

Celebrations illustrate gifts of all

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

On the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, I went to the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption, Scottsville, to preside at the eucharistic liturgy and to bless their new access ramp and exterior gathering space. I was curious to see the work by which the community intends to honor its history and recommit itself to the ministry of today.

It was a delight to enjoy the beautiful work done in front and around the front-left side of the church. The ramp, gracefully accomplished in brick and stone, will afford easy entry to the church for those who have physical handicaps. The garden setting in which it is located and the lovely walkways leading to the ramp and church are strong symbols of openness and hospitality.

The work was done in memory of the parents, grandparents and other loved ones who passed on the faith to present-day parishioners and who shaped the life of St. Mary of the Assumption in its earlier years. After Mass on the feast day, we blessed the gathering place, the ramp and the book of memory, which is displayed in a handsome case in the back of church.

The celebration that evening was a most appropriate way to observe the 140th anniversary of the laying of the church's cornerstone by Bishop John Timon on August 15, 1853. Timon was the first bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, of which we were a part until the Diocese of Rochester was founded in 1868.



A LONG THE WAY

Another anniversary celebration took me to Elmira on Saturday. A large assembly gathered with the sisters at the Dominican Monastery on Church Street to thank God for the blessings of the years on the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Elmira (please see story on page 4).

The sisters came from Buffalo in 1944. With the help of the Catholic community of Elmira and other friends there, they worked long and hard to establish their new foundation, which today is a center of contemplation and prayerful support for the life and work of our local church.

It was a grace for me to be a part of the day with the sisters and their friends. And it was a pleasure to read in preparation for the event the brief but fascinating story of their 50 years among us. It is a story of courage, perseverance and a generous willingness to live in the Spirit and change

with the church, even when that willingness called them to dramatic changes or set them on paths they never would have chosen for themselves.

On Saturday evening following the celebration at the Dominican Monastery and on Sunday morning, I celebrated the Eucharist with the inmates at the correctional facilities at Elmira, Monterey and Southport.

At the first two institutions, I had an opportunity for some conversation with the inmates after Mass. They had a range of questions, some serious and some on the lighter side. At Southport, I had lunch with the inmates who participated in the liturgy. That different format allowed me to hear a little more of the stories of the men with whom I shared the meal, an opportunity for which I was very grateful.

Several days later, I still think about those men. I think about their circumstances and their stories, and I wonder where I would be today had I been asked to grow up in their places. I think of the intelligence, the wit, the sense of compassion, the simplicity and the honesty I noticed in so many of them. I think about the way Jesus identified himself with the prisoners of his day and of how he gave his life to free us all from the captivity of sin.

I'll be thinking of them for a while, as I will of the people of Scottsville and of our Dominican Sisters. In recent days they all have taught me something beautiful, and I am grateful for all of their gifts — as I am for yours.

Peace to all.

Catholic Pilgrimages



Up to \$200
DISCOUNT for
"Early-birds"

New 1994/95
FREE BROCHURE
ready!
10 New Programs

QUEEN OF PEACE MINISTRY
1-800-321-MARY (6279)

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 105 No. 45 August 18, 1994

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$19.50; Canada and foreign \$19.50 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Second-Class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Support LIFE'S REFUGE...

An Alternative to Abortion

All proceeds benefit the moms and babies we serve

Gift of Golf TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, September 20, 1994
18 Holes of golf plus dinner
(your choice of steak or chicken)

at picturesque

Shadow Pines Golf Club, 600 Whalen Road, Penfield, New York

Win a 1994 Pontiac Grand Am
in our "Hole-In-On" Contest!

Entry Fee - \$100 Includes greens fees, cart, and a delicious dinner!
Tee Times Begin at Noon Light Lunch and Refreshments Provided

Great Contests and Prizes!

ENTRY FORM

Entries must be received no later than August 31, 1994

Option 1: Four Person Golf Team

1. _____ phone _____
2. _____ phone _____
3. _____ phone _____
4. _____ phone _____

Option 2: Individual or Pair to be placed on a team.

1. _____ phone _____
2. _____ phone _____

Option 3: Unable to attend/ wish to sponsor another golfer

Make checks payable to Life's Refuge. Mail to: Life's Refuge,
PO Box 67708, Rochester, NY 14617.

For more information, call Life's Refuge at 1-800-643-8397

Fall Marriage Supplement

Publication Date:

Thursday, September 8, 1994

Advertising Deadline:

Wednesday, August 31, 1994

The Catholic churches in the Diocese of Rochester host more than 3,000 marriages each year. This fall you can reach the couples to be married — and the families and friends who will be involved in many aspects of the wedding — through the Catholic Courier.

Each week the Catholic Courier is delivered to 50,000 homes throughout the 12-county Diocese of Rochester. When you advertise in the Courier, you will introduce your business and the products or services you offer to more than 85,000 interested readers.

For more information or to participate in the Courier's Fall Marriage Supplement, call your sales representative or the Courier advertising department at 716-328-4340.



Catholic Courier
Newspaper of the Rochester Diocese

1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624

Phone: 716-328-4340 Fax: 716-328-8640