



## Christmas



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
1150 Buffalo Road · Rochester, NY 14624  
(716) 328-3210



Bishops Office

December, 1982

My dear Sisters and Brothers:

When we observe this Holy Feast of Christmas, we remember Jesus as our Father's loving gift to us. And in that memory, we come face to face with our sisters and brothers. Nowhere does that happen more intensely than in our homes -- with our family. This season we are called to give birth to the Christ Child in ourselves and in one another, particularly those with whom we live.

Family life is the domain of ordinary saints; ordinary sainthood is intimately concerned with everyday events in the lives of ordinary people. The heart of the Church beats primarily where we live day-to-day.

And so at the national level and in our own diocese, we are renewing our commitment to the strengthening of family life. "The family is the first and fundamental school of social living," as Pope John Paul II observed.

Ironically, this beautiful Feast of Christmas can be a time of discouragement and discord in families. If we do not sense the warmth and security of Christmas, we can become discouraged and irritated with ourselves and with our family. For those who are sensing that discouragement now, I offer my prayers throughout these holidays that you might experience the hope which the Christ Child holds for us.

I ask you to join me in prayer, particularly in these next few months, as I join with your parish leadership people in an intense study of how we, as Church, might better serve you, as Church, in your family life.

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

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

*His Love Endures Forever*

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

24 Pages

Wednesday, December 22, 1982

35 Cents