

Youths pose intriguing questions

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

If you have a few moments to wrap your mind around some challenging questions, why don't you try these on for size:

- 1.) What is your view of women's place in the church, and what would you like to see happen in the future?
- 2.) What is your opinion about assisted suicide as advocated and practiced by Dr. Jack Kevorkian?
- 3.) What is the church's teaching on genetic engineering?
- 4.) What are your thoughts about gays in the military or gays in positions of pastoral leadership; what would you say to teenaged Catholics who are gay?
- 5.) What are your views on abortion? And what do you think about distributing condoms to students in schools?
- 6.) What's your view on laws that prohibit skateboarding in public areas? Do the lawmakers think skateboarders are crazy people or that they want to hurt others?

This is an imposing set of questions isn't it? I'll bet it's fair to say that most people reading these questions would judge them to be quite challenging, and most of us would find them good food for thought.

I share them with you today because they are questions put to me by some of the participants in our 10th-annual Bishop's Day with Youth, which took place at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center Sunday



A

LONG THE WAY

afternoon, April 25. Our wonderful young people turned out some 1,400 strong for a day of study, entertainment, song and prayer and just the very joyful business of being with one another.

It was a powerful experience for me personally — quite apart from trying to respond to those questions asked on the spot in that vast assembly! There was the rich gift to us all of a moving musical/narrative performance offered by the youth group from Our Lady of the Assumption, Fairport. We commissioned and prayed for the 450 young people who will be traveling to Denver in August to participate in International Youth Day with Pope John Paul II. And, as you

know, we present the Hands of Christ Award to high school seniors named by their parishes as generous participants in the life of the community.

As so often happens in our lives together the Eucharistic Liturgy allowed us the opportunity to begin to collect and reflect upon and give thanks for the good gifts we experience through all of the events of Youth Youth Day. The gift giving, the proclamation, the responses made in full voice or silent meditation, the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup, the attentive listening — all of these regular parts of the liturgy took on a special meaning for all of us who shared in them. I know that it means a great deal to me to celebrate with such a gifted and lively assembly.

I want to say a word of thanks to all of our young people for making the day so happy and exciting for all of us. Thanks also to Michael Theisen and all of his co-workers on the planning committee. They worked long and hard to make the day as rewarding as it was.

Mike Theisen, by the way, is coordinator of youth ministry for the diocese. If you have an interest in that field or if Mike could be of help to your parish community, please feel free to get in touch with him. I know that he would be happy to hear from you.

Thanks for all that you do in support of the young and growing.
Peace to all.

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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 every day."

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
Offering of Sufferings
Eucharistic Adoration
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priests.

APRIL, 1993

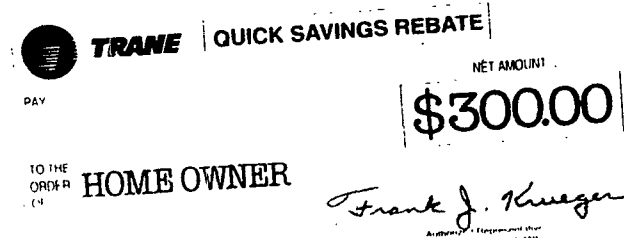
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