

Calendar fills with celebrations

The weekends of May and June, as I'm sure you know from personal experience, are very busy ones in the lives of most people. Such events as weddings, ordinations, confirmations, commencements and — obviously — special jubilee celebrations of some of those memorable occasions, fill up many spring calendars. And that's before we even mention Mother's Day and Father's Day!

As I write these words tonight I am mindful of the sweep of such celebrations on my schedule these days. Yesterday I was at St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, to join with that community and many of their friends in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of their parish. I always enjoy such events and took a particular delight in the care and the enthusiasm with which our friends in Watkins Glen celebrated their rich history.

They had wonderful music and lively participation during the liturgy and it was clear that they were quite thoughtful about the contributions made to parish life over the years by different pastors, groups and families. One feature of their jubilee celebration I enjoyed very much was the parish history they produced to honor the occasion. One section organized the story of the parish around the years of service of the several pastors through the years. Another portion of the work was developed around families and groups of families who contributed to the vitality of the parish over the years.

As I have in the past, I encourage you in

along the way

By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



similar fashion — if ever you have the opportunity — to worship with the community. You will not be sorry that you did. They are a prayerful, joyful, very welcoming group. And, as you know, their location on Route 14 at the southern tip of Seneca Lake is a most attractive one.

Next weekend will be special, too. Saint Bernard's Institute will hold its commencement on Friday evening. It will be a night of celebration for all of us but especially for the men and women who will be receiving hard-earned degrees.

I am thrilled that Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of the Diocese of Albany, who will receive an honorary doctorate at the commencement, will also be the principal speaker that evening. Howard will give a wonderful talk, as he always does. But on that occasion he will also symbolize the rich and mutually beneficial relationship SBI has developed with our neighbors in the eastern part of our state. That initiative makes me hope-

ful about the future of graduate-level education in theology and ministry in upstate New York, something that I think will grow in importance as the years go by.

On a more personal note, I am delighted that Howard, a dear friend, mentor and vacation buddy for close to 40 years, will be honored in this way. It's hard to believe that he is now in his 20th year of episcopal service. But he is. And throughout those years he has made a significant contribution to Catholic life in the United States in his speaking, his writing and the daily, generous example of his episcopal ministry.

One other event adds happiness to the weekend. Nazareth College has honored me with an invitation to offer the baccalaureate address and to receive an honorary doctorate during their commencement activities on Saturday and Sunday. My sincere thanks to the Nazareth community for such gracious encouragement.

If all of that were not excitement enough for any weekend, my family will be coming to celebrate both commencements, the birthday of my nieces, Grace and Mary Ellen, and the birthday of my great friend, Father Tom Powers, who is also a trustee of SBI. Margaret is the only one of my beautiful nieces who will not be able to be with us.

In all truth, when I remember last weekend and look forward to the next I am aware of how kind the Lord has been to me to have placed me in your midst. Thanks for your great kindness and encouragement.

Peace to all.

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Thoughts to Consider

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Funeral Director

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