

## Summer winds down with ample activities

Summer is good. It seems so to me anyway – especially this one.

It has been restful, and, while it has been busy enough in this post-vacation period, it has not been pressured or hectic. There are things to do and places to go, but there is also some time to think, read and do some planning. I like that very much. Maybe that is why these beautiful weeks seem to be going by at a record pace.

I am going to the Ithaca area today to meet with our campus ministers. This is an annual event at which we pray together, share a meal and talk about the ministry we share. They are a bright, lively group who love what they do and do it well.

Whenever I leave their company or when I visit a campus community, I wish I could stay and minister among the students. The enthusiasm of these dear colleagues is engaging. But, then I remember the hours they keep, and realize that the work may better be left to them.

Today's session is not the only attractive event coming up. On the Feast of the Assumption two happy events bracket the day. In the morning, I'll be at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph for the cornerstone ceremony for their new motherhouse and infirmary building. I have driven by the new structure on French Road, but have not as yet had a close-up look at the new facility. I look forward to that opportunity and to the company of our sisters who have been such a vital part

### along the way

BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



of our history.

In the evening our sisters and brothers at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Fairport will celebrate their parish feast with the dedication of their new parish life center, enhanced worship space and the Father Kelly School of Religion. Such events are always important in parish life. They're possible because people pray and give of their time, talent and treasure to make them happen. They're cause for joy and gratitude because the uses to which they are put gather people together for a variety of purposes that strengthen parish life.

On Saturday I fly to Phoenix for a couple of days with the leadership of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers. I am early in a second year term as their liaison to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is always a pleasure to spend time with them. They are a gifted and lively group, and I am deeply interested in the young people of our church whose growth and well-being

draw us together. I will be anxious to hear their ongoing thinking about how best to help our youth through the abuse issue with which we have been dealing. And I am certainly eager to hear of their experiences in Toronto and their ideas about how we might build on that life-giving event.

A look back, for just a moment: That is to thank the people of St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls for the gift of their hospitality and the grace of their company in recent days. They lost their pastor, Father David Gramkee, in very painful circumstances. Experience has taught me that such circumstances can generate a good deal of grief with all of the anger, uncertainty and pain that can attach to tough losses.

Through it all, the people of the community, notwithstanding their pain, handled everything in a gracious way. I was deeply impressed by how warmly they received visitors on that occasion and by the beauty of the liturgy they prepared.

I had a chance to celebrate the Sunday liturgies with them this past weekend. That experience reminded me again of the depth of the people's faith, of their strong desire to extend the care of Christ to all, even when the presence of sorrow in their hearts may make that a difficult thing to do.

Enough for now. My prayers and good wishes are with you always, but especially now that you might find refreshment and renewal this summer.

Peace to all.



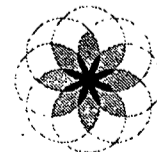
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