

Delay provides time for reflection

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

John F. Kennedy International Airport is a busy place, especially late on Friday afternoon. Just now it is more crowded than usual because sporadic thunder storms around the Northeast have slowed traffic patterns and backed up air traffic. In this case the backup is a break for me because our flight from Rome was nearly three hours late. Under normal circumstances, I would have missed my connection to Rochester.

The experience in Rome was a most interesting one. The center of it, of course, was the meeting held with representatives of Vatican agencies and one representative from each of the following bishops conferences: Mozambique, Ireland, England, Mexico, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Philippines, Brazil, Australia and Poland.

The meeting, chaired by Josef Cardinal Ratzinger, was convened by the

Vatican's Secretary of State for the purpose of discussing the themes treated in our U.S. bishops' draft pastoral letter, *One in Christ Jesus: A Pastoral Response to the Concerns of Women in the Church and Society*. We met on Tuesday, May 28, and Wednesday, May 29, in the Sala Bologna in the Vatican. Our morning sessions were from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. In the afternoon, we met from 5 until 7 p.m.

In keeping with the purpose of the meeting, our delegation did a good deal of listening during the two-day session. We all spoke, of course, and were free to make comments at any time.

But this gathering was not meant for debate nor for in-depth discussion of the particular issues contained in our draft. Rather, it was meant to provide us with another and important source of input into a process that is now in its eighth year. I can promise you that we all listened quite carefully, even when

our strong desire might have been to pursue a particular theme more fully.

The substance of the meeting and the recommendations made by the bishops present have been well reported by the *Catholic Courier* and daily news sources around our country. I won't repeat them here. But I would like to share with you a few reflections and impressions that remain with me on the journey home:

- The group convened by the Vatican Secretary of State was a consultative, advisory group. The bishops who came to the meeting committed themselves to offer their points of view about our work; we committed ourselves to consider carefully all that we heard. The group neither possessed nor claimed any authority over our work.

- The draft letter was of great interest to the participants in the meeting. Without exception, they indicated that our work would have an impact on the local churches they represent. They urged us, therefore, to be sensitive to that impact as we proceed.

- In my opinion, the Canadian and English representatives to the meeting were the most understanding and supportive of our efforts. I think that's because their pastoral experience is more like ours than is the experience of the others.

- The experience has led me back to the theme of the relationships among the local churches that make up the church universal, and the relationship each local church has to the church at Rome. I need to study and think about it more. But it seems to me that we need to look at ways in which to allow



local churches to exercise more freedom in their pastoral life, preserving always the bonds of faith and charity that identify us as Roman Catholic Christians.

- What lies ahead of us: Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, president of our U.S. bishops' conference, will share with conference members the input we received. Our committee writing the pastoral also will consider the material for possible inclusion in our ongoing work. Our hope remains that our conference can bring the work to completion by this time next year.

The visit to Rome included more than the meeting. I had wonderful opportunities to visit with old friends and to meet some new ones. It also allowed me to celebrate the anniversary of my ordination as a bishop with a visit to St. Peter's, where the ordination took place. I prayed for you at the tomb of Peter, thanking God for your faith, your vision and your great kindness.

Peace to all.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS



Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments. All appointments are effective June 25, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

Father Francis E. Blighton, from sabbatical assistance ministry, to parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo in Greece.

Deacon Paul A. Bonacci, from pastoral year at St. John the Evangelist in Rochester, to priest intern at Church of the Assumption in Fairport, after his ordination to the priesthood on June 22.

Father Timothy T. Brown, from priest intern at St. Margaret Mary in Irondequoit, to parochial vicar at Holy Cross in Rochester.

Sister Karen Considine, SSJ, from pastoral assistant, to temporary administrator of St. Thomas More in Brighton, effective July 1-Dec. 31, 1991, during the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Robert L. Collins.

Sister Nancy DeRycke, SSJ, from pastoral assistant, to temporary administrator of St. Helen in Gates, effective July 1-Dec. 31, 1991, during the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Michael J. Bausch.

Father Ronald P. Frederick, from temporary administrator of St. Francis

de Sales in Geneva, to parochial vicar in the Northern Cayuga Cluster.

Father Michael A. Huertler, from parochial vicar at St. Louis in Pittsford, to parochial vicar at St. Ann in Hornell.

Father James P. Jaeger, from parochial vicar at St. Anne in Hornell, to parochial vicar at St. Margaret Mary in Irondequoit.

Father Charles L. McCarthy, from parochial vicar, to temporary administrator of St. Pius Tenth in Chili, effective July 1-Dec. 31, 1991, during the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Gerald T. Connor.

Father Mark A. Miller, from temporary administrator of St. James in Irondequoit, to sabbatical assistance ministry at St. Helen in Gates, effective July 1-Dec. 31, 1991, during the sabbatical of the pastor, Father Michael J. Bausch.

Father William A. Moorby, from parochial vicar in the Northern Cayuga Cluster, to parochial vicar at St. Joseph in Penfield.

Father Dennis R. Sewar, from parochial vicar at the Church of the Assumption in Fairport, to parochial vicar at St. James in Irondequoit.

Father James T. Wolfe, from parochial vicar at Our Mother of Sorrows in Greece, to parochial vicar at St. Louis in Pittsford.

Father Mitchell Zygodlo, from parochial vicar at St. Stanislaus in Rochester, to parochial vicar at St. Patrick in Seneca Falls.

Bishop ordains 11 new deacons

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark ordained 11 deacons during a Mass on Saturday, June 1, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park.

Five of the 11 men were ordained transitional deacons in preparation for ordination to the priesthood, and six were ordained permanent deacons.

Deacon Paul A. Bonacci, a parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Waterloo, will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 22. He will be assigned as a priest intern at Church of the Assumption in Fairport later this month.

The other four transitional deacons — Thomas J. Agness (Corpus Christi, Ro-

chester), Brian E. Jeffers (St. Rita's Church, Webster), Brian J. Ridley (St. John the Evangelist, Rochester) and Michael J. Volino (St. Anthony's Church, Elmira) — will continue their theological studies this fall.

The six new permanent deacons are: Robert C. Almeter of St. Mary's Church, Bath; Lawrence B. Casey of Church of the Transfiguration, Fairport; Thomas J. Cleary of St. John of Rochester, Fairport; I. Michael Mangione of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Addison; Patrick Michael Stanley of Holy Apostles Church, Rochester; and Walter E. Strode of St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca.

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