

Comments spur review of draft pastoral

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Monday, June 22, 1992:

It seems strange indeed to be in Indiana on the feast of St. John Fisher, the patron saint of our diocese. But that's exactly where I am.

Nevertheless, I was joined with you in prayer at the Eucharistic Liturgy this morning and remain so in these quiet moments at the airport in South Bend. On this feast I have been praying that God will continue to bless our diocesan Synod and that all of the people of our diocese will keep the Synod close to our hearts.

Thanks so much for your prayers for the bishops of our conference during our meeting at Notre Dame University. The days were full, and we covered a wide variety of topics, some of which you may have read about in the press. You'll read about the meeting on other pages of this issue of the *Catholic Courier*.

Let me tell you here about what I mentioned in last week's column, namely our discussion of the draft pastoral letter on the concerns of women for the church and society.

For the first time since the conference adopted this project in November, 1983, we had a public discussion of the themes contained in our draft. It was a fascinating experience to hear the variety of opinions expressed about a number of issues contained in the draft. And it was interesting to note some debate about the time lines of publishing such a work as a pastoral letter by the whole conference.



A

LONG THE WAY

Little question exists that the body of bishops has notable differences in the pastoral approaches they each would take to several of the sensitive issues that are included or that — in the opinion of some — should be included in our work.

For example, some asked why we treat the ordination question in the way we do and not in some other way? Why do we not include a more thorough analysis of the varieties of feminism being espoused today? Why do we not spend some time dealing with the controversial issue of patriarchy?

At the conclusion of the discussion the challenge given to our committee was to review the input offered during last week's discussion, to evaluate it and, to the best of our ability, to incorporate it into our working draft.

Our group devoted itself to that task yes-

terday afternoon and this morning. We accomplished much more than I thought would be possible in those hours. We'll review today's revision early in July and, if all goes according to our design, we will submit the amended draft by mid-August. If we can accomplish that, our conference will amend and decide the future of the draft at our November meeting.

The days here were busy ones, but we did have some time to enjoy the beauties of this campus and to have some interaction with the university's impressive student body.

Notre Dame is not in session now, but many students had returned to campus to offer hospitality to our conference. They did that in many warm ways, none of which was more deeply appreciated than the contribution they made to our prayer together. Two student musical groups did an absolutely superb job for us.

And we did enjoy a relaxing dinner evening as guest of the trustees and president of Notre Dame University. Father Edward Malloy, president, and Coach Lou Holtz both spoke at the dinner. Each in his own way told something of the story of Notre Dame, and both received a very warm response from the assembly.

As I sit here in the airport, these and many other memories come back to me about these days at this famous university dedicated to Our Lady of the Lake. It was a wonderful experience, and I am very glad our conference came here for a meeting.

But it was a long time away. I'll be very happy to arrive home again.

Peace to all.

Kids' Chronicle answer key

Across

1. Lamb
2. Way
3. Redeemer
4. Light

Down

1. Life
2. Word
9. Gate
10. Deliverer
11. God
12. Bread
13. Rock

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?

The following prayer was dictated by Our Lord to Sister Josefa Menendez at Poitiers, France, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 3, 1921, with the instruction: "Josefa! Repeat these words daily."

JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

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Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him.

JULY, 1992

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If your life is a soap opera, it's time to change the channel.

Real life means real problems. Problems that come in all shapes and sizes. Problems with housing. Problems with your husband or a case worker. Job disputes. Legal hassles. For many women, it's a long list.

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