

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop stresses liturgical revisions in address

By Mike Latona
Staff Writer

SENECA FALLS — Closer observance of liturgical norms was among several goals for the future Bishop Matthew H. Clark cited in his keynote speech for the diocese's annual Leadership Days.

The event — attended by priests, parishioners, and religious and pastoral leaders — took place Aug. 16-18 at the New York Chiropractic College. Speaking before more than 400 people on Aug. 18, Bishop Clark emphasized the need for all parishes to observe the same liturgical standards.

"It's very important to march in the parade. We don't want to go off to our own drummer," he said.

The bishop discussed the recent revision by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, regarding the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. He noted that the revised instruction emphasizes that the priest should remain in the sanctuary for the sign of peace. Additionally, worshipers should offer limited exchanges with each other during this part of the Mass.

"It's not a time for greeting, not a time for reunion," Bishop Clark said.

The bishop also noted the instruction's commentary that eucharistic ministers should wait until the celebrant has received Communion before they enter the sanctuary; that they receive a vessel only from the hands of the priest; and that only a priest, deacon or instituted acolyte — not a eucharistic minister — clean sacred vessels after Communion or Mass.

The bishop also discussed the importance of adherence to church norms on homilies in this diocese. "It is important that the homily at Sunday Mass truly be the homily," he emphasized.

The new Vatican instruction specifically states: "As a rule, the homily must be given by the priest celebrant or is entrusted by him to a concelebrating priest, or, as circumstances dictate, may even be given by a deacon, but never by a lay person ... there must be a homily on Sundays and holydays of obligation and it may not be omitted except for a grave reason in any Mass celebrated with a congregation."

During his speech Bishop Clark also commented on the Pastoral Planning for the New Millennium process, which began in 1997 and is completing its first round.

"People in parishes came away with a much sharper, clearer picture of their community," the bishop said. He noted that the planning process raised particular awareness to the plight of unchurched people and young Catholics. Children of today, he said, are beset with "profoundly greater challenges than I faced as a kid."

Bishop Clark went on to say that planning groups, in the near future, should be prepared "to take on — I'll put it bluntly — to get to the tough questions we'll face down the road." He did not elaborate on what those tough questions might be.

Other future initiatives mentioned by the bishop: potential changes in the format and/or distribution of the *Catholic Courier* in the hope of reaching a wider audience; changes in the diocese's relationship with health-care institutions; and increased ministry to the growing single-parent family population.

Bishop Clark described his ministry as "a sleigh ride," noting the challenge of balancing relationships while also making tough decisions in his role as bishop. A case in point, he said, had occurred only three nights earlier. While leaving Rochester's St. Francis of Assisi Church after presiding at its final Mass, protesters of the church's closing blocked his car's path. (See Page 1.)

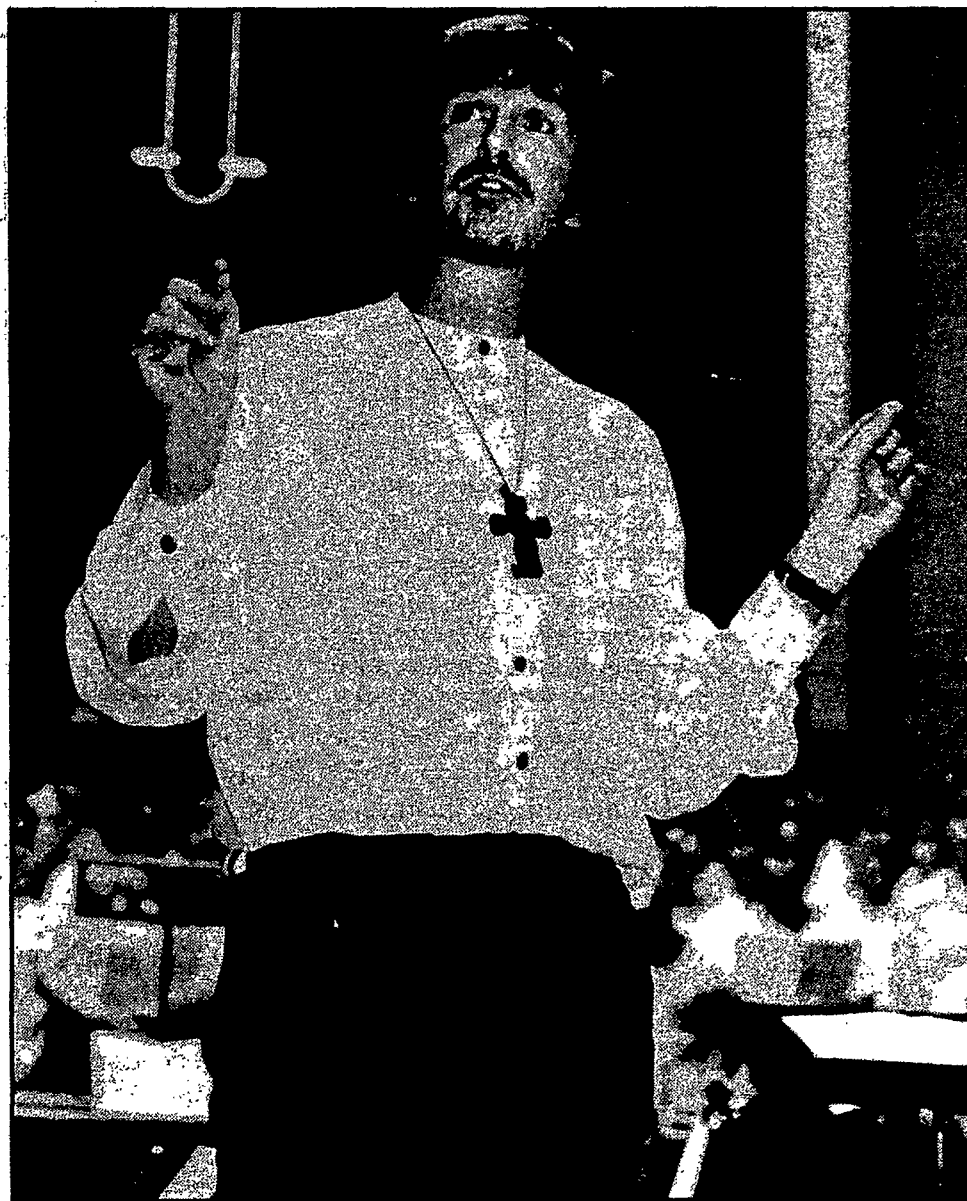
"I sat in a driveway a little longer than I expected," Bishop Clark remarked, adding that he used the situation as a opportunity to reflect.

