debbi Tedone/Dan McPherson will be 8-11 p.m. Friday, March 22 in Blessed Sacrament School Hall on the corner of Monroe Avenue and Oxford Street.

A Blessed Sacrament youth group, Corpus Christi School, has existed for nearly 100 years, but since 1977 has survived by maintaining its unique identity as the city's only parent-run school and remaining independent of any one parish.

"Students, primarily from the surrounding neighborhood, receive an education which stresses individual attention in a Christian, family-oriented setting.

"But since Corpus Christi's only sources of income are occasional grants from the Rochester Diocese and area parishes, and fund-raising efforts and tuition from the 140 families who make up the school, the going gets rough."

"Young adults," the release stated, "from nearby Blessed Sacrament Church are organizing the first annual Folk Music Cafe to help Corpus Christi heat the heat. The cafe will offer local musicians and groups performing traditional American and Irish folk and bluegrass music."

Tickets to the event are \$2.50 and are available at Village Green, Blessed Sacrament Church rectory, Corpus Christi School, area churches and at the door.

Refreshments, including beer, wine, coffee, tea, soft drinks and snacks, will be available.

Charles R. DiSalvo To Speak on Law

Charles R. DiSalvo, a former Rochesterian, now associate professor of Law in Morgantown, W. Va., will speak on "God or Caesar: Should We Break the Law?" 7 p.m., March 10 at Corpus Christi School Hall.

The day following, DiSalvo will speak on "Faith, Ethics and Paying Taxes," also at 7 p.m. in the school hall.

DiSalvo's two-part address is open to the public.

Among the points DiSalvo will explore are legal options for those harboring "sanctuary" refugees, and the citizen's justification for refusing to pay taxes because of a government's policy on war.

According to a press release from the Great Lakes Ministry Center, "DiSalvo is an advocate for changing the Code of Professional Responsibility, currently under

review, to allow attorneys to counsel clients in acts of civil disobedience. Civil disobedience he defines as 'an act of deliberate and open violation of the law, with the intent, within the framework of the prevailing form of government, to protest a wrong or accomplish some betterment in society.'"

The ministry center release states that DiSalvo's background includes work in Appalachia with the Legal Services Corporation and a teaching fellowship at the University of Chicago Law School.

According to John J. Engels, director of the ministry center, DiSalvo "is one of the few attorneys in the United States who publicly supports civil disobedience for reasons of conscience."

Engels said DiSalvo's visit seems "especially timely in light of recent tensions between civil law and moral values. Apartheid, nuclear weapons storage and the 'sanctuary' issue have all claimed local and international attention."

The presentations are being sponsored by the church, the ministry center, and by St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.



DISALVO

Further information is available by calling Engels, (716) 288-3854; (716) 325-2424.

Sister Jean Marie Kearse Re-Elected Superior

Sister Jean Marie Kearse RSM was re-elected superior general of the 269-member Rochester Sisters of Mercy. This will be the second four-year, once renewable term for Sister Jean Marie. She was elected by a direct vote of the professed Sisters assembled Sunday at the opening of the congregation's general chapter.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced the results of the election.

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Sister Jean Marie, 43 is the 14th in the line of major superiors of the congregation since its foundation here in 1857.

Prior to her first election, she served as a member of the Mercy Council, a body of the superior general and four elected councilors.

She and the four Sisters yet to be elected to the council will be installed in August.

A Rochester native, she is a 1959 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School and entered the convent that year. She taught at Mercy High School for 13 years and was chairperson of the school's theology department for 7.

Sister Jean Marie told the assembly:

"I thank each of you for this vote of confidence. With a deep sense of my own poverty, I accept your call to be superior general of this

Ridder Sr. Dies; Catholic Journalist

New York (NC) -- Victor L. Ridder Sr., 67, former president and publisher of the Catholic News, which served the New York Archdiocese from 1886 to 1981, died Feb. 18 in New York after a yearlong illness.

A Mass of Christian burial was scheduled for Feb. 22 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Pelham, N.Y.



SISTER JEAN MARIE

congregation. I believe in religious life, and I believe in our congregation; and it is with joy that I accept this responsibility. Together let us go forth to do wonderful and beautiful things for God and the Church."

The newspaper, the nation's oldest family-run diocesan weekly, closed June 25, 1981, after four generations of publication by the Ridder family. Ridder was publisher and president from 1964 until the paper's closing.

It was later replaced by Catholic New York, published by the Ecclesiastical Communications Corp.

Singles Retreat

"Wholly in Christ," a weekend retreat for never married persons 20-40 has been slated for April 12-14 at the Cenacle Renewal Center. Reservations and further information is available by calling the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.



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