

## Summer begins with a number of farewells

Once again we come to that season when many of our priests and other pastoral ministers leave their current assignments. Most move to new ministries; some retire.

It is not surprising that in this time of change we experience mixed feelings. We rejoice that individuals about whom we care a great deal look forward to new challenges and opportunities in ministry. At the same time, we know that we will miss associations we have come to enjoy.

The other side of that coin finds us hoping that we will experience rewarding relationships with those who come to replace our parting friends.

I had a touching experience of that at St. Andrew's Parish, Rochester, on Sunday. I went there for the rededication of their newly renovated church.

It was a lovely experience for many reasons, not the least of which was the beauty of the renewed church. It is quite beautiful, and the parishioners take great pride in the fruit of their hard work and careful planning.

In the hearts of the assembly that day was the awareness that they will soon say goodbye to their beloved pastor, Father Tim Horan, who is leaving St. Andrew's to become pastor of St. Margaret Mary's in Irondequoit. It is clear that they love Tim very much and will miss him greatly. I know that he held the same sentiments about the people of St. Andrew's. They

### along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

have worked hard together with a special emphasis on outreach and hospitality in the Portland Avenue area.

But it is also clear that they send Tim off with gratitude, genuine affection and best wishes for happiness in his new assignment. And I have no doubt that they will welcome Tim's successor, Father Mike Mayer, with affection and strong support as he takes up his first pastorate.

Tomorrow morning (Tuesday, June 19) there is a house meeting at the Pastoral Center. On the agenda tomorrow is a moment of farewell to four very gifted and generous individuals who have distinguished themselves in their present positions and now move on to new phases of their lives.

Tim Dwyer leaves his post as superintendent of schools to take up a new position as assistant executive director of the National Catholic Educational Association's CACE (Chief Administrators of Catholic Education) Department.

Father Kevin McKenna will finish his term as chancellor of our diocese to devote more time and energy to the people of St. Cecilia's, Irondequoit, whom he serves as pastor.

Virginia Steinwachs, SSJ, moves to a quieter time of life with an easier pace after 50 years of service to the Catholic schools of our diocese. I'll believe the "quieter, easier" part when I see it!

Father Tim Brown becomes pastor of St. Charles Borromeo at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26. Tim has served as my priest-secretary for five years. During that time, I have come to know him quite well and to admire him deeply. There are few people who match Tim for gentle kindness, wit, concern for others and a desire to serve in the spirit of Christ. I'll miss his daily company and support a great deal.

Good friends move on and I'll miss them all. At the same time it's a joy to know that these four individuals will be replaced respectively by Elizabeth Meegan, OP; Father Dan Condon; Elaine Englert, SSJ; and Mary Ann Binsack, RSM. We are truly blessed to have such great people to replace our departing friends.

If you are in a community experiencing such changes in the days ahead, I hope that you will send off your departing ministers with gratitude and good wishes; that you will welcome new sisters and brothers with steady and warm support.

Peace to all.

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