

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Holy Thursday evening.

We have shared the Eucharist and now many persons visit Sacred Heart for a moment of prayer before our Lord in the Eucharist.

At this moment in a night on which we are conscious of hunger and food I have two images before me: a poster and a dessert.

The poster hangs now in many of our churches. It promotes the annual collection for the Campaign for Human Development. On it are two words — Hunger Hurts — and a face which I would describe as dignified and longing.

The dessert is a butterscotch sundae which I had at lunch today. Gosh, it was good. We at table went through the good-natured banter common to such occasions — about who needed dessert least and how many calories it contained.

In some strange way the two come together in this quiet moment and remind me of the joy and responsibility we now share to continue our efforts to contemplate the Risen One and the probing, consoling, jolting gift of His life.

The Easter message demands of us that we grapple with the human realities of hunger and thirst, longing and fulfillment so that we might in this season appreciate our need for that good food who is Jesus, the Lord.

"I myself am the Bread of Life.  
No one who comes to me shall ever be hungry.  
No one who believes in me shall thirst again."

Hunger and thirst, longing and fulfillment — realities and experiences of all of our hearts because we are human, flesh and blood and so never fully and finally fed. Day in and day out several times a day through years of life the body cries out for food and drink. Human persons the world over expend enormous amounts of time producing, distributing, preparing and consuming food.

Some are fortunate — more blessed? — than others. Their hunger rarely, if ever, becomes anything more than a

moderate discomfort. Even that reality can readily be translated into warm anticipation of the next sure meal. Food is always there and meal time, for all of its ups and downs, is often a time for important sharing and renewal.

For far too many others it is an altogether different story. The patchy scalps and soft bones, the distended bellies and unfocused eyes of millions are daily reminders of what hunger really is — constant pain, demoralizing uncertainty and the crushing inability to grow in self esteem and awareness of one's own human dignity. In such persons there is no strength for work, for education or for fun. There is just enough strength, if that, for the next moment. And when there is not, there is death.

Hunger and thirst, longing and fulfillment — realities of our hearts because we are flesh and blood. But so vastly different for those who live in Auburn or the East Side of Manhattan, or the bottom edge of the Sahara or in troubled El Salvador.

Our call to contemplate the reality of the Risen Jesus today cuts as it reminds us that many sisters and brothers on this planet starve for food for the body. That call challenges us as it reminds us that, if we are to be a part of Jesus the Christ, we must be a part of the hungry in our care to ease their misery.

More profound is the Paschal reality that we stand — with all women and men of all ages — in common and absolute need of God in Christ.

The risen presence — Jesus living in His people through the power of the Spirit — is the source and substance of our Easter Alleluia. It is our expression of praise and our grateful proclamation that He has become part of us and freed us from the misery of sin.

"If you come to me, you shall never hunger.  
If you believe in me, you shall never thirst again."

Part of the lesson of Easter is that our experience of weakness, need and incompetence — all human hungers and longings — are for those joined to Jesus the place where He

graciously chooses to dwell in the power of the Holy Spirit. And it is the voice of that same, strong Spirit which speaks of our need with constant and fitting praise to the Father — even when we can't name the need or lack the words to express it.

That's all probably a long way from the poster and the butterscotch sundae. But the images make me more conscious of the difference between food which satisfies real hungers and food which merely touches passing appetites.

I think it is important to know the difference when people all around us experience hunger which really hurts.

Some of that hunger, even in our communities, relates to real bodily needs. Some people simply do not have food adequate to basic health needs.

For others the hunger is spiritual — for friendship, for peace of mind, for greater harmony in a marriage or family.

This hunger is not of the body but it can be very painful.

This kind of hunger is all around us. And some of it is within us.

Are you aware of hunger for bodily food anywhere close to your home?

What would you identify as the greatest spiritual hunger your friends experience? That you experience? What would you identify as the greatest spiritual longing of your life just now?

I have been trying to come near some of those questions tonight because I think the Lord says to us in many ways that He is closest to us when we are hungry and weak and vulnerable.

I probably haven't had my last butterscotch sundae but, thanks to the Lord and so many of His friends who have streamed in and out of Sacred Heart tonight, I may be more aware of people's real needs and less concerned about satisfying my own passing appetites.

