

Amid challenges, prayer sustains

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Monday, November 25

Thanks so much for your prayerful support for my work in Atlanta last week. During the flight down last Monday — somewhere in the process of leaving that day's work behind and beginning to think about the next day's challenge — I had the strongest sense of resting in your prayers.

I can't tell you what a consolation that was because, at that particular moment, I wasn't really sure I had the reserve to get me through the three days that were to follow. But get through them I did — thanks, once again to your prayers and the remarkably warm hospitality of our sisters and brothers with whom I shared those grace-filled days.

I spent Monday and Tuesday with the priests of what is called the Province of Atlanta, that is the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Suffragan Sees of Savannah, Georgia, Charleston, South Carolina, Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina.

They were wonderful, generous priests — hospitable and kind, like the priests of our diocese — and I found it especially rewarding to hear about pastoral life in their respective churches.

While we obviously have much in common, there are some notable differences between their general pastoral picture and our own. Some examples: Roman Catholics are very much in the minority in all of the dioceses represented; they have many fewer



A LONG THE WAY

priests than we do and they are required to cover much more extensive area than are the priests of Rochester.

Another difference is the fact that a much higher percentage of their clergy comes from areas outside their dioceses than is true in our own case. Many of them come from Ireland.

In our four sessions in those two days we ranged over a number of topics including prayer, leadership, compassion, prophecy and conversion. The priests very kindly attended the four conferences I presented and then were quite generous in the feedback and discussion sessions that followed each conference. We had some substantial, helpful interchange about priestly life and min-

istry. We also had many laughs.

Among the delightful company of those two days were Sister Lorraine Masucci, RSM, of our Rochester Sisters of Mercy and Sister Barbara Baker, a Franciscan sister from St. Mary's Parish in Scottsville. Both sisters were on the committee that planned the conference. Their presence was an added bonus for me.

Following the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions with the priests, I spent Thursday with about 85 catechetical leaders from the Archdiocese of Atlanta. They had invited me to stay an extra day to present some material on Christian Spirituality, especially as it is rooted in the readings in our Lectionary.

It was a wonderful experience. The women and men who gathered for the day brought and shared a wealth of human experience and obvious commitment to the work of the church. I found it most enriching to be with them, and I felt when the day was over that I had walked away with much more than I had given.

As I recall the joys of those stimulating days, I remember also the gifted people in our own local church who so generously helped me prepare for my part in them. In particular, I want to thank Maribeth Mancini and Fathers Tom Mull, Bob Kennedy and Gerry Appleby.

I wish you many blessings during this week when we, in our nation, remember and thank our gracious God for the many blessings we share.

Peace to all.

Tonight,
Billy Graham
talks to you about...

"Loneliness."

MONDAY 8:00 WOKR/13



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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 FOR PRIESTS

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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DECEMBER, 1991

DIocese of Rochester, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Reverend 1 Fathers: Robert J. Kanka	2 Joseph E. Larrabee	3 Michael J. Mahler	4 Mark A. Miller	5 John P. Norris	6 Vincent P. Panepinto	7 David P. Simon
8 Edward Zimmer	9 Robert J. Winterkorn	10 Patrick G. Sullivan	11 Mgr. Francis B. Burns	12 Joseph W. Dalley	13 Daniel V. Hogan	14 Andrew J. Kalafsky
15 Mgr. William H. Shannon	16 John R. Burke	17 James Kelly, OSB	18 Albert Cylwicki, CSB	19 Thomas Loftus, CSSR	20 Julian Phelan, OFM Cp	21 David Stopyra
22 Giles Schinelli	23 Herman Stabert, OFMC	24 Frederick G. Betti, SJ	25 John Eudes Baberger	26 Albert Evans, SSCC	27 Brian Murphy, O Carm	28 Donald Haycock, CSC
29 John A. Colacino	30 Ronald A. Antinarelli	31 Thomas W. Burr	For subsequent months or extra copies write to: M.P.R.P., 70-A Green Knolls Drive, Rochester, NY 14620			

Look for next month's MPRP CALENDAR in the Catholic Courier's Dec. 26th issue.