

Celebrating an ordination, rally, feast day

It was a steamy weekend June 5-6, but a joyous one made so by three large groups of people. These groups gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral for Father Steve Lape's ordination, at Keuka College in Penn Yan for our diocesan Junior High Youth Rally, and at Corpus Christi Church in Rochester for the celebration of their parish feast day. A few comments about each:

1) Steve was very happy on Saturday and relaxed enough that his joy was evident to all in the assembly.

From my vantage point, I could see that he wasn't alone in his excitement. His family, his brother priests and members of parish communities who have been or will be part of his life were among those who contributed to the delight of the morning.

Many came from St. Theodore's in Gates, Steve's home parish, where he presided at the Eucharistic liturgy for the first time on Sunday morning. Two busloads of people came from St. Patrick's in Mt. Morris and Holy Angels in Nunda, where Steve did a year of supervised pastoral service as part of his preparation for ordination. And, typical of their parish spirit, a good number of parishioners from Good Shepherd in Henrietta, which will be the site of our new priest's first assignment, were present in prayerful support.

For a great number of those present, this was the first time they had been a part of an ordination. It is always wonderful to hear them speak of their delight at the experience.

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

2) I drove to Keuka College after the ordination to spend some time with more than 400 seventh- and eighth-graders, and accompanying teens and adults at our Junior High Youth Rally.

When I arrived they were beginning a snack break, which then folded into a recreation period on a great sweep of lawn that runs from the main building down to the lakeshore. That flow allowed me a chance first to talk with a number of kids and then to watch them enjoy one another's company in some full participation field games. They made a spectacular sight.

Just when I was totally relaxed, they put me to work! But some work is lots of fun, and the open forum I had with the young people was just that: Did you ever date? Or have pets? If you had not become a priest, what would you have done? How does someone become a bishop? Do you think women will ever be ordained? Or married people? Do you ever have difficult days? What is the best part of being a bishop?

The time went by quickly, and I enjoyed

the session very much. Their questions were thoughtful and honest. They were quite attentive as I did my best to respond.

Of the Eucharistic liturgy that came next, I would say only this: The celebration strongly reaffirmed my conviction that we do something important for today's and tomorrow's church when we prepare our young people well and invite them to participate fully in our liturgical life.

3) For some while I have been anxious to visit Corpus Christi Parish. They have been through a great deal in recent months, and they have been working with generosity and good spirit to calm the situation, assess their present situation and move confidently into the future.

For those reasons, I was especially happy to join the community on Sunday for the celebration of their parish feast day. Notwithstanding the steamy weather, it was a wonderful feast including a eucharistic procession through the neighborhood.

To all at Corpus Christi, I express my sincere thanks for your gracious hospitality and the beautiful celebration of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. I thank you too for the hard work you have done in these months and for the good spirit in which you have gone about it.

I offer gratitude as well to all of the parishes and individuals that have offered spiritual and material support to Corpus Christi. The parish is most appreciative of your support. So am I.

Peace to all.

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Fr. Jim Schwartz Tom Maguire

1998-99 TGA Co-Chairs



Thanks Giving Appeal

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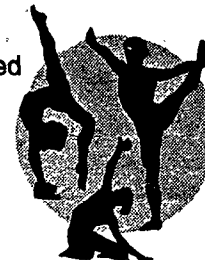
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