



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
1150 Buffalo Road · Rochester, NY 14624
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Bishop's Office

My dear brothers and sisters,
Catechetical Sunday will be observed in our diocese on Sunday,
September 21. Derived from the scripture readings, this year's
theme — "Speak the Truth in Love" — summarizes one of the
most essential aspects of the ministry of catechesis: We must
proclaim the gospel in our words and live the gospel in our deeds.

Both professional teachers and dedicated volunteer catechists
must first hear and lovingly embrace the liberating truth of the
gospel. Then they must speak and live that gospel with love,
understanding, gentleness and compassion. I am reminded of the
caution of Pope Paul VI in *On Evangelization in the Modern
World*: "Men and women today only listen to teachers who are
witnesses of the gospel."

I am grateful to the more than 2,700 catechists throughout our
diocese who proclaim Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life.
They accept the challenge of catechetical ministry faithfully and
live it lovingly.

May Catechetical Sunday 1986 call all of us to speak God's truth
in love in our daily living.

+ Matthew H. Clark

Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

Social Ministry board considers action plan for AIDS outreach

By Teresa A. Parsons

Education is the aim and compassion the spirit of a social ministry action plan on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which was proposed this week to the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry's (GVOSM) board of directors.

Written by the board's Catholic Charities Committee — in consultation with a group of local medical and ministerial professionals experienced in dealing with AIDS and related issues — the plan proposed a broad range of outreach efforts, from education to social advocacy.

"We want to educate the Church community, to say that we do not look at this (disease) as God's punishment," said Elaine Marchetti, a committee member and one of the drafters of the plan.

Although no funding is attached to the plan, committee members also hope through education to create a greater awareness and understanding of the need for such further actions as the development of hospices and housing alternatives for AIDS victims.

"In developing the plan, we looked at what would be practical given the resources we have," said William Privett, GVOSM's associate director for Catholic Charities. "This plan could result in our coming back to the board in six or eight months with larger-scale developments."

Members of the GVOSM's board of directors were scheduled to consider the plan at a meeting Tuesday, September 16.

If approved, the plan will:

- Appoint a Church representative as contact person on AIDS issues and as convener of a consultant group to meet semi-annually; also appoint representative to AIDS Rochester task force.
- Educate human service and parish-based staff, parochial school staff and administra-

tors, social workers, psychologists, and other social agency staff through in-service programs on AIDS.

• Oppose the notion offered by some religious denominations that AIDS is God's punishment against such people as homosexuals and intravenous-drug users.

• Coordinate with other church groups to offer education; share expertise and resources.

• Advocate for basic rights of AIDS victims, especially in areas of employment and housing.

• Promote social and theological discussion of AIDS at the college and university levels.

• Recruit and train volunteers to visit AIDS patients in hospitals and at home.

• Explore the feasibility of developing hospices for AIDS victims; also explore other alternatives and such needs as shared housing, emergency housing (particularly for residents outside Rochester), and housing for patients who are also drug abusers.

Some of the steps described above, such as in-service education for Catholic Family Center staff, are already being implemented. If the plan is approved, work on all of its provisions would begin no later than March, 1987.

Aside from social ministry efforts, staff members at the Diocesan Office of Education are developing a policy on whether to admit students suffering from AIDS. "Right now, the ultimate decision rests with the superintendent of schools until we have a policy in place," said James McAuliffe, assistant superintendent for public affairs. To date, no student with AIDS has applied to a diocesan school, he said.

Impetus for developing the social ministry plan came from both the national and local levels. At its annual gathering last fall, the National Catholic Charities' Conference passed a series of resolutions calling for greater advocacy and education and stronger financial support of AIDS-related programs.

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

Sunday evening.

Today's Feast of the Cross was a beautiful day for me. I spent the morning with the community of faith at Good Shepherd Parish, Henrietta, celebrating with them the 75th anniversary of their wonderful parish.

In the evening, I drove down a sunlit Route 390 to Genesee to pray with Dr. William B. Pegg and many others who gathered to support him as he was installed as a district superintendent in the United Methodist Church.

In between, I took a run, loafed through the Sunday newspapers, tossed and consumed a huge salad, and watched a few moments of what I have since heard was an exciting Buffalo Bills game.

