

Former newcomer offers advice

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no significant acquaintances outside the seminary. But when I came back here in 1979 I was very grateful for those two earlier years because they left me with friendships that were nicely renewed. I was able to make reacquaintances with classmates like Jim Lawlor, Jack Quinn, Jack O'Connor, Winfried Kellner and Frank Lioi. They were very generous in helping me feel at home.

I would honestly say that the community was, and always has been, very hospitable to me. There has been controversy, for sure, but I have noticed that even through the most difficult moments, most people stay with you by and large. There's been a tremendous loyalty.

Please comment on some of the diocese's significant changes during your reign as bishop.

One of our latest developments is the Synod process which is now in full swing. It has involved thousands of

men and women in literally every single one of our parish communities ... I believe it's important because it brings some kind of summation and new direction to all the wonderful things that are going on in our diocese.

Another thing is the transition from St. Bernard's Seminary to St. Bernard's Institute, one that we're still working on ... another issue that has taken a lot of time and energy has been our approach to trying to develop a catechetical plan. It's been a slow, but necessary, process. Within that, of course, we have the very difficult work of school reorganization.

I would say that another important area is the development of our Thanks Giving Appeal ... (no longer) using a "hidden tax" system at each parish.

I'm also very pleased with what we've been able to do with solidifying and enriching a lot of our internal procedures. We've worked toward equal opportunity and have become a lot more professional and stabilized.

One of the most significant steps has

been the foundation of our stewardship council. We have some very accomplished Catholic leaders with a lot of expertise, experience and skills to share.

Please talk more about the Synod process and how it relates to newcomers.

One of the Synod themes dealt with hospitality. I think we've learned a great deal already, and things are already being implemented at the parish level. That's very gratifying to me.

One of the greatest occurrences of dropping out, or loss (of active parishioners) is when people move. There's very little that can be more of a priority than welcoming one of our neighbors; we can't possibly stress that enough. And this is something where you don't have to devise a sophisticated program or spend a lot of money.

What would you suggest as first steps for newcomers who wish to get involved in their Catholic community?

Make a call to your local pastor and express an interest in the faith community. Experience that parish's life of worship and service ... observe and pray about life as you see it there.

Should a newcomer select a parish most closely situated to where he or she lives?

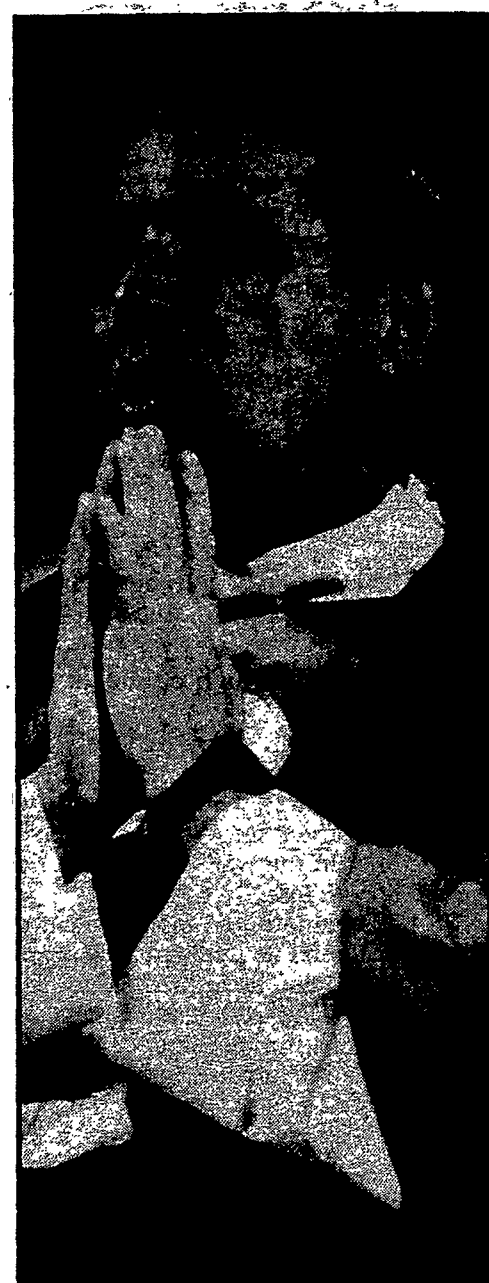
A certain presumption is established in church law or custom that you become involved with your geographical parish community, and I would encourage people to move with that presumption. Give it a good, fair try.

