

Moved by memories – and anticipation

When I finish *Along the Way* this Sunday evening, I'll pack my suitcase and gather the materials I'll need for this week's meeting of the National Council of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) in Washington from Monday morning until Thursday noon.

Our agenda will be a full one, as it usually is, but there is no single item that stands out as one that will command a great amount of public attention.

I am personally most curious about the final form of a conference document entitled "Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium."

This reflection paper has been prepared to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Vatican Council II's Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, and the 15th anniversary of "Called and Gifted," which was published by the NCCB. It will be interesting to compare our two conference documents and to read them in light of the conciliar decree that inspired both.

In the normal rhythm of things, I would be returning to Rochester at the conclusion of our Washington meet-

along the way



By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

ing. But on Thursday I'll be going on to Minneapolis to participate in the National Catholic Youth Convention. Nearly 165 of our young people will attend the event, joining 12,000 of their peers from all parts of the country.

Their theme this year is "To Stand Against Violence." I am sure it will be a most enriching experience to hear their experience, hopes and ideas on that theme.

On Thursday and Friday of last week, I had the happy experience of joining the priests of the Diocese of Albany for their convocation. Bishop Tom Costello of Syracuse and I were invited to share some ideas about priestly ministry today and tomorrow

with our friends in that diocese.

As you know, I enjoy opportunities to be in touch with the life of other local churches. As you might expect, to return to the local church in which I was baptized into the faith and for whose service I was ordained a priest was especially joyful.

In this instance I actually found it a very moving experience. I think that's because Tom's talk included a review of significant developments in the ministry of the church in the years since Vatican Council II.

Since I was ordained a priest during the council, his words brought with them a flood of memories. And to be with so many priests whose goodness filled those years brought an even deeper dimension to the memories Tom evoked in me.

On this Day of the Lord, late in the evening, I am grateful for the goodness of God that moves me to be grateful for yesterday and to look forward to tomorrow. Such moments are special. I hope that your own experience includes them from time to time.

Peace to all.

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