

An occasion to reflect on relationships

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

In just three hours, I'll be heading for the airport to begin my annual visit to our sister Diocese of Tabasco, Mexico. I usually visit our friends there late in February or in early March. But Bishop Rafael García Gonzales suggested that I come at this time so that I'll be able to share in the joy of the pope's visit to Mexico.

On Friday, May 11, John Paul II will visit Villahermosa, the see city of the Diocese of Tabasco, where he will spend the day with the people of Tabasco and of the other states in the southeastern region of the country.

I know of two events to be held during the Tabasco visit. One is the blessing by the pope of some new construction at Tabasco's cathedral. Another is an outdoor Mass to be held at the edge of the city. It will be a joy to participate in those gatherings, which I am sure will be an encouragement to the people of Mexico. I'll

look forward to sharing the experience with you when I return.

The trip will be a relatively quick one. Father John Firpo and I will arrive in Villahermosa late Monday night and will depart early on Saturday. Instead of returning directly to Rochester, I will fly into Albany so that I can celebrate Mother's Day with the family. We'll also celebrate the birthday of two of my nieces on that day. Grace will be 22 on May 13 and Mary Ellen will be 19.

If those events alone weren't enough to warrant a celebration, we will also celebrate the birthday of my dear friend, Father Tom Powers, on that same occasion. Like me, Tom has come to mature years, to which I shall not attach any number. To cap off the day of celebration, we'll all attend a play in which Mary Ellen will perform that evening. It should be a richly festive day.

Mother's Day does provide a special occasion on which we can remember and celebrate life in a particular way. It's a

time to re-appreciate the fact that we really need to interrelate with other people in healthy and significant ways if we are to realize our own human potential.

The shape and quality of our relationships may change as we pass from infancy to childhood to adolescence to adulthood. Some are lifelong; others last for only a time. Some are happy; some are sad. But whatever their quality, however we describe them, significant relationships are of critical importance in human life. They challenge us to growth; they stimulate discovery; they offer support, encouragement and consolation when we need it along the way.

As we approach Mother's Day, the idea of reflecting on the most significant relationships of your life may be of interest to you. You may choose your mother, your spouse, your child or some other dear friend, and remember the ways in which that other person has helped you come to greater maturity and freedom. How has that individual expanded your horizons? Or given you confidence? Or helped you find



a better direction? Or helped you through a difficult time?

In this Easter season, when we are called to a deeper discovery of and union with the person and saving power of Jesus, it is good to be in touch with him as he lives in others.

Peace to all.

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Fr. Hehir to speak at Nazareth commencement

ROCHESTER — Father J. Bryan Hehir, a nationally known writer, professor and authority on peace-and-justice issues, will deliver the main address at Nazareth College's 63rd annual commencement exercises, beginning at noon Sunday, May 13.

Father Hehir, a social-policy counselor for the U.S. Catholic Conference, will also

receive an honorary doctorate of letters degree from Nazareth College. Also receiving honorary degrees will be Robert Giroux, editor and publisher of the firm Farrar, Straus & Giroux; and Shirley Hazard, author of *Countenance of Truth: The United Nations and the Waldheim Case*.

A total of 798 graduates are expected to receive degrees this Sunday.

Father Hehir visited Nazareth College last November to speak about the role of the Catholic Church in the 1990s.

The priest teaches at Georgetown University, where he is the Joseph P. Kennedy professor of Christian ethics in the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, and professor of ethics and international politics in the School of Foreign Service.

In 1984, Father Hehir received the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius" award, which has been awarded to only 22 "exceptionally talented" scientists, artists and educators.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS

Father Stephen R. Kraus from sabbatical assistance ministry as temporary administrator of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, to pastor of St. Joachim Church in Canisteo and St. Mary Church in Rexville, effective June 26, 1990.

Graduation '90

To recognize the achievements of seniors at both public and Catholic high schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester, the Catholic Courier will present a special **Graduation '90** supplement in its issue of **June 14**.

This annual section includes feature articles, listings of graduating seniors, information on commencement exercises, and photographs of class valedictorians and salutatorians.

Parents of students attending public high schools may arrange to have their sons' and daughters' names listed in this special section by contacting their pastors or religious-education coordinators. The deadline for submitting names to our offices is May 25. We will not accept any names over the telephone.

This annual supplement has been among our most popular, and local companies and organizations should find it an ideal opportunity to promote their enterprises while applauding the scholastic efforts of diocesan youths.

To place an advertisement in **Graduation '90**, call:

(716) 328-4340

Advertising Deadline: **June 1** Special Rate: **\$16.50/col. in.** Publication Date: **June 14**

What do I believe in?

I believe I can change my life at any moment, just by turning a corner. By speaking a word. Or by leaving a word unsaid.

I believe in the awesome potential in every acorn, every atom, every idea.

I believe in marigolds, when they're only a few dry seeds. In butterflies,

when they are still grey cocoons. In the song of birds before their eggs begin to hatch.

And I believe in my baby, even before I can feel Life, or see its little face.

Now tell me about you. What do you believe in?

Give life a chance!

A loving message from the Catholic Diocese of Rochester