

Editorial & Opinion

Looking back on 135,000 words Along the Way

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I am enjoying an evening at home, which is always a pleasure. Tonight it is a particular joy for me for two reasons: 1) our whole household was in for supper, and 2) it affords a welcome chance to catch up on some back work. My room is getting to be in such a state that I need to shovel a path to get from one place to another.

Just now I am enjoying two jubilee gifts. As I write, I am sitting in a rocking chair given to me by my friends mentioned above, and I am listening to "A Little Night Music" on a tape player for which I owe thanks to my mother.

If I am correct, this column marks the end of five years of *Along The Way*. My best memory is that this series began — although without a title — in the first week of Lent of 1983. I had gone to the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph for a couple of days of prayer after Ash Wednesday and somehow got the idea to write about some of the experience of that brand-new Lenten season. I enjoyed doing it, and your response and that of the paper's staff was favorable. So I decided to do what was billed at the time as "an occasional piece" to appear under the title the column still bears.

Along the Way



Since then, it has become almost a weekly effort. Although we have all of the past columns on file, I have not counted them. But my guess is that there have been at least 45 a year, or approximately 225 of them in total. If they average about 600 words, they total up to something like 135,000 words of columns.

I have found the discipline the effort often requires to be well worth it for me. I find that so, because this ongoing effort has drawn me more to write about internal values and experiences and less about the events of the day, which is much better done in other parts of this paper by people much better able to do that than I am.

In addition to all of that, I have found that the columns that have drawn the most positive comment over the years have been those in which I have tried to communicate something of my own interiority or in which I have attempted to share my effort to find God's presence and ways in the ordinary experiences — even the unpleasant ones — of everyday living.

Let me thank you for that kind encouragement and most especially for the disclosure you have made to me about your own journeys of faith. Your response helps me to grow in my understanding of the kind of ministry to which a bishop is called at this moment in the Church. I am sure somehow deep in my being that it is critically important that I draw deeply from the faith experience and human struggle of people like you. Jesus promises that we would have the Spirit to teach us and guide us. I believe that we are all beneficiaries of that precious gift and that the more we share the fruits of it with one another, the better off we shall all be.

And so, dear friends, in that spirit I conclude the five year of this column and look forward to the beginning of the sixth next week.

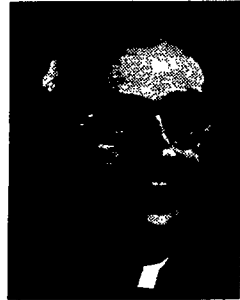
Peace to all.

Obituaries

Father Francis J. Pegnam, founding pastor of St. Thomas More Church

Father Francis J. Pegnam, founder of St. Thomas More Church, Rochester, died in St. Croix, the Virgin Islands, on Thursday, Feb. 4, 1988, as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Father Pegnam, the son of Raymond and



Kathleen Pegnam, was born in Rochester on March 20, 1912. A graduate of Sacred Heart Elementary School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, he was ordained to the priesthood in Sacred Heart Cathedral by Cardinal Edward Mooney on June 4, 1937.

With characteristic zeal, Father Pegnam served for four years as a Navy chaplain in World War II, seeing action in the Pacific aboard the U.S.S. Belleau Wood of Admiral Halsey's famed "Task Force 58." He was aboard this ship when a Japanese kamikaze pilot hit it off the island of Samar in the Philippines on November 1, 1944. During his naval career, Father Pegnam was involved in nine major battles.

Father Pegnam served as associate pastor in Elmira's St. Patrick's Church, and Holy Apostles and Blessed Sacrament in Rochester be-

fore being assigned in 1953 to found a new Brighton parish.

As founding pastor of St. Thomas More Parish, Father Pegnam waged a long legal battle with the Town of Brighton to gain approval of church construction. The parish finally won in 1956 through an important decision by the New York State Court of Appeals. Opponents of erecting a church on exclusive East Avenue were pleasantly surprised by the Norman buildings that eventually enhanced the charm of the neighborhood.

