

# A Beggar Without Shame

When Father Reinhart, our zealous and capable director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, approaches me twice each year to write a begging letter for God's poor and needy throughout the world, I rejoice at the invitation to take pen in hand. I consider it a duty and privilege to challenge you to responsible stewardship of the blessings you have received. For what does anyone of us have apart from a gift of generous Providence that has smiled on us so benignly?

It becomes our common temptation to take for granted as our due the gifts we possess each day. It is only in sharp confrontation with the harsh reality of the world of the 'have nots' that many of us even begin to count our blessings.

A philosophy of apparent contradiction is at the core of the Christian message: it is

only in giving that we receive and it is only in losing our life that we find it. Adherence to this Gospel requires an act of faith — of abandonment of what we hold as our firm personal grasp on security — and an acceptance of the Lord's promises of the one hundred-fold at their face value.

The traditional generosity of countless people in our diocese continues to confirm my hopes in a renewed vitality for the Church of Rochester. I look with pride at the now completed report of your wholehearted response to my most recent challenge to a vision which would focus your sights beyond our needs at home. This year's collection for our Diocesan Missions, despite the economic problems that face us, represents giving to a degree never before experienced in the diocese — some \$13,000 above last year's gift. And even before this gift was counted, we were being asked to appeal again on behalf of the desperate refugees from Pakistan who face the threat of famine. More than \$10,000 has already been realized in this little-publicized appeal.

In days when the ink of the negative critic flows freely, it is a joy to write a positive note of thanks to all the good people who prefer to be silent and unheralded in their expression of strong faith. You are my joy and strong support in days which could bring only despair if our concentration were limited to the foreboding clouds that seem to threaten. We do have a vital Church in Rochester because we are mission minded people.

It would be easy for me to appeal to your generosity solely for worthwhile projects here at home. But there is no Church here at home apart from the universal Church. To be a vital Church of Rochester we must be catholic in our concerns — accepting no frontiers as limits to our pilgrimage. By vocation of Baptism and Confirmation we are still called to be witness of Christ's presence and concern — neither of which was confined to less than all of suffering humanity.

It is my joy to shepherd a diocese which is truly missionary. I just wanted you to know it.

## Guest Editorial

How quickly, yet how pleasantly and varied the years speed by! God in His Goodness has granted me 70 years in the service of the priesthood, and I trust and hope they have been well and profitably spent as befits a priest of the Most High.



Every sincere priest is one of God's selected noblemen; for as "another Christ" he belongs to God's special nobility—the priesthood of the great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

What a privilege to have been granted 70 years in such exalted service! It was because of this great esteem for the priesthood, that our beloved and deeply lamented pastor, Father Charles McCarthy, made it his aim to com-

memorate the event with a grand and memorable celebration, in which old and young, clergy and sisters and friends including the Mayor, the Bishops, President Nixon, and even the Pope, in some measure participated.

Consequently, as for me, how could I dream of stepping down from the exalted station of the priesthood, and give or share my love and service to any other, but to my Master and my King Who has favored me so highly!

My resolution is therefore, that I shall try to continue to honor my God and serve Him loyally and faithfully, as is so masterfully portrayed in the "classic" tribute of the famous Father Lacordaire:

To live in the midst of the world  
with no desire for its pleasures;

To be a member of every family,  
yet belong to none;

## By Msgr. George W. Eckl

# The Life of a Priest

- To share all sufferings, all joys;
- To penetrate all secrets;
- To heal all wounds;
- To go daily from men to God;
- To offer Him their homage and petition;
- To return from God to men to bring them His pardon and His hope;
- To have a heart of bronze for chastity, and a heart of fire for charity;
- To teach and instruct;
- To pardon and console;
- To bless and be blessed forever!
- What a wonderful life!
- And it is yours,
- O Priest of Jesus Christ!

## Editorial

# How Will They Remember the Summer of '71?

Who knows — maybe someday they'll make a movie called "The Summer of '71".

Certainly it has been a summer to be reckoned with and it is only half over. And for a change a share of the major happenings, while not exactly joyful, have nonetheless been in the vein of good news.

Heading the list must be the announcement of President Nixon's planned visit to Communist China. Peking long has held the pivotal role in this planet's strife and if we are ever to enjoy the fruits of peace some rapprochement with that country would eventually be a necessity.

This move taken in the Summer of '71 is a first step. Let's pray it leads to good.

While the trip to Peking is wrapped in controversy so, too, is the Apollo 15 moon flight.

Why spend billions on space exploration while there is so much poverty and hunger at home? This is a legitimate question.

The timing of our space program is wrong; there is indeed too much to be accomplished on earth. But given its proper chronological priority, space exploration can be worthwhile for mankind.

After all, we should know all we can about all of God's creation. And knowledge is in itself beneficial.

Then, looking at Apollo 15 divorced from the whole space program, there cer-

tainly will be cause for rejoicing if our men return safely.

This summer has also been the time of hopeful news on the medical front with a team of physicians apparently isolating a cancer-causing virus. Of course, victory over this dread disease is assuming ever more important priority. Some day, God willing, it will be conquered and again perhaps men will look back to the significance of a step made in the Summer of '71.

Lakes and rivers are polluted; cities are crumbling; there are droughts and horse plagues; and poverty with its attendant ills; but there also seem to be signs of hope for the future.

Things seem to be happening this Summer that may bode well for the future.