

Church must invest in communication

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark
Monday, June 4, 1990.

Shortly, Father Paul Tomasso and I will be leaving for St. Mary's, Elmira, for the third of five gatherings celebrating a new step in the Commitment to Ministry Process. As I mentioned here recently, we are receiving the reports of the parish reflection teams. I look forward to the evening with representatives of our parishes in the southeastern section of our diocese.

Paul and I are trying to manage an early departure for Elmira so we can stop at St. Joseph's Hospital to visit Fathers Stanislaus "Whitey" Bialaszewski, Joseph Hogan and John Murphy, and Deacon Mike Campanelli.

This day began in a most interesting way. We have worked at developing for our diocese a communications policy that attempts to put forth in a direct way the principles by which we attempt to communicate information and the procedures we follow in doing so.

For purposes of sharing that policy and improving our communications with the media, we invited representatives of the press, television and radio to join us for a breakfast meeting this morning. It was a pleasant affair, and we hope that it will be the first in an ongoing series of get-togethers. I believe it is important for the several significant segments of our society to maintain a good character of communication with the media.

munication with the media.

We have grown in our realization of how important good communications are not only with the media but within the community of the church. Some recent self studies and a significant piece of professional research we commissioned all indicate that we need to improve in our efforts to share important information in a concise and timely way with all of our constituencies.

Such sharing is an effort I wholeheartedly support and in which we have made strong investments in the past two years. It is not any easy task, but I am glad that we have made the effort to improve. There is much left to be done, but I am much encouraged at the good results we have achieved because of the effort already brought to this area.

One of the steps we took at this morning's gathering was to ask those who attended to suggest topics around which we might gather for future meetings. I have not, as yet, seen their comments about the breakfast session, but I am happy that we will have opportunities to tell our story in response to the real, expressed interests of the media representatives who joined us today.

Since you have been kind enough to follow this column so far, you may have a special interest in or a question about the general subject of church communications.

I would be delighted to hear from you, to consider them and to pass them along to those who work so hard to improve the quality of our work in this area.

Whether or not you get in touch with me about communications, I hope that you will keep in your prayers the intention that we will get better at it. The better we learn to communicate, the deeper will be our capacity to proclaim the good news we have to share with others.

Your attention to the *Catholic Courier* is a sign of your recognition that communication is an important facet of life. Thanks for making such an investment of your time and energy. It is most encouraging to me.

Peace to all.



Social ministry office sets 10th-anniversary dinner

ELMIRA — The Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a dinner at the Downtown Holiday Inn on Friday, June 29, beginning at 6 p.m.



Father Richard P. McBrien, chairman of the theology department of the University of Notre Dame, will be the keynote speaker. Father McBrien, whose nationally syndicated column appears regularly in the *Catholic Courier*, will address the church's social-issue agenda for the 1990s.

The Southern Tier office was established in 1980 Bishop Matthew H. Clark. Located at 160 High St., STOSM serves the counties of Chemung, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins. According to Anthony Barbaro, executive director, the agency's purpose is to collaborate with parishes and other community groups to make society more humane and just.

Reservations for the dinner can be made by calling 607/734-9784 by June 15.

In addition to the June 29 dinner, a family picnic will take place at the Hickories in Owego on August 5.

Young adults to examine ministry options at retreat

Men and women between 18 and 35 years of age are invited to explore their call to service in the church during "Discernment of Lay Ministries," June 8-10 at the Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush.

The retreat, sponsored by the diocesan Commission on Young Adult Ministry and Department of Youth Ministry, will focus

in particular on liturgy, social ministry, education and vocations, beginning Friday at 7:30 p.m. and continuing through Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

The cost for those registering before June 1 is \$45, and afterward, \$55. For more information, call Mike Drexler at 716/442-9988.

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Field Mass & Mausoleum Dedication

You are cordially invited
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and the dedication of the new
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at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
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on Sunday June 17, 1990
at 10 a.m.

Most Reverend Dennis W. Hickey D.D. Presider

The Mass will be celebrated in front of All Souls Chapel on the east side of Lake Avenue and the dedication will take place at the mausoleum site. For your comfort please bring your own seating. Parking will be available on the grounds.