Father Pegnam was a zealous pastor, ever-attentive to the needs of his parishioners. His vision, however, went beyond parish boundaries. He served as diocesan director of the Holy Name Societies; as a diocesan consultor; and as a member of the first Priests' Council, the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foun-

ation and the board of the *Courier-Journal*.

Father Pegnam also became an authority on the life of St. Thomas More and frequently gave lectures on the "Man for all Seasons." The parishioners recognized their pastor's deep devotion to the saint by erecting next to the Church an exact replica of the statue of St. Thomas More located at Chelsea on the banks of the Thames River in London.

Survivors include his sisters, Mary Alice Pegnam and Sister Marie Rene Pegnam, SSJ.

Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated at St. Thomas More at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10. Mass of Christian Burial took place at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11, also at St. Thomas. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Sr. Miriam Monaghan, adventurous free spirit

Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Miriam Monaghan of the Sisters of St. Joseph was celebrated in the Motherhouse Chapel by Monsignor William Shannon on Tuesday, Feb. 2. Sister Monaghan died in St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary on Friday, Jan. 29, 1988. She was 96.

Sister Monaghan entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1912 from her home parish, St. Mary's in Canandaigua. On January 4 of this year, she celebrated 75 years of religious life.

A graduate of Canandaigua Free Academy, Sister Monaghan earned her teaching certificate at Nazareth Normal School. She went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Canisius College, and a master's degree from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Sister Monaghan served on the faculty of Nazareth Academy for 47 years. Previously, she taught at Rochester's former Cathedral High School and the following diocesan parochial school: the former St. Patrick's Cathedral School; St. Augustine, Rochester; St. Joseph, Wayland; St. Michael, Penn Yan; and Immaculate Conception, Ithaca.

Sister Monaghan retired from active work in 1973 and resided at the Nazareth Academy Convent until 1980, when failing health forced her to move to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

According to Sister Mary Paul Geck, Sister Monaghan will be remembered for being an excellent teacher and a free spirit. "She made her classes interesting and alive," Sister Geck said. "She was an avid reader and always kept herself well-informed on all aspects of life. She was a free spirit and was always ready for any new adventure."

Sister Monaghan is survived by one sister, Ann Cross, of Rochester; two sisters-in-law, Helen and Mary Monaghan; nieces and nephews; grandnieces and grandnephews.

Retrouvaille program planned

The next Retrouvaille program in the Rochester area will take place March 4-6 at the East Avenue Inn, Rochester, from 7:30 p.m. Friday evening until 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The program offers help to couples who are experiencing difficulty in their marriages, in hopes of healing the relationship. The group continues to meet for six evening sessions following the weekend.

Call (716) 621-2901 for information.

A. Helen Herrling, founding member of Sacred Heart Parish, Auburn

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Mrs. A. Helen Herrling on Monday, Jan. 25, 1988, at Sacred Heart Church in Auburn. Father P. Paul Brennan, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, presided at the Mass.

Mrs. Herrling died Thursday, Jan. 21, at Auburn Memorial Hospital. She had been ill for several months.

A life-long resident of Auburn, Mrs. Herrling was the daughter of the late Thomas and

Catherine Wickham Manley. For more than 20 years, she was associated with the Big Store, retiring in 1986. She was a founding member of Sacred Heart Church and active in the parish Rosary-Altar Society.

She is survived by her husband, John J. Herrling; a daughter, Patricia Nolan of Port Charlotte, FL; four sons — Brigadier General John P. Herrling, stationed with the U.S. Army in Hanau, West Germany, Joseph G. Herrling of

Honolulu, Hawaii, Thomas P. Herrling of Cape Coral, FL, and Edward F. Herrling of Auburn — 13 grandchildren; a sister, Sister Marie Catherine Manley, SSJ, of Rochester; brother Leo P. Manley, of Pittman, N.J.; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Father Thomas J. Manley, in 1965.

