

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Easter Sunday.

Not too many hours have passed since the end of our Easter Vigil, the reception for the new members of our faith community and our house gathering.

It was a wonderful gathering as were all of the celebrations of Holy Week here at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The liturgies of this week I found especially joyful because of my awareness that we joined these events in union with so many other communities in our diocese and in sister churches all over the world.

Now we begin the Easter season -- a time when we contemplate the beauty of the Risen Lord and try through the grace of the Holy Spirit to understand more deeply what the Lord continues to do in, for and through His beloved people.

In the spirit of this season I invite you to ask for this favor in your prayers: that the Lord will let you appreciate the gift of His life in you, in others, in the events, joys and challenges of your daily living. We believe that Jesus is risen and living with us and among us, that he continually makes us a new creation through the power of His transforming love. May the strength of our belief deepen through our prayer between this day and

the Feast of Pentecost.

I make that prayer with you as I review my schedule for the Easter season, i.e., between today and Pentecost Sunday, May 26.

A sampling of that schedule will indicate why I need to pray with you for the grace to appreciate the deeper meaning of these events.

On it are 17 confirmations, three ordinations to the priesthood, the dedication of our new Church of the Transfiguration, the celebration of 25 years of parish life at St. Catherine's in Ithaca, the silver and golden jubilee celebrations of our diocesan priests, a Eucharistic Liturgy for the new members of our faith community.

There will be board meetings for St. Bernard's Institute, our Financial Council, our social policy group and our school study commission.

I shall share in gatherings with: the ecumenical community for the dedication of the new Interfaith Chapel at R.I.T., our Priests Council and Sisters Council, parish staffs for a ministry conference on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy, the Boy Scout community for their annual awards

banquet, the graduating seniors of Nazareth College and St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing for their baccalaureate services.

Events which will take me on the road include the ordination of Father Donald Traurman as auxiliary bishop of Buffalo, the dedication of the new seminary facility at Seton Hall University and a meeting in New York of the executive committee of the New York State Bishops.

Other road trips involve talks. One is back at Seton Hall on the topic of seminary formation, the second is to the clergy of Buffalo about Women in the Church.

There are most of the things I know about. I did not mention the daily routine nor, obviously, the unforeseeable. I hope your reading of this reminds you to pray for me during the Easter season. I count on that gift so that I'll find the Lord in all of its people, events and circumstances.

Before all of that I am leaving for a few days at home. I have not seen my beautiful nieces for much too long and look forward to their company once again. I shall remember you in prayer during my visit with them.

Peace to all.

Diocesan Input on Employment for Pastoral

Following is a report, prepared by the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace, on input from a study of the employment situation done by the diocesan social ministry staff. The information was provided Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and in turn was passed on to the U.S. bishops for their consideration in preparing the pastoral on economics.

According to the first draft of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the economy, "The most urgent priority for U.S. domestic economic policy is the creation of new jobs with adequate pay and decent working conditions."

To gather input in the diocese on the pastoral letter's chapter on "Employment," diocesan social ministry staff in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions explored the questions pertaining to employment with people of their regions.

The importance of job creation in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier counties is apparent upon consideration of current rates of unemployment. While having improved during the past year, many of these counties face unemployment rates far above the national average.

State Labor Department figures for February 1985 reveal a 10.2 percent rate of unemployment in Yates County, Chemung County, which includes Elmira, the diocese's second largest city, has an official rate of 8.1 percent.

According to Father Michael Bausch, director of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, that figure doesn't convey the scope of the problem adequately. "There are countless people in the Elmira area who are not considered in this figure," he said. "The seemingly endless stream of

plant closings here has made it very difficult for those who lose jobs to regain employment. As a result, many have used up their unemployment benefits and are no longer counted in the official figures."

"The actual rate is more like 16-18 percent," Father Bausch said.

Social Ministry staff in the Finger Lakes region also reported that "the available labor data distort the extent of the problem in our community." The report which Chris Grannis and Bernadette Petrisin prepared on employment in the Finger Lakes counties also pointed to underemployment as an issue.

Three key trends in the Finger Lakes employment picture were identified. The first is the "continuing reduction of the agricultural base in the economy, including the family farm; second, the dwindling manufacturing base of the region; and third, the gradual growth of service sector." The report concluded, "There are casual links among these changes in the economy, each having to do with a greater control of our region's economy by forces outside of the region."

The Finger Lakes report emphasized the human implications of these trends by including in their input to Bishop Clark profiles of individuals affected by these changes. Their stories illuminate the struggles and suffering endured by the unemployed, and demonstrate the negative effects of joblessness on human dignity.

To gather input in the Southern Tier, diocesan staff convened a consultation group that included business people, job training specialists, union representatives, human service workers, unemployed persons, and church workers.

A theme noted in a number of ways by this group was the failure of the church to address the problem of unemployment adequately. This failure comes at the pastoral level when the plight of the unemployed is not addressed in local faith communities, and it also comes on the structural level from the church's neglecting to challenge the root causes of unemployment.

It was suggested also that the "Church must be just in its economic relationships to set an example for the larger society" and that the church needs to convene various parties to work toward the resolution of economic injustices.

Input from the Finger Lakes and the Southern Tier both reflected the gravity of employment issues in the Diocese. While employment in Monroe County has rebounded from the last recession, the same has not occurred in other areas of the diocese. In Elmira, for example, the recession continues unabated.