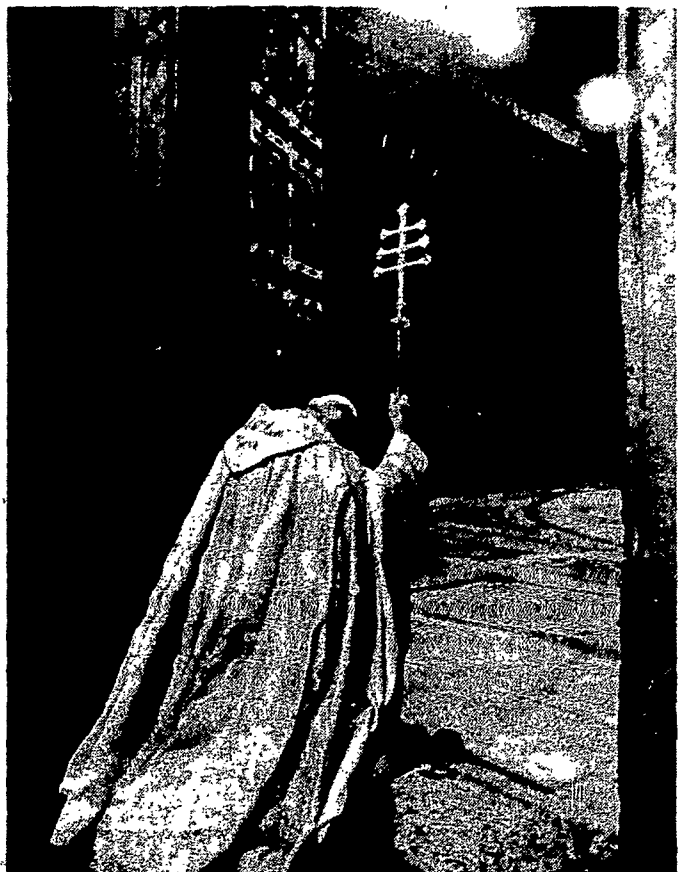
## World, Nation, People... in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

### World

#### Calvi Affair Reopened

London — A British appeals court has ordered a new inquest into the death of Roberto Calvi, a controversial Italian banker found hanging from a London bridge last



Pope John Paul II kneels in prayer shortly after opening the Holy Door to begin the 1983 Holy Year. (NC photo)

June. The initial inquest had judged his death a suicide. The appeals court decision was made March 29 after an appeal by Calvi's family lawyer, who said the family believes he was murdered. Calvi was president of the Banco Ambrosiano, Italy's largest private bank, at the time of his death and had been convicted in 1981 by an Italian court of trying to smuggle \$20 million from Italy. Calvi was popularly known as "God's banker" because of his ties to the Vatican Bank, which owned slightly more than one percent of Banco Ambrosiano stock. The Vatican Bank was also involved in the Banco Ambrosiano's bad loans through a series of letters backing some of the loans.

### Nation

#### Must Sister Resign?

Washington — Sister Theresa Kane, president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Union, and Archbishop Pio Laghi, apostolic delegate in the United States, have been conferring over the issue of Mercy Sister Agnes Mary Mansour's job as director of the Michigan state department of social services, a department spokeswoman said March 28. In addition, the spokeswoman said, Sister Mansour "has not personally or formally been notified by Vatican authorities to resign her position." Sister Mansour has been told to leave her government post by Archbishop Edmund Szoka of Detroit because of her stand on state funding of abortions. Cable News Network and other news media reported that the Vatican also had ordered her to resign because of her views on abortion. A spokesman for the Vatican Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes refused March 28 to confirm that the Vatican had reached a decision in the case.

#### Peace Fund Established

New York — The New York archdiocese has established a fund for peace and justice in Ireland with a \$10,000 anonymous donation, said Msgr. James Rigney, rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, who is the administrator of the fund. The fund was established to help support non-violent activities in Northern Ireland, but no decision has been made about what activities will receive the money, Msgr. Rigney said. He said that since he first announced the fund on St. Patrick's Day, another \$2,000 has been donated and many "encouraging" telephone inquiries have been received. Msgr. Rigney said cooperation with other funds already established to aid charitable, educational and cultural activities in Ireland was "a distinct possibility."

#### Tablet Editor Dies

New York — Patrick F. Scanlan, managing editor from 1917 to 1968 of The Tablet, newspaper of the Brooklyn diocese, died March 27 after a long illness. He was 88. Scanlan was president of the Catholic Press Association from 1924 to 1926 and was a member of its board of directors for three years. In 1967 he received a special citation from the

association on completion of 50 years of "distinguished service." Born in 1895 in New York City, Scanlan joined the staff of The Tablet in 1917 as managing editor. Pope Pius XII named him a Knight of St. Gregory in 1944 and during the 1950 Holy Year granted him a private audience.

#### Crowd Saddens Cardinal

Chicago — Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago and the pastor of St. Pascal Catholic Church expressed their sorrow after Chicago's Democratic mayoral candidate Harold Washington and former Vice President Walter Mondale were booed at the church March 27. Cardinal Bernardin said he was "saddened that Christian courtesy and civility were not extended" to the two men when they attended Palm Sunday Mass at St. Pascal on Chicago's predominantly white northwest side. If Washington were to win the April 12 election, he would be the city's first black mayor. The pastor of the church, Father Frank Ciezadlo, said of the incident, "I've been a priest for 36 years. Maybe I didn't get the message of love across." A crowd of more than 150 people surrounded Washington and Mondale and shouted epithets, forcing the men to cut short their visit.

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