

Transitions bring mix of emotions

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

June 25 is the day when many of our priests take up their new pastoral assignments. For most of the priests, this day of transition will be one of mixed emotion. They will experience a certain sadness and sense of loss at leaving old friends; they will have a sense of excitement that comes with beginning relationships and taking on new challenges.

I know that such transitions have their effect in parish communities, too. It is a part of my experience each year at this time for people to tell me how much they will miss their priests who are leaving to take on new assignments.

Notwithstanding the mild scolding that sometimes accompanies these comments, people are quite understanding of the need to make such changes. I confess that I don't mind such comments at all because they indicate that people love their priests, and it is always good to hear that mes-

sage no matter how it is delivered.

What I do mind is having to tell parish committees that I cannot replace a priest who is leaving them to take up a new ministry. But, even in this instance, people show remarkable understanding and a capacity to adjust. I am grateful for all of that, but I ask you to keep high among your summer prayer intentions our need for loving, gifted candidates for the priesthood.

In keeping with the usual pattern, "Along the Way" will not appear in the *Catholic Courier* again until early August. As we come to this moment once again, I want to thank you for your very kind support of this endeavor. The comments and suggestions which you make about this column throughout the year are not only encouraging, but they are very helpful.

It's a wonderful thing for my humility to tell you that three of the most popular "Along the Way" columns to appear this year were written by my nieces, Margaret, Jane and Kathleen. I

have tried to be faithful in passing along your kind comments. It's been wonderful encouragement for them. Who knows? We may be witnesses to the beginning of some wonderful writing careers. Now it remains to be seen if their sisters will inspire Grace and Mary Ellen to try their hands at writing, too.

I am delighted that Margaret and Grace came out by train Wednesday to spend a couple of days with us at Sacred Heart Cathedral. They're both new graduates, have some free time, and agreed it would be good to celebrate a little.

Please accept my very best wishes for a happy and peaceful summer. You can be sure that I pray for you daily and will be thinking of you between now and the next time we are in touch through this column. I'll be very grateful if you will remember me in the same way.

Peace to all.



On the cover:

Helen Patguski (from left), John E. McHale and Carol Augsburg reflect in the chapel at the Cenacle Retreat House in Rochester. Photo by Babette G. Augustin.

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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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JULY, 1991
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Thomas A.L. Bond, OCSO	Marcellus Earl, OCSO	Mitchell Dowalogo, CSB	Paul Nochelski, SJ	Thomas F. McManus, SJ	John P. Carriero, SJ	Julian Phelan, OFM Cap
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Raymond Fournier, OCSO	Jerome J. Machar, OCSO	Joseph Sheehan, O Carm	Ronald G. Schwenzler, CSB	Lawrence Wroblewski, SJ	Robert V. O'Hara, SJ	James P. Malone, SJ
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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28	29	30	31	A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be greatly appreciated. Mail your contributions to THE MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Drive, Rochester, New York 14620.		
John C. Murray, CSB	John A. Poluikis, CSB	Norman Tanck, CSB	Gareth Poupore, CSB			

Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's July 25th issue.