

Assembly provides leadership insights

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

You may recall that our National Conference of Catholic Bishops had one of our occasional special assemblies at Santa Clara University from June 20-27. The theme of the assembly was "The Bishop: A Person Called to Be Priest, Prophet and Leader."

I remember writing in this column that I had enjoyed the experience a great deal, not only because the talks were substantive and engaging, but also because they spoke so directly to much that I have been thinking about with reference to our local church.

The assembly has been much on my mind these days for two reasons: 1) *Origins*, Catholic New Service's documentary service, has been publishing the talks given at the assembly and 2) a very generous anonymous donor provided each of us with audio tapes of the all the sessions. I have slowly been reading through the talks again, and will look forward to playing the tapes in my car as I move around the diocese in the weeks ahead.

To illustrate the timeliness of the material, let me mention a portion of the talk given by John Coleman, SJ, a sociologist and faculty member at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley.

In an address entitled "Dimension of Leadership," Coleman offered a wide range of stimulating insights about leadership. During one particular section he cited *Archbishop*, a book by Jesuit confrere Thomas Reese, who perceives three notable characteristics as he observes the operative leadership style of American bishops at the present time.

Reese says that the bishops are:

1) more reactive than pro-active, tending to spend a large portion of their time and attention on crisis management. He adds that they respond to a broad range of stimuli that come to their attention each day. Thus, Reese contends, they fail to spend enough time identifying and pursuing the broad and deep goals around which they can gather the community.

2) more inclined to an incrementalism than to comprehensive planning. Coleman certainly agrees with that assertion. He names as the most pressing planning need before bishops the massive personnel changes resulting from the shortage and graying of the lower clergy, and calls upon every bishop to lavish great amounts of time, energy and financial resources on the task of leadership recruitment.

3) much inclined toward wide consultation and biased — as executors of unity and charity — toward forming consensus. Reese seems sympathetic both to the consultation and to the desire for unity, but

asserts that when other factors are not taken into account, focusing on these values can render planning ineffective. Planning means making choices. Making choices means upsetting those who favor the status quo.

Reflection on my personal experience, the input of several brother bishops and the voices of a wide variety of people in our local church serves to affirm the kind of thinking expressed by Reese and Coleman.

I really do believe that their observations are correct. And I find them helpful because they indicate ways in which we bishops might be able to offer leadership that is more effective for the community and, indeed, more satisfying to ourselves.

As I have tried to indicate in recent columns, our synodal process, the continuing development of our Stewardship Council and the attempt to renew the work of the Priests' Council are all concrete efforts to plan comprehensively and to do so in a way that honors all appropriate needs, yet



enables us to make things happen in a timely fashion. I ask your continuing prayers for each of these efforts.
Peace and blessings.

12 pro-life organizations receive \$18,000 from Respect Life Fund

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced Oct. 2 that 12 pro-life organizations in the Rochester diocese's 12-county area will share \$18,000 in grants made through the Respect Life Fund.

Bishop Clark made the announcement as he officially recognized October as Respect Life month and Oct. 7 as Respect Life Sunday. In 1972, the U.S. Catholic bishops designated October as Respect Life month to focus on issues that endanger or diminish respect for human life in society.

The 12 Rochester-area recipients of the Respect Life Fund grants were chosen after

applications were reviewed by a diocesan Respect Life Fund allocations committee and approved by the diocesan Social Ministry Board of Directors.

Groups seeking grants from the Respect Life Fund were required to meet two basic criteria: be not-for-profit agencies that provide services and care to pregnant women; provide pastoral care to people who have had or have taken part in abortions, or undertake public-education efforts to prevent abortions or promote alternatives to abortion.

In addition, organizations seeking Respect Life Fund grants may not perform abortions, make referrals or promote abortion in any way. Groups must also

demonstrate that the project for which they are requesting funds is not a duplication of existing diocesan services.

This year's recipients and grant amounts are: Birthright of Canandaigua (\$1,050); Birthright of Corning (\$900); Birthright of Ithaca (\$1,120); Birthright of Owego (\$1,350); Birthright of Rochester (\$500); Catholic Family Center (\$800); Faith Haven (\$1,000); Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry (\$2,350); Melita House (\$3,500); Nazareth Academy (\$3,500); Puzzle Project/Project Rachel (\$900); Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry (\$1,030).

The Respect Life Fund is supported by the annual Thanks Giving Appeal and by donations to the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Inc.

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Dec. 7-8	CHRISTMAS IN CANADA All New Tour! Call For Details.	\$23800 p.p. twin
Dec. 8	CHRISTMAS WITH MITCH MILLER Samuel's Grand Manor buffet and show	\$5400 p.p.
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Attention Former St. Lucy's Church Parishioners, Troup St. Rochester.

We are having a 78th Anniversary Celebration Reunion Dinner Sunday, October 28, Mapledale Party House, 3 til? St. Lucy's committee will honor posthumously, V.J. (Jiggs) Chiavaroli, Rev. James O'Connell and Sr. Margaret Louise, S.S.J., for years of service at St. Lucy's. Tickets are \$25.00 a piece.

Please call Joe Marsocci, 377-2969 or Chuck Schiano, 621-1874