All through the day, the theme of my thoughts and prayers was the exquisite regard in which a loving God holds our frail humanity.

The full sign of that regard is the Lord Jesus. In today's second lesson, Paul struggled to describe the depth of this mystery by speaking of the Son of God emptying himself to take on our humanity — and even more deeply of Jesus emptying himself to become servant of all. In the thought of Paul, Jesus became like us so that we could become like God.

One aspect of that theme which most deeply touched me today was that of weakness. What Paul finally tells us is that through free choice, Jesus took on our weakness and, having done so, chose to be the weakest of all so that the full, loving power of God could shine forth from Him.

This truth, so central to our faith understanding and yet so elusive, draws us to a contemplation of the way Jesus lived and died. He was a person of strength and integrity. Prayer, expressed in a variety of ways, was central in His life. The company of people — especially the small and simple ones —

delighted him, but we know that often he chose or needed to be alone with His God. It seems that two things in particular made him sad — people suffering and people blind to or uncaring about the suffering of others. He shunned power as others knew it, but in his surrender of power was immensely powerful.

Jesus had many friends. He loved some more than others, but He loved all of them with honesty and a reverent respect for their freedom. Peter knew His love through stern words and tender forgiveness. Mary, the sister of Lazarus, loved him with the warmth of her embrace and tears, and in the harsh loneliness of Calvary. About the love He bore in his heart for his mother and John, we can say little except that it sustained him in his deepest agony.

All of the love Jesus lavished on these individuals He lavishes on us today in the power of His own indwelling Spirit. And that love is ours not because of our achievement or virtue, but because He is so utterly loving. All He asks of us is that we somehow be available to the power of that love. That can often mean a surrender of what we imagine makes us strong, but which in reality absorbs so much of our energy that it imprisons us.

I think this evening of a friend who recently reminded me of the way Jesus loves us. After a conversation with her, I felt that because of tiredness I had not been as fully present to her as I had wanted to be. The next day I called to tell her that. After a rather lengthy discourse on my part explaining the whole thing she responded, "That's all right, I love you even in your fatigue."

That's really the kind of God we have. God loves us in our fatigue, joys, pain, exaltation, search and loneliness. As an even deeper mark of God's love for us, God trusts us to do that for others.
Peace to all.

Mission seeks volunteers

The Tabasco Mission Committee is looking for men and women, 21 years of age and older, who would be interested in sharing their lives and faith with their sisters and brothers in Tabasco, Mexico. This commitment should be for no less than two years. Applicants should be in good health, willing to live a simple lifestyle within a community and to be able to withstand heat. Some Spanish fluency or ability to learn the language is required.

For information and an application form please contact: Diocese of Rochester, Tabasco Mission Committee, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, 14624, or call (716)328-3210.

Diocesan Appointments



Father Robert A. Klee to temporary administrator, St. Mark's, Greece, for the duration of the sabbatical of Father Thomas M. Erdle, pastor.

Father Scott Kubinski to part-time campus ministry at the University of Rochester, with responsibility for the Eastman School of Music. He will remain as priest-intern at St. Boniface, Rochester.

Seattle Catholics

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Backers of the separate petition drive said they hoped to reach as many of the 300,000 Catholics in the Seattle Archdiocese as possible. While they had no specific goal, Sister Boyle said there was some discussion of gathering as many as 30,000 signatures from throughout the diocese.

Father David Jaeger, archdiocesan director of seminarians and another signer of the letter, said, "We are in full communion and want to stay that way. People just don't understand how you can have two ordinaries

(bishops in charge). We want one, and we want it to be Archbishop Hunthausen."

"The Holy See seems very concerned that we deal with this, but we don't know what they want," Father Jaeger added. "Archbishop Hunthausen is orthodox on homosexuality, divorce, abortion. He tries to minister to people within the laws of the Church. He has consistently provided clear and accurate teaching."

Sister Boyle and Father Jaeger emphasized that the petition organizers were not "out to get" Bishop Wuerl.

"Bishop Wuerl has a special gift, and we don't want anyone to have the impression we don't respect him. We do," Father Jaeger said.



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