

Work at convocation sets good pace

In a letter to me late last week one of our senior priests wrote of his great pleasure about our Priests' Convocation. He expressed the view that it was our finest ever because of the level of engagement of participants and because of the quality of the conversations we enjoyed. Several other priests have expressed, orally or in writing, similar views about the experience.

Although I have always enjoyed our convocations, I too found this year's session to be our most rewarding one. As I look back on it I identify three factors that helped make it the success it was.

1.) Theme: Our theme, "The Centrality of the Eucharistic Liturgy in Catholic Life," was a very rich one. I think that all of us became aware of that richness in new and fresh ways through the course of this year's discussion. The work called us to try to understand more deeply the dynamic presence of Christ's life and transforming love in the Eucharistic liturgy.

At the same time we became aware in the course of the year's work that probing the mystery of the Eucharist puts us in touch with deep, intimate human realities for which it is often difficult to find words.

If the work was difficult, and often it was, we kept at it because of the magnetic power of the theme and from our

along
the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

sense that our labors were bearing fruit in a growing understanding of Christ and of ourselves.

2.) Preparation: If our priests wanted a theme of pastoral and theological importance, they also made it clear through the evaluations we do each year that they desired to help shape our convocation so that they could invest in it beforehand and prepare for it in a thoughtful fashion.

I am happy to say that our Priests' Council, Convocation Committee, Saint Bernard's Institute and Liturgy Office were all helpful in offering guides and resources for our preparation, that our priests attended very thoughtfully to the materials provided.

3.) Process: The third quality which, I believe, contributed to the success of our convocation was that it called all of us to active participation in a process. We were

not reacting to the words of a speaker. Rather, we were building on work that we had done through the year. Our hope was that at the end of our days together we would come to a deeper common understanding of and some practical decisions about the critical pastoral areas relating to our gathering theme.

I do think we left with some work accomplished in both areas. To be sure, there is much left to do. But the work is well begun — and continuing!

The next step in the process — and it will be a significant one — will be the Ministry Day which will be held on May 14 at DeSales High School, Geneva. As I asked your prayers for God's blessing on our Priests' Convocation, so I ask you to pray for all of us who will be gathering for the Geneva event.

A final thought: It occurred to me frequently during the convocation, especially when I noted the honesty, trust and willingness to learn so notable among the priests and pastoral administrators who were present, that the convocation owed much to the Synod. I want to think more about that, and will.

But in the shorter run I thank you not only for praying for the work of the convocation but for the very real way in which your example inspired us who participated.

Peace to all.

Kid's Answers from page 16

- 1. b 3. a 5. f
- 2. d 4. c 6. e

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

The following prayer was dictated by Our Lord to Sister Joseph Mendicant at Poitiers, France, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 3, 1921, with the instructions: "Joseph! Repeat these words daily!"

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 3, 1953

Prayer Suggestions:

- Mass
- Rosary
- Fasting
- Day Offering
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Offering of Sufferings
- Divine Mercy Chaplet

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



MAY, 1996

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Look for the June MPRP Calendar in the May 30th Catholic Courier	Reverend Fathers	1 Phillip J. Billotte	2 Timothy E. Horan	3 Eugene H. McFarland	4 John P. Norris	
5 David P. Reid, S.S.C.C.	6 Mitchell Zygaldo	7 Lawrence J. Wroblewski, S.J.	8 Edward L. Palumbos	9 Desmond O'Neill	10 Francis J. McNamara, S.J.	11 John H. Hayes
12 Francis E. Blighton	13 John R. Cavanaugh, CSB	14 Albert Gaelens, CSB	15 Edward Golden	16 Robert S. Bouray	17 Brian Cool	18 Pope John Paul II birthday
19 Paul F. Walsh, CSB	20 Robert M. Egan	21 Matthew A. Kawiak	22 Joseph Freund, CSaR	23 Elmer W. Heindl	24 John V. Rosse	25 James P. Jaeger
26 Rev. Msgr. J. Emmett Murphy	27 Thomas F. Nellis	28 Martin Erapu, OFM Cap.	29 Charles J. Latus	30 Robert F. McNamara	31 James Cronin, OSB	

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