

Cursillo, couples and twenty-somethings

An update on this beautiful Easter season weekend before heading off for our Priests' Convocation tomorrow:

1.) My sincere thanks to Gloria Treis, Rectora of Women's Cursillo #64, and to Sister Diane Branch, SSJ, team member, for inviting me to St. Anthony's, Elmira, today to have lunch with them and the candidates.

To be present with the women who were candidates was to experience the kind of joyful enthusiasm, sense of community and concern for others that shone through today's lesson from the Acts of the Apostles.

To be with Diane and Gloria as well as Fathers Tom Hctor and Bill Michatek, Deacon Bill Coffey and the others on the team was an invitation to remember the extraordinary talent and generosity of the pastoral ministers with which our diocese is blessed. (I think here of such people as Bishop Dennis Hickey who filled in for Bill at St. John's, Spencerport, so he could staff the Cursillo.)

To be with the men and women who volunteered to cook for and otherwise serve those making the Cursillo was to be strengthened by their example of selfless service. That's not rare among you, believe me. I see examples of your generosity every day.

The whole visit was a happy reminder both of the Cursillo I made 30 years ago

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

and of the great power a healthy experience of Christian community can have in our lives.

2.) Later in the afternoon, couples married 25 years or more gathered at St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, to celebrate their anniversaries and jubilees.

You may remember that we had a similar celebration in February at Our Lady of the Assumption, Fairport. For that reason I expected that those who gathered today would come from our Southern Tier parishes. Those communities were certainly very well represented. But I was quite surprised that there were couples there from literally every corner of our diocese.

I have many fond memories of the day, but few as impressive as the one provided by the many couples who told me what an encouragement it was for them to be in the company of so many others who shared their life experience.

Though not married myself, I could well understand what they meant. I, too, drew great encouragement from their presence and witness.

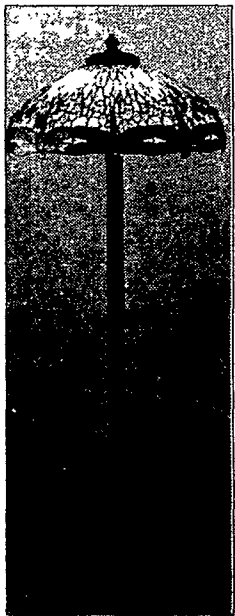
The enthusiastic response to both celebrations made me happy that in September we will be having a third in the Finger Lakes Region (time and place to be determined). If you are interested in participating, please keep an eye on the *Catholic Courier* and/or your parish bulletin for details.

3.) It's hard for me to believe that the youngest of my five beautiful nieces, Kathleen Loretto Early, turned 20 yesterday. Now, all five of them are 20-something. (Yes, you're correct. Not long ago my sainted sister and brother-in-law were raising five teenage daughters!) I was not able to be with her on that significant day, nor was I able to be there for the family party in her honor or for the surprise party organized for Kathleen by her boyfriend, Mark Grignon.

I did hear that all had a wonderful time and that Kathleen and her sisters danced up a storm all night. I was enjoying that thought immensely, but Kathleen disturbed my peace. She told me that someone made a video of the party and that she'd send it to me — as soon as she had a chance to censor it! Anyone in your family like that?

Peace to all.

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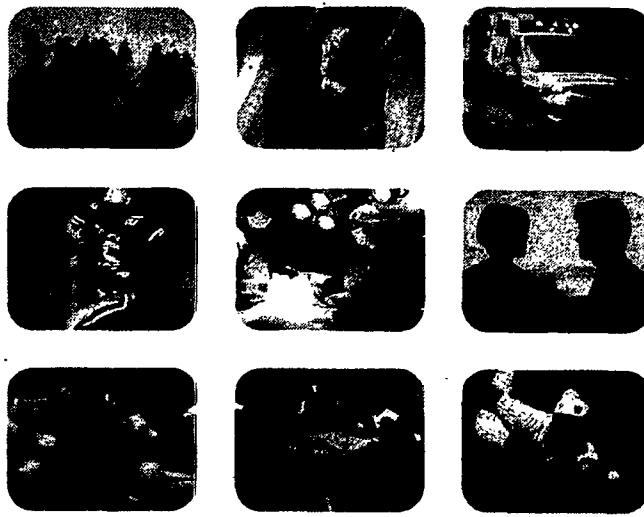
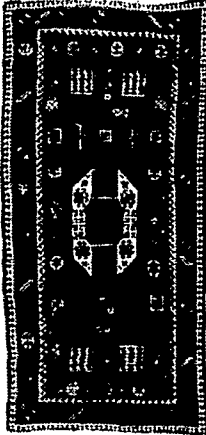
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