

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 14:21-27; Revelation 21:1-5; John 13:31-31, 34-35.

The ever-popular commandment of love predominates during this fifth week of the Easter season. Sunday's gospel speaks volumes: "I give you a new commandment: Love one another." This is not a simple suggestion, it is a command! It is not a command from one overwrought with authority, but from one wounded from the heart. John reminds us it is after "Judas had left ..." that Jesus quotes these words. Is He perhaps trying to reconcile Judas with the apostolic band?

Paul and Barnabas do just that in Sunday's reading from Acts. "They gave their disciples reassurances, and encouraged them to persevere in the faith..." They extended gratitude to those who had solidly supported their ministry and explained how God had opened the door of faith to Jew and Gentile alike.

The Book of Revelation challenges all who listen to

dream of the new Jerusalem when, "He shall wipe every tear from their eyes." It is a summons to appreciate the value of authentic love as it reconciles the world until that day when all things will be made new.

Traditionally, first Communion is celebrated around this time. What a tremendous opportunity for all in the community to witness each first communicant sharing the reality of God's love with us. It is an opportunity for this simple, annual sharing celebration to become an effective source of renewal within the whole community. It calls forth the dynamic presence of Jesus within the community and is evidence of His presence in the mutual sharing of love. The reconciling power of the Eucharist bringing about forgiveness, mercy and joy! First Communion celebrations should enhance the Easter mysteries.



CROSSROADS IV

A tribute to Challenger crew

Rochester's own Skycoasters have recently completed recording a song in tribute to the Challenger 7 crew entitled "Explorers of the Sky." The song expresses the sadness, hope, and pride Americans feel towards the

shuttle astronauts and the space program in general.

Written by Doug Riter of the Skycoasters, the song was recorded at Summer Productions in Rochester by Bob Marini.

The Skycoasters have released the song to local radio stations and are currently negotiating for national release.

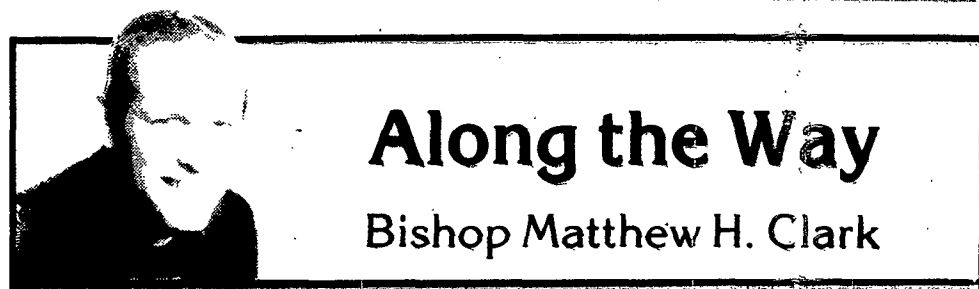
The song is available on cassette by sending \$3.50 to Skycoasters, P.O. Box 92442, Rochester, New York 14692. Profits from the sale of the cassette will be sent to the Challenger 7 fund at the National Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. This fund establishes scholarships for deserving youth to attend the camp.

Diocesan Appointments



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

Father Louis Vasile from secretary to the bishop to pastor of St. Anne's/St. Gregory's, Palmyra-Marion Cluster. This appointment is effective June 24.



Along the Way Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Fourth Sunday of Easter. What do you understand by the word vocation, or calling?

Do you have a vocation? How would you name and describe it in 100 words or less?

Would your description of your vocation make sense to those you consider closest to you?

What is the most rewarding, pleasing, life-giving aspect of your vocation?

What aspect of your vocation demands most of you — even causes you suffering?

What does our community of faith — or any segment of that community — need to understand, forget or experience in order to appreciate more deeply your vocation?

How can our community of faith offer you greater encouragement and assistance as you try to live out your vocation?

How can I do the same?

I don't mean to make this a quiz. But I place these questions before you in anticipation of a meeting I'll be attending in June at Collegeville in Minnesota. That meeting will gather the bishops of the United States for an extended time of pastoral reflection on the theme of vocations.

