

Weather fails to chill weekend festivities

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I hope this day finds you able to cope well with the severe cold weather we have been experiencing. The forecast on this bitter Tuesday morning calls for even lower temperatures before the week is over.

I know that many of our parish communities have asked people to be attentive to home-bound neighbors during this cold snap. Let me pass along that good suggestion here. Please be sure your neighbors are cared for, especially if they are home-bound or frail in any way.

This has been a busy but most enjoyable time. The centerpiece of weekend was the celebration at St. Helen's, Gates, where we dedicated their newly renovated church. (A story about that event appears on page 4 of this issue.)

I always encourage you to visit our new and renovated churches because my descriptions of them hardly do them justice. But I would say here that the people of St. Helen's convey a warm sense of welcome, hospitality and inclusion through the work they have done on their church. From the moment of entry I felt drawn to go farther. Once inside, I felt very much at home and — as you might expect — what is suggested by the building is very much reinforced by the community. They are a warm and welcoming group of people.

Such qualities were well reflected in the liturgical celebration. The music was beautifully done. An adult choir and a children's choir enriched our worship.



A LONG THE WAY

God's word was proclaimed with clarity and feeling. There was good silence and joyful acclamation. A wide variety of people in the community participated in a significant way and they did so very beautifully.

I congratulate Father Mike Bausch and all at St. Helen's for the imagination, commitment and generosity that yielded such a beautiful house of worship. It was a pleasure to preside at its dedication. It was a joy to worship there.

If the experience at St. Helen's was the centerpiece of the weekend, it was not its only event. On Saturday I trucked off to Rich Stadium to watch the Buffalo Bills win an exciting playoff game over the Los Angeles Raiders.

I confess that I was concerned beforehand about the severe weather. But I am happy to tell you that we managed to

survive the cold quite well. The game was a good one. I always enjoy seeing the Bills win. This win was special because I had seen them lose a close game to the Raiders earlier in the year.

When I left St. Helen's on Sunday I drove to Ogdensburg to attend the installation of Paul Loverde as the 11th bishop of Ogdensburg. The installation was held on Monday at St. Mary's Cathedral. Paul studied at St. Bernard's for two years before going to Rome for this theological studies. Two of his St. Bernard's classmates from Rochester, Fathers Gerry O'Connor and Bob Collins, were present for the celebration.

One final word about the weekend. I want to thank all of those connected with Teens for Peace for calling us together at St. Bridget's on Friday night to think and pray about the horror of violence in our community. I am deeply grateful for your initiative and consider it to be a wonderful gift to our community (see page 9).

That event on Friday evening was yet another sign — in a year already rich with such signs — that our young people are called, gifted and committed to their faith. If it is true that they flourish with the encouragement of adults, it is also true that we adults receive enormous encouragement from those who are coming along behind us.

I was very much inspired by the teens that evening, and I know I can say the same for all who were privileged to participate in the gathering on Friday.

Peace to all.

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MISSION NEWS

The following letter is from the war-torn former Yugoslavia: "Much thanks to all donors to the Propagation of the Faith for your generous support. Because of war actions in Bosnia and around Sarajevo, we have displaced our seminary into the convent of Croatian Dominicans. This is the second consecutive year of the seminary's activity in exile. The seminarians sleep in a nearby hotel, while the 15 professors are stationed in the convent. They all celebrate the Liturgy in the Dominican church and have classes in the convent. We have 56 seminarians; four of them will be ordained this June. Despite the war situation, the archdiocese of Vrhbosna-Sarajevo recently enrolled 13 new candidates for the minor seminary. Seminary superiors and students pray for all benefactors who make possible our quiet work in war conditions."



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