"That moment said a lot to me about diversity," he said. "These were wonderful people who, like all of us, try to find their place. It's not them and us; it's us."

The bishop also offered some lighthearted comments during his keynote address, saying that if he were not the bishop of Rochester, he might aspire to be archbishop of Baltimore due to his affinity for eating crabs and for watching former Rochester Red Wings play baseball for their parent club, the Baltimore Orioles.

At the time of his speech, Bishop Clark said he had been bishop of Rochester "for 21 years, three months, and 24 days — and, allowing for the time difference between here and Rome, nine hours."

"I can honestly tell you that I wouldn't trade one day of the 21 years back," he commented. But he also quipped that there were many days "I wouldn't want to live through again."



John Powell/Photo intern

The Rev. John Bell, a liturgical musician from Scotland's ecumenical Iona Community, speaks during his Aug. 17 Leadership Days concert at First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, where the Diocesan Festival Choir performed.

Fund set up for protester's family

The Catholic peace group Pax Christi Rochester is raising funds on behalf of the family of John Honeck, a parishioner at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Brockport. Honeck has been incarcerated at Allenwood Federal Correctional Institution in Pennsylvania since Aug. 7. He is serving a three-month sentence for trespassing onto Fort Benning, Ga., location of the School of the Americas, in November 1999.

Married and the father of three children, Honeck broke the law to protest the school's training of Latin American military personnel, which Honeck and like-minded protesters contend has led to hu-

man-rights abuses in Latin America, including military targeting of Catholic clergy, religious and lay workers. The school's defenders claim otherwise, arguing that the school actually educates soldiers on how to preserve such rights.

Honeck was sentenced in a federal court in Columbus, Ga., June 8.

Contributions may be sent to Pax Christi Treasurer Vivian Rightmeyer, 251 Leibek Road, Churchville, NY 14428. Checks should be made out to Pax Christi, and "John Honeck Fund" should be stipulated on the memo line.

— Rob Cullivan

Ex-Mercy teacher admits relationship

Alexander Capo, 57, a former eighth-grade Spanish teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton, admitted in Brighton Town Court Aug. 16 to having an inappropriate relationship with a 13-year-old female student.

Capo, an Irondequoit resident who was fired by Mercy after being arrested in May, pleaded guilty to endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor, before Brighton Town Justice James E. Morris. He is slated to be officially sentenced Oct. 10 to 30 days in jail. He has been free on \$10,000 bail.

Capo, who also faced charges in Irondequoit related to having had contact with the

girl, also indicated he would plead guilty to endangering the welfare of a female child younger than 16, a misdemeanor, in Irondequoit Town Court on Aug. 23. He will receive another 30-day jail sentence on those counts, according to Jared Lusk, Monroe County assistant district attorney. Capo will also be on probation for three years after completing his two sentences.

Police said the girl and Capo, who taught for three years at Mercy, had a relationship that consisted of kissing and caressing before classes. Police also said Capo had given the student gifts.

— Rob Cullivan

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Monday
August 28, 2000

5:00pm

The DelMonte Lodge
41 North Main Street
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Fleet