Events point to diocesan 'personality'

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

As I indicated to you in last week's column, this past weekend was an especially busy one in our local church. I enjoyed every single moment of it, and welcome this open Monday evening as a chance to remember it all, to think more about each beautiful event and to locate them all in the context of our unfolding life.

I won't revisit those events in a specific way here, but I do want to mention in brief fashion some of the qualities and characteristics I noted in all of the events and I believe can be used fairly to describe the personality of our local church. I would name the following:

1) A spirit of optimism: We all know that we are not carefree, that many among us face severe challenges in life. And we know that we, as a community of faith, often deal with issues on which we hold diverse and strong opinions. But I am always pleased — indeed, I judge it a sign of health --- that we have such discussions.

And it is especially gratifying when, as happened all over our diocese this weekend, we can gather to rejoice in the loving gifts of God who calls us to a deep and honest unity. I find the people of this diocese always open to that call.



2) A sense of the common good: I suppose we all can get stuck in our own personal agendas. I know that I can. By that, I mean so locking in on what's important to me that I lose openness to the truth others may have to offer. I know I have no corner on that market.

But I do think that the great majority of the people of our diocese realize deep in their bones that to be Catholic means somehow to belong to and to care deeply about the rest of the community — their ideas, their joys, their pains and sorrows, their needs.

3) A creative spirit: It's not at all

unusual, as you know, that friends from other local churches come here to enrich our lives by offering conferences, retreats, workshops and the like. I notice that they often express some surprise at the vitality and dynamism of our community.

To them, the prospect of coming to this part of the country often means coming to a less-than-creative, play-it-by-thebook region. But when they have experienced you, they express great happiness at having had the opportunity. They find you forward-looking, unafraid of challenges and quite resourceful in facing the issues of the day. I think they are correct.

I certainly think that creativity, a spirit of optimism and concern have been hallmarks to date of our Synod process; I trust that they will remain so as we come ever closer to the first weekend in October when our Synod gathers in plenary session.

Our journey of faith together will continue to hold difficult moments for us, but the experience of this past weekend reinforces in me the sense that the Holy Spirit has endowed us richly — not simply to endure whatever trials we may experience, but also to discover new life in our honest attempt to meet whatever comes in faith and charity.

Peace to all.

New Releases by Rev. Albert J.M. Shamon

Firepower Through Confirmation

At last, a multi-purpose teaching tool.

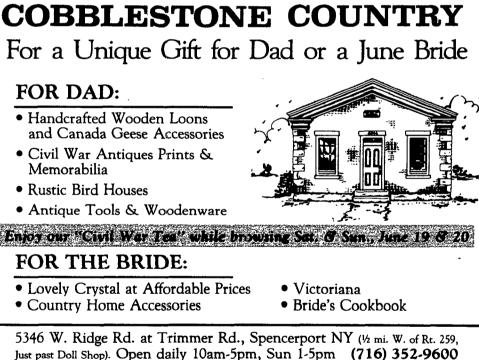
Father Shamon's book can be used for RCIA classes and/or for confirmation classes for middle and high school students. It can serve both as a teacher's manual and a students' text.

Father Shamon tackles sexual morality, dissent, the nature of the Fruit of the Spirit and the Beatitudes. His answers are like bullets right on target. Firepower is an up-to-date presentation of the Faith in line with the new Universal Catechism.

One teacher wrote: "The title, the cover illustration, the content - all make FIREPOWER an inspiring text for confirmation instruction

The price is \$3.95 (104 pages). Christopher





Columbus – Forty Facts

On the Quincentennial Anniversary (1992) of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America, there was a falsification of history and a flood of misinformation on one whom Morrison called "the navigator supreme in his generation."

Father Shamon's twenty-page booklet is a concise refutation of revisionist history and a forceful presentation of the life and achievement of Columbus. The booklet is in question and answer form, like a catechism.

The footnoting will satisfy any historian.

This booklet can be an excellent tool for the Knights of Columbus to put into the hands of all high school students. The price is \$2.00. In quantities of 50 or more \$1.00 (22 pages).

FOR ORDERING INFORMATION CONTACT: The Jacobs Press, Inc.

77 Columbus Street, P.O. Box 580 Auburn, New York 13021-0580 Telephone: (315) 252-4861



Nº de



ester. N.Y.

Two weeks on the Song of Norway of the Royal Caribbean Lines. Ports of Call include: Venice-Naples-Rome-Florence, Italy; Messena, Sicily; Corfu, Greece; One port in France with optional side trip to Monte Carto or Caines; 3 Islands: Palma, Balearic, and Majoreca; and Barcelona Sr

Quad Price: \$2760 per person, outside cabin \$2640 per person, inside cabin Triple Price: \$2970 per person, outside cabin \$2810 per person, inside cabin \$3390 per person, outside cabin \$3150 per person, inside cabin

\$300 per person deposit to reserve triple or quad. \$200 per person deposit to reserve double. Deposits due Friday, July 9th, 1993. 2nd deposit of \$500 per person due Nov. 15, 1993. Price includes round trip air from Rochester to Venice where you pick up cruise ship, port tax and international tax. Passport Required. Travel Arrangements handled through Caito Travel Bureau. For More Information or to make reservations, Call or write to servations, Call or write today

MILDRED MATHIS P.O. Box 243, Geneva, New York 14456 Phone (315) 789-5612 or Bonnie Flagg (716) 424-3470 or Beverly Hadee (after 7pm) (716) 288-2877



\$6.50 per person (min. 50 people)

Call for other prices for your picnic or clam bake



Catholic Courier