

# Councils provide insights and support

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Sunday evening, Sept. 9.

We've all experienced our first week of post-Labor Day activities. I hope that the days have been productive for you and that any personal shift of gears you have had to make has not been too traumatic.

I am aware that for some (e.g., my sister Helen) this week offers its own brand of peace. Helen freely admits to standing on the corner and cheering wildly each day this week as the school bus pulls away from her corner, carting away the last of her daughters for several hours of study!

I enjoyed this week, too. The center of it for me was the opening session of our 1990-91 Priests' Council. We met at the Cenacle for our opening session from 2 p.m. on Tuesday until 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

A good deal was accomplished in those hours. We reviewed the accomplishments of last year, organized much of our work for the year just beginning, decided on some ways to improve how we go about our work, and elected this year's officers. Father Lou Hohman, pastor of St. Louis, Pittsford, will be our chairman; Father Al Delmonte, pastor of St. Salome's, Irondequoit, will be vice chairman; Father Peter Deckman, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester, will be secretary.

Joining them on the Executive Committee will be Father Pat Connor, parochial vicar of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads.

Father John Mulligan and I are the remaining members of the Executive Committee. Our primary charges are the preparation of the agenda, the timely de-

velopment and distribution of materials in support of the agenda, and general oversight of the work of the Priests' Council.

It may be interesting for you to know that the laws of the church require each diocesan bishop to have two groups in his diocese. Those groups are a Financial Council and a Priests' Council. Among its several charges, our Stewardship Council carries out the work of the Financial Council. Both groups make significant contributions to our lives, and I am deeply grateful for the work they do.

In one of my columns written shortly after I returned from my sabbatical program in Mexico, I indicated to you that I had decided to center as much of my time and energy as possible on two general areas: on our priests and on the broad range of our development work. I have found that such shifts are more easily thought of and spoken about than accomplished.

But I am also happy to tell you that I have been able gradually to find good ways to translate those goals into reasonably effective action. For that I owe considerable thanks to Dan Gill and the members of our Stewardship Council, and to Lou Hohman and the priests who have served with him on last year's and this year's Priests' Council. Each group assists me in different ways, but both have encouraged my initiatives and have helped me to put them into practice.

It would be misleading to leave you with the impression that these new directions in which I am finding such satisfaction and from which I am learning so much are always easy. They are not. And they are

not always easy because they force me to change ways of thinking and patterns of action to which I have become accustomed.

I suppose there are always trade-offs to be made in life. In this instance I have found that the stimulus and the discovery and the new possibilities opened up for me because of my association with these two groups of wonderful people make the personal difficulties involved seem minor indeed.

As I sometimes do after I share such reflections with you, let me invite you to consider similar experiences in your life. Who are the agents of those changes? Who is stimulating you to reconsider some of your set ways? What feelings of attraction and/or reluctance do you experience in relation to them?

While you dwell on those questions, I am on my way to Washington, D.C., for a three-day meeting of the Administrative Committee of our National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Following that I leave



for Selma, Ala., to share in the joy of celebrating 50 years of loving service by our Sisters of St. Joseph in that community.

More about both events next week. In the meantime, peace to all.

## Bishop to celebrate Mass opening fall court session

ROCHESTER — Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, auxiliary bishop of the Rochester diocese, will celebrate the 45th annual Red Mass at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, at Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph's Church, 210 Pleasant St.

The Mass, which is sponsored by the St. Thomas More Lawyer's Guild, marks the opening of the fall court term for professionals in the legal system.

Father James P. Collins, who recently retired as pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Elmira, will deliver the homily. Father

Collins also served as chaplain of the Elmira Reformatory for 17 years. Following the Mass, a luncheon reception will be presented in the church rectory.

The Red Mass originated in England during the reign of Edward I. Bishop James E. Kearney initiated the practice in Rochester in 1945 to commemorate the opening of the courts following the summer recess. The St. Thomas More Lawyer's Guild has been organizing the service since 1975.

The Mass is open to the public. Call Andrew J. Weidman at 716/454-1990 for information.

## Knights launch campaign to make EWTN available

ROCHESTER — In conjunction with the Diocese of Rochester and with the support of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the Knights of Columbus have started a petition drive to identify viewer interest in obtaining the Eternal Word Television Network on the Greater Rochester Cablevision system.

EWTN, founded in 1981 by Mother M. Angelica of Birmingham, Ala., is a cable network designed to provide spiritual

enrichment for Catholics.

The campaign, scheduled to run from now until Oct. 14, will include appeals at the end of Masses in Rochester-area Catholic churches. Parishioners will be asked to complete forms asking the cable company to carry EWTN.

For information about the campaign, call Paul Alfano, president of the Finger Lakes Chapter, Knights of Columbus, at 716/381-5771.

Advertisement

## Correction

### Nestlé Infant Formula Public Forum

The advertisements that appeared in *City* (9/6) and the *Catholic Courier* (9/7) were inaccurate. The public forum on infant formula and Nestlé, to be held September 13th at St. John Fisher College, is not being sponsored by the Rochester religious community. Rather, the individuals listed in the ad (organizations for identification only) joined with me to host a public discussion of the infant formula issue so that all sides would be heard in an objective and neutral forum.

P. David Finks  
Forum Organizer

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