



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

# Along the Way

## Infallibility

One of the difficult realities we recognize during the Easter season is the pain of departure that the disciples must have felt when Jesus ascended from their midst. After having mourned Him once in death — but again having grown used to His resurrected presence with them — the apostles must have been torn with grief at His second departure to take His place at the right hand of God.

How difficult it must have been for them. Once, they could have asked Jesus any question, and He would have answered directly. Once, they could have posed any moral dilemma and received direct help. Once, they could have revealed any spiritual problem, and they would have been firmly guided onto the right path. Now, they were alone.

But Jesus promised not to leave the community of His disciples as orphans. He told them that He was going away, but

that He would send the Holy Spirit — a consoler, helper, advocate and friend. This gift of God is the Spirit of truth, who was promised to lead the community to all truth.

It was the experience of life in the Spirit and the confidence in Jesus' promises that led the Church to accept its dual role as teacher and believer, guided by the Holy Spirit. The Church understood that the Spirit helped the bishop to teach clearly, while at the same time arousing and sustaining a sense of faith in the community of believers.

The Spirit taught no new revelation. By the Spirit's help, the Church only expanded her understanding of the realities and words that come from revelation. By living into the mystery of the self-revelation of God, by studying and contemplating all that Jesus said and did, as witnessed by the apostles, the Christian communities grew in their understanding of the gospel and how it was to be lived out in their daily lives.

Sometimes conflicts and misunderstandings occurred in the Church over who and what to believe. The Church trusted in the Holy Spirit for help in keeping the Catholic unity. The Christian community saw the action of the Spirit most forcefully present when the bishops gathered in the great councils and their doctrinal decisions were accepted by all as fully in accord with scripture and tradition. In retrospect, the Church concluded that the presence of the Spirit at a truly ecumenical council guaranteed the truth of the doctrines taught.

Later on, this guarantee of truth began to be called "the infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed His Church to be endowed in defining doctrines of faith and morals" (*Lumen Gentium* 25). It was understood as an assurance that the Church would not solemnly define — and hence oblige the faithful to believe as a dogma of faith — any proposition that is not true.

Although since ancient times, a bishop teaching in his diocese was understood to teach with the authority of Christ and, therefore, it was necessary to receive his teachings with respect, this absolute guarantee of truth was seen to be present only when bishops of the worldwide Church gathered in ecumenical council.

In 1870, at the First Vatican Council, the assistance of the Holy Spirit to the teaching Church was clarified even further. The Church concluded that the guarantee of the Holy Spirit was present when the bishop of Rome, performing his petrine ministry on behalf of the faith and communion of the whole Church, defined a doctrine of faith and morals. The Church accepts these solemnly defined teachings as it does the teachings of ecumenical councils, because it understands that in this solemn act of teaching, the pope possesses that infallibility Christ promised His Church.

Infallibility is not a personal charism of the bishop of Rome that makes his ordinary thoughts and actions special. It does not keep a pope from error in science, geography or theology. It is not something that can be used accidentally or lightly. It is a charism given to the Church — one which is extraordinarily used by a pope when solemnly defining a matter of faith and morals for the whole Church. He must make it clear that he is solemnly defining, that his judgment is definitive, and that the whole Church must give the assent of faith to what he has defined. This extraordinary charism has been used but once since 1870.

## Tragedy at McQuaid

### Student dies after fall from car

By Richard A. Kiley

The last day of high school is frequently the time for asking classmates about summer plans and possible excursions during the vacation months.

On the last day of school at McQuaid Jesuit High School, however, students asked each other only one question: Why?

Why was one of their classmates at the private, all-boys' Catholic high school fatally injured after falling from the hood of a car driven by a fellow student and friend?

John Schoenberger, a popular and active senior who was to graduate with 170 fellow classmates this past Tuesday, died of head in-

juries suffered in the tragic accident, which occurred during the final day of classes last week.

According to Brighton police Lieutenant Thomas Voelkl, Schoenberger, 17, of 19 Birling Gap Road, Perinton, suffered the head injuries on Tuesday morning, June 3, when he fell from the hood of a car driven by Borys Kushnir, a junior at the school. The incident occurred in the parking lot of the school, 1800 S. Clinton Ave., Brighton.

At first, Kushnir, 17, of 554 Helendale Road, Irondequoit, was charged with reckless endangerment. But when Schoenberger died in Strong Memorial Hospital, the charges were raised to second-degree manslaughter, reckless-

ly causing another person's death.

The charge is a felony and carries a minimum penalty of probation and a maximum punishment of five to 15 years in prison.

"The terminology of the (manslaughter in the second degree) charge is often misinterpreted," Voelkl said. "The charge implied that the act was reckless and resulted in the death of another person. There was definitely recklessness involved, but the incident certainly wasn't intentional."

According to Voelkl, although details of the incident are still under investigation, Kushnir was driving a 1972 Plymouth around the school parking lot shortly before 11 a.m., when Schoenberger motioned Kushnir to slow down and jumped on the hood.

"It was just carelessness. The last day of school, kids engage in horseplay while safety consciousness is not foremost in their minds," Voelkl said. "The whole thing was very unfortunate."

The car traveled approximately 250 feet with Schoenberger clinging to the hood before Kushnir made a left turn, hurling Schoenberger to the pavement, Voelkl said.

