

Misión, other events add joy to summer

It does not take long for the rhythms of vacation to give way to those of normal daily living. Even in this mid-August week, many of the people of our diocese will be extending themselves to participate in activities designed to help them grow in and express their faith.

The first of those events will be the annual *Santa Misión* — usually called in English the Hispanic Mission. That event begins Monday, Aug. 16, and runs through Friday evening at Mt. Carmel Church, Rochester. Bishop Mariano Sandovar of Caracas, Venezuela, will be the preacher at this year's mission. His theme will be "The Lay Person in the Service of the Church: What is your ministry? How do you respond to it? How do you confirm your commitment in daily life?"

If the weather allows, the Misión is held outdoors, which not only allows greater comfort for participants, but also offers a very attractive witness of faith to the surrounding neighborhood. It is always a pleasure to greet those who participate in this annual time of renewal. I also look forward to meeting Bishop Sandovar.

On Tuesday through Thursday, we will have our annual summer Leadership Days program at the New York State Chiropractic College at Seneca Falls. Our theme this year is "The Many Facets of the Church as a Reconciling Agent."

Those who planned the event have provided an attractive program to help participants look at the need for reconciliation in our lives, the challenges it presents and

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

resources available to help us meet those challenges. I have been asked to speak about "The Church as Living Witness of Reconciliation." I hope I can be helpful in my comments about how we, as church, are called to be reconcilers even in our own clear and continuing need for reconciliation.

I don't mind having some program responsibility myself, but I'll confess that I most look forward to Leadership Days for the opportunity to be enriched by the experience and thinking of others in speeches, workshops and worship we enjoy. It is also there in beautiful ways in conversation during meals and free time together.

An added attraction for me this year will be the opportunity to become acquainted with the campus of the New York State Chiropractic College. When I pass it in my travels, I always admire its beauty. Now I will have a chance to spend time there with good friends.

On Wednesday evening this week, I am going to Murphy Hall at St. John Fisher

College to celebrate the Eucharistic liturgy with our diocesan Charismatic Renewal Community. These women and men are wonderful witness of faith in their openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and in the commitment to prayer in daily life. When they assemble from all areas of our diocese, they remind me that the great diversity of our church is the gift of the one Holy Spirit — that our diversity, while presenting its own challenges, should always be seen as a source of strength and richness for us.

Events such as these bring an extra measure of joy to the summer. They provide the enrichment of new ideas, shared experience, moments of prayer, relaxation with friends and time to think about life, its meaning and direction. I am grateful to all whose dedication, talent and hard work make such moments possible for all of us.

A note about another kind of summer activity: Every now and then I get into conversations with people about reading and trade comments on books we have enjoyed recently. I just finished *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom (which I started some months ago, mislaid and re-discovered this week) and *East of the Mountains* by David Guterson who also wrote *Snow Falling on Cedars*. Both books touch on end-of-life themes, which are of great public interest today. I am also working on *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*, my first venture into Stephen King and *Lindberg*, a new biography by A. Scott Berg.

Peace to all.

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