

Council has full agenda to tackle

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

On this first day after Labor Day, I'll be leaving for Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua for the first meeting of this year's Priests' Council. We'll have an extended session for this first meeting, which begins at 2 p.m. Tuesday and concludes shortly before lunch on Wednesday.

Tuesday evening we'll have a chance to take a look at the purpose of the council, the responsibilities of its members, and the questions and issues to which we'll be devoting time and energy throughout the coming months. Toward the end of the evening, we'll elect officers for the new term. Wednesday morning we'll have the year's first business meetings.

I am looking forward to the meeting with enthusiasm because the Priests' Council provides a forum through which I can share my pastoral concerns for our community, and seek the good counsel and wisdom of those who share the table. Besides being willing to share their own best insights and experience, these priests also do their best between meetings to hear the points of view of their brother priests.

We will not look for substantial agenda items to occupy us through the year. Indeed, one of our challenges will be to select from a wide range of issues those that most strongly need the guidance and oversight of the priests of our diocese. And even once the issues are selected, we will need to decide what level of involvement by the council best advances the issue in question.

Without prejudice to decisions yet to be reached by the council, I expect that among the issues we will address throughout the year are: the continuing development of our synodal process; a follow-up on recommendations to improve the support we give to the vocation of priest, from the recruitment of seminarians to the care of frail senior priests; and the accountability we owe to one another and to the communities we serve.

We won't get all of our work done all at once. But I do ask you to pray that we will be richly blessed in our work this year, that we will come closer to one another as we do that work, that we will be a sign of loving charity within our community of faith.

There are other meetings during this post-Labor Day period. I'll be leaving



Kathleen Cannon named head of urban services

ROCHESTER — Father Peter Clifford, director of Pastoral Support Ministries for the Rochester diocese, named Kathleen Cannon as director of the Department of Urban Services on Aug. 30.

Cannon's appointment becomes effective Sept. 9.

A parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Cannon has served as diocesan coordinator of the Urban Subsidy Grant Program since November, 1989. She was also in charge of ministry development for Asian-Pacific people of the diocese.

Prior to working at the Pastoral Center, Cannon had served as religious education coordinator at St. Anthony of Padua for five years.

Father Clifford said he selected Cannon from approximately 20 applicants for the position. The diocesan director said he chose Cannon because of her experience with urban parishes and her work at the Pastoral Center.

Because of that background, Father Clifford said, Cannon "has a sense for and an awareness of the issues in the city."

Cannon replaces Rebecca Gifford, who resigned from the position in December, 1990, to take a job in California. Brother Luis Ruberte, H.Ch., who has been serving as interim director of the former Division of Urban Services, will return to his duties as director of the Office of the Spanish Apostolate on Sept. 9.

Urban Services became part of Pastoral Support Ministries on July 1, when the restructuring of the Pastoral Center offices went into effect.

— Lee Strong

for Washington on Thursday for several days with three different groups: the writing committee for the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the Concerns of Women for Church and Society; the Board of Trustees of the North American College in Rome; and the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Each of these meetings will be interesting in its own way, and I gladly go to all of them. But I'll be delighted to come home when they are over.

In the meantime, I hope that your life will be blessed.

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