



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

A young friend of mine wrote recently asking a favor and, in the asking, offered me a wonderful gift. The gift was an invitation to walk with her while she sorts out some issues in her life that are important to her.

This is the way she put it: "I have everything that's wonderful — loving family and friends, tons of support and a great education. So, what's the matter with me? I feel secular, shallow and unspiritual. I'm finding it hard to motivate myself toward God and neighbor ... I know you can help me. Please tell me what to do!"

I had to smile at her request, not because I take it lightly but because I believe that her willingness even to take on the question is a strong sign that God's grace is moving in her

heart — for her growth and maturity, and many other good things.

Secondly, I appreciated her question because it invites me to be in touch with God's graceful leading in my own life and to share whatever of my experience might be helpful to her.

The truth is that I have been raising such questions to myself for years. The issues change, and my capacity to deal with many of them has increased. What remains the same is a growing realization that by definition, human life involves limitations that are real and often painful.

If women and men of all ages have been grappling with this issue, Augustine of Hippo may have given classic expression to

what we all feel when he said, "Our hearts are restless, O God, and our hearts will not rest until they rest in you."

No matter what our condition or circumstances, there always seems to be something missing or undone or not quite what it should be. Spouses wonder why, after so many years, they still feel somehow apart from the other they love so much. Young people on the rise discover that the sophisticated equipment they worked so hard to buy really didn't bring a great deal of satisfaction. Those who marry think about freedom and opportunities lost. Persons who live in consecrated celibacy can find painful the lack of an exclusive and permanent love relationship in their lives. Single persons often feel no one has much time for them at all.

And so it goes. We are made to love and to be loved, to bring and to care for. To be at peace and to bring joy. Yet, if we froze our life at any moment, we'd know that we weren't there yet. No matter how much we know we have, we are aware that things aren't finished yet and that we're partly

empty.

How do we react to all that? Well, we can adopt the commercial jingle that asks, "Who says you can't have it all?" and become embittered. We can resent those who apparently have more than we do — or are more clever, popular, beautiful, gifted, cared for, respected, etc., etc., etc.!

A healthier response, it seems to me, is to accept Jesus' invitation to "Come and see." He asks no more of us than that we come to Him as we really are and be willing to let His person touch our hearts. His promise is not to remove us from the daily, the dark, the difficult. Rather, His gift is the capacity now to love with a transforming love and the promise that, in Him, we will one day be radiant and full beyond our power to imagine it.

I believe all of that, and somehow I'll try to communicate it to my friend. Perhaps the best I can tell her is that I am restless with her and in my own way share her longing. You and I both know we're not alone in that. Peace to all.

Hunger network plans events to mark food day

"Hunger: the Politics of Hope or Indifference" is the theme of a month-long series of events sponsored by the local Food for People Network.

Local farmers, hunger activists, developers and conservationists will join poet and farm advocate Wendell Berry on a land stewardship panel Friday, Sept. 26. Discussion will last from noon to 2 p.m. at the Community College of the Finger Lakes in Canandaigua. At 8 p.m., Berry will read his poetry in the college's library.

Dr. David Rush, principal investigator of the national Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program will speak to medical professionals and legislators at the Academy of Medicine, 1331 East Avenue, October 14 at 8 p.m. His talk, "Food for People: How much is Enough?" is open to the public.

Events are scheduled throughout the day on October 15, which is World Food Day.

From 1-4 p.m., workshops on domestic hunger advocacy will be offered at Fellowship Hall, Asbury First Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue.

Later, Anna Lou Dehavenon, medical urban anthropologist and director of research for the Food and Hunger Hotline of New York City, will speak at a dinner hosted by the Methodist District Ministries and Asbury Methodist Church. Dinner begins at 6 p.m. Call (716)271-4007 for reservations.

At 7:30 p.m., Rev. Mary Lou Anderson will perform folk music. Afterward, Dr. Dehavenon will speak on "The Tyranny of Indifference: the Re-institutionalization of Hunger, Homelessness and Poor Health."

From 1-9 p.m., graphic and audiovisual displays addressing the causes of hunger will be open to the public.

Another exhibit on Third World poverty and development issues, "Global Challenge:

Narrowing the Gap," will open October 15 at the Main Street Arcade to Midtown Plaza. The display will run through October 21.

Throughout October, the Red Cross, Genesee Valley Foodbank, the Politics of Food, and other programs are also offering

Doctor describes conflict witnessed in El Salvador

Dr. Charles Clements will speak at the University of Rochester on Wednesday, Oct. 1, regarding his experience working as a physician in guerilla-held areas of El Salvador.

An author and Quaker, Dr. Clements is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and is a Vietnam veteran. During his tour of duty, he flew more than 50 combat missions

Memorial liturgy scheduled to honor Fr. James Young

A memorial liturgy has been scheduled to honor Father James Young, founder of the ministry to the divorced, who died September 12. The liturgy will be on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 3 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church, Geneva.

Celebrant for the liturgy will be Father John Glogowski, chaplain of the diocesan

speakers to organizations interested in hunger issues. For more information, contact Jerry Bennett at the Red Cross, (716)461-9800.

For more information on other events, call Alison Clarke, (716)271-4007.

before becoming disillusioned with American policy there.

His book, "Witness to War," tells the story of a year he spent in El Salvador. His U of R speech is scheduled for 8 p.m. He will also speak at the Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 10 Ambrose St., on Friday, Oct. 3, at 8 pm.

Ministry to the Separated, Divorced, Bereaved and Remarried. Kathleen Kircher, executive director of the North American Congress of Separated and Divorced Catholics, will give a eulogy of Father Young.

All are invited to attend the liturgy and the reception that will follow in the church hall.

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