

Club shared tidbits of great wisdom

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

The Grace Murray Club is a group of seniors who meet once a month at Blessed Sacrament. The usual format for their gathering is the Eucharist, lunch and a guest speaker. The group recently honored me by inviting me to join them for their February meeting.

It was a wonderful experience. We gathered for the Eucharist in the rectory and when we had finished, were invited to share an attractive buffet luncheon.

They had not assigned places at the table, and I ended up sitting with, among others, a couple whose story fascinated me. Each had been married before, each has raised six children with their former spouses, and both had lost their first spouses at early ages. When they married, all 12 children were still living at home.

In response to interest among those at the table with them, they talked about adjusting to such unusual new circumstances, about what it was like to do grocery shopping for a family of 14, about the changes they had experienced since starting their lives over in such an unusual way.

Their merged family is now all grown and in their own homes. This loving couple spoke of their plans to travel south for a vacation and of their delight at coming to Grace Murray gatherings even though they no longer live in Blessed Sacrament



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LONG THE WAY

parish.

When the time came for the sharing, I mentioned to the group that I had prepared some remarks for the occasion, but that I would be perfectly willing to respond to questions if they would prefer that format. They chose the latter, and I am so glad they did.

We talked about a variety of issues including our ongoing diocesan Synod, school reorganization, sacramental life and practice, ecumenism, and the exercise of authority in the church.

One could not be in such company for very long without being impressed by the breadth and depth of human experience represented there.

These wonderful people have been around for a while. They have been through good times and hard times. They have endured ugly wars and a bitter depression. They have puzzled over and laughed about gold fish swallowing, hula hoops, pet rocks.

In their many changes of season, they have seen a lot of life. And I found them warm and witty and very rich in understanding.

That evening, I confirmed some beautiful young people at Queen of Peace Parish. The Gospel reading held up the beatitudes for our consideration — those dispositions of heart and spirit that free humans truly to discover their God, themselves and one another.

I told those high school people about their older brothers and sisters at the Grace Murray Club. They are people who have been faithful through the years, who have held to enduring values through changing circumstances, who understand that we need to change and adjust through life if we want to continue to grow.

I am deeply grateful to the Grace Murray Club for the joy of meeting with them. They have my gratitude as well for the way in which they encouraged me about our Synod.

They and, I hope, people like them from all parts of our diocese will bring great wisdom to our community in that process. Peace to all.



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March 4 ASH WEDNESDAY — Catholic Women's Club Day of Prayer including Eucharistic celebration and distribution of ashes 9:30a.m. to 3:30p.m.

March 15 DAY OF PRAYER — Looking at the bright side of Lent with the Cenacle Sisters 10:00a.m. to 3:30p.m.-includes Liturgy and Lunch.

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