

Convocation offers time for reflection

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I write this in Waterford on Monday night after Duke University's victory over the University of Kansas in the NCAA finals. It was fun to watch the game, a pleasant end to a day made delightful by the presence of family and friends.

This short visit home began with Easter dinner with my family and will end with supper tomorrow evening at my sister's home. She and my mother are going to New York City tomorrow and my brother-in-law has to take care of some business in the afternoon. So I am going to my sister's house to have dinner with the kids. I signed on to cook. The kids have agreed to let me

try out some linguini gorgonzola on them.

If we all survive that culinary artistry, Jane and I will leave the others with the dishes and head back west together — Jane to Canisius and I back to Rochester.

It is with great joy that I return home. It is always such a great pleasure to celebrate the Easter Season with the people of our diocese, to rejoice in the new life we share at so many levels. I look forward to many confirmations, ordinations and to the pleasure of witnessing a marriage.

All of these are events in which we celebrate Easter life. All are blessings, and not only to the individuals who receive

those sacraments. They are blessings for all of us who are privileged to participate in such celebrations.

One of the special delights of the Easter Season is the annual convocation of priests of our diocese to be held this year from Monday to Wednesday of next week.

It is the one time of the year when virtually all of our priests come together in one place to reflect on a particular pastoral theme, to pray together and to have quiet festive moments in which to enjoy one another's company. For all of those reasons it is always a very special time.

This year's theme is "The Church: A Sign of Hope." I look forward to hearing Bishop Joseph Hogan and Father Patrick Granfield of the Catholic University of America address that theme. I also anticipate, with joy, my own opportunity to address my brother priests. My remarks will be about our relationships to one another and to our people as we are called to be spiritual leaders in the church.

A special feature at this year's assembly is the fact that it will be held in Corning. It is the first time that a convocation has been held outside of Monroe County. I am happy that we will be celebrating our convocation in Corning and am grateful for the many ways in which that community has made our planning such a pleasant experience.



I'll be very grateful to you if you will offer your prayers in a special way for all of us priests during the days of our convocation. And I urge you to pray, in particular, for the priests who serve in your parish or institution or organization. If you have an opportunity to do so, please wish him well before he leaves for Corning and tell him of your support for him and all of his brothers.

You can be absolutely certain that you will be very much at the heart of our prayers as we gather for those privileged hours.

Peace to all.

SSJ workshop on contemplative prayer set

ROCHESTER — Father Ernest Larkin, O. Carm., a renowned lecturer, retreat director and author, will offer a weeklong workshop on contemplative prayer and mysticism from April 8-12, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave.

The weeklong program, which commemorates the 400th anniversary of the death of St. John of the Cross, will run from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. For those unable to attend day sessions, a condensed version of the workshop will be offered from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on

April 9, 10 and 11. The SSJ motherhouse will provide hospitality for the workshop. Cost for the workshop, room and board is \$200 per person; \$150 for workshop and board; \$125 for workshop and lunch; \$100 for the weeklong workshop; and \$50 for the evening workshop sessions.

For information or to make reservations, call Sister Mary Lynch, SSJ, 716/586-1000, ext. 69, or send \$25 deposit to: Sister Lynch, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14618-3798. Reservations must be made by April 6.

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