

A few thoughts before leaving for Rome

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

As I indicated to you in an earlier column, I'll be going to Rome over the weekend for meetings at the Vatican next Tuesday and Wednesday. The meeting has been called by authorities at the Vatican to discuss the themes presented in the latest draft of our pastoral letter on the "Concerns of Women in the Church and Society."

Present at the meeting will be representatives of about 15 different bishops' conferences from every part of the world. In addition to those representatives, there will be participants from some of the administrative agencies of the Roman congregations that assist our Holy Father in his day-to-day work.

Meetings of this kind were called in the preparatory stage of two recent pastoral letters developed by our conference — *The Challenge of Peace* and *Economic Justice for All*.

In each of these cases and in the present instance, the meetings were judged advisable for two reasons. One is the importance of the three issues and the highest interest in them in all parts of the church. The second is the size of our U.S. conference and the influence that significant events in our country have around the world.

We'll be staying at the North American College while we are in Rome. The Vatican is a 10-minute walk from that institution, where I prepared for priesthood and where I served on the staff for the seven years prior to my ordination as a bishop. I always look forward to revisiting the college and getting in touch with friends who still live in Rome.

While there I'll be celebrating the 12th anniversary of my ordination as a Bishop. That is on Monday, May 27, and I hope to visit St. Peter's where John Paul II ordained 26 of us on that day in 1979. You can be sure that I shall be remembering you especially when I celebrate the Eucharist that day.

Today is also an anniversary day. Last week you noticed in the *Catholic Courier* an excellent story about our priests who are celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood. This morning the priests of our diocese will be gathering at St. Michael's in Penn

Yan to celebrate the occasion.

After the liturgy we'll have a meal together. It is always a happy reunion. I'm sure it will be this year too, especially since the weather is so beautiful and since we'll be having our meal in a place on the shore of Keuka Lake. Following the celebration in Penn Yan, I'll be heading for St. Margaret Mary in Apalachin for confirmation. We'll see a lot of our beautiful territory today.

An update on family affairs: Grace, my firstborn niece, graduated from SUNY College at New Paltz on Sunday. It was a moment of joy for the family, all of whom were present for the happy event. You will know that I am being totally objective when I tell you that Grace was the most beautiful and most exciting of all the graduates.

Kathleen, the youngest of the five, will make her writing debut in this space next week. She sent me her contribution several weeks ago (Margaret's and Jane's ap-



peared earlier), but I have saved it for the week when I will be in Rome. It saves me from doing an extra column in advance.

Besides, after reading Kathleen's piece, I thought it would be wise to be out of the country when it appeared in print. Peace to all.

Deadline nears to register for CWC luncheon in June

ROCHESTER — Reservations are due May 31 for the Catholic Women's Club of Rochester's annual business meeting and installation luncheon, scheduled for June 6.

Margaret Thirtle will be the featured speaker for the luncheon. In addition, Suzanne George, a senior at Brighton High School, will receive the Marie McCann Award for her contributions to her parish, Our Lady of Lourdes in Rochester.

Tickets cost \$20. To make reservations or for information, call the club office at 716/461-9173, Monday through Friday,

between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

All members and guests are welcome.

Spring concert scheduled at Our Lady of Mercy High

Our Lady of Mercy High School's Instrumental Ensemble, Women's Chorus and Show Choir will perform a spring concert Wednesday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium, 1437 Blossom Road.

Admission is free. The concert is open to the public.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointment, which becomes effective June 25, 1991.

Father William D. Lum, from administrator of St. Joseph Church in Penfield, to pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Greece.

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Graduation '91

To recognize the achievements of seniors at both public and Catholic high schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester, the *Catholic Courier* will present a special **Graduation '91** supplement in its issue of **June 13**.

This annual section includes feature articles, listings of graduating seniors, information on commencement exercises, and photographs of class valedictorians and salutatorians.

Parishes throughout the diocese are being asked to submit lists of parishioners who are graduating from public high schools. Parents who wish to have their sons and daughters included in these parish lists should contact their pastors or religious-education coordinator as soon as possible. We cannot accept any names over the telephone.

This annual supplement has long been among our most popular, and local companies and organizations should find it an ideal opportunity to promote their enterprises while applauding the scholastic efforts of diocesan youths.

To place an advertisement in **Graduation '91**, call:

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Advertising Deadline: May 31	Special Rate: \$16.50/col. in.	Publication Date: June 13
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"The sharing and support from guys who know where I'm coming from helps to strengthen my faith."
—Senior, Fairport High School

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