

Take advantage of retreat opportunities

By the time you read these words, which I write on Sunday morning, I will be approaching the end of a retreat I am making this week with a group of bishops from the other seven dioceses of New York state.

I have been looking forward to the experience for many reasons. Life on retreat is unhurried. There is ample time for prayer. There is time to think about life. There is time to rest, to recreate, and to enjoy meals and conversation with others who are not only friends, but also persons who share and understand one another's daily joys and concerns.

I am aware, as I write these words, that in a more ordered world or a better organized life I might consistently enjoy all of the above elements in desirable quantity and proper proportion. The truth is that I do not. Oh, I try. And, often enough, I succeed. But I am aware that I must continually work to maintain that healthy balance.

Among the blessings of the retreat experience is that it allows me a peaceful opportunity to step back, take a look at the patterns of my life and determine what I might do to live in a freer, more loving way. But the greatest gift of retreat is always a renewed sense of God's loving fidelity to all of us.

That realization, thanks to the same gracious God, remains even when — as so often happens — I return home and revert to pre-retreat goofiness.

The joyful anticipation of this retreat

along
the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

makes me deeply grateful for the opportunities I have had to make retreats ever since high school. Those early retreat experiences had a lasting impact in my life and make me very happy that we have such a fine retreat program for the youths of our diocese.

I am also very grateful that there are a number of centers in our diocese that offer a wonderful variety of retreats and other opportunities for spiritual growth. Just in case you and/or your friends are interested in such opportunities and are not familiar with these centers, I list them as they appear in our diocesan directory:

Borromeo Prayer Center
3011 Dewey Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14616
716-663-5856

Holy Trinity Monastery
7200 Tobes Hill Road
Hornell, N.Y. 14843
607-324-7624

Mercy Prayer Center
65 Highland Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14620
716-473-6893

Misericordia Spiritual Center
1400 Maple Ave.
Elmira, N.Y. 14904
607-737-1816

Notre Dame Retreat House
PO Box 342
Foster Road
Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424-0342
716-394-5700

Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center
402 Rogers Parkway
Rochester, N.Y. 14617
716-336-4370

St. Francis Spiritual Renewal Center
109 W. Seneca St.
PO Box 6788
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
607-277-8256

If you are interested in retreat opportunities or if you are otherwise interested in spiritual growth, you might wish to contact one of these centers. I am sure their staff members would be pleased to know of your interest and happy to speak to you about what opportunities they might offer in those areas.

If you decide to call, tell them Matthew sent you!
Peace to all.

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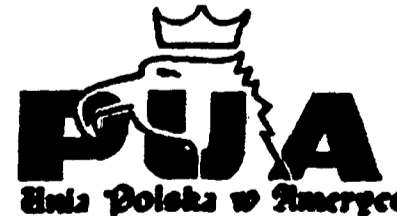


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