

# Convocation focuses on major synod theme

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

As I sit down to write this evening, I am mindful of and excited about our Convocation of Priests, which will begin in Auburn tomorrow afternoon and continue through noon on Wednesday.

This year we will center our attention on Catholic moral tradition, and how best to understand it and bring it to bear on today's often perplexing issues.

I always look forward to this gathering of our priests. This year I am especially pleased that we will be centering a good deal of time and energy on moral theology, one of our major Synod themes. It will be stimulating to work through some case studies together and to enjoy the counsel of professional theologians as we do so.

In addition to the stimulus of studying together, I look forward to spending time in prayer and social activity with our brother priests. To do so gives me great energy and reminds me of just how blessed we are to have as gifted and generous a group of priests as we do in our diocese.

I'll have a chance to thank them for you and for myself when we gather on Wednesday morning. At that time, under the rubric of Issues for the '90s, we'll talk about matters related to the vocation and ministry we share.



## A LONG THE WAY

My hope for the morning is that we'll have as much conversation together as is reasonably possible, given the size of our group and the limited amount of time available to us.

My intention is to make some brief comments and to invite some initial responses from our priests about the best ways to work together for the service of our community in light of today's very challenging circumstances.

That will not be a new exercise for us. Indeed, as I have noted in this column before, we have had some excellent discussions about such issues during the past year. I want to recognize that work

on Wednesday and invite our presbyterate to continue to build on it. I would like to devote our convocation next year to a consideration of all of that work so that we can develop ministerial priorities appropriate to our circumstances.

Those priorities cannot and should not be developed apart from the community nor from the community's will as expressed in our Synod process. But it is important that the members of our presbyterate take time to reflect on their experiences of ministry with and for the community.

Those experiences touch every one of our communities in a particular way. To understand them as fully as possible will be of great benefit, not only to the well-being of our priests, but also to the people for whose service they are ordained.

I ask you often to pray for our priests and to pray that we will have a generous number of new candidates for the ordained ministry. Permit me on the eve of our convocation to make that request again.

And, let me conclude by inviting you to encourage priests of your acquaintance and to thank them for the good they do day in and day out. It will mean a lot to them, as it will to me.

Peace to all.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)  
Vol. 106 No. 30 April 27, 1995

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 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.

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## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS JESUS, PRIEST AND VICTIM

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus ("The Little Flower"), in order to arouse the zeal of her novices, daily recited with them a prayer for the members of the Catholic clergy. It is one of the rare formulas which she learned by heart, and which she recited with the utmost fervour.

"O Jesus, may your priests be the faithful guardians of your Church as was St. John who received your Mother into his own home. Instructed by this tender Mother, who was so afflicted on Calvary, may they have for your children the care and loving watchfulness of a mother. May they teach souls to be united with you through Mary, who, being the Gate of Heaven, is also the treasure-house of your divine Heart. Oh! give us priests all burning with zeal! True children of Mary! Priests who will give Jesus to souls with the same tenderness and care which Mary carried the Infant Jesus of Bethlehem! Mother of sorrow, and of love, through pity for your beloved Son, pour into our hearts floods of tenderness to console Jesus; grant us a generation of priests formed at your school, in the tenderness of your virginal love."

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priests.

MAY, 1995  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Reverend Fathers:	1 Theodore J. Auble	2 Peter T. Bayer	3 Michael R. Brown	4 Brian Cool	5 John A. Firpo	6 Harold Gardner, CSB
7 Austin B. Hanna	8 John A. Karp	9 Louis J. Hohman	10 Paul J. McCabe	11 Vincent P. McDonough, SJ	12 Thomas F. Neillis	13 John V. Rosse
14 Lawrence W. Sansom	15 Conrad J. Sundholm	16 Michael G. Upson	17 Michael Volino	18 Pope John Paul II birthday	19 Richard P. Noonan, SJ	20 Lawrence V. Murphy
21 Frederick P. Helfrich	22 Curtis Cadorette	23 William M. Barrett	24 Frederick G. Betti, SJ	25 Michael Costanzo	26 Peter Ellinger, CSB	27 Sean Garrity, CSB
28 Matthew A. Kawiak	29 Charles L. McCarthy	30 James C. Burke	31 Mitchell Dowalga, CSB	For subsequent months or extra copies, write to: THE MPRP, 70 Green Knolls Dr, Apt. A Rochester, New York 14620-4746		

Look for next month's MPRP Calendar in the June 29th Catholic Courier.

## Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

2461 Lake Avenue, Rochester, NY 14612

### NOTICE TO OUR LOT HOLDERS

We wish to advise you of a change in policy for grave decoration in our Garden Sections, (South-33, 35, 36 and 37) and in the Holy Family Shrine Area.

Flowers may be planted in an area extending 12" out from the front of your monument or marker and across the length of the memorial. No bushes or shrub are allowed, as well as no artificial flowers at any time.

You may continue to place fresh flowers on the lot in metal cemetery approved containers, but no glass containers are allowed.

The cemetery reserves the right to remove any violations in order to maintain the best appearance of our grounds.

