

# College offers challenges, promises

When I noted the large number of cars at the Finger Lakes Mall on Saturday afternoon, my niece Grace observed that the large volume might have been related to back-to-school shopping.

I expect she was correct about that. Even if she wasn't, her comment started me on a train of thought that stayed with me through the quiet moments of our drive together. There were two parts to that reflection. One was what it's like in households in which high-school graduates are leaving home for the first time.

Young people I've met through the spring and into these summer days who are in that situation seem very happy to talk about what's happening in their lives. They are excited about a clear step to greater independence. Often they speak with much enthusiasm about the chance to go deeper in their intellectual pursuits.

The center of excitement for others is the possibility of being with people and in an environment that will challenge them to expand their horizons, test their values and wrestle with the complexities of life.

One thing I love about our young people is that the great majority will be open and interested enough to tell you that they do have some questions that they will be able to answer only with experi-

## along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

ence. I did well in high school: Will I be able to make the grade in college? Or, I'm on the shy side: Will I have any trouble making friends? Will I be able to balance the social and academic? Will I get homesick? If I do, what will I do about it?

The second phase of that quiet summer musing went to what is in the minds of parents when their daughters or sons leave home for the first time. Not being a parent myself, I can only guess at that and remember what parents in that position have told me over the years.

I suppose there's a great sense of pride and satisfaction that the child has come this far and that they have contributed mightily to that development over the years.

I'd guess that there is some measure of apprehension attaching to the moment. Will John or Mary handle well the pressure — which will surely be there? Will they eat well and drink wisely and get the

rest they will need to remain healthy and be strong for their work? Will they relate in an active way to the campus or neighborhood in which they'll find themselves? How will I strike a happy balance between standing actively in support of them and leaving them free to make decisions I would not have made myself?

I don't know about you, but when I look back at that particular time of transition in my life, I am going back 43 years. The world was much different in 1955 than it is now. So is college life.

But, different as many things are now, I have a sense that basic human relationships and their dynamics remain the same. There will always be concerns and worries at such moments. There will also be abundant measures of anticipation and excitement.

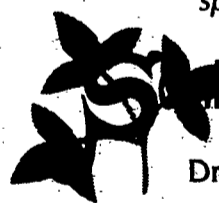
What helps people both to share and rejoice in the bright moments — and work together through the tougher ones — are good measures of respect, trust, honest communication and a lively trust in the goodness of God.

Are you heading off to college this year? Love and best wishes to you. Are you sending off your daughter or son for the new semester? I hope you can do so with great confidence in your child and an abiding prayerful trust in the Lord.

Peace to all.

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### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant, we beseech Thee through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin and all the saints, an increase of laborers for Thy Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ Thy Son Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the union of the Holy Spirit world without end. Amen

*Imprimatur: Most Rev. James E. Kearney*

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

## September, 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	Revs.	Edward A. Zimmer	Robert C. Bradler	Peter T. Bayer	William J. Amann	Bishop Matthew H. Clark
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pope John Paul II	Priests on Sabbatical	Robert W. Hammond	J. Walter Carron	David N. Gramkee	Douglas Della Pietra	Raymond Fournier, OCSO
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Frederick F. Eisemann	Paul J. Freemesser	William M. Hart	Roy J. Kiggins	Robert A. Meng	Norbert L. Nolan	Julian Phelan, OFM, Cap
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Jose (Pope) Quintero	Jerome J. Schilleri	Gennaro J. Ventura	Msr. Leslie G. Whalen	Robert J. Schrader	Louis Nhlen Minh Vu	Robert P. Ring
27	28	29	30	Look for the October MPRP Calendar in the September 25th Courier.		
Lawrence W. Sansom	Justin Sheehan, OCSO	Vocations	Seminarians			

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