

# Southern Tier agency celebrates 20 years

On Sunday in Elmira we celebrated the 20th anniversary of what was first named the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry and is now called Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier (CCST). The event was a wonderfully happy one because it allowed all present to remember the achievement and growth of CCST in these 20 years and to renew our hopes and dreams for the years ahead.

I remember the day in 1979 when I approved for implementation a document called "The Renewal of Social Ministry." At its core was the recommendation to establish regional social ministry offices in the Southern Tier and in our Finger Lakes Region. The establishment of those offices seemed the best way to embody our commitment to the principle of subsidiarity. In Catholic social teaching that principle calls us to involve people in shaping decisions that will impact their lives. Put another way, the principle of subsidiarity pushes us to set directions and make decisions whenever possible at levels nearest to the daily lives of the people who will be affected by them.

A good measure of my joy yesterday came from being in the company of people whose faith, generosity, talent and commitment turned that early vision into a reality of which they can all be very proud because it has done so much good for sisters and brothers in need. From the beginning the effort has been blessed by the vol-

along  
the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

unteers and professional staff who have enabled it to flourish. Because of all that, these women and men have rooted the Catholic Charities presence deeply in the local scene. At the same time they have recognized and honored the fact that they are still very much a part of the larger diocesan Catholic Charities.

To give you some sense of what has happened over those 20 years, let me cite in very brief fashion a few of the significant services offered by CCST that we celebrated yesterday.

In its still young life, CCST has reached out in effective service to many persons in the region in need of special support. Those persons include the hungry, persons recovering from psychiatric illness, those addicted to drugs, young people struggling to make responsible decisions about sexuality, individuals in need of emergency service, families seeking affordable housing, victims of domestic violence, individuals

who wish to move from public assistance to employment and parents who need some help in order to provide quality day care for their children.

In addition to their efforts to provide these and other human services, CCST is a vigorous participant in the advocacy effort of our larger diocesan Catholic Charities family. For example, representatives of CCST are always active when delegations from the eight dioceses of our state meet in Albany for our annual Public Policy Forum. Here they represent Catholic social teaching and the needs of their constituencies to our elected representatives.

Just before I joined those gathered for this 20th anniversary celebration, reporters from two Southern Tier television stations — one from Elmira, the other from Ithaca — asked me for an interview. One of them asked, "When you all began this 20 years ago, what did you think it would be like 20 years later?"

I could only respond that I was confident, even in the earliest days, because I was aware of the faith, vision and generosity of the men and women who began the work. What astonishes me is the range and depth of what has been accomplished since. In my opinion, it has been quite remarkable. I can only extend my thanks and admiration to all who made it happen.

Peace to all.

## Memorial Day 2000

Rev. Robert M. Cameron

President, National Catholic Cemetery Conference

On the first Memorial Day of the Jubilee Year 2000, we recall with reverent patriotism the brave, valiant military women and men who have served our country nobly. We remember them with parade and solemn symbol, Old Glory. We remember especially all those who have made the supreme sacrifice in defense of our freedoms. We salute and reverence them with grateful prayer and floral tribute!

Memorial Day invites us to visit the hallowed graves of all our loved ones, not only military veterans. It affords us the opportunity to pray and to reminisce. To recall their love and the virtuous deeds which characterized their lives. We honor them most appropriately by the beautiful bouquets of sincere prayer, expressing our gratitude and indebtedness for the generosity of their lives and selfless example.

However, our visits, our prayers of thanksgiving, our remembrances should be a daily recurrence, not solely an annual occurrence on Memorial Day, because we do carry them in our hearts every day. Should not our hope-filled daily prayer be that our honored veterans, those buried in our Catholic Cemeteries or elsewhere, and all our beloved departed have accepted the longed-for invitation:

*"Come, blessed of my father, enter the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Matt. 25:34)*

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## The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

### THE BEAUTIFUL HANDS OF A PRIEST

<p>We need them in-life's early morning, We need them again at its close; We feel their warm clasp of true friendship, We seek them when tasting life's woes;</p> <p>When we come to this world, we are sinful, The greatest as well as the least; And the hands that make us pure as angels, Are the beautiful hands of a priest.</p> <p>And when we are tempted and wander To pathways of shame and of sin, 'Tis the hand of a priest will absolve us Not, once, but again and again.</p>	<p>And when we are taking life's partner, Other hands may prepare us a feast, But the hands that will bless and unite us Are the beautiful hands of a priest.</p> <p>God bless them and keep them all holy, For the Host which their fingers caress; When can a poor sinner do better Than ask Him to guide them and bless?</p> <p>When the hour of death comes upon us, May our courage and strength be increased By seeing raised over us in blessing The beautiful hands of a priest.</p>
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Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

## June, 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Look for the July MPRP Calendar in the June 29th Courier.				Revs. 1 Peter T. Bayer	2 David L. Bonin	Bishop 3 Matthew H. Clark
4 Pope John Paul II	5 Inactive Priests	6 Richard R. Brickler	7 Paul A. Bonacci	8 Kip F. Corriveau	9 Walter F. Cushing	10 John D. Dillon
11 Frank J. Falletta	12 Michael F. Conboy	13 David J. Faraone	14 Ralph J. Fraats	15 Robert Gaudio	16 Robert W. Hammond	17 Ronald E. Gaesser
18 Callistus Juras	19 William E. Graf	20 Stanley G. Kacprzak	21 Scott M. Kubinski	22 Kevin E. McKenna	23 Daniel T. McMullin	24 Steve Lape
25 Thomas F. Nellis	26 Michael J. Schramel	27 Desmond O'Neill	28 Eugene O'Hara	29 Edward Ondrako	30 Vocations	31 Seminarians

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