

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop Clark calls for greater local authority

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

PITTSFORD — As Bishop Matthew H. Clark prayed with the people who came to hear him speak at St. Louis Church Oct. 8, one person offered an intercession "to have one church and one shepherd."

And yet, the bishop's purpose for his continuing education appearance was to deliberate whether the Catholic Church indeed has only one shepherd at all times. Or, can the church comprise several shepherds, including himself?

"People do not have appreciation of the depth of the office of the bishop," he declared to approximately 500 people.

Bishop Clark added that he resents the perspective that "the bishop is sort of the pope's assistant in the diocese, and is only there because the pope doesn't have the time."

The bishop's talk was the first of two by him in the St. Bernard's on the Road series. The lectures are sponsored by St. Bernard's Institute and diocesan parishes. His address dovetailed with an essay, "The Pastoral Exercise of Authority," he wrote on request for the August edition

of *New Theology Review*.

Copies of the article were handed to participants as they entered the church. Only a handful later indicated, in response to a question by Bishop Clark, that they had known of the essay. (The essay and Bishop Clark's views were discussed in the Aug. 28 *Catholic Courier* in "Respectful divergence: Can Catholics disagree with the pope?")

One of his reasons for writing the piece, Bishop Clark told the gathering, was to promote a greater say in church matters by the laity and the office of the bishop. For instance, he raised the possibility of lay involvement in the selection of bishops and pastors.

Bishop Clark remarked that Pope John Paul II does not necessarily oppose such potential change in Catholic policy. As an example, he pointed out that the pontiff has apologized for the church's past treatment of women and Jews.

"It's just part of the truth to realize ... there's never been a time the church hasn't been changing," Bishop Clark said.

Citing the 1993 Diocesan Synod, the bishop added that discussion of change on a local level has been shown possible.

"People with rather different points of view came together," he said of the synod.

Bishop Clark was given a standing ovation at the lecture's conclusion. One participant, Jenna Earley, said she was glad the bishop promotes open discussion about church teachings.

"I think the church is very hierarchal right now," said Earley, a freshman at St. John Fisher College.

However, approximately 15 protesters stood outside the church during the bishop's lecture, holding signs bearing such sentiments as "Repent Bishop Clark!" "Bishop Clark: Stop Betraying Our Faith!" and "Bishop Clark: Respect the Holy Father."

One demonstrator, Milton Dries, said that papal authority is not a subject open to Bishop Clark for debate.

"It is not up to him to dialogue," said Dries, a parishioner at Guardian Angels Church in Henrietta. "The Catholic faith does not need this type of division from a leader."

Another protester, Michael McBride, charged that Bishop Clark's statements only serve to confuse traditional Catholics.

"We can't understand the bishop," said McBride, from Rochester's Our Lady of Victory Church. "What we grew up with, it seems like it's changing overnight."

Following the lecture, some protesters distributed literature that denounced Bishop Clark's recent pleas for compassion toward homosexual people. However, Ray Miller responded to one activist, "I don't know the pope; I know the bishop. And I think he's doing a great job."

Miller explained to the *Courier* that he believes Bishop Clark is licensed to make decisions based on his own interpretation of church teachings.

"Can you imagine the president of Kodak trying to run a corporation if his hands were tied with everything he does? The bishop's primary responsibility is to his people. How can he run a diocese unless he has freedom of authority?" said Miller, from St. Joseph's Church in Penfield.

"Differences make the world go around. I think we should accept and respect what Bishop Clark is doing. I don't

think he's being divisive at all," Earley added.

"I'm willing to follow Bishop Clark. And in following Bishop Clark, I hope I'm following the pope," Miller declared.

Bishop Clark is scheduled to deliver his second lecture on the depth of pastoral leadership at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, at St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester.



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Honoring Mary

With her image projected on a large TV screen above her, Sister Louis Marie DeMontfort, HMC, addressed the fourth annual Rochester Marian Conference Oct. 11 at Kodak's Theatre on the Ridge. Sister DeMontfort is a spokesperson for the Marian Movement of Priests. An estimated 1,500 people attended the conference, which included an opening message and blessing from Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Obituaries

Sister Marie Catherine Manley, 89; Nazareth Academy English teacher

Sister Marie Catherine Manley, SSJ, died at the age of 89 on Sept. 18, 1997, in the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

The Auburn native entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from the former St. Aloysius Parish in 1927. She was a graduate of Auburn High School, Nazareth Normal School and Nazareth College. She earned a master's degree from Catholic University, Washington, D.C., in 1947.

Sister Marie Catherine taught at Nazareth Grammar School for three years, and from 1932 to 1977 taught English, humanities and journalism at Nazareth Academy. For 15 years she was faculty adviser of the academy's "Gabriel" newspaper. Sister Marie Catherine was a charter member of the National Association

of Journalism Advisors, and a member of the Columbia Scholastic Press Advisors Association, Empire State School Press Association and the Catholic School Press Association. She was awarded the Gold Key, the highest award of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Sister Marie Catherine served as parish visitor in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Rochester, from 1977 to 1987. She retired to the convent infirmary in 1987.

Father Neil Miller, assisted by Msgr. Emmett Murphy, celebrated her funeral liturgy in the motherhouse chapel Sept. 21. Sister Marie Catherine is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Leo and Ruth Manley, other relatives and her sisters in the congregation.

Sister Mary Dosithea Sheehy, SSND, 92; former teacher at Holy Ghost, Rochester

Sister Mary Dosithea Sheehy, SSND, a former teacher at Holy Ghost School in Rochester, died Sept. 18, 1997, in Wilton, Conn. She was 92.

Sister Mary was born in Boston, Mass., and professed her vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in July 1924.

She was a teacher at Holy Ghost School in Rochester from 1923 to 1929. She subsequently taught at Catholic elementary and high schools in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New Hampshire and Connecticut. She also served as director of Holy Angels Academy in Fort Lee, N.J., 1941-56, as well as principal of St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, N.H., 1960-69.

Sister Mary left education in 1988, and worked at St. Leo's Convent in Irvington, N.J., until 1992. She spent her last years at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton.

A funeral Mass took place at her order's motherhouse chapel in Wilton on Sept. 22. Interment took place at St. Mary Cemetery in Bethel.

Donations in her honor may be made to the SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897.

Can we talk?

You enjoy reading the Catholic Courier — why not join our subscription sales team? Telemarketing positions are now available, with hours from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

Call Jeanne at
(716) 328-4340.



Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 109
No. 2 October 16, 1997

Published weekly except the first Thursday in January.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.



Give Back with a Thankful Heart

When you give to the Thanks Giving Appeal, your gift provides programs and ministries that nurture the faith of everyone in our diocesan family. Through your parish, make your pledge to the Thanks Giving Appeal now. It's the perfect way to share your faith and to thank God for the endless gifts we enjoy.



Thanks Giving Appeal 1997-98
Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester