

Drive offers chance to ponder events

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

On the way home from Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, last night, Father Paul Tomasso and I did what we usually do. Paul kindly bore with it, while I listened to the end of the New York Yankees/Detroit Tigers baseball game. (My beloved Yankees lost 10-5 after getting off to an early 5-0 lead.)

We talked about the events of the day and listened to some music on the car radio. This time we listened to a station that features old rock 'n' roll music. Paul deepens my knowledge of music on such occasions because he knows all the words and can identify most of the performing artists. He can usually date the songs, saying, "I was in second grade when that was

written." He then falls into silence, knowing full well I am calculating that I was half-way through the seminary at the time.

Silence is often a feature of such trips, as it was on the way home last night. Sometimes the silence lulls the passenger to sleep. At other times it becomes a privileged opportunity for the mind and spirit to rest, to explore the meaning of the day's events or, less frequently, to consider the tasks of tomorrow.

During the quiet moments last night, my spirit was very much with the congregation with which I had just celebrated the Eucharist and confirmations at Immaculate Conception. The event brought together candidates for confirmation, their families and friends from Immaculate Conception and

St. Catherine's in Ithaca, All Saints in Lansing, and Ithaca College. In addition, there were four candidates from a small and vibrant community of Korean Roman Catholics who are studying at Cornell.

I believe there were a total of 58 candidates. Most came forward to be confirmed not only with their sponsors but with groups of family and friends. What a joy it was to welcome each of the candidates and somehow to participate in a moment when bonds of affection and streams of joy are so clearly evident. And, of course, the moment is one in which all are invited to remember the gift available to us in such precious sacramental moments.

The ages of the candidates ranged from high school sophomores through college students to doctoral candidates at Cornell University. They came from three of our parishes, almost every diocese in our state, several other northern states, Korea and Germany.

That kind of variety made so real for me the fact that when we gather for worship, Christ is present not only in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist but also in the assembly. I do truly believe that we are a holy



people. My experience last evening strengthened that conviction.

One unexpected and thoroughly delightful surprise last night was the presence of Father Bob Whelan, a priest of the Brooklyn diocese, who drove to Ithaca for the confirmation of his niece. Bob was one of the priests with whom I shared the retreat experience in Assisi, Italy, last October. I suppose that his presence there was an extra reminder of what I found so compelling about the experience last night. It had to do with the holiness I mentioned earlier, but especially with how in God's plan we grow in holiness through the love and care of our sisters and brothers.

The interaction among the people at the confirmation gave clear evidence of that. And it provided me — in between the Yankees and the music — with a wonderful opportunity to remember the people who, all through my life and now, have done the same for me.

Peace to all.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments:

Father John F. Gagnier from parochial vicar at St. Patrick Church, Seneca Falls, to pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Auburn, effective June 25.

Father John J. Quinn from pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church, Greece, to pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church, Irondequoit, effective June 25.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS



Deacon Edward R. Sergeant to temporary administrator of Church of the Epiphany, Sodus, and St. Rose of Lima Church, Sodus Point, effective May 1-Aug. 3.



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A new monthly calendar will appear in the Catholic Courier on the last Thursday of each month.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life. In their loneliness, comfort them, in their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church, they are needed by souls, they are needed for the work of redemption.

O Loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination, and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen
+ John Joseph Cardinal Carberry
Archbishop of St. Louis

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MAY, 1991
DIocese of ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Reverend Fathers: Ronald P. Frederick	2 Msgr. John E. Maney	3 Charles L. Mckeiviclus	4 Mario Cafarelli, CPPS	5 Dominic Mckeiviclus	6 John A. Colacino	7 Robert C. McNamara
8 Thomas Brennan	9 Edward J. Foy	10 John L. O'Connor	11 Valentine Jankowiak	12 John J. Glogowski	13 John J. Quinn	14 William Laird
15 Timothy Brown	16 Charles L. McCarthy	17 Alexander Stec	18 Mieczyslaw Zygallo	19 Joseph W. Dailey	20 Thomas F. Corbett	21 L. James Callan
22 John Whalen	23 Francis J. Erb	24 Ralph Fraats	25 Robert F. McNamara	26 Dennis Bonsignore	27 Foster P. Rogers	28 Paul J. Cuddy
29 Robert J. Casey	30 Regis Rhodda, OFM	31 Joseph Gaynor				

Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's May 30th issue.

CORRECTION

The Liturgy of the Eucharist for the May 11th Feast of Our Lady of the Cenacle will be conducted by Fr. Joseph Trovato, C.S.B. instead of Bishop Matthew Clark.

All are welcome to attend. For reservations and information, call the Cenacle at: (716) 271-8755

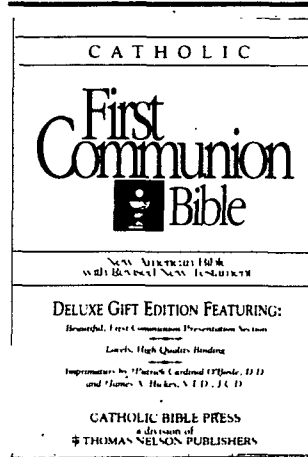
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