

Remark the goodness of ordinary time

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

The Christmas season is officially over now, and ordinary time has begun. On Monday, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, the last day of the church's Christmas season.

I knew the unofficial end of the season had come when I returned from the office last evening and found the living room furniture returned to its customary place. During Christmas time it is rearranged for the decorations and celebrations of the season.

And if I needed an extra personal reminder of what was happening, I received it last night. When Father Tom Mull returned home from his work, he proceeded, as I knew he would, to take down and store the few remaining lights and ornaments that so beautifully adorned our home these past weeks.

With so many others, I'll miss the special nature of the beautiful Christmas season. I'll miss the privileged opportunity it offers to remember and celebrate the love of God for all of human kind. I'll miss the special emphasis it places on the patience of God's love and the care with which God continually forms and re-forms us into a holy people.

And I shall miss the disarming and even shocking way in which that love was made flesh among us. It was offered to us in innocence and poverty. And it came among us to manifest a special care to all that is fragile and wounded and sinful within us and among us. No bruised reeds will be broken, no smoldering wicks will be extinguished by this gentle Jesus. He is for flame, for restoration and for new freedom.

It's a shift, a minor jolt, to move out of the peace of the Christmas season. But I know that we must.

In just two or three hours, I'll be leaving Sacred Heart to go to St. Mary of the Lake in Ontario. There we'll celebrate the church's funeral liturgy for Monsignor John Maney, who died late last week. Such occasions are always touched with a sense of sadness and loss, and this one certainly will be. John was a gentle and gracious man, and his death surprised us. We did not expect it. Nor did he, I think.

But when I remember John this morning, I appreciate anew something of the reason we all need to change from the Christmas season to ordinary time. We need to change in order to remind us to search for,

to open ourselves to the presence of God in one another — just as in the Christmas season, we prayed to find that saving presence in the child.

After John's death, I spoke with a long-time friend of his. The friend was obviously saddened by the loss of John and spoke of the good times he and his family had with John during the many years of their friendship. The friend mentioned John's wit and keen mind, and spoke with great delight about the conversations, the card games, the laughter that filled the years and that will always be fond memories.

The conversation remains with me because John's friend, in his own words, was telling me how he had discovered and was made a better person by the God-given beauty he found in John Maney. That beauty is the special sense of awareness to which ordinary time invites us all. We are invited to search for and are privileged to discover the presence of the living God in one another. That is a goal we all heartily make our own.

One of the healthy reminders of ordinary time, however, is the realization that achieving the goal is not always easy. It's



not easy because it often requires discipline and sacrifice to break through self-absorption so that we can truly make others the object of our attention and energy. Secondly, even when we do focus our attention on others, the good within them is not always immediately evident to us.

But we can progress toward the goal of seeing God in one another with confidence if we try to look at others with the same eyes with which Jesus looks at us. I believe that John Maney possessed a strong awareness of the goodness of people. That's why so many were aware of his goodness. Peace to all.

Appointments

Father William J. Amann, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, to sabbatical in Kenya, effective January 1-June 30, 1990.

Father Patrick L. Connor, from parochial vicar to temporary administrator of St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, effective January 1, 1990, and for the duration of the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Joseph M. Jankowiak.

Father Albert L. Delmonte, pastor of St. Salome Church in Rochester, to sabbatical at the Institute for Continuing Theological Education in Rome, effective January 1-June 30, 1990.

Father John A. DeSocio, chaplain of Ithaca College, to sabbatical at the Nemi Renewal Center in Nemi, Italy, effective January 1-June 30, 1990.

Father John Devin, C.S.S.R., from the Redemptorist Mission Band in the Diocese of Pittsburgh to part-time missionary and

retreat master at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, effective January 17, 1990.

Father William Donnelly, from Most Holy Trinity in East Hampton, N.Y., to temporary parochial vicar at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, effective January 1, 1990, and for the duration of the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Joseph M. Jankowiak.

Father William G. Endres, from temporary administrator of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Greece, to temporary administrator of St. Vincent Church in Corning, effective January 1, 1990, and for the duration of the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Robert C. MacNamara.

Monsignor Gerald J. Gefell to temporary administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, effective January 1-February 14, 1990, during the sabbatical of the pastor, Father William J. Amann.

Monsignor Joseph G. Gefell to temporary administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Se-

ton Church in Hamlin, effective February 15-March 31, 1990, during the sabbatical of the pastor, Father William J. Amann.

Father David N. Gramke, pastor of St. Cecilia and St. John the Baptist Church in Elmira, to concurrent responsibility as pastor of St. Peter and Paul Church in Elmira, effective January 1, 1990, with assistance provided at all three churches by **Father Richard T. Farrell**, chaplain of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Father Daniel V. Hogan, from temporary parochial vicar at St. Stephen Church in Geneva, to temporary parochial vicar at St. Michael Church in Newark effective January 1, 1990, during the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, and then to temporary administrator of St. Salome Church in Rochester, effective March 31, 1990, and for the remainder of the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Albert L. Delmonte.

Father Joseph M. Jankowiak, pastor of St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, to sabbatical at the School of Applied Theology in Berkeley, Calif., effective January 1-June 30, 1990.

Father Robert A. Klee, from temporary parochial vicar at St. Michael Church in Newark, to temporary administrator of St. Andrew Church in Rochester, effective

January 1, 1990, and for the duration of the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Ronald W. Stacy.

Father Stephen R. Kraus, from temporary administrator of Holy Cross Church in Dryden, to temporary administrator of St. Salome Church in Rochester, effective January 1-March 31, 1990, during the sabbatical of Father Albert L. Delmonte, and then to temporary administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, effective March 31, 1990, and for the remainder of the sabbatical of the pastor, Father William J. Amann.

Father William B. Leone, from temporary administrator of St. Mary Church in Geneseo, to temporary Catholic chaplain at Ithaca College, effective January 1, 1990, and for the duration of the sabbatical of the chaplain, Father John A. DeSocio.

Father Robert C. MacNamara, pastor of St. Vincent Church in Corning, to sabbatical at Yale in New Haven, Conn., effective January 1-June 30, 1990.

Father Paul J. Ryan, coordinator of the Tabasco Mission, to sabbatical in Brazil, effective January 1-June 30, 1990.

Father Ronald W. Stacy, pastor of St. Andrew Church in Rochester, to sabbatical at the School of Applied Theology in Berkeley, Calif., effective January 1-June 30, 1990.

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