

# Bountiful blessings seem in season

Some notes and thoughts remembering recent events:

1. It was a delight to travel to Tioga County for weekend celebrations at Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Newark Valley, and Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Catatonk. We had two liturgies in each place. Both communities had renovated their churches and wanted to celebrate their rededications. Both were due for confirmation.

There was a special grace about the weekend. That was because of the good spirit of the people. They delighted in the work they had done on their churches. They surrounded their confirmation candidates with lively affection. Their expansive joy made visitors like myself very much at home in their midst.

Nature, too, had much to do with the beauty of those days. It provided the first warm weekend of this slow spring and robed the hills and valleys of Tioga County with stunning blossoms.

My sincere thanks go to Father Bill Moorby, pastor, and the people of both parishes for the warmth of their hospitality, the quality of their renovation work and the good spirit of

## along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

their worship. To be with them all was a special blessing in the final days of this Easter season.

2. A week from Saturday, June 1, at Sacred Heart Cathedral we will ordain two new priests for the service of our diocese. They are Frank Fusare from Saint Anthony, Elmira, and Doug Della Pietra from St. John of Rochester, Fairport. In their preparation for ordination the two of them have been generous and thoughtful in their response to what the church has asked of them.

I hope that you will pray for them in these last days before their ordination and that you will continue your prayerful support of them as they begin their priestly ministry in our local church.

Permit me to extend that request for prayers to include the intention that

other gifted individuals might consider the possibility of ordained priesthood. At the present time we have only 10 priests 40 years of age or younger. It would be wonderful if we could increase that number over the next few years.

3. As we enter more deeply into May I am aware of two spring phenomena about which I would like to make brief comments. The first: At this time of year many of the volunteer groups that so generously support the life of our diocese and its parishes suspend activities for a well-deserved summer break. As you anticipate that respite please accept my sincere thanks for all that you do. I am deeply grateful to you.

The second phenomenon: The remarkable number of people who celebrate special events or the anniversary of such events in May and June. I exemplify that by mentioning first holy Communion, weddings, ordinations, graduations and commencements, and confirmations. There are many others I am sure. I extend congratulations to all. I hope that the celebrations in which you participate will bring new life to your spirit and peace to your heart.

Peace to all.

Parents • Grandparents • Relatives • Friends

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