

Young leaders inspire hope in the church

At a Stewardship Council meeting a couple of years ago, Jim Ryan noted that we who shared the table with him that day were "of an age" and suggested that it would serve the Catholic community very well if we invited the generation behind us to share their insights, skills and expertise in service of our diocese.

The idea made of lot of sense to me, so Mary Consler (diocesan director of major gifts), Jack Balinsky (director of diocesan Catholic Charities), Father John Mulligan (moderator of the Pastoral Center) and I invited a small group of men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 to come together to explore the question. At that first session we expressed our basic hope for the gathering: that somehow through our interaction, our diocese might benefit from their talents and good counsel, and that they might be more strongly nourished in their own journeys of faith.

Over the course of several months, our small group tried as best we could to identify themes of faith, church and life that are on the minds of people of the members' age and background. We talked about how best the church community could support them in their search for value, truth and life. We discussed the questions and concerns these gifted men and women have about the church.

I am sure it will not surprise you that the members of this group — which

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

has been named Young Catholic Leaders — have many questions, are quite ready to ask them and insist on answers that make sense to them. The whole experience has been and continues to be a blessing in my life. I think that is because the sharp minds and healthy curiosities of group members have forced me to look at old questions in new ways and allowed me to consider possibilities I might never have been aware of without them.

Most of all, I have enjoyed the experience because it has enabled me to know young people who are genuinely good. Their life experience — so different from that of my own generation — leaves them with questions we did not have and with attitudes toward the church different from our own. But I would want to add that they have a lively, honest faith I find quite inspiring. As I think about them during Lent, I regard them as a sign of hope in the church and as another wonderful way in which Christ remains true to his promise to be with us always.

I should say that, early on, our core

team moved beyond the talking stage. They have developed activities that have drawn more than 150 participants. Those men and women have been good enough to come together to identify both the ways in which our community might support and nourish their faith, and the ways in which they would like to serve our faith community.

You might be interested in two examples of their activities. One is the responsibility some of our Young Catholic Leaders have taken for the organization of a dinner that will be one of the principal activities of the April 25-27 weekend on which we highlight and celebrate our diocesan commitment to the consistent life ethic.

The second is a luncheon series called Last Fridays. The first luncheon of the series will be held on March 29 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Campus Room of the University Club. I have the honor of speaking at the first gathering. If you are interested in attending the luncheon or in obtaining more information about Young Catholic Leaders, please call Nancy Nash at 716/328-3210.

Whatever your thoughts about these particular events, if you are between 25 and 40 and want a closer connection with your church, I invite you to be in touch with this wonderful group. I think I can promise you'll be glad you did.

Peace to all.

MISSION NEWS

HOPE AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Lord, I know how important it is, in suffering, to have someone you love standing with you.

I think of Mary at the foot of your Cross, powerless to take away the Cross, but there.

This Lent, won't you "stand by" the poor of our Good Friday world, being there with them, helping them in one way to know our Lord's gift of Redemption, calling them to the faith of Easter? Through your prayers and sacrifices, offered through the Propagation of the Faith, you can be there. Won't you help today?



The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
Fr. Robert C. Bradler, Diocesan Director, Attn: Dept. C.
Diocese of Rochester
1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York, 14624



\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 \$____ (other)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please remember The Society for the Propagation of the Faith when writing or changing your Will.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 107 No. 24 March 14, 1996

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

The Holy Rosary at St. Patrick's Cathedral

POPE JOHN PAUL II

IN PRAYER WITH THE HOLY FATHER

A one-of-a-kind video presentation of the recitation of the Holy Rosary by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II at the acclaimed St. Patrick's Cathedral, as part of his historic visit to New York City, October 4-7, 1995. A treasury of devotion that will inspire a tradition of prayer for years to come. Approx. Running Time: 60 minutes

\$14.99 plus shipping & handling

THE JOURNEY TO AMERICA

POPE JOHN PAUL II'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE U. S.

A video digest of Pope John Paul II's five-day visit to the United States, October 4-8, 1995 — including his historic address to the United Nations General Assembly and Mass before more than 300,000 people at New York's Central Park. A special visual documentary that illuminates the Holy Father's journey to America highlighting the Church's teaching on the eve of the New Millennium. Approx. Running Time: 90 minutes

\$14.99 plus shipping & handling

Mail check or money order payable to Catholic Courier with the form below. Credit card orders, call 716-328-4340.

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PRICE	TOTAL
The Holy Rosary	_____	\$15.95	_____
The Journey to America	_____	\$12.95	_____
Shipping/Handling	_____	(1-2 tapes \$4; 3 or more \$6)	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

PEPOPE