National Ambulance responded to the call and took Schoenberger to Strong, where he died on Wednesday, June 4.

A spokesman for the Monroe County medical examiner's office said "head trauma" was the official cause of death.

Although Schoenberger and Kushnir were a year apart in school, the two were very close friends, according to school principal Father Eugene A. Zimpfer.

"They knew each other quite well and shared a lot in common," said Father Zimpfer, who is leaving McQuaid after a six-year tenure there.

"It's a terrible tragedy, causing grief for both families."

Father Zimpfer referred to Schoenberger as a "very generous and thoughtful student" who was to attend Purdue University in the fall.

"John interacted well with everybody . . . When he was taken to the hospital, there was a constant flow of students trying to reassure the family."

Among Schoenberger's many activities, he prided himself on improvements he had made in the school's camera club, of which he was president.

"He put up a sign on the door (of the camera club) announcing a new and improved camera club coming soon," Father Zimpfer said. "He and two other students got the renovation plan together."

Schoenberger was also a member of McQuaid's glee club and ski club for four years, as well as an active participant in the school yearbook (the *Accolade*) and newspaper (the *Lance*). Schoenberger was co-editor for the 1986 edition of the yearbook.

A member of the drama club and recently one of the leads in both the fall and spring musicals, Schoenberger was voted "Actor of the Year" at McQuaid.

"The seniors all got together and decided one of John's friends will accept the award for him," Father Zimpfer said.

Outside McQuaid, Schoenberger spent a good deal of time helping the late Monsignor Albert H. Schnacky in his home parish of St. Catherine in Mendon.

"John played the organ at St. Catherine's every Sunday," Father Zimpfer said. "Monsignor Schnacky was very praising of the boy, very proud of him."

## Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following appointments, which are effective June 24, 1986:

**Father Dennis Bonsignore** from parochial vicar, St. Vincent DePaul Church, Corning, to parochial vicar, Holy Family Church and St. Aloysius Church, Auburn.

**Father Alexander Bradshaw** from graduate studies at North American College, Casa Santa Maria, in Rome to priest intern, St. John of Rochester Church, Fairport, effective July 28.

**Father Patrick Connor** from priest intern, St. Mary's Church, Elmira, to parochial vicar, St. Vincent DePaul, Corning.

**Monsignor John Duffy**, from pastor, St. Philip Neri, Rochester, to temporary parochial vicar, St. John of Rochester, Fairport.

**Father George Gauthier** from parochial vicar, St. Philip Neri Church, Rochester, to parochial vicar, St. Anne's Church, Rochester.

**Deacon John Hayes** from Seton Hall, Immaculate Conception Seminary, New Jersey, to deacon intern, St. Catherine's Church, Mendon.

**Father Matthew Kawiak** from parochial vicar, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Rochester, to parochial vicar, St. John the Evangelist, Greece.

**Father Stephen Kraus** from parochial vicar, St. Anne's Church, Rochester, to parochial vicar, St. Mary's Church, Elmira.

**Father Joseph Larrabee** from parochial vicar, St. John the Evangelist Church, Greece, to parochial vicar, Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta.

**Father Joseph McCaffrey** from parochial vicar, St. Mary's Church, Dansville, and chaplain, Groveland Correctional Facility, to pastor, St. John the Evangelist Church, Newark Valley, and its mission, St. Francis Church, Catatunk.

**Deacon James Mooney** from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., to deacon intern, St. Andrew's Church, Rochester.

**Father Richard Shtatzel** from parochial vicar, Holy Family Church and St. Aloysius Church, Auburn, to pastor, St. Philip Neri Church, Rochester.

**Father Gary Tynan** from deacon intern, Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta, to priest intern, St. Ambrose Church, Rochester.

**Father Anthony Valente** from chaplain, Strong Memorial Hospital, to pastor, Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Brighton.

## EASY-LIFT.



Combines the elegance of a traditional lounge chair with cushion lifting assistance.

- Power cushion gently lifts you to a standing position
- Simple switch control

### Cushion Lifting Chair

- Runs off household current
  - Recliner models available
  - Variety of colors, models and fabrics
  - We bill Medicaid and Medicare
- CALL OR STOP BY FOR A FREE DEMONSTRATION

**FOSTER MEDICAL** 2590 Ridge Rd. W. 227-7860



## HAPPY "40th" BIRTHDAY MICHAEL J. MAHLER

who (as of 5-29-86) has gained his "Over-the-Hill" friends. Sorry we're late, but with you in Kentucky, and then on retreat, we wanted you to see this, therefore the wait.

*We Love You . . . Even though it's time to put you out to pasture!*

J. & S.

## Wardair

### JOIN THE GRAPER FAMILY FOR AN 11-DAY TOUR OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND - AUGUST 2-12th

Travel "Wardair Class" from Toronto to London, then visit York, Edinburgh, Inverness, the Isle of Skye, the English Lake District, and Stratford-on-Avon. \$1199.00 per person, double occupancy, includes round-trip air from Toronto, twin room with private bath, 9 breakfasts, 4 dinners, baggage handling, and a fully escorted sightseeing program.

Escorted by Ralph, Judy, Jill and Ellen Graper  
Call 385-3820 for Details.

**Judy Graper Travel**

The Barn Bazaar  
Clover Street at Jefferson Road  
Pittsford, New York 14534  
(716) 385-3820