

**Senior Citizen Month**

**Older Citizens 'Invaluable'**

April 1978

My dear People:

The month of May is designated as SENIOR CITIZEN MONTH throughout the United States. As Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester it is indeed my happy privilege to send this letter of greetings and best wishes to all of our Senior Citizens as they are singled out for special praise and recognition.

It is good for all of us to express our appreciation of the elderly for their years of dedicated and contributed services to the Church. Those who are now advanced in years have shared their special talents and gifts with all of us. Many have helped build our churches, schools and various institutions which have cared for people in need. Those who have preceded us in the adult community have made life better for all of us in this diocese.

We, as caring and loving people, need to discover new ways of affirming our older population as an invaluable resource and blessing for the Church. We need to find new ways of receiving the wisdom and learning experiences of dedicated good people.

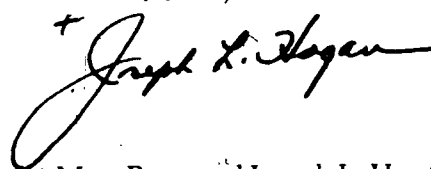
It is my fond hope that during this month of May you and all the other members of your parish family

will make an effort to acknowledge the contributions and talents of the Senior Citizens in your community. I am so pleased to know that many parishes have the fine services of those who can give of their time and talent as parish council members, Eucharistic Ministers, home visitors and the like who aid those more frail than themselves. For those who can no longer help physically there is the mission of being a spiritual powerhouse of prayer, guiding the younger Christian community to reach its potential in serving the Church in our day.

Finally, I wish to assure all my people who are advancing in years of my prayers, best wishes and gratitude for sharing your gifts with us.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

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**All in the Family**

By Sarah Child

**Signs Of Spring**

The kitchen floor which remained miraculously clean during January and February (all ground was under six feet of snow) has begun to look like its old self - tracked upon with both footprint and paw taking their toll.

My aunt in Pennsylvania reports the first leek dinner of the season was a success.

The clematis keep doing their thing with green buds growing larger every day.

The head of the house has turned in his L.L. Bean great coat for his denim jacket.

Fresh strawberries on display evoke visions of shortcake.

The oldest keeps talking about needing a new bathing suit and the youngest thinks she left the bottom half of hers at the swimming pool.

Sunshine streaming in through the sliding doors gladdens my heart - and spotlights the fingerprinted walls.

The room darkening shades don't completely eliminate the first rays at 4:30 a.m.

Neighborhood boys gather early at the bus stop mornings to engage in frisbee throwing, catch and teasing the girls.

The girls gather early for much the same reasons.

And the paper boy who delivered his product in hip high boots for the last six months can now throw the neatly folded paper to a dry front stoop.

The three pairs of blue jeans which I draped over the picnic table on the back porch to finish drying have wafted away in the April breeze.

The lone Johnny Jump-up has raised its tiny lovely head of purple and yellow on the other side of the garage.

Baseball gloves and kites keep winding up on the kitchen table.

Billy Martin and Reggie, Reggie, Reggie are back on the tube.

Our crew of three keeps leaving relatively neat and clean and coming in at night covered with mud, grass stains and assorted lacerations.

Bikes have been brought up from the cellar.

Poison ivy has struck again! Three next door, two at our house and assorted other wood nymphs around the neighborhood are in the pink (calamine lotion).

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