

Renewed basilica an image of renewed faith

In preparation for the Year of Jubilee, a major effort to clean and restore the facade of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome has been completed.

I have not had the privilege of seeing the renewal in person, but televised images and the testimony of those who have seen it indicate that the results are quite spectacular. Shades of stone that over time had been begrimed by pollution are now seen again in their subtle beauty.

The transformation allows an even deeper appreciation of the splendor of the edifice, and the artistry and imagination of those who built it.

The restoration took a few years, a long time for those who may have been waiting to see the basilica for the first time. But it had taken centuries for pollutants to obscure the pristine beauty of the stone.

The process was so gradual that it was hardly perceptible at any given moment. But, over the years, the process dramatically changed the appearance of St. Peter's.

I think the symbol of that facade, renewed and brightened, can help us gather to our hearts and reflect upon the aspects of our personal and corporate lives in which we would like to experience renewal.

The facade in that context becomes a symbol to us not only of our need for

along
the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

renewal, but also of its possibility in our lives.

At its core, the Year of Jubilee calls us to right relationships with our God and with our neighbors. That call, if we take it seriously, will engage us at the deepest level of our being, because it involves our capacity to think, to love, to choose, to act in freedom.

But it also opens our heart to the realization that we are not totally autonomous, completely independent beings. Put more positively, the challenge before us is to acknowledge that God sustains us in life at every moment. Further, God calls us to live and develop in community and with all of the healthy interdependence implied in that notion.

All of us who have been on this planet for more than a few minutes know that the challenges of such relationships are not easily met. We know all too well that

the excitement of beginnings can yield to the challenge of the routine. To be carried along — even to be borne up — by a tide of high emotion is one thing. To make the daily commitment to move on in faith and trust is quite another. To put the same concept in the metaphor of the facade of St. Peter's: We know from personal experience how the original colors — striking as they once were — can be obscured by a gradual layering over of elements that obscure them. It happens to all of us in some way or other.

I have a welcome invitation within our larger Jubilee invitation to go back to a significant beginning this week and reflect on what has happened since then. I refer to this Sunday, the 37th anniversary of the day 62 were ordained to the priesthood together. It was a day of brightness and color, and the beginning of a life of ministry I would not trade for anything.

But has it happened that my egoism and sin over those years diminished the brightness and obscured the colors of what began those many years ago? Oh, yes. That's why I think of our Jubilee themes as good food for our prayer and reflection on life.

I hope that you might find time these days to open your hearts to renewal, freshening and new life.

Peace to all.



"Taking care of a house became more trouble than it was worth for my wife and me, so we started looking into various retirement options and decided Chapel Oaks was the ideal place to go. The staff is so attentive to our every desire. We recently went to Grand Cayman and when we came back, our apartment was safe, secure and immaculately clean.

Now that's service!"

— John and Betty Fulton
Rochester, New York

We're 95% leased. Call us today!

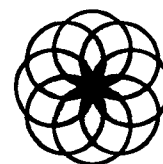
"We fell in love with the peace of mind."

The French call it *joie de vivre*, or love of life. That ability to approach life joyfully and fully appreciate all that each day has to offer. Every day, residents of Chapel Oaks, Rochester's newest and finest rental retirement community, are finding the joy of retirement living. Once you've experienced life at Chapel Oaks, you may find yourself falling in love with the true joy of living all over again.

Fall in love with the *tradition* of St. Ann's of Greater Rochester, Inc., who for 125 years has provided senior adults with a truly fulfilling retirement lifestyle. The *location* of being perfectly situated on 14 beautiful, secluded acres of the St. Ann's campus and just minutes away from Rochester's finest shopping, entertainment and cultural activities. The *independence* to continue an active life style without routine maintenance and tiresome daily chores. The *value* of a rental concept with no entrance fee, which makes Chapel Oaks Rochester's most affordable retirement living options. The *convenience* of exceptional services and amenities, and the spacious one- and two-bedroom

apartment homes. Or, fall in love with the *security and peace of mind* that comes from having priority access to a full continuum of health care services right on the St. Ann's campus.

Retirement is your time to seize the day and life to its fullest; to experience your "joie de vivre." Please call (716) 342-3052 for more information about Chapel Oaks or to arrange your personal tour. Once you see all that we have to offer, you may just find yourself falling in love with the true joy of living all over again!



ST. ANN'S
CHAPEL OAKS
Full of Life

1550 Portland Avenue Rochester, NY 14621
(716) 342-3052

An affiliate of St. Ann's of Greater Rochester, Inc.

