

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
Our 98th Year

32 Pages

Wednesday, December 23, 1981—

25 Cents



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the Feast of Christmas we celebrate and give thanks for the life we share. The Word of God took flesh and, in doing so, joined us to Himself and to one another. He took on our humanity that we might share His divinity.

When we observe this holy feast we remember what Jesus gives us — and in the memory we come face to face with our brothers and sisters.

Jesus is the tender care of a loving Father for His people. The reality of this compassionate love compels us to extend His care to our brothers and sisters in special need. And so the poor and homeless, the sick, lonely and afflicted become part of our celebration.

By His birth in the poorest of circumstances Jesus reminds us of the dignity we have from the hand of a loving creator. Contemplating in these Christmas days the strong challenges to human dignity which abound in our society we recommit ourselves to defending the life of the unborn and the dignity of every human person.

Jesus is the Prince of Peace and peace is His gift to us all. We recognize our call to oppose violence and to seek peaceful means to solve human problems. We continue our prayers for the people of Poland and El Salvador of whom we have been so much aware; and renew them for friends in other countries whose voices have been muted but whose spirit remains strong.

We pray also for guidance as we address questions of war and peace and the arms race, issues which challenge us to the core of our Christian faith.

May the rich blessings of the Christmas season be with you throughout the New Year.

+ Matthew H. Clark

Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, DD
Bishop of Rochester