

## Our D.C. seminarians – a few good men

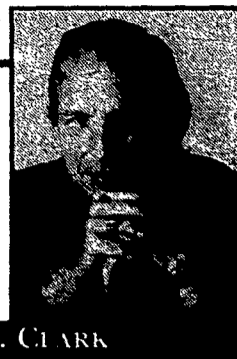
This is one of those columns-on-the-run I occasionally do for "Along the Way." In a better world, unexpected things would not claim my attention, and I would be better organized than I am.

As it is, I am beginning this on Monday afternoon at the Greater Rochester International Airport and hope to finish it by the time we arrive in Washington, D.C., at 6:30 p.m. I am going there for a two-and-a-half-day meeting of the Administrative Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This will be the first meeting of the three-year term to which I was recently elected by the bishops of our region.

I hope to finish this column by arrival time in Washington because I am meeting our seminarians for an 8 p.m. dinner. The hour works well for all of us. They have a class which lasts until 7:30 p.m., just about the time I expect to arrive at their residence at the Theological College at Catholic University. I'll be staying with them during the course of our meeting. USCCB headquarters, where we will be meeting, is just 150 yards behind the Theological College.

I should remind you that our students in

### along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

Washington are Jim Fennessy from Auburn, Mark Brewer from Hornell and John Loncle from Fairport. We also count Bill Coffas from Rochester as a Theological College student. He has completed two years of study and will return for two more after completion of his year of pastoral experience at St. Mary's, Auburn.

They are good men. I am always happy for opportunities to hear how they are doing and to tell them about what is happening at home.

I also look forward to the Administrative Committee meeting. This is the third time I have had the opportunity to serve on this body. I am happy to do it because it helps shape the agenda for the USCCB in a forum that allows a good deal of give and

take.

Before this flight ends, I want to tell you how much fun it was to be with 300 of our young people for our Junior High Youth Rally on Saturday.

I get a great kick out of their energy, goodness and joyful spirit. I never spend time in their presence without coming away with renewed hope and more energy than I had when I joined their company. They are just plain good.

I did not know that it is standard policy since the re-opening of Reagan National Airport that all passengers on flights to that airport must remain seated during the last 30 minutes of the flight.

That announcement, just made, cues me to bring this to a close. Before I do, I want to renew my good wishes to you for a blessed Lenten season. I also want to encourage you one more time to support our catechumens and candidates with your affection and your prayer as we come closer to the Easter Vigil. Your support means the whole world to them. I also know that all of us feel the strength of their presence and rejoice in the rich faith and good gifts they bring to our community.

Peace to all.

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