

Synod drafts evoke spirited discussion

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

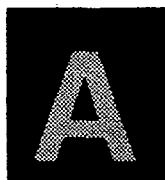
In my column last week, I mentioned to you that our Diocesan Pastoral Council had agreed to review the first drafts of the working papers prepared by three of our six synodal committees: the papers on parish life and family life, and the paper dealing with violence, addiction, burdensome pregnancy and terminal illness.

The council assembled at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday, March 28, to perform that work. I want to tell you that it was a most encouraging experience to share the day with them. I found it encouraging for many reasons, among them:

- No "yawners" can be found among the themes you selected for our prayer and reflection during this synodal process. Our reviewers clearly found them to be relevant to their lives and to our community's life.

- The papers were excellent discussion starters. The conversations they generated were substantive and spirited. Indeed, they were so substantive that Father Joe Hart needed to remind the group frequently that their job was to comment on the papers' clarity of thought and readability, and whether the papers would do the job of stimulating parish discussions.

- The level of engagement among the participants was strong. To this observer, at least, it appeared that the papers generated some excellent sharing of experience, questions and vision among those who so kindly served us that day.



LONG THE WAY

- The quality of work done by our writing committees.

The DPC liked some papers better than others and had suggestions for the improvement of all. They were much impressed, however, by the work they were asked to review.

I thank our writing committees and DPC members for doing so much to advance this extraordinary process. The good things that happened Saturday through their hard work deepened my hope that all our parish communities will enjoy similarly rewarding experiences throughout the synod.

I also want to mention St. Theodore's Parish in Gates, with which I shared Sunday worship this past weekend. My thanks extend to Father Jerry Dunn, pastor, and the

entire community, not just for their customary hospitality, but for the many ways they brought alive to me the Gospel story of the loving father and the prodigal son.

That story has always spoken to me very deeply about forgiveness, encouragement, compassion, affirmation and graciousness. And the people of St. Theodore's gave me so many examples of those virtues over the weekend.

I think of the obvious affection that exists between Father Dunn and the community — an affection made even more obvious by Jerry's impending retirement. I remember the exquisite and tender care a family has given to a beautiful little girl who was seriously injured in an automobile accident.

I also recall the care to participate in Operation Breadbox; the enthusiasm to welcome Father Dan Holland as pastor when he comes to St. Theodore's in June; the trust placed in me by a young woman who shared a difficulty she is experiencing in school; the simplicity of an elderly man who told me how afraid he is to face the harsh disease afflicting him.

For all of these good gifts and many others, I thank the people of St. Theodore's. In a special way I thank them for reminding me of the rich, encouraging life being enjoyed in our parish communities.

Surely we all have room for growth. But even as we work toward that, we ought to stop occasionally and take pleasure in the good things God is doing for us each day. Peace to all.

You never call! So, why don't you write.



Isn't your mother worth 10 dollars? Sure she is, because she's the most important woman in the world. Honor your mother or her memory by making a donation to the Catholic Family Center. Her name will be published in the Catholic Courier on May 7, 1992.

Simply return this coupon with your tax deductible gift of \$10 or more, payable to CFC Mother's Day Fund. Your donation will help CFC services to Mothers.

I want to honor my mother by making a tax deductible donation to the Catholic Family Center. I authorize publication of my name in the Catholic Courier on May 7, 1992. I understand that my name will be published in the Catholic Courier on May 7, 1992.

YOUR Mother's Name _____

YOUR Name _____

YOUR Address _____

Your gift should be made payable to: Catholic Family Center, 1000 Spring House Rd., Rochester, NY 14612.

Make my donation payable to: Catholic Family Center, 1000 Spring House Rd., Rochester, NY 14612.



Home • Car • Life
Business • Health

Carl J. Adams
Insurance Agency
4292 Lake Ave.
Rochester, NY 14612
716-663-1810



Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies • Home Office: One Nationwide Plaza, Columbus, OH 43216
Nationwide® is a registered federal service mark of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

BRIAN C. BUETTNER
Attorney at Law

Wide range of legal services including:

- Wills/Probate
- Family Law
- Bankruptcy, Chapters 7 & 13
- Criminal/DWI
- Real Estate

10 Reynolds Arcade
16 E. Main St.
Rochester, NY 14604 (716) 454-1760

Mary's Call

Even if everything else has failed,
Don't give up hope,
The Rosary can turn your life around.



- Meditations & Poems #1 - Cassette, musical background \$3.00
- Meditations & Poems #2 - Cassette, musical background \$3.00
- Religious Hymns Cassette #1 - Be Not Afraid, Hail Mary, Gentle Woman, Praise Be The Lord, plus nine others . . . \$4.00
- New Religious Hymns Cassette #2 - Only A Shadow, On Eagles Wings, Let There Be Peace On Earth, America The Beautiful, God Bless America, and more..... \$4.00
- New Religious Hymns Cassette - Spanish \$3.00
- New Stations of the Cross Cassette - Meditations and Songs \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette - 15 decades, 5 copyrighted songs, Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette - 5 Joyful Mysteries, Songs & Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary, Prayers \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette - 5 Sorrowful Mysteries, Short Way of the Cross, Prayers, meditation \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette - 5 Glorious Mysteries, Litany of St. Joseph, Songs, Prayers, meditation \$3.00
- Rosary Cassette - Spanish plus Spanish Songs \$3.00
- St. Bridget Prayer Cassette - 15 prayers, Litany of Sacred Heart, Footprints in the Sand poem, Songs..... \$3.00
- Pieta Blue Book - Prayers to St. Bridget, other devotional prayers English Spanish \$1.00
- New Prayers Cards - 17 cards, Prayers on both sides, new prayers added, Litanies, Poems, Prayers - Best of popular and traditional favorites \$1.50
- Our Lady of Medjugorje - Full Color Picture — 212x4 - .25¢ 5x7 - \$1.00
8x11 - \$2.00 (Framed-no glass) 5x7 - \$4.00 8x11 - \$6.00
- Bible - New Testament, Paperback, All time best seller, latest version (check one) Catholic Protestant Catholic Spanish \$2.50
- New Book - Power of the Rosary - 43 pages \$2.00
- Bible - Old & New Testament, Paperback, latest version, Catholic \$4.00

Free upon request: Rosary, Brown Scapular, Brochures on Apparitions in Medjugorje.
Mary's Call is a tax exempt corporation. Any donation you wish to make will help spread the devotion to our Blessed Mother around the world—however, no donations or shipping charges are necessary when you place your order.

Over 110,000 sold in U.S. and 30 Foreign Countries.
Mary's Call—P. O. Box 162—Salisbury, MO 65281—(816) 388-5308