

Bishop

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dissent centered on certain teachings concerning sexual morality.

Bishop Clark did not detail the theologian's controversial career, but he did point out that as Father Curran's diocesan bishop, he often asked Father Curran how he, as bishop, could lend his support.

Bishop Clark explained that Father Curran asked him to write the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome to express his concerns "that any kind of punitive action would have serious implications for the university, the theological enterprise in our country and for the morale of Roman Catholics in the United States."

Bishop Clark asserted that the Father Curran case took his view of the relationship between theologians and bishops out of "the abstract" and made it "per-

sonal" and "pastoral."

He added that the controversy "was a specific, definable instance which called me to think through my relationship with the Bishop of Rome, the directives of the Holy See and indeed my brothers in the college of bishops; and to act in accordance with the honest fruits of that reflection."

"History will judge the case," Bishop Clark continued. "My opinion is that it need not have happened the way it did, that no one has benefited from the direction it took, that many have been hurt." The bishop also said he hoped the issue could be "revisited by means of a much more satisfying process than was employed the first time around."

Bishop Clark, who serves as chairman of the Women in Church and Society Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, also discussed the issue of women in the church in his remarks. Noting that the diocese of Rochester was home

to early 19th century feminists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, he reminded the audience that the Women's Ordination Conference also had Rochester as its headquarters at the time of his appointment as bishop.

"Such realities give a tone to a community; they make a difference," he remarked.

Citing his predecessors Bishops Fulton Sheen and Joseph L. Hogan as examples of church leaders attuned to the laity, Bishop Clark pointed out that the concerns of women primarily "challenged me to expand my own theological and pastoral horizons," at the beginning of his ministry in the diocese.

"I am talking about gifted, loving, experienced women, many of whom have known much personal pain in the church, all of whom have a powerful commitment to the life of the church," he said.

Talking to such women inspired the bishop to write his noted 1982 pastoral let-

ter on women in the church, "The Fire in the Thornbush." He told the Silver Springs' audience that the pastoral letter "drew together some of that experience and enunciated a vision and direction for our local church around which we could gather."

Bishop Clark informed the audience that he would be going to Rome at the end of May to participate in an international consultation called by the Vatican to explore themes raised in the U.S. bishops' current effort to produce a national pastoral on the concerns of women.

The final "challenging voice" Bishop Clark cited was that of the people of the Diocese of Rochester. Catholics in Rochester, he said, have formed a challenge that "has been more elusive but perhaps even more important than the questions of women and Charlie Curran."

"I'm talking about day in, day out, all-weather interaction with the men and women, boys and girls who make up our lively and creative local church," Bishop Clark continued. "I know in the deepest part of my soul that I am different from what I was when I went to Rochester. And in the heart of whatever change for the good has occurred in me are the voices of our people who have challenged me."

Through his service as bishop among these voices, the bishop said he had learned three very basic qualities: "Remain a learner all of your life;" "Respect your own humanity;" and "Trust yourself and trust the community enough to speak the truth in love."

"Every now and then I wonder what my life would be like if I had never been named Bishop of Rochester," Bishop Clark told his audience. "Even more, I wonder what life would be like had I been named Bishop of Rochester and came among a passive, apathetic, totally docile community."

"I really can't imagine that kind of existence," he added.

Reorganization

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In particular, Father Jankowiak pointed to the creation of Parish Support Ministries and Qualified Pastoral Ministries as stemming from the recommendations he and other task force members made.

In addition to urging the diocese to fund and educate qualified clergy and religious to serve at the parish level, task force members recommended an emphasis on the formation of lay ministers—an emphasis Father Jankowiak said he believed would be stressed in the new ministries.

William Pickett, president of St. John Fisher College and a member of the executive committee of the diocesan Stewardship Council, noted that the new Pastoral Center organization should make more sense to the parishes than does the current divisional structure.

"People don't know what people at the Pastoral Center do," Pickett observed. The new structure "says there are four major things that we are trying to do. I think that is a real advance, because it clearly presents to people in the diocese what the pastoral staff is doing," he said.

The Stewardship Council had recommended that the Pastoral Center adopt an

organizational structure that could be clearly understood. Of the current divisional structure, Pickett observed, "It was not a structure that had developed in light of functions."

One pastor, however, expressed puzzlement at the purpose of the restructuring.

"I really don't understand what the difference is," remarked Father Dennis J. Shaw, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Rochester. "They said (the Pastoral Center) is to be more directed to the parishes, but I think they're pretty sensitive to the parishes already," he added.

Critics of the diocese, on the other hand, may not immediately recognize the benefits that will be achieved through restructuring, Father Clifford acknowledged.

"Can people be cynical? That kind of response is possible and even likely. The test will be time. We just have to wait and see the fruits," he said.

Contains reporting by Lee Strong.

Golf classic scheduled to benefit Cancer Society

ROCHESTER — The sixth annual Women's Golf Classic to benefit the Monroe County unit of the American Cancer Society is scheduled for Monday, June 3 at the Penfield Country Club.

The classic, which can accommodate up to 32 foursomes, will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

For information about the tournament, call Kirsten Van Ostrand at 716/288-1950.

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