

Easter renewal infuses many groups

You know well that in our faith tradition, the Easter season celebrates the gift of life. We renew our baptismal promises on the Easter feast, praying that we will be faithful to that Easter life in all we do. We pray frequently throughout the season that we will continually become more like Christ through our celebration of the sacraments.

So it is with particular joy that I gather with our parish communities during this special and blessed time of the year. For example, since I wrote last week, I had the privilege of celebrating first holy Communion and confirmation at Sacred Heart, our cathedral church. Over the weekend, I celebrated twice in Auburn. On Saturday night, I presided at a very beautiful first Communion at St. Hyacinth. The following noon, I joined the St. Alphonsus parish community as they cele-



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

brated the 150th anniversary of the establishment of their parish.

When I think of the three parishes I just named and remember those celebrations, I am reminded once again of a phenomenon that never ceases to fascinate me. That is the fact that our parishes, which share one Lord, one faith, one baptism can — while always honoring these and

other deep values — nonetheless have such beautifully distinct personalities. I love to note as I go from place to place, that there is always something to learn in such visits, always a powerful witness of faith in such communities.

Not all recent liturgical celebrations were parish-based. On the Tuesday evening of our annual convocation, the priests of our diocese gathered — once again at St. Alphonsus in Auburn — to celebrate Eucharist together. It is in the context of that convocation liturgy that we renew our commitment to the priestly ministry we love so much. I find that always to be a moving experience, and that was doubly true this year. I think it may have been so because of the great pain our priests and our entire community have experienced in the last year.

But Easter signs of life are not limited to the public liturgies of the church. This morning, for example, I spent some time with a group of directors and staffs of retreat centers and houses of prayer from five dio-

ceses in our country and Canada. The group included representatives from three treasures in our own diocese — Mercy Prayer Center, the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center and Notre Dame Retreat House.

I was delighted to hear about the spiritual hunger people bring to them and how they try to help their guests grow in and through their spiritual journeys. What they spoke about only reaffirmed one of the strongest thematic points made by the speakers at our convocation — that our younger generations, although they tend to be wary about organized religion, thirst for a deeper spirituality and seem to thrive with spiritual direction.

There are other Easter experiences with which the Lord favored me during these recent Easter days. I refer to one more, about which you will find other references in this edition of the *Catholic Courier* — the signing this evening of a Solemn Document of Agreement of Understanding and Cooperation between the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester and the Council of Masajid of Rochester, New York.

It is my fond hope that this agreement, which is the fruit of already positive relationships and a good deal of hard work, will bring the Catholics and Muslims of the region to deeper levels of mutual respect and understanding. God knows, there has been no time in recent memory when we have needed it more. I ask you please to keep abreast of this exciting development. And please pray that God will bless what we did tonight.

Peace to all.

PHOTO REPRINTS



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

The Catholic Courier is now offering high-quality reprints of photos taken by the Catholic Courier staff.

(News service photos are not available.)

To order Catholic Courier reprints call
Karin von Voigtlander at
585-529-9530
or 1-800-600-3628

The sizes available are 5" x 7" (\$8.00) and 8" x 10" (\$14.00)

When you call, please be prepared with the issue date and the page on which the photo was published.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 114 No. 30, May 8, 2003

Published weekly except the first Thursday in January and the last Thursday in December. Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1136 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624, 585/529-9530. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624.

To Mom With Love

- **Hanging Baskets**
- **Annals**
- **Perennials**
- **Roses**

HOMEMADE FUDGE



We now have flowering plants in many varieties
SHOP IN OUR GREENHOUSES

Bauman's
Farm and Garden Center

1340 Five Mile Line Road
(Corner Plank Rd.) Penfield NY

585-671-2820

Open 7 days • Weekdays 8 am-8 pm
Weekends til 6 pm

REASONABLE PRICES!!

Holl's Inn

"An Old-Fashioned Summer Family Resort"

Since 1935 • 69th Season

- The Family Resort on Fourth Lake
- Open June 27 thru Labor Day
- Swimming, Boating on premises
- Golfing nearby
- Rates from \$85-\$175 per day/per person (includes 3 meals daily)
- Weekly and Family Rates, as well
- All rooms with private baths
- **New!** Housekeeping Cottages

Located in the Central Adirondacks
(65 miles north of exit 31, Utica, NY)

Preseason: 315-733-2748

Summer: 315-357-2941

S. Shore Rd. • PO Box 417 • Inlet, NY 13360

www.hollsinn.com



Dioc
SUN
ERIE
Diocese
tion ag
the Sun
Abused
fliers A
several
city of
The 8
topped
"Protect
ed in all
read: "I
know, I
tested b
help an
our sup
facting
ing to pr
tifying e
be fulfil
bility to
and you
CARIT
REACH
BAGH
The sec
dad rem
recent s
Catholic
cial
"We t
that ther
ment be
ple here
progress
er, CRS
Middle-l
who arr
part of a
humanit
Tuck
reached
in Bagh
to be dis
ters thro
ROME
OVERSI
VATIC
Vatican's
cal bisho
ian pilgr
ed by
Pietralci
roar amo
at the sit
Pope
Archbish
brosio as
the sanc
Rotondo
tions. Th
order of
member
sanctuar
vision of
cording t