

Sharing gifts will make Synod a success

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Let me begin this post-vacation round of columns by thanking co-workers, family and dear friends for all they did to allow me such a relaxed, carefree vacation. And let me thank you as well for your prayers and many kind birthday greetings.

Notwithstanding the adjustments we all experience returning from vacation, I am very happy to be back. And I am filled with excitement about the events that lie before us in the months ahead.

The centerpiece of those events, of course, is our Diocesan Synod. At the top of my reading material when I returned was the booklet prepared for our parish synods scheduled for the last two weeks of September and the first week of October.

The booklet contains articles designed to stimulate discussion of and recommendations about our first three synodal themes. It also contains appropriate prayer services, and helpful annotation to stimulate the reader and promote discussion.

I found it exciting to review the material once again. That's because now that the booklet is printed, it's an easy step to imagine the faith, creativity and imagination that you and our sisters and brothers all over our diocese will bring to this process.

The articles in the booklet provide a beginning stimulus, an initial common ground. I am confident that what is begun at our parish synods in the fall will grow and deep-



A

LONG THE WAY

en in wonderful ways by the time we experience our full diocesan Synod in the first days of October, 1993.

The ultimate source of my confidence, however, is not so much in the rich gifts and talents we possess. My confidence rests rather in the fidelity of the Lord and His promise to be with us always. If we gather in faith, we can be sure that the Lord's Holy Spirit will strengthen and guide us in our deliberations. Whenever that happens the life of the community inevitably grows, sometimes in ways beyond our imagining.

As I write this Monday, I think of the Gospel of today's eucharistic liturgy — the Lord feeds the multitude with the few loaves and fishes available among them. If all of us enter our synodal experience willing both to offer what we have and to receive the gifts of

others, we will be richly fed by the Lord who loves us all.

In anticipation of this extraordinary moment in the history of our local church let me invite you to the following:

- 1). Pray for the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit for all of us during our Synod.
- 2). Participate in the process as much as the circumstances of your life allow you to.
- 3). Encourage others to participate — especially those who are not active in our community or who, for whatever reason, feel estranged from or hurt by us.
- 4). Have confidence that you have something to offer to our community and that our sisters and brothers have good things to offer you.
- 5). Remember that the Synod is not primarily a political process, but an expression of faith; that my goal is not to push my agenda but with the community to discover what God wants for us all.
6. Keep the following questions in your prayers and thoughts during the coming weeks:

- What could we as a church be doing better?
- How can we carry on Jesus' mission more effectively?
- Where is the best place to use our limited resources?

Thanks, once again, for your kind consideration.

Peace to all.

(CLIP AND SAVE THIS)

A MIRACLE WILL APPEAR HERE

THE MISSIONARY IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



"Abandon yourselves totally. Consecrate yourselves to my Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, your Lady of Guadalupe. I will melt the hearts of millions to conversion. Together we will end the horrible evil of abortion without exceptions!"

AUGUST 13 St. Vincent de Paul
11 N. Main Street, Churchville
7:00 P.M. Mass
8:00 P.M. Rosary
All Night Vigil

AUGUST 14 St. Vincent de Paul
11 N. Main Street, Churchville
8:30 A.M. Mass

Mt. Carmel House
4 Planet Street, Rochester
9:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

St. Bridget's
175 St. Bridget's Drive, Rochester
12:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

St. Rita's
1008 Maple Drive, Webster
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Holy Rosary
414 Lexington Avenue, Rochester
9:00 P.M. Mass-Fr. Albert Shamon
All Night Vigil
6:00 A.M. Mass-Fr. Robert Meng

AUGUST 15 St. Boniface
330 Gregory Street, Rochester
11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

St. Cecilia's
2732 Culver Road, Rochester
2:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
3:00 P.M. - St. Louis de Montfort
Total Consecration
5:00 P.M. - Mass

Holy Name
St. Martin's Way, Rochester
7:00 P.M. Rosary
8:00 P.M. Adoration
All Night Vigil

AUGUST 16 St. John of Rochester
18 Wickford Way, Fairport
Masses: 7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M.,
10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M.

St. Joseph's
6105 Rush Lima Road, Rush
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

St. Joseph's
14 Washington Street, Livonia
4:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Good Shepherd
3264 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
7:30 P.M. Mass

AUGUST 17 St. Pius X
3032 Chili Avenue, Rochester
7:45 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
8:00 A.M. Rosary
8:30 A.M. Mass

St. Mary's Hospital Chapel
89 Genesee Street, Rochester
12:00 P.M. Mass

St. Thomas The Apostle
4536 St. Paul Blvd., Irondequoit
2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. 5:00 P.M. - Mass

St. John's
60 Martha Street, Spencerport
7:00 P.M. - 7:00 A.M.
All Night Vigil
6:30 A.M. Mass

AUGUST 18 Holy Spirit
1355 Hatch Road, Penfield
8:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.
9:00 A.M. Mass, Rosary
and Consecration

St. Francis of Assisi
187 Clark Street, Auburn
1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. Marian
Movement Cenacle - Fr. Shamon