

Life's pace quickens as leaves turn

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Allow me to present a collection of unrelated items in the first column of this beautiful new fall season:

• So many of you have asked about my five beautiful nieces that I want to update you on them. Grace is in the job market at the present time, very eager for full-time employment, and following up all leads available to her in the Capital District. She knows that she is not alone in the hunt. I admire both her perseverance and her patience.

Jane is a senior this year at Canisius College in Buffalo and is enjoying it very much. She stayed in the Buffalo area this summer for the first time. Mary Ellen and Margaret are both students at Hudson Valley Community College in Troy. Mary Ellen studies child care and Margaret, who is in her first year, will be concentrating on math and science. Kathleen has brought her electricity to the high school scene this

year. I'll keep track of her for you through the year. It will be exciting.

People so often ask, "When are your nieces going to write more?" I can say only that it's all a mystery to me. With you I'll keep watching.

• Work on our Seventh Diocesan Synod moves along. Just now Father Joe Hart, Marcy Holtz and members of our Synod Commission are holding a series of 11 regional meetings to update pastors and parish leaders on our progress thus far. I attended the session held at Sacred Heart Cathedral where I live. I wanted to get a sense of those sessions and was very happy with what I experienced. The work is being done very carefully with a special emphasis on assisting parish communities to organize. It's a pleasure to see our synodal process take shape after so much preparatory work.

• Our Diocesan Pastoral Council met at St. Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen on Saturday. The major agenda items were an update on the Synod and a discussion about our Call to Priesthood campaign. Father John Hayes updated the group on his experience of Call to Priesthood in the Corning-

Painted Post area. His presentation initiated a discussion that I found encouraging and helpful. In addition to making suggestions, members of the council also communicated genuine affection for our priests and a conviction that all of us need to work hard to encourage vocations to the priesthood in our diocese.

• Since I wrote last week I have been involved in a number of meetings, activities and celebrations. I enjoyed each of these events for itself, and treasured all of them for what they say about the life of our Catholic community. I am referring to such events as a gathering that inaugurated the advance-gifts phase of our annual Thanks Giving Appeal, a meeting in Albany of the Public Policy Committee of the New York State Catholic Conference, a session of the Board of Trustees of St. Bernard's Institute, a 10th-anniversary dinner of Corpus Christi Parish's Outreach Program, confirmations at St. Francis/Holy Redeemer in Rochester and Saint Mary's in Geneseo; and the celebration of Mercy Day with our Sisters of Mercy.

When I look back on those and other events of the week, I do so mindful of re-



relationships, possibilities and ways in which all of us can and do influence the lives of others by what we do in our own localities.

I hope that you are peacefully settled into post-Labor Day routine.

Peace to all.

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Maurice Tierney retiring Sept. 27; helped regionalize social ministry

ROCHESTER — Maurice J. Tierney is retiring from his position as associate director for fiscal affairs for Diocesan Social Ministry, the Diocese of Rochester announced. Tierney's retirement becomes effective Friday, Sept. 27.



Tierney, a resident of Pittsford, began his career with the diocese in 1977 as director of Catholic Charities. He was instrumental in designing and developing the diocesan Division of Social Ministry, which took the place of Catholic Charities in 1985.

In a statement to the press, the diocese noted that, in particular, Tierney worked with other officials in creating the three separate offices of the division — the South-

ern Tier Office of Social Ministry in Elmira in 1980, the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry in Geneva in 1982, and the Catholic Family Center, which was reorganized in 1988.

Tierney most recently guided diocesan Social Ministry through a pension-fund transfer and also worked on establishing a consolidated audit of the agency's three regional offices and the office of diocesan director.

"Because of the significant policies and programs (Tierney) helped design and implement, this agency will continue as a leader in human care service and social justice advocacy," observed Father John A. Firpo, director of diocesan Social Ministry. "I am a grateful witness of Maurice's deep commitment to serve those in need. He has been an outstanding model for all who work in social ministry."

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