

Summer's promise warms winter cold

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I received a letter from Father Tom Powers yesterday. It's not often that he writes, so I was especially curious when I found the letter in my mailbox. When I opened the letter, I read the good news that Tom had successfully booked a cottage for our summer vacation.

It's the same place we had last year. I enjoyed our stay there very much and look forward to returning this summer. In addition to telling me the good news, my friend also presented the cost of rental and suggested a payment schedule he felt would be

Father Charles Bennett, St. Agnes pastor, dies

Father Charles A. Bennett, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Avon, since 1980, died suddenly late Monday night or Tuesday morning, Jan. 22 or 23. His body was discovered Tuesday morning at the parish rectory. He was 66.

Widely known for his years of ministry in downtown Rochester, Father Bennett's financial and administrative expertise was often sought by diocesan officials.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete at press time, when the *Catholic Courier* learned of Father Bennett's death. We will carry an extended obituary in next week's edition.

helpful to us in satisfying the up-front payment in full, required by the rental agent.

There's something good about receiving a letter like that in the middle of January. I know I appreciated it because I am no great fan of winter and have a special love of summer, especially for those cherished days spent near the ocean with friends. They bring a special kind of renewal and restoration to me. Even thinking about those days raises my spirits because the thought reminds me that winter will end, and the gray and cold will soon cede to blue and warmth.

I remember that when I was a child and said, "I can't wait for such and such," I was always encouraged not to wish my life away. I confess that at the time I was a little puzzled by that warning because it seemed the most natural thing in the world to express enthusiasm about an impending and deeply pleasurable event. I still do. But I understand my family's reaction better now. It was born, I believe, of a desire among the adults around me that I learn to enjoy and draw the most I could from the present moment. And I know, too, (forgive me, dear, beautiful nieces!) how daunting to adults can be the are-we-there-yet syndrome among young children.

There does seem to be a happy medium. Surely mature people need to deal with life's reality. It is unreal and, therefore, not at all helpful to avoid it. We can deny

or we can refuse to face reality for a time, but we cannot make it go away. Reality is always there, working its effect in us. It is better to face it honestly and to offer the best we have in dealing with it. Our efforts may not always yield the results we hoped for, but in such efforts we often come to greater self-possession and maturity.

At the same time, we need to have dreams and aspirations and goals to stir us and move us when the demands of daily living weigh us down. On the difficult days, our dreams enkindle our hope and help us to marshal our energies. They get us out of ruts and free us from discouragement. On the good days, our dreams are the common, concrete expression of our innate, human thirst for ever-deepening truth and goodness and beauty. They give us energy to work when we think our energy is spent.

Surely, there is a proper balance. But it is one determined not by mechanical means, nor reached once and for all. Rather, it's a thoughtful judgment renewed as often as is necessary as we move along in life. And the judgment will vary from person to person. There are few present moments more delightful to Father Stan Kacprzak, for example, than sitting on the ice in a patient quest for fish. I shudder at the thought. On the other hand, I dream of the Buffalo Bills and the New York Yankees winning championships in the same year. That dream would make sense to Stan



only if it referred to the Steelers and the Pirates.

There are many differences among us. They relate to our daily preferences and our long-range dreams. These differences have the capacity to divide us. But they can also be a source of strength for us and a window to the infinite beauty of God.

Our differences are much more likely to be strengthening when we join them all in Christ. I think especially of the Eucharistic Acclamation, in which we express our faith in the reality of Christ's presence with us now and our dream that Christ will come again in glory.

Peace to all.

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Sisters to host retreat

ROCHESTER — "Gospel Women Today," a weekend retreat for women, will take place at the Cenacle Center, 693 East Ave., from Feb. 2-4.

According to Jane Zaepfel, spokesperson for the Cenacle, the sisters of the Cenacle are hosting the retreat "to acknowledge our common experience of brokenness, forgiveness and healing."

The retreat will include conferences, time for personal prayer and reflection, storytelling and prayer services.

The weekend will be led by Sister Margie Mayk, r.c., and Sister Hilda Blade, r.c., beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 2, and

concluding at 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 4. The offering for the weekend is \$65.

For information and reservations, call the Cenacle at 716/271-8755.

Charlotte high reunion set

ROCHESTER — The class reunion committee of Charlotte High School is still searching for 28 members of the class of 1940 for its 50th anniversary celebration scheduled for Aug. 12-13.

For information about the reunion, or to provide information about any of the missing class members, call Mildred (Falone) Wagner at 716/663-1406.

Benefit dinner scheduled

ROCHESTER — A benefit dinner for the School Sisters of Notre Dame will take place Sunday, April 1, at the Mapledale Party House.

The dinner is for graduates of the schools where sisters from the order have taught. They are: Holy Family, Holy Ghost, Holy Redeemer, St. Boniface, Bishop Kearney, St. Margaret Mary, St. Michael's, Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Philip Neri, and St. Joseph Business School.

For tickets and information, call Rose Anne Bennett, 716/247-2970; Ann Foery, 266-3365; Theresa LaVare Lamphron, 594-2917; Kathleen Kennelly, 266-4704; or Mary Klaver, 247-1089.

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CORRECTION

**Billy Graham
in Hungary.**

A One-Hour Television Special.

Please Note: The date in the advertisement for the upcoming Billy Graham Television Special was changed by Channel 13 subsequent to our January 18th publication. The correct date and time is:

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th
8:00 P.M. CH 13**

CENACLE OFFERS SPECIAL EVENTS

Feb. 2-4 GOSPEL WOMEN TODAY: A retreat for women only in which our sisters in the Gospel invite us as women to acknowledge our common experiences of Woundedness, Brokenness, Forgiveness and Healing. Hilda Blade, r.c. and Margie Mayk, r.c.

Feb. 9-11 RETREAT FOR MARRIED COUPLES: A celebration of your life, together. (retreat ends at noon) Rosemarie and Don Schaeffer and Margie Mayk, r.c.

Feb. 23-25 THOMAS MERTON: SPIRITUALITY AND RESPONSIBILITY: In seeking for God, Merton found his brothers and sisters. Msgr. William Shannon.

All events are open to men and women of all faiths

Cenacle

Center for Spiritual Renewal
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For further information and reservations please call

**THE MINISTRY OFFICE:
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