

# Anticipating a welcome gathering

The priests and pastoral administrators of our diocese will be gathering in Corning this afternoon for our annual convocation. I always look forward to this event. This year is no exception.

Our gathering theme will be freedom, and we shall explore ways in which we can grow in freedom as human persons. That is a constructive goal, of course.

Our pastoral leaders make it the more attractive by relating it to their capacity to serve you in the most fruitful way possible.

In other words, our hope is that if we can grow in freedom, we will be better able to serve your growth toward greater Christian maturity and peace of heart.

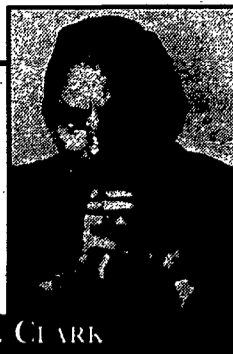
My tasks are to offer the keynote address, and to preside and preach at Wednesday's concluding prayer service. During that service, our priests will renew their priestly commitments.

Given the theme of our convocation, I have prepared a talk that:

- raises some questions I hope will help us reflect on our growth and quality of our relationships with one another and with you;
- shares some of the pushes and pulls, ups and downs I have experienced in ministry since our last convocation;
- names some circumstances or realities that can drain our energy and leave us unfocused;
- raises up other realities and prac-

## along the way

By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



tices that nourish us in ministry; and • makes some suggestions — which may not solve all our problems — but will strengthen us to face them with peaceful heart and optimistic spirit.

Father David Reid, SSCC, former pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Rochester, will be our guest speaker. David is a biblical scholar and a person of considerable and varied pastoral experience. Currently, he serves as a pastor in the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts.

David entitles his talk, "Liberating Our Gifts to Liberate the Gifts of God's People." I look forward to hearing him. But David's commitment to us does not end with his talk. He will engage in conversation with the assembly following his address.

In addition, David will lead our concluding session by reflecting with us on the signs of freedom and hope he will have noted during our convocation experience.

rience.

Four workshops complete the program. They will touch on some important themes: vocation, spirituality of the diocesan priest, retirement issues, and time and resource management in service of mission.

These activities will engage much of our attention during our stay in Corning. But our planning committee has tried hard to honor our priests' request that the session not be all work and no play.

Our last two convocations presented heavy workloads. Participants responded with great generosity on both occasions, but they made it clear that opportunities to relax and pray together, to renew old friendships and begin new ones are very important values to us all.

The schedule our committee prepared indicates to me that they have done an excellent job of responding to the input they received.

By the time you read this, we will have returned from convocation to daily ministry. You can be very sure that you were very close to us during our time together.

The goodness of people is one of the great joys of pastoral ministry, so you came up a lot in conversation and you are always in our prayers.

Thank you for your loving support. Peace to all.

## The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

### THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER

"To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures; to be a member of each family, yet belonging to none; to share all sufferings; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds; to go from men to God and offer Him their prayers; to return from God to men to bring pardon and hope; to have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for charity; to teach and to pardon, console and bless always. My God, what a life! And it is yours, O Priest of Jesus Christ!"

- Lacordaire

Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

## May, 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Look for the June MPRP Calendar in the May 28th Courier.					1 Revs. James E. Boyle	2 Bishop Matthew Clark
3 John F. Gagnier	4 Priests on Sabbatical	5 Thomas Brennan	6 James E. Hewes	7 Gerard J. McMahon	8 Francis E. Blighon	9 John J. Hempel
10 Joseph P. Brennan	11 Elmer A. McNamara	12 Charles Adams, O.F.M.	13 Joseph R. Catanise	14 Msgr. Roman Golemba	15 Edward J. Foy	16 David M. Murphy
17 Paul R. Schnacky	18 Pope John Paul II (birthday)	19 Gary L. Tymari	20 Severine P. Yagaza	21 R. Richard Brickler	22 Lance M. Gonyo	23 C. Richard Nangle
24 Vincent P. McDonough, SJ	25 Daniel P. Torney	26 Michael J. Volino	27 John J. Steger	28 Louis A. Sirianni	29 Francis J. Erb	30 Thomas P. Mull
31 Francis Fusare	Many thanks to the Catholic Communications Campaign for sponsoring this month's Calendar.					

We rely on your financial help to publish this calendar each month. Please send donations to: MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Drive, Rochester, NY 14620-4746

Join us in honoring

1998

## Vita Award

recipients

Linda Crowe

Amy & Bob Dorscheid

Rev. James Hewes

Sr. Barbara Lum, SSJ

Donald Peter

for accepting the Gospel challenge to defend all life, wherever it is threatened.

FUNDRAISING

## DINNER DANCE

Saturday May 9th, 6:00 PM

FOUR SEASONS SHERATON

Rochester Riverside



Donations and proceeds benefit the Consistent Life Ethic Grant Fund which supports parish, school, organization, group and agency efforts to defend life.

Donation and Ticket Information: (716) 328-3210 or (800) 388-7177