

Autumn brings renewal of activity

The summer shifts to a new gear on Labor Day. Many people, myself included, enjoy this holiday as the last full day of relaxation before the resumption of a fuller schedule of activities. Students go back to their books. Large numbers of us return to a schedule of meetings that were suspended for July and August. And, for most, summer vacation is a memory that grows more faint each day.

On this holiday morning I presided at the 9 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. When I returned to the parish house I poured myself a second cup of coffee, came up to my room and looked at my calendar for the coming month. I won't go into the details of what lies ahead. But, I will tell you that I found the reading of it to be exciting and encouraging. I suppose that is because the events on my calendar put me in touch with the faithful people of our diocese, and you are doing some wonderful things.

The two principal events in which I'll participate tomorrow provide a good example of what I mean. At 10:30 a.m. at St. Dominic's, Shortsville, our Presbyteral Council will have its first meeting of the new season. We'll welcome new members; elect officers who will serve as our Executive Committee; consider the responsibilities of the Council and its members; review the issues carried over from our last meeting; and orient ourselves to the work we'll be doing during the coming months.

I always look forward to these sessions because I am proud of our priests and am deeply grateful for the commitment they

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

make to the health and well-being of our diocese.

The second event is another that I always enjoy very much: a Eucharistic Liturgy and picnic supper marking the opening of a new academic year at St. Bernard's Institute, our excellent school of theology and ministry. The pleasure that is always mine at this event comes from two sources: association with the faculty and students of SBI who bring such richness to our diocese, and the very existence of this resource among us.

That we should have such a place for theological study and preparation for ministry is indeed a blessing. In this day and age of the church, it is critical that we provide the highest quality training for laypersons who desire to be pastoral ministers in our parish communities.

I often think that, if we did not have St. Bernard's to serve such needs, we would have to invent something just like it. To this comment on the importance of SBI let me add the pleasing bit of information that enrollment for this semester is the highest

ever. Interested in some study of this kind? Try 716/271-3657.

The latter part of the week will be no less engaging. On Wednesday, I will be expressing the affection and support of the people of our diocese to Bishop William Murphy and the people of the Diocese of Rockville Centre as Bill is installed as bishop there. I always attend such events within our church province - the eight dioceses of New York state. I go to this installation with special delight rooted in a friendship with Bill dating back to seminary days in Rome.

Lastly, I mention that our Cathedral Renovation Committee will meet again this week. I always love those meetings, but this one will be extra special because it will bring our committee together for the first time with both our liturgical consultant, Father Dick Vosko, and our principal architect, Mr. Jim Williamson. The installation of Bill Murphy may keep me from attending this meeting but there is still hope that we can work it out.

This meeting of the renovation committee will bring us to a new stage in our work, nearer to the time when we can talk about concrete possibilities and specific proposals. It will be good for all of us when we can do that.

That's enough for now dear friends. I hope that the post-Labor Day portion of summer has been good to you so far and that you'll hold onto the joy of this season until it officially gives way to autumn later this month.

Peace to all.



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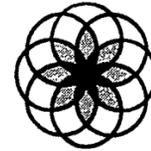
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