

Upcoming events will begin change of pace

At this time of the year it is fun to ask children what they think about returning to school. Some are obviously thrilled at the prospect. They miss their friends. They are bored. They want to move on, to progress. Others are more circumspect in their response. They will admit only with great reluctance that they really do not mind going back to school. One senses that they think it un-American to be too enthusiastic about returning to daily routine.

My young friends may not know it, but I enjoy such exchanges with them not only because I enjoy their company but also because they help me deal with the shift of gears many of us need to make as Labor Day introduces us to the shank of the summer. The more relaxed days of July and August gradually give way to the round of meetings, celebrations and events, which are the stuff of the rest of the year's calendar.

Do I enjoy the chance for the relaxation and renewal the summer offers? You bet I do. It is good to back off for a while, to think about life in peaceful circumstances, to recharge the batteries. Am I sorry that tomorrow we return full throttle to the normal work routine of the year? Not at all. I identify with the kids who want to move on, to continue work already begun, to continue learning.

Over the weekend, in anticipation of this post Labor Day change of pace, I reviewed my September calendar. It contains a variety of activities and will take me to many different places. You might be interested in some of its main streams of activity:

A. Travel meetings: I am beginning the last year of a three-year term as a member of the Administrative Committee of the National

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

Conference of Catholic Bishops. We will be meeting in Washington for three days next week. I also represent our conference at the National Advisory Council and will be meeting with that group at a retreat center in Marriotsville, Maryland, for three days prior to the meeting of the Administrative Committee. On the off day between those two meetings I will be in Metuchen, New Jersey, for the episcopal ordination of Vincent Breen, until now a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Later in the month the bishops of the eight dioceses of the New York Province meet for two days in the Diocese of Brooklyn. This is an annual meeting. We will spend one day of it working on a range of pastoral issues. On the second day we will meet with representatives of the Presbyteral Councils of our eight dioceses.

The last travel day will be to Auriesville in the Albany Diocese for the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy that will be the centerpiece of their yearlong observance of the 150th anniversary of their foundation as a diocese. It will be a pleasure to return to the roots of my faith and family life for that gathering.

B. Regular meetings: In September we

resume a set of meetings that normally do not take place in July or August. Start-up meetings this month include Stewardship Council and its Executive Committee, Presbyteral Council and its Executive Committee, St. Bernard Institute's Board of Trustees, Board of the Catholic Courier and the Diocesan Board of Catholic Charities. In addition to these we have two regional organizational meetings for this year's Thanks Giving Appeal.

C. Special events: Among the events on this month's calendar are the 140th anniversary of St. Mary's Hospital; the 20th anniversary of Bethany House; the Diocesan Youth Run; a visit to St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira; meeting of Region II of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains to be held in Elmira; the annual diocesan gathering of the Catholic Daughters of America to be held in Hornell; liturgies at Bishop Kearney High School and Nazareth Academy; and Mercy Day with our Sisters of Mercy.

D. Parish events: During September I will visit St. Mark's, Greece, for Confirmation; St. Francis, Auburn, for the dedication of their new altar; St. Mary's, Auburn, for the dedication of their renovated church; Resurrection, Fairport, for the groundbreaking for their new worship space; and St. Michael's, Lyons, to join them for their Sunday celebrations.

I omit here office appointments and similar activities. But the above might give you some sense what life will be like as we move into a new phase of the summer. I look forward to it all and pray that God will bless every bit of it. And I include you and your activities in that prayer.

Peace to all.

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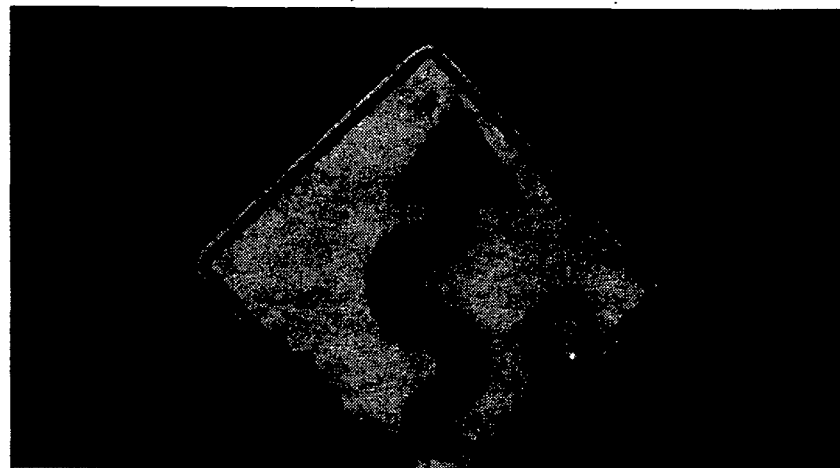
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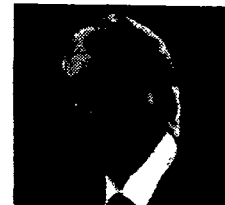
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