The first draft of the pastoral letter highlights employment as a major concern of the U.S. bishops. This emphasis is well-founded according to this feedback, and if anything it suggests that the section be strengthened, a suggestion that Bishop Clark included in his correspondence to the committee drafting the pastoral letter.

PEOPLE

A retirement party is being planned Sunday, June 2, for Father Joseph Donovan, who also is celebrating his 45th anniversary as a priest this year. He has been pastor of St. Mark's Church since its beginning in 1964. Anyone interested in attending the party should call Mary Chatterton at 227-3710 (rectory) or 392-3869 (home). William C. Gipson, graduate theological student at Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozier Theological Seminary, was elected president at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Black Seminary students at Berkeley, Calif. St. John Fisher College has

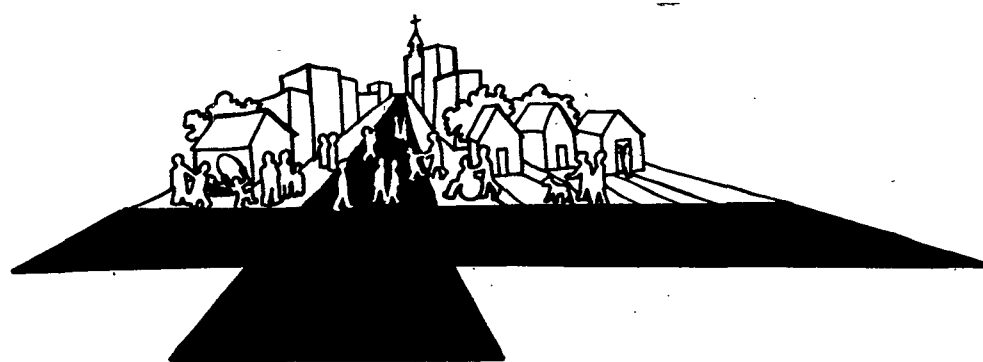
promoted Martin Q. Moll from vice president for college development and communications, to senior vice president for college development and communications; David Ocorr from dean of students to vice president and director of college development, and Father Norman C. Tanck, CSB, to replace Ocorr. Nazareth Academy has announced the 17 recipients of freshmen scholarships for the next school year. For being top scorer in the entrance exam, Shannon Lynch of Brockport Middle School was named winner of a full one-year scholarship. Susan Ikel of Hoover Drive School and Gretchen Lembach of Blessed Sacrament School were named winners of the

Parents and Teachers of Nazareth scholarships. Recipients of partial scholarships are Jacquelyn Sojka, Sacred Heart; Mary Hughes, Blessed Sacrament; Amy Cockrell, St. John's, Spencerport; Eva Jilson, Sacred Heart; Kathy Mignano, St. Pius X; Anne Marie Groth, Dake Middle School; Catherine Landers, St. Theodore; Deborah DiRose, Holy Ghost; Kathleen Ryan, St. Lawrence; Rose Shychworost, Holy Rosary; Colleen Murray, Hoover Drive; Sherrod Jones, Rochester Christian Academy; Kristina Holbig, Sacred Heart; and Donna Stefano, Ada Cosgrove School, Spencerport.

SPEAKER

An audiovisual presentation, "Crisis Points in Central America: A Journalist's First-Hand Reflections," will be presented at 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 15, in the auditorium of Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

The speaker will be Kevin Barry McKiernan, lawyer and award-winning photo-journalist from Santa Barbara, Calif., who has traveled extensively in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico in the last two years. He is a former Geneseo resident whose sister Deirdre Hetzler lives in Scottsville.



CROSSROADS III

SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

Sunday's Readings: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31

The readings of today begin to focus on the unity of the community. "The community of believers were of one heart and one mind..."; "...the love of God consists in this: that we keep his commandments..."; thus, the power of the forgiving Spirit binds the community as one. These words of scripture become signs of the "new" Church. They remain signs for us, the Church today.

As we enter the Easter season and begin to celebrate with the neophytes of our community, there is a tremendous call for unity. The enthusiasm of these people acts as a leaven for the entire community. This is a time for choirs to sing, dancers to dance, and party-ers to party! Many parishes begin to focus on certain sacramental celebrations. Perhaps those people could become part of the Easter focus.

We also remember those on the fringe of our community: those who are alienated, those who are homebound, those who are ill or frightened. These people, too, should be allowed to sing and dance. We are called to be an "Alleluia" people for everyone. Our Lenten outreach must continue to enhance people's lives, giving them dignity and self-respect.

Project:

1. pray for those who are preparing to receive first sacraments;
2. celebrate life with families, friends, and a lonely person;
3. take time to reflect on yourself and reflect on the freshness of this Springtime.

If you want peace, work for justice.

Pope Paul VI

That's what the Coalition of Northeast Associations is doing through its Project Abode in Rochester this year. Aided by the Campaign for Human Development, a part-time staffperson is working with 45 homeowners in the pre-inspection phase of a Special Materials Grants program. Homeowners will receive incentives to enhance their property and will be encouraged to participate in other city programs to improve their housing stock.

CHD is sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. It helps poor Americans help themselves through projects that work.

The Campaign for Human Development collection is scheduled Sunday, April 21.