

# Bishops' meeting offers busy agenda

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Our National Conference of Catholic Bishops will be meeting at Notre Dame University this week. I'll be leaving on Tuesday evening to attend committee meetings on Wednesday.

Our plenary session begins on Thursday morning and extends until Saturday. One more committee meeting will keep me there until my return flight late Monday evening.

I have been to Notre Dame only one time, and that was a very quick overnight trip for a meeting. However brief a stay as it was, it did leave me with a desire to return sometime for a longer visit.

I have been particularly anxious to see the university's Sacred Heart Church, which was closed for renovation on the occasion of my earlier visit. Friends who have been to the campus since the church was reopened have said it is a joy to worship there.

Father Edward A. Malloy, the president of Notre Dame, has invited the bishops to celebrate the Eucharist at Sacred Heart Church and to join him for dinner during our stay.

We have a fairly heavy agenda, including a discussion of our draft pastoral letter "Called To Be One in Christ Jesus, A Pastoral Response to the Concerns of Women for Church and Society."

To be very honest with you, I am not



## A LONG THE WAY

at all sure what will be the ultimate fate of the draft. But I very much look forward to both the floor discussion of the issues and the informal conversations the discussion will generate. If the advance comment I've read in recent weeks is any indication, it is a discussion that will be widely reported in the press.

One feature of our spring meetings has been an opportunity to spend a day of prayer with the bishops. We'll devote Sunday to that. I very much look forward to the peace of that day.

Before heading to our meeting at Notre Dame, I want to thank all of you in our parishes who have devoted so much time and energy to helping our candidates prepare for the sacrament of con-

firmation. Your generous commitment of time and energy, the quiet witness of your faith are precious gifts not only to our candidates, but also to everyone in our community of faith.

I finished my round of confirmations on Sunday at St. Andrew's Parish, Rochester. It was a warm, sunny day on which the parish community gathered in obvious support and affection for the candidates. The music and participation were especially good.

Another enriching feature of the day was the fact that we had candidates from Holy Rosary and Annunciation in Rochester, and from St. Stephen's in Geneva.

Confirmations are a joy for me. Since Sunday's was the last of this season, I took a great deal of delight in it, not only because of its own beauty, but also because it evoked memories of all of the beautiful people with whom I have celebrated this rite since Easter.

One final note for today: my congratulations to all in our community who are graduating from high school this year. I read the graduation supplement in last week's *Catholic Courier* with great delight. The outstanding profiles on our young people and the listing of the graduates' names were welcome reminders of the wonderful young people who daily bring life to our community.

Peace to all.

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