

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



## The Second Sunday of Easter

I love Route 89 between Ithaca and Seneca Falls. It passes through quiet and peaceful villages, through gently rolling hills, and offers a variety of views of magnificent Cayuga Lake.

I find it frightening as well. In the daylight hours, I fear taking an unexpected swim because I can become so hypnotized by the scenery that I forget I am driving a car. At night, I am always mindful of the deer that roam the region — animals so quick that they can open the car door, sit beside you and introduce themselves before you realize what is happening.

Those beautiful animals were on my mind last night as I left Ithaca to drive back to Sacred Heart. I was tired when I started out and knew that it would be important to drive slowly if I was to get home in one piece.

The drive — and I saw not one deer — proved a most enjoyable one because it afforded me an opportunity to remember the people who made the day an especially happy

one. I remembered:

— the lively, gifted high school students from the dioceses of New York state who gathered at Casowasco on Lake Owasco in an effort to share their experiences of faith, reflect on some of the issues of the day and to enjoy one another's company. I remember two things in particular this morning. One is the moving ovation they gave to a young woman, now enjoying sobriety, who came to tell them of her experience of the disease of alcoholism. The second is that part of the program in which each of the candidates told the assembly why he/she wanted to be chosen as the group's representative to the National Youth Assembly. Each did it with grace and poise, and with a good sense of what ministry is.

— a visit with Tom Cleary, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Dryden/Freeville. Tom is a person whose company I have always enjoyed. Yesterday, that joy was doubled and tripled in a conversation with Tom which meant a great deal to me. We talked about priesthood, and its joys and demands, about

Father Bill Barrett and Bill's joy at being named successor to Tom when Tom retires from the pastorate in June. Most of all, I remembered the grace of experiencing the Sacrament of Reconciliation through Tom's loving, priestly ministry.

— a Eucharistic Liturgy with the Cornell Catholic community. I remember especially the privilege of celebrating the Easter Sacraments with six men and women from the university, the active participation of all those present, the enthusiasm, skill and dedication of our campus ministers: Sr. Katie Hooper, O.P., Fathers John Forni and Mike Mahler. They are ministers of the gospel of whom we can all be very proud. They express the care of the larger community — your care — to men and women from all parts of our country and several parts of the world during their matriculation at Cornell.

Thanks to all of these persons for their gift to me of Easter joy. Thanks to all of you for your continued prayers for the new members of our faith community.

Peace to all.

## Panel Recommends Rewriting Portions of Pastoral Letter

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The 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 to Bishop Matthew H. Clark and, in turn, was passed on to the U.S. bishops for their consideration in preparing the pastoral on economics.

In looking at the discussion engendered by the first draft of the Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the U.S. Economy, two important areas emerge — content and process.

Much of the discussion in the media is focussed on the content of the letter, especially the policy recommendation of Part II. Without denying the importance of these recommendations — or prudential judgments, as the bishops call them — it is necessary to highlight the process of drafting this letter, and specifically the process of the diocesan consultative panel.

### The Pastoral's Process

Even in its first draft, the letter represents and enormous effort of listening to the whole Church as part of the process of formulating a teaching document. As this series of articles on the pastoral letter reveals, Bishop Clark has continued the open process in the Diocese of Rochester. In September of last year, two months before the draft was to be released, Bishop Clark established a local panel to promote "a constructive dialogue among groups that have little experience in discussion about economic values" economic values."

### The Panel's Recommendations

Though the panel identified a number of substantial criticisms of the first draft, the members first of all wanted to commend the bishops for:

- Taking the initiative in confronting complex economic matters;
- Calling for moral responsibility in economic policy;
- Suggesting that the experiment in "economic democracy" proceed;

• Focusing on the needs of the poor and the articulation of the "preferential option for the poor."

On the negative side, the panel divided its recommendations according to form and content. Four changes were urged in the letter's form:

1. The document needs to be shortened considerably.
2. A more realistic consideration of the intended audience is required.
3. Terms need to be clarified. Theological and economic terminology require a better explanation. Perhaps a glossary would be helpful in this regard.
4. Methodology in the policy sections needs to be changed. The panel noted an inconsistency in the policy chapters, especially the failure to connect the moral principles of Part I to the policy suggestions of Part II.

The following six recommendations pertain to the letter's content. The first three of these drew the greatest consensus in the group:

1. Chapter III on employment needs total revision. The panel was strongly critical of Chapter III, albeit for a series of different reasons, and the consensus was that it required a total reworking.
2. Major revision of Chapter VI is needed. The panel thought this chapter on collaboration might best be integrated into the chapter on employment.
3. The Church's role as an economic agent and as an agent for change needs to be more explicitly considered. There was a sense that the first draft failed to capture the responsibility and capability of the Church to effect economic justice both within the Church and within society.
4. Clearer articulation of the relationship between individuals and institutions is needed. The pastoral lacks sufficient emphasis on the need for individual conversion and personal responsibility of policy makers and workers.

## EVENTS

### March of Dimes

The third annual area March of Dimes WALKAMERICA is scheduled for Sunday, April 28. The 15-mile walk begins with registration, team photos, a sunrise ceremony and ribbon-cutting ceremonies at 9 a.m. in Cobbs Hill Park.

