

Three gatherings make for enjoyable week

I have just returned home from Frontier Field and a baseball game between our Red Wings and the Syracuse Sky Chiefs. It was an absolutely beautiful summer Sunday afternoon. The game (it turned out 4-1 in favor of Syracuse) drew 9,600 people including nearly 1,000 people who enjoyed an outing sponsored by our diocese.

Three of our young people who participated in Scouting formed the color guard. Two members of our Diocesan Youth Commission — Abby Rose Curatolo and Jen Frisch — led the assembly in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. Yours truly had the honor of throwing out the first ball. That I did with more enthusiasm than skill, as my best fastball ran out of gas before it got to home plate. The experience was a reminder, if one was needed, of why I realized many years ago that a career in baseball was not in the cards for me.

The whole experience was a delightful one, and I am grateful to members of our diocesan staff and to Dan Mason and his crew at Rochester Community Baseball for making it so.

In similar fashion, I am grateful to all who were part of Leadership Days, which we enjoyed at the New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls last week. More than 500 individuals attended sessions at the conference, which this year took reconciliation as its central theme. That choice, of course, was keyed to the coming jubilee celebration.

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

I gave one of the three keynote speeches that started each day's program. My theme touched on our abiding call to be reconcilers even as we ourselves need reconciliation. In other keynotes, Father Bob Kennedy commented on the present state of the sacrament of reconciliation in the pastoral practice of the church; Father Richard Fragomeni of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago raised up for us the opportunities and challenges of the Common Ground Initiative initially proposed by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. I found their presentations and the follow-up sessions with participants to be enriching and encouraging.

These summer Leadership Days have become an important resource and an enduring experience for those who attend. The substance of the talks and workshops contributes a great deal to their success. But so do the many opportunities the days afford participants to meet other ministers from all over the diocese and to share

experiences with them.

On Wednesday evening, leaders and participants in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Community met for the Eucharistic Liturgy at St. John Fisher College. I was delighted to join them on that occasion as presider and homilist, not only to express my gratitude for their prayers that nourish life and healing in our diocese but also to be part of their celebration, which is always so warm and joyful.

The main event of the week ahead will take me to a retreat center near Chicago. I'll be joining seven or eight other bishops and an equal number of representatives for the National Federation of Presbyteral Councils. We participants will discuss the experiences of our own presbyteral councils and look for ways to help one another make those important bodies even more effective in their service to their respective dioceses.

I will be representing the experience of our Priests' Council — of which I am very proud — to the group in Chicago and I look forward to sharing the experience of Chicago when our council reconvenes shortly after Labor Day.

P.S. I'll be going to Buffalo where I'll begin and end my Chicago trip. The round trip from there will cost \$113. On the same days, on the same airline, at equivalent times the round trip from Rochester would cost over \$900. How do you figure?

Peace to all.

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

✠ A PRAYER TO SAINT JOHN MARY VIANNEY, CURE OF ARS ✠
 Saint John Mary Vianney, Cure of Ars. I honor you for having so followed the Divine High Priest as to become the model and heavenly patron of all Parish Priests.

With confidence in your intercession before the Blessed Trinity, I seek our assistance in helping every priest to become the kind of priest God wills him to be from all eternity. Pray for all priests that they, too, may have a profound reverence in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; zeal in preaching the word of God; and tireless loyalty and patient sympathy in hearing the confessions of sinners.

From God the Father, please obtain strength of mind and body for them to carry out the duties of the priesthood; from God the Son, special grace for them to be, like Him, both priest and — if need be for the salvation of souls — victim; and from God the Holy Spirit, His guiding light and good counsel to direct those entrusted to their care and those who come across their path.

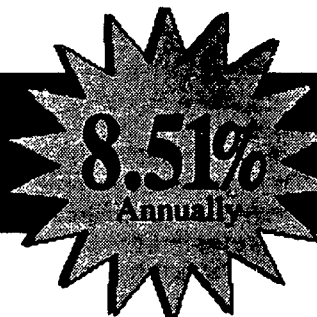
✠ Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet ✠

September, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Look for the October MPRP Calendar in the September 30th Courier.						
			Revs. 1	2	3	Bishop 4
			Francis H. Vogt	Walter L. Wainwright	Edward B. Zenkel	Matthew H. Clark
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Pope John Paul II	Sabbatical Priests	Marcellus Earl, OSCO	Michael G. Upson	John Squiller	Peter Ellinger, CSB	Daniel P. Tormey
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Thomas H. Wheeland	Raymond Fournier, OSCO	Louis A. Vasile	Paul G. Wohlrab	Sean Garrity, CSB	James T. Wolfe	Conrad J. Sundholm
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
John Eudes Bamberger, OSCO	Laurence C. Tracy	John J. Steger	Edward E. Steinkirchner	Very Rev. Martin Boler, OSB	Gerard J. Appelby	Theodore J. Auble
26	27	28	29	30		
Victor W. Bartolotta, Jr.	Michael J. Bausch	James Malone, SJ	Vocations	Seminarians		

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