

# Priest's death causes reflection on goodness

It's just plain tough to lose a priest like Father Bill Trott. When Bill died suddenly last week at 65 years of age, sadness visited the hearts of all who knew him. Bill touched many lives in quiet and lasting ways. His peaceful demeanor drew people to him. His careful attentiveness to others communicated his respect for the dignity of every person. And Bill's words to others — whether they were of consolation, encouragement or challenge — were always born of his genuine concern for them. People knew him for these qualities and loved him for them.

Even in moments of such sadness the Lord is very good to us. That goodness has been evident in so many ways in recent days: in the loving response of the people of Saint Joseph's, Livonia, and Saint William's, Conesus, among whom Bill served as pastor; in the faith and affection of those who gathered for Bill's Liturgy of Christian Burial at Saint Augustine's, Rochester; in the thoughtful homilies preached by Fathers Bill Barrett and Ray Booth at the celebrations at which we thanked God for Bill's life and ministry and prayed for his eternal rest.

My remembrance of the experience leads me to ask your prayers for two intentions: for those whose hearts are saddened by Bill's death and for new vocations to the priesthood to replace Bill and the other wonderful priests we have lost through death in

along  
the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

the last two years.

Even in the midst of sadness there is much to be celebrated. Over the weekend we had the first two of three Hands of Christ celebrations at which we honor high school seniors who are nominated by their parishes for their exemplary service to others.

You can imagine what a joy it is to be with our young people and their families on such occasions. I delight in the joy and pride of families who gather in support of those to be honored. I am always touched by the simplicity and humility of the honorees. Most of all, I enjoy these gatherings for the way in which they help the honorees know that there are wonderful young people all over our diocese who share their

values and support them in what they are trying to do. For many it's a first experience of the wider church of which they are such a vital part.

Another cause for joy in our community celebrated over the weekend was the inauguration of Katherine Keough as the fifth president of St. John Fisher College. That event, so significant in the life of the college, was celebrated in the context of the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Everything was beautifully done but no part of the day was more impressive than the presence and comments of St. John Fisher's new leader. I have no doubt that President Keough will make a significant contribution both to the college and to the community of which the college is so important a part.

One more gathering which bespoke God's continuing care for us all: the celebration at St. Mary's, Elmira, on Friday morning of 25 years of success for the Holy Family schools. That wonderful, collaborative effort among the parishes of Elmira has ensured the opportunity for quality Catholic education for the children of the region for a quarter of a century. My sincere congratulations to all and my sincere thanks for the privilege of participating in such a joyful, prayerful event. I wish you many more years of success.

Peace to all.

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