

Louvain provides happy memories

As happens occasionally, I write this "Along the Way" outside of normal time rhythms. That is because I leave for Belgium on Wednesday, Dec. 3, and return on Tuesday, Dec. 9. In the usual course of events I would write this on Dec. 8. As it is, I write on Dec. 1.

I have been serving a term as a member of the board of the American College at Louvain, a small but excellent seminary owned and operated by the bishops of the United States. We also have two seminarians studying there: Patrick Van Durme from Dansville and Joe Marcoux from Rochester. In addition to them, Rochester is also represented by Father Dan Tormey, who is in his second year of service as spiritual director to the seminary community. For the above reasons Father David Windsor invited me to the American College to ordain two young men - Mark Bowers from the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, and Ferdi Santos from the Archdiocese of Manila.

It will be a joy and a privilege to ordain Mark and Ferdi and to have a chance to spend time with Pat and Joe in the place where they are spending such a significant part of their lives. And, I look forward to a reunion with Dan, who has been such an outstanding priest of our diocese for over 40 years. It will be especially good to see Dan in light of the fact that he is recovering from bypass surgery in a Louvain Hospital. I am hap-

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

py to tell you that his recovery goes well and that his doctors are quite optimistic that Dan will be feeling much better after his recovery than he did before surgery. However, it will not surprise you to know that in the short run this has not been an easy time for our good friend. Be assured that I will bring him your prayers and fond greetings and that I will update you on his condition when I return.

I had asked Dan before his illness to work with David Windsor to organize my time while in Louvain. I know that I will be meeting with some of the theological faculty of the University of Louvain and look forward to that very much. I know also that I have the honor of presiding at their feast day liturgy on the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Ferdi Santos will be preaching the homily on that occasion. And I have very fond hopes of paying a call on Archbishop Jean Jadot who

was Apostolic Delegate to the Church in the United States when I was ordained a bishop and who over the years has become one of my major heroes. I hope that his schedule and health allow that opportunity.

All of the above make me happy to go to Louvain, but so, too, do the happy memories of earlier trips to that wonderful place. Those visits came in the 1970s during my time of service on the staff of the North American College, Rome. Twice during those years I went to Louvain to participate in the Spirituality Institute co-sponsored by the two seminaries. On another occasion I was invited to lead a retreat for the American College community. All three experiences left me with fond regard for that seminary, a regard that continues to this day.

Before he left for Louvain after his summer vacation, Dan Tormey and I talked about this upcoming journey and agreed with some solemnity that it would not be an "all work, no play" experience. In the context of that conversation we agreed that one of the things we would surely do together would be to enjoy ample amounts of the delicious French fries in paper cones that are sold by vendors on the streets of the city. That may no longer be Dan's idea (or his doctor's) of proper fun at this time, but with his good spirit we will come up with a suitable alternate. Will let you know.

Peace to all.

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