

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



We have a new device at Sacred Heart. It is a computer with word-processing capabilities. Betty Kirk, the capable and uncommonly generous person who manages the office here is trying to teach me how to use it. So far the experience has been a delightful one, at least for me! The delight comes in part from the challenge of learning something new. I am also hopeful that what I'll learn will help me to send cleaner copy to my understanding friends at the Courier-Journal.

This venture, relatively simple as it is, makes me think of the many ways you and I can be challenged to grow and change every day of our lives. As I go through this exercise, I am aware how pleasant new things can be. But I am also aware that the experience of other kinds of change can be much less delightful.

I read recently that we all need islands of stability in our lives. That is to say we need relationships, places, customs,

rituals and set ways that we can experience over and over again without worrying each time that they will be changed. For example, think about the celebration of birthdays or the photographs you keep in your wallet or the place where you sit in church or the place where you keep your socks. There probably are in each of our lives countless set rituals, habits and ways of relating to others.

As is true with all else that is human, set ways, rituals and habits can have a bright side and a darker side. At their best they bring stability, familiarity, a sense of belonging and a healthy predictability to life. I know that I appreciate all of these things, and I have the strong impression that you do too. The darker side of these can lead us to inflexibility and a certain unawareness that to live is to change, to live fully is to change often.

To know the difference and to act responsibly and maturely

in keeping with that knowledge is difficult for any one of us as individuals. Think about changing eating or drinking patterns or setting aright a relationship that has been veering from happy paths for a long time. Not easy — indeed, rarely accomplished without considerable discipline and sacrifice.

When we think about change as a community of faith we realize that is also a difficult challenge that in any matter of significance will be met only very slowly. That all spins around in my mind as I peck away at the word processor this morning. I think of Pentecost and Corpus Christi, feasts that remind us that we are a living body given life by the Spirit of the Risen Lord. I remember Spirit Alive, which was such a powerful reminder of the variety of life in our family of faith.

These memories make me confident about all of the major changes I am convinced we'll need to make in order to respond faithfully to Spirit-led growth of the church.

Peace to all.



## Diocese Honors Retiring Teachers

Four of the five teachers retiring in 1985 from schools in the Diocese of Rochester pose for a moment with Bishop Matthew H. Clark prior to the Mass of Appreciation at the Pastoral Center chapel June 5. The retirees are, from left to right, Margaret Dailey, with 22 years of service at St. James School, Rochester; Margaret Ekes, 30 years at St. Mary's Regional School, Elmira; and Angela Riviello of Corning Catholic School North, Corning, and Joyce Veil from St. Lawrence School, Rochester, both with 16 years of service. Not pictured is Angela Savino from St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads.

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## Father Justin Vaskys Celebrates 50th Jubilee

Reverend Justin Vaskys, OFM, pastor of St. George Lithuanian Church, will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination on June 9.

Father Justin was born in 1905 in Latvia and entered the Franciscan order in Lithuania in 1927. He was ordained in 1935 at Franciscan Seminary, Innsbruck, Austria. After ordination he returned to Lithuania and studied philosophy and history at the University of Kaunas and was subsequently appointed rector of the Franciscan College

of St. Anthony. His career as a rector and teacher was cut short by World War II and the occupation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union.

It was under Soviet persecution of Catholics that Father Justin was sent by his superiors to the United States to establish the Lithuanian Franciscans. Successfully evading Soviet police, he arrived in the United States in 1941. Once in the U.S., he began assembling the dispersed Lithuanian Franciscans and reestablished the Province of St. Casimir with a main monastery at Kennebunkport, Me. Father Justin served for many years as the provincial and during his tenure, monasteries were established in Canada, Pennsylvania, and Brooklyn.

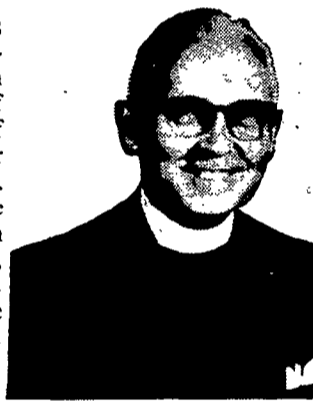
In 1976, at age 66, he came to St. George parish in Rochester to minister to the Lithuanian community of Rochester. Over the years he has expended his energies in meeting the religious and cultural needs of his parishioners and has done much to ensure St. George's existence in the future.

The parishioners of St. George, to celebrate this joyous occasion will honor Father Justin with a Jubilee Mass June 9 at 4:30 and a banquet at 6 p.m. at the Mapledale Party House.

## Jubilee Celebration Set For Late Father Hester

A Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary of ordination of the late Father Francis E. Hester will be offered a noon on Sunday, June 16, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Spencerport.

Father Hester, who died of a heart attack in 1971, had been pastor of St. John the Evangelist since 1953. He was born in Auburn on Nov. 30, 1908, the son of James and Anna Creagan Hester, and was ordained in 1935. He served at St. Ignatius, Hornell; St. Mary's, Elmira; and St. Mary's, Rochester before his appointment to St. John the Evangelist.



## Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointment:

**Father Michael Huerter** from associate at Mother of Sorrows, Rochester, to associate St. Louis, Pittsford.

## Holy Land — Egypt — Switzerland — 14 Day Tour —

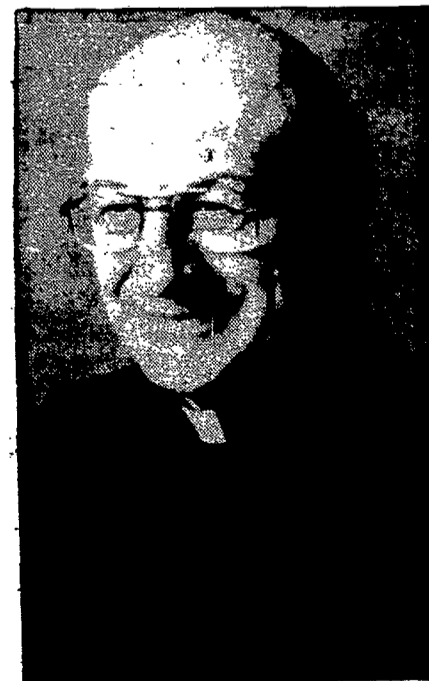
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