

Jubilarian couples offer witness to God's love

On Sunday afternoon Sacred Heart Cathedral was graced by a capacity crowd of couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries. There were some 350 couples and their loved ones in attendance. As best we can figure it, they were celebrating 16,000 couple years of married life and included 150 couples who have been married between 50 and 60 years; 35 couples celebrating more than 60 years; and three couples observing 66 years of married life.

Numbers tell some of the story, of course. And numbers can be fun. But this indicator of quantity — how much time — only whets the appetite to know more about the quality of such relationships: What makes them work? Did they encounter hardship, and how did they cope with it? Do they have any particular suggestions to make or "best practices" to share with young married couples or with those preparing for marriage? What word of encouragement would they offer to those in the single vocation, to women and men living the vowed religious life, to priests?

I have had the opportunity over the years to ask such questions of the jubilarians before and after these celebrations. Although I never have kept a list of their responses, the following are some I have heard most often through

along
the way

By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



the years:

You need faith in God.

We've tried to keep Christ at the center.

Never be afraid to say you're sorry.

Don't go to bed angry.

Think first of the other and then of yourself.

Take all of life and everything that happens as an opportunity to learn more about God, yourself and one another.

Pray.

Don't be afraid to sacrifice.

Keep a sense of humor.

Face your problems; don't run away from them.

But even if there were no opportunity to question them, our celebrants communicate by their presence a peace of spirit that says a whole lot about what's important to them. This came home

strongly in a conversation with a young reporter who covered the event. She was thoroughly professional in her questions and her demeanor. But when we had finished she told me that she was brought to joyful tears by what she had experienced in the midst of the assembly.

I am very grateful to our jubilarians for their presence at Sacred Heart on Sunday and for the witness to the love of Christ that they offer to others every day of their lives. Among their gifts to me was the reminder that they were to pray for all of the men and women in our diocese who are planning to marry in the months ahead.

I'll be praying that these young couples will root their marriages in faith, that they will be centered in love for Christ and nourished by prayer. To that end I'll be praying that their preparations will be centered more on sharing about issues and values that will sustain them in the long run, than on accidental things which often cost a lot and are remembered for a short time.

All vocations are gifts from God that bring great joy, but seldom without a good deal of sacrifice and some suffering. It's good for us to pray for one another so that we remember the Lord's presence through it all.

Peace to all.

2002 "Call to Holiness" CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

St. Michael the Archangel Chapter



Listen to the powerful message of
Father Pablo Straub
of the Mission Helpers of the Holy Savior,
seen on the EWTN television network

Sat. 28th: 9:30am Mass, 11:00am & 3:00pm
Talk, Confessions and devotions,
5:30, 7:30pm Mass and meet Father

Sun. 29th: 8:00am & 10:00am & 12:00 Mass,
2:00pm talk



Hear the gifted voice of singer/songwriter
Donna Cori-Gibson

Enjoy a family-oriented Concert
of moving Contemporary Christian Music,
for people of all ages

Sat. 28th: Sing at 7:30 Mass,
Sun. 29th: Sing at 8, 10, and 12:00 Masses
3:00 Concert, Meet Donna

When: Sat., Sept. 28, 9:00am - 9:30pm
& Sun., Sept. 29, 8:00am - 4:30pm

Where: St. Jude the Apostle Church
4100 Lyell Road, Rochester

Also CELEBRATE with us: The Feast of the Angels, Holy Mass,
Procession, Exposition, Confessions, Various Devotions and a Social
Gathering with Refreshments.

For detailed times and more information please call Vivian - 367-9662

"When we deal with each other, we should do so with the sense of awe that arises in the presence of something holy and sacred."

Archbishop Oscar Romero



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serve all people with dignity.

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For information call 585-328-3228 ext. 366
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Love others as God loves you. Remember works of