

A few notes on arrivals, departures

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

This week, a collection of brief notes that have come to my mind during the relatively peaceful days of August:

- I'm on my way to Brooklyn this Monday morning for the episcopal ordinations of Ignatius Catanello and Gerald Barbarito, who will serve as auxiliary bishops to Bishop Thomas Daily. It is the custom for the bishops of New York state to gather for such events. I look forward to the beauty of the celebrations and to mini-reunions with Brooklyn friends and the other bishops.

- We celebrated the funeral liturgy of Father James Collins at St. Anthony Church in Elmira on Saturday. One of the memories of that good man that will long be a part of me is the courage and good spirit with which he bore the sufferings he endured in recent years.

- Among the many benefits of living with Father Tom Mull has been the opportunity to become acquainted with the Mull family. Last week I was privileged to participate in the celebration of John and Elizabeth Mull's 50th wedding anniversary. I thank Tom, Mr. and Mrs. Mull and all of their family for their invitation to share in the joy of the occasion.

- That occasion with the Mull family reminded me of our own family reunion, which will take place this weekend in Saratoga State Park. Many of you inquired about my nieces. Maybe the reunion will provide an opportunity to interview them for next week's "Along the Way." I'll call their agents today to see if that will be possible.

- Today's ordination reminds me that our good neighbors Bishop Joe O'Keefe in Syracuse and Bishop Ed Head in Buffalo, have come to retirement age.



A LONG THE WAY

They will continue to serve until their replacements are named. I wish for both of them long happy years, and I look forward to welcoming and working with their successors.

- A friend recently gave me a copy of "A Generation of Seekers." It's a book about men and women born between 1946 and 1964, the so-called "baby boomers," their values and aspirations. I am particularly interested in it because we have been exploring some ways to establish some better connection with that generation. If you have any ideas of how best we might do that, I would be happy to receive them from you.

- I was delighted to receive and happy to accept an invitation to serve on the Board of Trustees of the College of Holy Cross. I began my college career at Holy Cross and, although I was there for only three semesters, my experience there was very significant to me. I look forward to this new association and expect to be much enriched by it.

- Her letter arrived too late for inclusion among excerpts from the

letters you sent naming the signs of hope you find in today's church. But I do want to thank Ann Nothnagle from Livonia who wrote so beautifully about our young people, especially as she experienced them at our Youth Convention at Geneseo earlier this month.

- Mike Theisen sent me a summary of the evaluations made of the Youth Convention by all who were present for the event. They confirmed strongly the impression I had that the event was very positively received by the vast majority of those present. It will probably come as no surprise to you that the participants raised some questions about the rules of the convention concerning supervision, freedom of movement, etc. Their questions are thoughtful, and I'm happy to tell you are being given careful attention.

- As we come close to Labor Day weekend and the renewed activity we generally associate with that time, I experience a sense of happy anticipation about the year ahead. That's because of the faith, goodness and energy that are present in our community and the privileged access I have to those gifts by virtue of my ministry. You make life very rewarding.

- The ordination today was lovely. Besides providing for reunions I mentioned above, it was a great experience of the church of Brooklyn. There is an extraordinary variety among the 1.5 million Catholics of that two-county diocese. Because of poor weather this morning, we circled the New York area for an hour before landing. As I write these words this evening, we are already one hour late for takeoff. But our plane is in, our crew is assembling and we should soon be on our way.

Peace to all.

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A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit, and help them to praise your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken-hearted. And may the gift of Mary your mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen
O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to you. (3X)
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Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His priests

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