

Family radiates wealth of blessings

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Sometimes Route 14 between Watkins Glen and Geneva can seem a little long when I'm heading home at night after a long day. It's nearly 40 miles long, quite dark and can seem very lonely — and that's in good weather!

Last night it didn't seem so long at all. Although the day had been quite full and I didn't leave Elmira until 10 p.m., I didn't feel tired at all. As a matter of fact, I felt lively and ready for the drive.

I suppose that's because I was still excited by the experience of the evening and welcomed the opportunity afforded by the trip home to reflect on that experience.

I had gone to Elmira to speak at the 1993 Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner sponsored by the Five Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America. It was an enjoyable event for many reasons, but what made it so special for me was the privilege of sharing the meal with the guest of honor, John Gough, his wife, Ellie, and their family.

You'll understand the difficulty of describing exactly why it was such a joy to be with them. You can't put magic in a bottle or quantify happiness. You just know when they're flowing around you. And flowing they were around John and Ellie, their son, their three daughters and their



A LONG THE WAY

three sons-in-law.

There was delight among them as friends of John shared their memories of him through the evening. Any joy was certainly there in the table conversation among them as we had dinner together. All were included in the conversation. The humor was kind. Respect and affection were there quietly, but in abundant quantity.

Why such blessings? I don't know for sure. I have already mentioned respect, humor and affection. Surely they're all a part of it. I had a sense that faith is too. And a capacity to take delight in another. I guess I would add a sense of optimism

about life and, surely, a strong awareness that the good gifts we receive from God are most truly ours when we share them with others.

Finally, I mention a strong sense of sacrifice. Not because John or Ellie talked about that at all last night. But because it's my conviction that such happiness as I observed last evening usually is born of sacrificial self-giving.

Anyway, it was with such thoughts that the drive home was made last night. I am grateful to the Gough family, to the Five Rivers Council and to all present at the dinner for making it such a pleasant trip.

Now it's a new day, June 22, the feast of John Fisher, patron saint of our local church. We have the final meeting of the year of our Presbyteral Council today. This evening the Class of '93 graduates from Aquinas Institute. It will be another day filled in some way with the gifts of a gracious God. Every day is. Our happy call and capacity is to savor God's presence and gifts, to share them with others.

This will be my last column until the August 5th edition of the *Catholic Courier*. Thanks so much for keeping in touch by reading *Along the Way*, and for your helpful comments. I do appreciate both kindnesses.

Peace to all.

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A new monthly calendar will appear in the Catholic Courier on the last Thursday of each month.

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.

Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 3, 1953

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.

JULY, 1993

DIocese of ROCHESTER, NY

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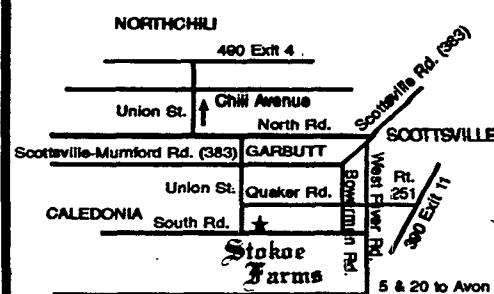
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			Reverend Fathers:	1 Eugene R. Wels	2 Joseph Stanton, OCSO	3 William M. Hanna
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18 Peter Ellinger	19 Patrick Sheridan	20 Julian Phelan, OFMC	21 John Krzyzanski	22 Timothy T. Brown	23 Terence K. Fleming	24 John J. Glogowski
25 Gerald T. Connor	26 Robert J. Kennedy	27 William A. Moorby	28 Anthony J. Valente	29 Laurence G. Tracy	30 John V. Rosse	31 James A. Schwartz

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