

Weekend features multiple celebrations

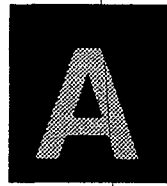
By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

The June 4-5 weekend may not be the busiest of the year, but I want to bet that it rivals most in the number of events scheduled for those days. My awareness of that activity was renewed last night when I reviewed the calendar for the coming week.

Much of the activity this weekend is in observance of 25th and 50th anniversaries of ordination being celebrated by our brother priests. This year Monsignor Bill Shannon and Fathers Gene MacFarland, Jack Hedges, Andy Kalafsky, Gerry Ventura and John Roach celebrate their golden jubilee as priests. Fathers Kevin Murphy, Robert Belligotti, Richard Belligotti, Chuck Latus, Jim Schwartz, Mel Walczak and George Hill will be celebrating their silver jubilees.

Most, but not all, of those men will be celebrating this weekend so it will be impossible for many friends, including myself, to be present for all of the celebrations. But I hope they know that all of us extend love, congratulations and gratitude to them at this joyful jubilee time.

On the very same weekend that the community notes these anniversary celebrations, we'll be ordaining three new priests at Sacred Heart Cathedral. On Saturday morning I'll have the pleasure of ordaining Brian Cool from St. Mary's in Auburn,



LONG THE WAY

Lance Gonyo from St. John the Evangelist in Greece and Lee Chase from St. Anne's in Rochester. It is always a joy to ordain; it is a special pleasure to ordain such fine young men as these three. They are gifted and good, and worked hard to prepare for their ministry.

Our three new priests will begin their new assignments on June 29. Brian will serve at St. John's in Perinton; Lance at St. Mary's in Elmira; Lee at St. Mary's in Auburn.

Also on Saturday, this time in Waterloo, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry. It's hard for me to believe that so many years

have gone by since we opened the Geneva office, thus completing our regionalization effort in that vital ministry. It will be a source of many wonderful memories and an occasion on which to renew many friendships when we gather in Waterloo on Saturday.

It would not surprise me at all to learn that you will be noting anniversaries of special importance this weekend. Nor that you, too, will be faced with the happy problem of honoring them all as fully as you might like. Most of us enjoy celebrating such times in our lives, and we want to participate in moments that are special in the lives of our friends. Occasions of that kind help illuminate past events and encourage us for the future. I know that they do that for me.

Between this writing and those weekend anniversary celebrations, I still have much to do. I'm sure the same is true for you. But I hope that in the midst of this week's activity you'll be praying for our jubilarians, our friends to be ordained, and the people who for a decade have brought life to our Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry.

And as you and your loved ones celebrate God's blessings in your lives during these early days of June, be assured that you do so supported by the prayer and affection of the community.

Peace to all.



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