

Couples renew marital vows at Marriage Jubilee Celebration

The couples honored at the Saturday, Oct. 27, diocesan Marriage Jubilee celebration have weathered many storms together throughout as many as 60 years of marriage. Rather than straining the couples' marital bonds; those tribulations — world wars, the Depression and decades of trying social change — seem to have more strongly forged them.

In spite of these difficulties, or perhaps because of them, the 140 couples who gathered at St. Stephen's Church, Geneva, have reached an understanding of commitment that is uncommon throughout much of today's society.

In his homily to the 140 couples who represented 50 parishes of the diocese, celebrant Bishop Matthew H. Clark said the commitment and the unity shared in marriage are an expression of our love for God, and reminded the couples that marriage is a union in Christ as well as a union with each other. The marriage experience, he said, teaches us not only about our spouses, but also about ourselves and our relationship with God.

Bishop Clark drew a parallel between the commitment that should be offered to God and each other in marriage, and the gospel story of Jesus' restoring sight to the blind man, Mark. After Mark was cured, the bishop noted, he did not wander off to admire the beauty around him, but followed Jesus wherever He preached.

During the liturgy and the reception that followed, couples pondered the many memo-

ries they share. Bishop Clark explained that the celebration was a time to consider all the ups and downs of marriage, and remember that when they came to the altar years ago, they answered the Lord's question: "What do you want with your life?" Through marriage, they have been carrying out God's will.

Mary DeGianton, who with her husband, Daniel, was celebrating the biggest milestone of the gathering — 60 years of marriage — explained that the keys to marital longevity are tolerance and patience. "Accept each other as you are," she said. "Don't have any preconceptions."

Part of that tolerance is likely an acceptance that all is not fair in love. Jubilarian Irene Limner, who with her husband, Bill, is celebrating 51 years of marriage, explained that marriage partners must remember that the ratio of individual effort in marriage is often 75/25 or 25/75, but seldom 50/50.

This was the second year the annual event, instituted by the diocese six years ago, was celebrated at St. Stephen's Church. This year, the jubilee was organized by Bob and Valerie DeLeo, Mark and Diane McLellan and John and Karen Noonan.

The celebration was designed "... to celebrate the grace and the resolution of the Lord ... and to celebrate before the large community, the key achievements of relationships in the community," said Morris Tierney, director of diocesan Catholic Charities.

St. Bridget's shelter jeopardized

A new fire alarm system, fire doors and an enclosure for the hot water tank and furnace could be the undoing of the homeless shelter at St. Bridget's Church in Rochester. A fire code inspection of the church basement this week revealed the unexpected violations less than two weeks before the shelter is scheduled to open, Sunday, Nov. 17.

An electrician has already volunteered his service to the project, but a carpenter's help is needed to build the enclosure. Materials and funds to purchase materials are also

needed. If you can help in any way with the required improvements, call Rose Barrows at (716)428-7037.

Event To Benefit St. Joseph's Villa

A toy run to benefit children of St. Joseph's Villa will be Saturday, Nov. 9, 3 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Atlantic Tavern, Atlantic Avenue, Rochester. It will be sponsored by Rochester area motorcycle clubs.

Motorcyclists as well as other concerned citizens are urged to participate. Donations, appropriate for children twelve to eighteen years old, will be collected at the Atlantic Tavern.

St. Joseph's Villa provides comprehensive mental health services to emotionally handicapped and mentally ill children and their families.

Help Brother Timothy

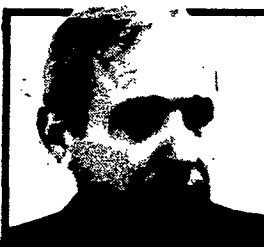
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Along the Way

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Sunday morning.

I have come to St. Charles Borromeo in Greece on this Sunday morning to join in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the parish. At the moment, I am enjoying a very quiet stretch between breakfast and the Eucharistic liturgy.

This quiet time in this peaceful place is most welcome to me after a week that has been especially filled with activities of all kinds. I can feel the relief in myself as my body and spirit enjoy the rest. At the same time, I can look back at so many persons I met this week and remember their tension and tiredness. I hope that they, too, will be enjoying a time like this sometime during this holy day of rest.

This is not a new theme for me. I have mentioned my concern that the pace of life in society and in our faith community is much too fast for our own well-being. People racing from meeting to meeting, from job to job, from activity to activity eventually and inevitably find themselves close to exhaustion. And in the long run, because of that deep tiredness, all of the activity can easily lose meaning.

Relationships become shallow because love and care require creative energy, and there isn't much of that left. Affectionate service becomes an even-more elusive possibility because it is rooted in freedom, and that is forgotten when we move non-stop through our days on automatic pilot.

Healthy self-possession rooted in union with the Lord falls by the wayside because we're too busy; we just don't have time for that anymore.

People drift away from one another because loving, growing relationships

require commitment. Hearts are not joined by wishful thinking. And when hearts are not joined, we tend to relate to and judge one another by appearance.

We lose our sense of perspective and our sense of proportion. Urgent, pressing things that really aren't important drain too much of our time and energy. Long-lasting, deeply important concerns pass on unnoticed because there is not much glitter about them.

There are many ways to express the effects of non-stop, unreflected, unrooted living. The above represents some of the ways I think about it because they are some of the ways I experience it in myself and observe it in others.

"OK," you say, "but what can we do about it?"

The best way I can respond to that is to tell you what I need to do. I must:

a) devote time each day to loving conversation with the Lord — to speak and to be silent, to express sorrow and need, to remember others and offer thanks, to ponder and praise;

b) nourish my mind, expand my understanding, broaden my vision through reading and study;

c) keep time for relationships with friends, during which we can encourage and strengthen one another in our human growth and journey of faith; and
d) attend to my physical well-being out of the conviction that God created and redeemed the whole person and wants us to be loving stewards of all that He has made.

Do you feel overextended? Do you know why? What do you do to stay in one piece?

Peace to all.

Obituary:

Former Rochesterian, Fr. Thomas Sheehan, dies in Florida hospital of heart attack at 64

Father Thomas Sheehan, formerly of Rochester, died Monday, September 4, 1985, of a heart attack in Miami's Good Samaritan Hospital. He was 64.

Father Sheehan was born May 11, 1921, in Rochester and was ordained to the priesthood May 14, 1977, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Miami by the late Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll.

Father Sheehan was a graduate of Boston College and a former payroll accountant with Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester. A late vocation, he went to Florida in 1974 to study for the priesthood at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

As a seminarian, he served at Sacred

Heart Church, Lake Worth, Fla., and St. Joan of Arc Church, Boca Raton. As a deacon, he served at Holy Family Church, North Miami. His first priestly assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Miami Shores.

He is survived by his brothers, John Sheehan of Rochester and Father James F. Sheehan, assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Lake Worth; several nieces and nephews.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated Friday, Sept. 6, by Bishop Thomas V. Daily at Sacred Heart Parish in Lake Worth. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester.

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