But I'd also have to say that the present reality, given the mobility of our society, means the actual fact is that a lot of people, for whatever reason, make the decision to go somewhere else. And I think that it would be foolish of me to quarrel with that; it's a fairly healthy tension.

Please comment on the increased role of laity in the Catholic Church, and therefore, how it might be essential for newcomers to become immediately involved in their faith communities.

The people are the church. The fundamental intention of the Second Vatican Council was for the hierarchy to stand aside amid the laity's service, not calling all the shots from up high.

Some of the laws and norms have not yet caught up with that basic intent, but right now we do have a changing vocational picture and this is very chal-



File photo
Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who studied at St. Bernard's Seminary, has served as bishop of the Rochester diocese since June, 1979.

lenging. We need to continue to work hard to develop the laity's role. I think some people think we need either a strong number of priests or a strong number of laity, but I want both.

(Regarding women's roles), we ought to be able to say about women what we say about all people. Our diocese has really worked hard at that to reform ourselves, to say that in Christ we are one. (Yet) that is a struggle that works against a lot of (traditional) patterns in the church.

Are there any personal words of introduction you'd like to convey to the newcomers in the diocese?

To friends who are new to our area, I welcome you with great affection and warmth. I think you're coming to a faith community that has lots of good things. I'd encourage you to give us a try.

Bishop Clark to speak at conference on women

Bishop Matthew H. Clark is scheduled to speak in Connecticut this Saturday as part of a conference on women's issues in the church.

The bishop will be one of two keynote speakers at the conference, which will be held at St. Joseph College, 1678 Asylum Ave., West Hartford, on Saturday, March 27.

Titled "One in Christ Jesus? Women and the Future of the Church," the conference will feature talks by Bishop Clark and Sidney Callahan, a Catholic lay woman and professor at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

In addition to the speeches, the conference will include six workshops on issues concerning women in the church. Among the topics to be covered are women in pastoral ministry; treatment of the young, the aged and disabled; women in Scripture; and challenges facing the church in 1993.

@bituaries

Sister Mary Donald Wren, SSJ, 86

ROCHESTER — Sister Mary Donald Wren, SSJ, died at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent infirmary on Feb. 11, 1993. She was 86.

Sister Mary Donald was born in County Cork, Ireland and became a U.S. citizen in 1933. A parishioner at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Rochester, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1935.

Sister Mary Donald served as children's supervisor at St. Patrick's Girls' Home from 1937-42, and was then housekeeper at St. Joseph's Villa from 1942-51. She became housekeeper at

the sisters' motherhouse in 1951, and remained in that position for the next 36 years until moving to the convent infirmary in 1987.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the motherhouse for Sister Mary Donald on Feb. 15. The principal celebrant was Monsignor William Shannon, with Fathers Donald Murphy, Robert Donovan and James Slattery assisting.

Sister Mary Donald is survived by a sister, Mary Brady of Rochester; nieces, nephews and cousins; and her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father Stanley Matuszewski, ex-missionary

Father Stanley J. Matuszewski, MS, a former missionary in the Our Lady of LaSalette order, died on Friday, March 12, 1993, at the Woodstock Health Care Center in Kenosha, Wis. He was 77.

Father Matuszewski was born in Morris Run, Pa. He graduated from the former St. Andrew's Seminary in Rochester, professed his vows in 1937 and was ordained a priest in 1942.

Father Matuszewski was a member of the Mariological Society of America, Polish-Hungarian World Federation and Catholic Press Association as well

as a trustee of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception.

He is survived by three brothers, Val Mates of Rochester, Father Leo Matuszewski of Palm Springs, Fla. and Al Matuszewski of Lake Worth, Fla; and one sister, Eugenia Matuszewski of Palm Springs.

A Mass of Christ the High Priest was held on March 15 at St. John's Church in Twin Lakes, Wis. Interment was in the LaSalette section of St. John's Cemetery in Twin Lakes.

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Our Lady of Victory

210 Pleasant St., Downtown Rochester
Rosary & Mass, 10 a.m. - Sacrament of Penance, 11:30 a.m.

St. Alphonsus

95 East Genesee St., Auburn, N.Y.
Sacrament of Penance, 9 a.m. - Rosary & Mass, 10 a.m.

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