

# Week offers joyful, serious notes

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

A few notes on the week's events:

1. Father Andy Teuschel is one of God's very kind people. Andy's parishioners at St. Mary's, Dansville, are deeply fond of him and in testimony of their affection recently held a party to celebrate his 70th birthday. More than 300 people attended. Now these parishioners and all of us who are Andy's friends express our affection for him in different fashion as we pray for his recovery from a serious automobile accident. Please join in the prayer of the community for a speedy and full recovery for him.

2. I had the honor this week of speaking at an interfaith prayer service at R.I.T., celebrating the gift of recovery enjoyed by many of our sisters and brothers through their participation in 12-Step programs. If it was a joy for me to prepare and share some reflections on recovery at the prayer service, it was an even greater delight to remain for the 12-Step meeting that followed. There is something very moving to me in the honesty and openness that characterize such gatherings. I am grateful for all that I received that night.

3. On Tuesday the Class of 1949 of St. Bernard's Seminary met at St. Michael's in Newark. Present for this 45th anniversary celebration were priests from the Dioceses of Rochester, Albany, Syracuse and the Archdiocese of Hartford. Father Ed Steinkirchner was our host. Also present from our diocese were Monsignor George Cocuzzi and Fathers Pat Grace, Elmer McDonald, Andy



## A LONG THE WAY

Teuschel, Joe Dailey, and Jim Doyle. It was a pleasure to be among those good men on such a pleasant occasion. What is especially impressive is the realization that these men have gathered for reunion during every single one of their 45 years of priestly life. Congratulations to all.

4. On Saturday evening at Immaculate Conception School in Ithaca I participated in my first auction since the wonderful Mission Days at St. Bernard's Seminary. I walked away from the event with a case of hot salsa under my arm and with fond memories of the community's warm hospitality and strong commitment to the school. I returned to the parish the next afternoon to confirm their candidates and others from Ithaca College, Cornell University and Holy Cross Parish, Dryden.

The Tompkins County visit bringing me to Immaculate Conception began at St. Catherine's, Ithaca, for confirmation,

followed by supper with the newly confirmed and their sponsors and families. And it included an overnight stay and a morning celebration with the community at St. James, Trumansburg. That visit allowed me the opportunity to thank Father Bob Kanka, who is retiring in June, for his 14 years of service at Saint James.

On the way home Sunday afternoon I was thinking of the words of a recent correspondent who remarked that there is much vitality in Southern Tier parishes. I knew from experience that she was right about that. My weekend visit to Tompkins only confirmed that.

5. My thanks go to all at Francis Hospitality Center, Catholic Family Center's shelter for men. Staff and clients welcomed me warmly this week on United Way's Day of Caring. I was able to assist in the preparation of the midday meal and, later, to share the meal with clients and other volunteers. The Francis Center is one of Catholic Family Center's many endeavors of which we can all be very proud.

6. I thought I had heard it all until I went to my sister- and brother-in-law's home for dinner on Easter Sunday. That is, until I heard my niece Grace tell her mother that when she, Grace, opened the oven to check on the food she got too close and baked her mascara. No kidding! Amazing, isn't it? But then again, that's why I always refer to her as my most exciting niece.

Thanks so much for your Easter greetings and prayers.  
Peace to all.

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