

Memories call us to grateful reflection

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It happened at St. Patrick's in Owego last Friday night during the Confirmation Mass. I didn't see it myself, but Father Paul Tomasso told me about it on the way home.

At the consecration time during the liturgy, everyone in the church was kneeling. Most of the servers were to my right and slightly behind me, but two of them — Angie Capece and Jim Christiano — were to my left. They were also kneeling slightly behind me.

Paul said that just a moment before the

consecration, Angie and Jim, dressed in long white robes, realized that their fellow servers across the sanctuary were kneeling a little closer to the altar. Not wanting to be perceived as out of position, Angie and Jim began walking across the sanctuary on their knees. You can imagine what a feat it was for them to do that in robes, and what a delightful sight it must have been for those lucky enough to see it.

I think of those lads early this morning, not because I had planned to write about them, but because starting on Sunday of this week, I began to pray for the gift of

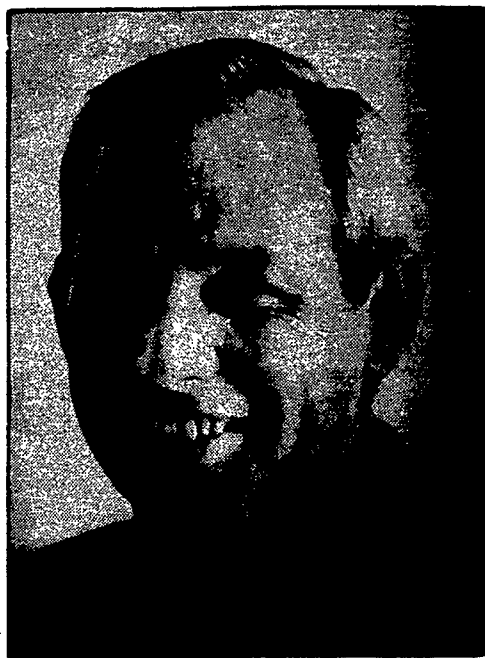
gratitude in a conscious effort to prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday. And, somehow, I keep remembering the two boys. They are beautiful young people, open to life, trusting and innocent. I suppose they come back to me in memory now because they exemplify the fact that God constantly offers new life to all of us.

When I recognized that somehow I was to rest in prayer in reflection about those two young people, I did so. And when I did, I began to remember other people for whom I am grateful. Here follows a partial list of them and a full reflection on why I do thank God for them:

- Bishop Dennis Hickey who has taught me something about wisdom by his consistent and warm respect for people, and by his gift for keeping the events of daily life — especially the troublesome ones — in a healthy perspective.

- Arlene Jones, who is secretary in my office. If courage is grace under pressure, then Arlene is one of the bravest people I know. When people come at her from six different directions all at once, she keeps her patience and gets the work done.

- Father Ed Zimmer, pastor of St. Mary's in Auburn. Donald Senior, CP, recently wrote that the true Christian leader



is one who can find signs of resurrection even in the darkest circumstances. I agree with what Senior wrote, and have admired that gift in Ed since I first met him.

- My niece and god-daughter, Margaret. Even though she is terribly persecuted by her four sisters and not well-understood by her mother and her maternal grandmother, she remains ever-kind, patient and understanding. And she spoils her uncle.

- Howard Hubbard and Tom Powers. All friends are precious gifts. Longtime friends are special treasures. It's a special gift to have friends who allow us to change and help us to change through the years.

- The priests with whom I live: Paul Tomasso, Tom Mull and Stan Kacprzak. Relaxation requires more than a cessation of work. Those men create an environment of warmth and hospitality, which is also necessary.

- My Aunt Mary, who turned 90 in October. Mary is quite ill now. I know without a doubt — because God is faithful — that a new and fuller life is beginning for her. But she is one of the few remaining Irish, Roman Catholic, Democratic, Yankee fans I know, and we'll miss her deeply when God calls her home.

- And last, but not least, my mother for her abiding interest, patience and love. And my father whose memory helps me daily to understand better my own humanity.

Thank you Angie and Jim for jogging my memory. If time and our editor allowed it, I could fill this whole edition with the names of people who call me to gratitude these days. But I'll stop now and invite you to start your own list.

Who, dear friends, do you remember during this special time of thanks?

Happy Thanksgiving and peace to all.

Diocesan Appointments

Father Frederick Brinkmann, CSSR., from Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua to Mount St. Alphonsus Seminary in Esopus, N.Y., effective Nov. 28, 1989.

Father John A. DeSocio, Catholic chaplain at Ithaca College, to a two-year term of concurrent responsibilities as diocesan liaison to the advisory board of St. Francis Spiritual Renewal Center in Ithaca, effective Nov. 14, 1989.

Father Charles Donovan, CSSR., from parochial vicar at St. Clement Church in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. to Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, effective Nov. 28, 1989.

Father Sylvester Feeley, CSSR., from Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 526 59th Street in Brooklyn, effective Nov. 28, 1989.

SALUTE THE

CATHOLIC COURIER

in its

100th ANNIVERSARY Special Commemorative Issue

JANUARY 4th, 1990

The *Catholic Courier*, official newspaper of the Rochester Catholic Diocese, is planning a special edition to commemorate the paper's 100th anniversary.

Copies of this commemorative issue will be mailed to our regular subscribers on the *Catholic Courier's* January 4, 1990, issue date. Additional keepsake copies will be available at the *Catholic Courier* office.

Your ad in this issue can reach over 100,000 readers while showing your interest in and support for the *Catholic Courier*.

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A women's group for adult children of alcoholics meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. A group for adult survivors of incest meets Wednesdays at 5 p.m. or Thursdays at 1 p.m.

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