

Full week provides opportunities to celebrate

Some notes on things past, present, and to come: Fathers Jim Lawlor, Jack O'Connor, Win Kellner, Jerry Gefell, Joe Gefell and I represented our diocese at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg, on Thursday for the funeral liturgy of Father David Stinebrickner. Jim, Jack, Win and I were classmates of David at St. Bernard's Seminary. Joe and Jerry, seminary classmates of Bishop Dennis Hickey, have been living and serving in the Ogdensburg Diocese since their retirement several years ago. David had serious health problems for many years but, through it all, was a great leader in that local Church.

Sunday at Saint Mary's, Dansville, we had a jubilee celebration for couples from the diocese who are celebrating 25 years and more of marriage during 1998. The 150 couples from 11 of our 12 counties brought a great spirit of gratitude and joy to the day. Father Steve Kraus and the community at St. Mary's were most gracious hosts to all of us. The church was beautifully adorned and all of the liturgical ministries were beautifully done. Special thanks to the parish's small but excellent choir. Most of the jubilarians who gathered in Dansville yesterday had never been to St. Mary's before. I am sure that they were as impressed by the community and the church as I was.

This week we host in Rochester the annual meeting of the Northeast Conference of Diocesan Directors of the Spanish Speaking Apostolate. I look forward to an evening with them on Thursday. On Wednesday we will celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy in the chapel at the Pastoral Center and then enjoy a dinner

along the way

By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



together at a neighboring party house. It will be a blessing to have with us men and women who are leaders among a group who are so important to the life and good health of the church in the United States.

One of my favorite annual events is a luncheon for our senior priests, which will take place on Friday in Canandaigua. It is always a delight to gather in this company and to hear the wonderful stories that are told. The men who gather range in age from 70 to 93 years and represent centuries of loving service to the people of God in this region. The stories are the program. We interrupt them only for brief words of greeting, a blessing prayer and to consume the lovely food that is placed before us.

On Friday evening representatives of our Monroe County Catholic Schools and friends will gather for a celebration in gratitude for another successful year. A highlight will be the opportunity to honor some people who have offered strong support to our school efforts. I look forward to an evening of relaxation and renewal with all of them.

There will be a celebration on Saturday

evening, the second-annual Consistent Life Ethic dinner. On that occasion we will present the Vita Award to people who have offered distinguished and generous service in defense of life as it is threatened by abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, poverty, violence or war. Good food, friends and music make the evening an attractive one. But the heart of it for me are the stories of the generous and selfless service the Vita Award recipients render on behalf of vulnerable life.

Sandwiched between the Friday and Saturday night celebrations will be Saturday morning's Run for Youth at St. Lawrence in Greece. This event gathers entrants, young and not so young, from all parts of our diocese. We run or walk to have some fun and to raise some money to support the participation of our young people in events like retreats and youth conferences. Last year's event was a lot of fun and generated funds that helped lots of kids enjoy some great opportunities. I am confident that this second time around will produce results that are even more satisfying.

Other events that will help make this week a stimulating one include a breakfast meeting with a group of Catholic physicians, the monthly meeting of our Presbyteral Council and follow-up meeting with its executive committee, a meeting with our diocesan consultants, the first hour of a three-hour commitment I have made to receive training in communication, and confirmations at Our Lady of Mercy and Our Lady Queen of Peace.

I look forward to it all and hope that you have a great week yourself.

Peace to all.

MISSION NEWS



"When my friends came to know that I was going to join the priesthood, all of them discouraged me. I prayed to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I kept praying for many days..." ✠ On July 5, 1996, Jaya Pradeep gained a new set of

friends. On this day, he joined 25 other young men studying for the priesthood at Vinay Gurukul minor seminary in the Archdiocese of Delhi in India. Every day, stories like this are repeated throughout the Missions, and will continue well into the future...with *your* help.

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