

Tier trip affords reunion with 'Matt Clark'

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

A few notes written on an icy winter morning.

Who would have guessed that this area would experience such a devastating ice storm when spring seemed so near? But it has been a terrible one that people will remember for a long time to come. Broken trees and dented cars will keep the memory before our eyes. I hope the memory will also be kept alive by the kindness so many have shown to their neighbors during these trying days.

Except for yesterday, I do not remember a day since I arrived in Rochester when the weather caused such a massive cancellation of activity. I remember days when travel was limited, but don't recall a day when I had to put all activities aside. Our house was quiet. I caught up on some reading and some rest, took a run in the afternoon and enjoyed supper with the other priests in the house.

The four of us who live here were in, and so was Father Jerry Hafner who is with us

while recovering from ear surgery. Jerry and I enjoyed the cooking skills of Fathers Tom Mull, Paul Tomasso and Stan Kacprzak. And because there were no meetings or other evening obligations, we enjoyed the company of the table for a longer time than usual.

My sincere thanks goes to Father David Bonin, to the people at St. Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen and St. Benedict's in Odessa for their warm hospitality over the weekend. I had a most delightful visit with them and preached at all of their eucharistic liturgies. They are two very lively communities.

They are planning a census program for the spring and have been working closely with Father Peter Bayer of our Pastoral Center. It will be quite a demanding project. St. Mary's and St. Benedict's are our only two parishes in Schuyler County. That means that our friends conducting the census will be covering approximately 900 square miles and visiting a population numbering more than 18,000 people.

Please pray with our friends in Schuyler County that the census will bring blessings to the people of the region.

I carried two special memories of the region home from the weekend. One is the two communities' lively sense of participation in the liturgy. At both parishes there is a significant investment of time and energy into the music for the liturgy. And throughout the weekend I was impressed by the excellent work done by the lectors. What a difference it makes when the Word is proclaimed with such clarity and conviction.

The other very happy memory is a reunion with the server at the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday. His name is Matthew Clark. I had the privilege of baptizing young Matthew (or Matt, as he prefers to be called) in October, 1979, shortly after I became Bishop of Rochester. Our paths had not crossed since then, so it was quite a thrill to meet this impressive young man. In ways that I would find difficult to explain, meeting him again brought home to me very powerfully a sense of how much has happened in the last 12 years. It was a wonderful moment.

One final reminder: Please continue your prayers for all who are preparing for baptism or to be received into our church at the Easter Vigil. This Lenten time is especially important to them, as it is for us, and I



know that they count on the daily prayer of our community to support them in their continuing faith journey.

Peace to all.

Association needs items for upcoming garage sale

ROCHESTER — The Nazareth Academy Parents' Association is sponsoring a garage sale on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Items may be dropped at Nazareth Academy later this month. Drop-off days and times are as follows; March 25, from 8-10 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.; March 27 and April 3, from 7:30-8:30 p.m.; and March 30, from 2-4 p.m.

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