

New babies, jobs, mates mark nieces' lives

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I have been mindful of the many gifts and blessings for which I should be grateful — family, friends, a ministry I love, stimulating work and many others. I add to that list this year gratitude for the love, medical skills and prayer that allow my steady recovery from a recent illness.

So many people have asked about my nieces lately that I thought I would update you on them by mentioning the good things that have happened in their lives this year. Here they are in order of appearance:

Grace has a new job with the New York State Thruway Authority. She had been active in purchasing, but now is in human resources. I think that the change in emphasis from commodities to personnel has been a gratifying one for her. She also speaks very positively of a wider variety of work experiences in her new position. In the midst of it all, she remains her uncle's top adviser.

Jane has long wanted to teach school and this year took a position in the Corfu school system. I know that she is delighted at finally getting a full-time teaching job. I am also sure she and her husband, Scott Neff, are continually challenged by the need to combine the obligations of their work with marital and parental responsibilities. Julie and Megan, her two pre-school

along
the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

aged daughters, keep her on her toes.

Mary Ellen married John Esposito this year and presented us with Patrick John, an absolutely beautiful boy who has stolen everyone's heart. Patrick is the first male born of the Clark-Bills line since yours truly, so you can imagine the amount of attention he receives, especially from his four doting aunts.

We are also blessed by the presence and friendship of Danielle, Nicholas and Zachary, John's children from an earlier union. Mary Ellen is also in the second and final year of study on her way to becoming a dental hygienist.

Margaret and her husband, Doug McMahan, announced recently that they are expecting a new baby in late April or early May. They have received that news with great joy, a joy I think may be sustaining Margaret through the discomfort that is so common in the early days of pregnan-

cy. Margaret is a teacher of math in the Stillwater school system.

Kathleen's recent big news is her engagement to Mark Grignon and their plans to marry next September. Kathleen is exciting even when nothing is going on. You should see her now that she is in the midst of the planning process for her wedding and married life.

This spring, Kathleen completed a course of study at Bryant & Stratton and is now employed by a firm that specializes in graphic arts.

You can tell from this brief accounting that they are all well engaged in many ventures and that life is as dynamic for them as it is for most of us.

I am looking forward to seeing them all at Thanksgiving time and the opportunity that that holiday offers to catch up with loved ones.

This afternoon, I'll be leaving for Washington, D.C., and the November meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which runs from Monday through Thursday of this week.

On Thursday, afternoon, I'll leave Washington to go to St. Louis for the National Youth Convention, which will run Thursday through Sunday. I look forward to commenting on these experiences next week.

Peace to all.



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