Last year's event attracted 600 walkers who raised \$50,000. Participation this year is estimated at 2,000. Sponsor sheets and buttons are now available. Contact the March of Dimes at 385-1131 to register individuals or teams. Sponsor sheets are also available through 98FM-WPXY.

### Yom Hashoah

As part of the the worldwide observance of Yom Hashoah — Holocaust Remembrance Week — Rochester Jewish community is presenting a photographic exhibit and television broadcast.

The photographic exhibit at the Jewish Community Center is entitled "Concerning a Personal Project:

Photography of Nine Concentration Camp Sites," and runs daily through May 1. On Sunday, April 21, WROC-TV 8 will present "Precious Legacy" at 2 p.m. The documentary, produced by NBC, shows the vast collection of Judaica seized by the Nazis as a testimonial to what they believed would be an extinct race. It will be introduced to viewers by local Cantor Samuel Rosenbaum.

### 'Spirit Alive'

Clowns and games, a parade, prayer and a picnic — these are just some of the features of "Spirit Alive," a diocesan festival scheduled for St. John Fisher College June 8.

A celebration hosted by the Catholic diocese, Spirit Alive welcomes all members of the Diocese of Rochester, which includes the Southern Tier and the Finger Lakes region, as well as the Rochester area.

The day's festivities will begin at 10 a.m. with Bishop Matthew H. Clark leading a parade across the campus to celebrate the unity of the diocese. The parade will be followed by a prayer service featuring liturgical dancers

and an audio-visual presentation.

A bring-your-own picnic on the grounds of the campus will end the day. During the picnic, singers, dancers, and other performers will provide entertainment for all ages. There will also be games for the children.

The Ministry to the Disabled forms a part of the Spirit Alive planning committee, and handicapped access is a priority in the event.

### Clergy Wellness

The diocesan Clergy Health Board, in conjunction with St. Mary's Hospital, will sponsor a Clergy Wellness Day Wednesday, April 17. The theme of the program is "Stressing Stress without Stress," and the principal speaker will be priest/psychiatrist Father George Freemesser, M.D., C.S.B. Father Freemesser will discuss the manifestations and management of stress among the clergy.

In addition to the speech, there will also be presentations on nutrition, health screenings, exhibits on diseases and tours of St. Mary's facilities.

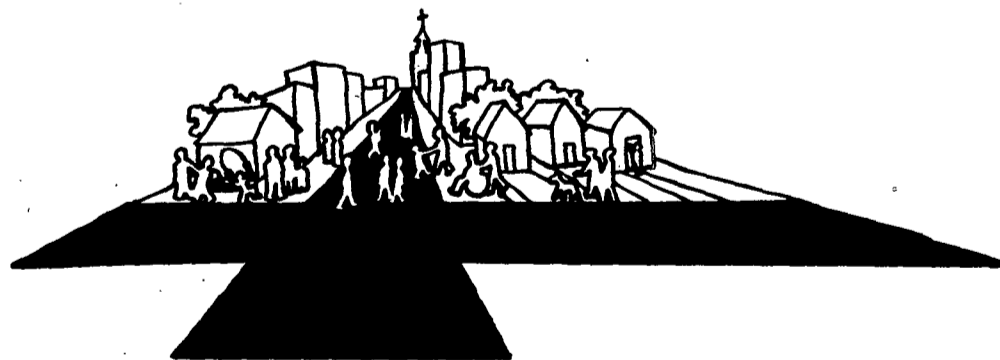
**If you want peace, work for justice.**

Pope Paul VI

That's what the North East Block Club Alliance is doing in Rochester. Aided by Campaign for Human Development, the alliance hired a community organizer. Two new block clubs of residents were organized, and leadership training was completed to help residents address conditions of deteriorated housing, crime and the need for continued city services. Volunteers will conduct voter registration this spring to enable residents to participate in upcoming elections.

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

Appeals for contributions to the Campaign for Human Development will be made in the parishes on Sunday, April 21; the collection is scheduled for Sunday, April 28.



## CROSSROADS III

### SECOND WEEK OF EASTER

Sunday's Readings: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5; Luke 24:35-48

The readings of this week focus the community on the message of the cross. "You put to death the Author of life ..."; "He is an offering for our sins ..."; and "... the Messiah must suffer and rise ..." For the early Christians, the message of the cross took a slightly different perspective. It was an extremely difficult message to accept. To perceive a suffering Messiah was foreign to the thought, poetry and teaching of the Judaic experience. It is also difficult today.

The 20th century person is accustomed to instant things — pictures, foods, etc. The same person wants instant conversion. The easy way is the best way, too many believe. Our Sunday readings remind us that part of the Christian message is one of suffering. The cross of suffering was a stumbling block for some and a folly for others. For the one who believes, however, it is a sign of victory.

The early Christians learned that their vision of the Messiah had to change. They challenged others to see the importance of struggle. We today must see that instant conversion won't work. We must be challenged with the struggle and help those who struggle with us.

### Project:

1. pray for those who are suffering, especially those who feel there is no one to turn to;
2. take time to recognize the struggle with which people around you deal. Perhaps you can offer a listening ear;
3. look at your own deficiencies. Recognizing them, how can you draw closer to the Lord because of them?