

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday's Readings: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

"Not me, Lord" seems to capture the essence of this week's liturgy. Moses was innocently tending Jethro's sheep when the Lord called him. "Not me, Lord," Moses said.

The gospel presents the strange commentary on victims who had recently been killed by a falling tower at Siloam and a group of Galilean zealots who had recently sacrificed their lives. "Not me" was the response when Luke challenged the early Christians. So, he added: "All right, like the fig tree of Jesus' story, we'll give you one more year to grow."

St. Paul's warning (in the second reading) seems timely: "They have been written as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come." We had best be careful not to respond "not me" as the Lord gathers his family.

... This week may prove the most challenging of all. It calls all people of faith to reflect deeply. It is so easy to say, "The world is in need of reconciliation, not me." Or, to say, "I've been working on reconciling myself to God for so long, let someone else do it for awhile." Yet, once again, scripture summons the listener to reflection. Moses, the great Old Testa-

ment leader, tried rejecting God's call, but found that he could not do it! St. Luke asks: Are the dead greater sinners than the living ... than you? Again, the answer is no. St. Paul seems to summon us to conscious reflection: If all these things are said for my benefit, what am I really to do?

Reconciliation within one's heart is the most difficult of all challenges. Yet, it must be done. We began Lent reflecting on the need for reconciliation. The second week called us to focus that need. This third week calls us to "get to it!"

What, me? Yes, you! The world is in need of reform. We must begin with ourselves. Henri Nouwen says: "Our pains and joys, our feelings of grief and satisfaction, are not simply dependent on events of our lives, but also, even moreso, on the ways we remember these events." This third week of Lent summons a real draw on our memories and the reconciling seeds that rest there. One cannot experience reconciliation unless one is willing to change. Moses changed. The early Christians changed. The Corinthians changed. How about you?



CROSSROADS IV



Along the Way

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Second Sunday of Lent.

Lent is more than one-fourth gone now. It always passes quickly, doesn't it? I know it does for me. I think that's related to the special spiritual awareness and engagement to which Lent invites us.

There is a special sense of purpose about Lent that lends a fresh meaning to even the ordinary events of daily living. Fasting helps us grow in our awareness that we depend totally on God for bread that lasts — and leads us to share what food we have with the hungry. Almsgiving opens us to the goodness and beauty of those in need — and makes us aware that possessions can be burdens rather than sources of freedom for us.

Prayer first takes us spiritually apart from the pressures and cares of the day — and finally makes even the deepest recesses of our hearts places where all of the pain of the world can be held up to our loving God for reconciliation and healing in Christ.

If those time-honored Lenten practices help us to come closer to our Lord during this holy season, I hope all of us can add the gifts offered to us by others through their example and sharing.

I have been inspired and given courage for my own journey of faith these days by a variety of groups and individuals. Among them are:

1.) The people of the Philippines who show remarkable courage in the face of injustice. I am especially grateful that my brother bishops there are standing with the people in their need. All of them, I am sure, know that there may be great suffering in all of this, but they do

it in honor of the truth, and this finally will bring new life.

2.) Fathers Tom Cleary, Jim Lawlor, Dan Condon, Bob Werth, Bill Amann, Jim Boyle, Larry Murphy and Bishop Dennis Hickey. These eight men all spoke this week at our annual clergy gathering at Notre Dame Retreat House. They shared their experience of ordained ministry and how that has challenged and changed them, called them to suffering and a new life.

Each did it in a direct and humble manner. Each told his story in his own way and, in doing so, enriched all of us who heard them.

3.) Our sisters and brother preparing for the Easter sacraments. This week, in four celebrations of the Rite of Election, men and women from all parts of our diocese gathered with their pastors and sponsors and others who love them, to mark another important movement in their journeys of faith. For you, I thanked them for giving us such encouragement and for being signs of hope among us.

4.) The Catholic Community at the University of Rochester, where I shared in the Eucharistic Liturgy this morning. For me, visits to our campus communities are always occasions for meditation on the life of the Church. Persons from a wide variety of local churches share our life for a period of time. In doing so, they give much to us and, I am sure, carry strengthening memories with them when they leave after their years of study.

I hope you find yourself closer to the Lord in these days.

Peace to all.

School superintendent resigns

Sister M. Edwardine Weaver, RSM, diocesan superintendent of schools for the past five years, has resigned her position effective June 30, 1986. She announced her decision Tuesday, Feb. 25, in a letter to pastors and principals.

"I have given a great deal of thought and prayer and consideration to this decision over many months," she said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "I have worked in the central office for 12 years — that's a long time. I think it's time for someone else."

Prior to her appointment as superintendent, Sister Edwardine served for seven years as assistant superintendent for curriculum. But her dedication and commitment to Catholic schools began long before she came into the diocesan office, according to Sister Roberta Tierney, diocesan director of education.

"Her service as teacher and principal was equally one of quality and enthusiasm. As superintendent of curriculum, she accomplished outstanding work in revising and developing materials and programs," Sister Roberta said. "She continued to give leadership and vision to quality programs in her service as superintendent."

During Sister Edwardine's tenure, test scores of students at Catholic schools rose consistently. In 1985, the results of the Pupil Evaluation Program (PEP) showed that elementary school students in the diocese scored above the reference point for Catholic schools in the state and ranked well, even



Sister M. Edwardine Weaver, R.S.M., has been diocesan superintendent of schools for the past five years.

when compared to the average scores of public schools in the state.

Sister Edwardine also introduced Project Upgrade to the diocese in 1977. The program aimed for more uniform policies on

classroom testing, homework and acceptance of school work among the schools.

"I've done it because I love and believe in the cause," she said. "I'm very proud of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Rochester. I feel privileged to have served the diocese in this capacity."

Sister Roberta said that she — in conjunction with the Diocesan Board of Education and school pastors and principals — will

soon name a search committee for Sister Edwardine's replacement.

Although she has no definite plans as yet, Sister Edwardine said she hopes to continue serving the diocese in the area of teacher and principal formation.

"I have a lot of hope for our Catholic schools," she said. "We're at a transitional time, but I hope that where we are now will lead us to where we want to be in the future."

Diocesan schools set guidelines for registration

Diocesan Catholic schools will recruit students this year from the last week in February throughout the month of March.

Because each school follows its own formula and timetable for registering youngsters, contact either the school or parish office or the Office of General Education at (716)328-3210 for specific dates, times and locations. Parents will need their child's birth and baptismal certificates and immunization records to register them.

Families in financial need can apply for tuition subsidies through the school of their choice. Bus transportation is provided without charge by school districts within a 15-mile limit.

The elementary and secondary schools of the Diocese of Rochester admit students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights privileges, programs and activities generally available to students at any of its schools.

Diocesan schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in administration of their educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.

New students may enroll at Most Precious Blood School will be Monday, March 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call (716)458-8160.

St. John the Evangelist School, Greece, will register students of parishioners Monday, March 3 from 6-8 a.m. and Tuesday, March 4, through Friday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students from Holy Name, St. Mark's and St. Leo's parishes may register Monday, March 10, through Thursday, March 13, from 9-11 a.m. Non-parishioner students may register Monday, March 17, through Friday, March 21, from 9-11 a.m. Call (716)225-450.

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