We will reflect on the life of the Church in the United States, with specific reference to vocational challenges and problems, and the new opportunities that lie before us. In my opinion, our sessions will be creative and rewarding insofar as we who participate have tried to be a part of and absorb the vocational experiences and aspirations of our community of faith.

The questions listed above are meant to indicate my interest in your experience of your own vocation and your hopes for deeper life in the future. They are meant to be exemplary only and are

not intended to limit what I'd like you to think about or say to me.

In addition to inviting your contributions in preparation for this session, I have met with vocation representatives of our diocese and of our religious communities. Conversations with them have helped me to understand better what our young people deal with as they consider commitments that will shape their lives.

As you might guess, the attitudes and values of parents are major influences in this process, as are cultural expectations and peer pressure. Highly significant as well — and a major difficulty — is a reluctance about long-lasting commitments. There seems to be a sense among some of our young people that everything is tentative and very chancy. In light of that, they regard lifelong commitments as unrealistic, if not impossible.

I would be very grateful to you if you would give some thought to these themes during the coming weeks. If we are all called by the Lord in baptism — and we are! — then somehow all that we are and everything we do in response to that call is holy. You and I have been entrusted with the mission of transforming the world into a kingdom of justice and peace. If that vocation seems impossible, remember that it will be realized not through our strength or wisdom, but because God is faithful.

So, dear friends, please help by your prayers to prepare for this meeting, which I believe will be of great importance.

If you would like to respond to any of the opening questions or if there are issues to which you think we should give particular attention, please drop a line. I promise that I'll give your words very serious consideration.

Peace to all.

Lecturer discloses findings

Dr. Thomas Walsh, associate professor of education at Nazareth College, will disclose recent developments in his research which lead him to believe that increasing age does not necessarily mean decreasing intelligence. His lecture, "Growing Older, Growing Smarter: Aging and Intelligence" will be offered on Tuesday, April 29, in Room 14

of the Nazareth Arts Center.

Walsh's lecture is part of "Noontime at Nazareth," a series of one-hour lectures and recitals offered on Tuesday afternoons between 12:30-1:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. For information or reservations, call (716)586-2525, ext. 400.

ANNOUNCING

a new guide to TV and movie viewing choices available exclusively through parishes

TV and movies represent enormous influences in modern life — shaping values and attitudes in powerful ways. But what can people do at home to become more than passive recipients of all the images presented by the media every day?

TV & Movie Guide enables parishes to offer a unique weekly service to families, parents — indeed all parishioners — a publication they can take home from church to consult throughout the week, whenever it is needed.

• thorough U.S. Catholic Conference and film-industry movie ratings, updated weekly, for theater, network and cable TV showings

• U.S. Catholic Conference reviews of films currently showing in theaters

• a guide to the coming week's entertainment and educational TV offerings, including movies, children's selections, special programming

TV & Movie Guide Published by National Catholic News Service

For information on how parishes can make this service available to parishioners, call 202-659-6726, or write TV & Movie Guide, NC News Service, 1512 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005

Advertisement for Jean Brown Travel Inc. featuring Alaska cruises, train specials, and weekend specials. Includes phone number 889-9090 and address 3220 Chili Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Advertisement for EASY-LIFT Cushion Lifting Chair by FOSTER MEDICAL. Features include: Runs off household current, Recliner models available, Variety of colors, models and fabrics, We bill Medicaid and Medicare. Contact: 2590 Ridge Rd. W., 227-7860.

Advertisement for Logos book store COMMUNION GIFTS FOR 1986. Traditional & Contemporary. Items include: Communion Books from 2.50 up, Communion Sets from 10.50 up, Communion Pendants from 2.95 up, Communion Ties & Arm Bands from 2.50 up, Plaques — 3.50 up, Pictures — 5.95 up, Pins — .25 up. Address: THE STREET OF SHOPPES — 1600 Ridge Road West (716) 663-5085.