

St. Leo's youth live what they learn

There were many pleasing elements in the weekend celebrations at St. Leo's, Hilton. One that meant a great deal to me is the way the parish family welcomes and encourages the young people of the parish to participate in liturgical ministries.

The boys and girls, young men and women, are well-prepared, quite poised and do well whatever is asked of them. To participate with them is to sense that they know they are offering ministry to others and that they appreciate the opportunity to minister as a privilege in their lives.

I could not help but notice as well the attentiveness of the assembly to the capable ministry of the young among us.

One of the impressive aspects of the inclusion of the young people in the liturgical ministries at St. Leo's is that they minister side-by-side with adults. They sing together, serve together, proclaim the word together.

In doing so, they provide a gracious reminder that our call to minister is rooted in our baptism and should be open to all who desire to participate, are capable of a given ministry and are properly prepared.

To put it in other words, the community at St. Leo's has understood that

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

the freedom to minister in this fashion should not be tied to a particular age nor should it be contingent on some long list of achievements.

An enjoyable dinner with Father John Glogowski and the parish staff gave me some background and perspective on the involvement of their young people in the life of the parish in general and in their liturgical life in particular.

They have given thought and energy to the spiritual formation of the young and taken advantage of opportunities to put them in touch with the wider church. Their kids are beginning to become involved in such things as diocesan youth rallies, retreats and training sessions. When they do, they come home excited by what they have experienced and want to become more involved in parish life.

Whenever I hear such stories, I be-

come more convinced than ever that wonderful things happen when we can gather our young and help them grow in their faith.

Important as such opportunities are, they will become sources of frustration for our young people if — when they return to the parish — they are not able to live out what they have learned.

That is just another reminder of something that emerged in high profile from our Synodal experience: the fact that growth in faith for any of us usually involves some combination of study, prayer, service, reflection on life's experience, community involvement and celebration. More and more, parishes like St. Leo's realize this. The insight leads them to work hard to provide an environment in which such growth is possible for all.

I have neglected to say thus far that the occasion for my weekend visit to Hilton was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of St. Leo's Parish.

I want to thank the parish community for including me so generously in their jubilee plans. The opportunity to pray and speak and party with them was a great joy for me. Their faith strengthened my own. For all such good gifts, I am most grateful.

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MISSION NEWS



With God's grace, 39 young men at St. Joseph's Seminary in Nigeria will be ordained to the priesthood this summer.

"As each day passes," one of those young men, Victor Owan, notes, "my love for the priesthood continues to increase."...In Dinajpur, Bangladesh, Adline Clara Peris is preparing to be a Sister in a Religious Community whose members teach, care for orphans and offer medical help. She hopes to serve among children. ...Such mission seminarians and Religious novices depend on your prayers and financial help. Pope John Paul II calls those who help them through the Propagation of the Faith/St. Peter Apostle, their "mothers and fathers in faith."

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