

St. Bernard's enriches diocese

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I hope that you were as pleased as I was to read in last week's *Catholic Courier* the first entry of Sister Patricia Schoelles' new biweekly column "The Moral Life."

Sister Pat, a Sister of St. Joseph of Rochester, is the new president of St. Bernard's Institute. She did her doctoral work in moral and ethical studies at University of Notre Dame and, so, has much to offer to our community as we continue to reflect together on the richness of our moral tradition.

I am delighted that the *Catholic Courier* and Pat can make this contribution to our local church, since we identified moral education as Synod Priority #3. I am very pleased that Pat's work will be a practical and consistent way to acquaint all in our community with the wonderful resource St. Bernard's Institute is for all of us.

Both the richness and potential of St. Bernard's Institute were brought home to me in a fresh way tonight when I attended a program in honor of Judith O'Brien who with her husband, Dennis, will be leaving our community this summer.

Among Judith's many contributions during her years in Rochester has been her work in establishing a scholarship fund for women who wish to study theology at St. Bernard's.

At this evening's event, Judith recounted the history of that effort and, in her usual gracious fashion, recognized



A LONG THE WAY

those who have worked so hard to make the program a success. It was a great story of quiet, consistent, loving work and a wonderful reminder to me of the enormous energy and giftedness of our community.

The energy and the gifts were beautifully evident in the sharing offered this evening by seven women who have studied at St. Bernard's with some scholarship assistance made possible by the Women's Scholarship Committee.

Irene Dymkar, Martha Ann Sims, Patricia Edd, Maureen O'Neill, Rose Davis, Patricia Boyce and Michelle Bertot enriched us all by telling something of their stories: what drew them to the study of theology, how the experience has changed them, what have been the joys and sufferings of those who have finished

their studies and are now engaged in full-time pastoral ministry.

I know that I was not the only one present who found their stories deeply moving and encouraging. They were yet another reminder of how richly blessed we are in the people the Lord is calling to full-time pastoral ministry in the church today.

My one regret about the evening was that we did not capture something of its magic on video tape. I would love to have such a record available for any persons interested in St. Bernard's Institute, studies in theology and ministry, the development of pastoral ministry in our church and the relationship between faith and the demands of daily living.

When I returned home from the program this evening I sat down to sign some correspondence. It was a happy coincidence that in the folder for signing were the diplomas to be awarded to those receiving their degrees at St. Bernard's commencement on Friday, May 13. The events of that evening will offer yet another opportunity to celebrate the opportunities SBI offers and the great achievement of the men and women who will receive their degrees from that wonderful institution.

Congratulations and thanks to Judith and her committee, to Pat and her faculty, to the seven women mentioned above, to all who receive their degrees from St. Bernard's on Friday.

Peace to all.

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