

Editorial

On the Move

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has not had much of a chance to put his feet up in recent weeks.

First, there were the hundreds of miles he spent during Lent, criss-crossing the diocese to meet in person as many of his flock as possible.

Hardly done, and he was called to Rome for his admira report to Pope John Paul II. Home less than two weeks and he will be off to Chicago for the historical meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to consider the war and peace letter.

It is not so much the mileage of these journeys, or even their number. What is striking upon reflection is that their nature reveals something of the responsibilities of a late 20th Century bishop.

His Crossroads visits were mostly of a pastoral nature — prayer meetings, visitations to the sick, sharing time with prisoners, and the like. His trip to the Vatican was in the area of accountability —

every bishop makes the trip once every five years to report to the Holy Father.

But it his latest trip that reflects a significant new role for the modern day bishop — an intense involvement in the sociological arena. It is not that our bishops intend to assume Caesar's functions but more that they mean to advise the world's leaders when their mechanizations infringe on God's province, to wit the morality of nuclear warfare.

Bishop Clark has listened to as many people as possible on the nuclear bomb question. The attendance and participation at his public hearing last week proved a valuable assistance. He will find time to fast and to pray before Chicago. That kind of preparation also is necessary.

Truly, a bishop's life these days takes him not only laterally to many physical sites but also in depth to some of the issues that lie at the very heart of existence. On this special voyage, Bishop Clark and his colleagues will need all our prayerful good will that they will reach just conclusions on a complicated problem.

Safety Sabbath

It may be a bit early, but the National Safety Council has such a good idea in its National Safety Sabbath set for next Feb. 10-14 that it is worth talking about now.

The idea is to bring together people of all faiths to a fuller understanding of safety because "caring for the well-being of another person is probably the greatest gift of life you can show someone," said Leon Urben, manager of the council's religious activities department.

The sabbath, coinciding with Valentine's Day, will emphasize such safety practices as the need to wear safety belts, not mixing drinking and driving and the value of smoke detectors in the home. Campaign kits that contain posters, handouts, program planning guides and other information will be available in the Fall.

It might be a good idea for a parish campaign. Anyone interested in getting a kit should write to the Religious Activities Department, National Safety Council, 444 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

and Opinions

Must Obey Higher Law

Editor:

Although I am not a Catholic, I have followed with great interest the Courier-Journal's coverage of the bishops' pastoral letter on war and peace. For regardless of what the final content of the letter will be, the fact that such a letter is being written affirmed the subjection of national policies, even those relating to national security, to a higher law of morality.

Christians have not been able to resolve the choice between a "just war" approach and pacifism. But perhaps we can agree on a belief in a higher law, a higher accountability. When we talk to each other, this can be our common ground, a starting point on which to build; when we address governments, it is the issue, the place where witness begins.

We may find that on some issues, people who differ as to the requirements of that higher law may still come out with similar conclusions — for example, that the indiscriminate killing of civilians by nuclear weapons can never be justified. And we join to defend the individual's right of conscientious obedience to a higher morality, as best he or she perceives it.

Bruce McDaniel
1709 Blossom Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

comment on two items which appeared in the Courier-Journal April 20. The first was a statement in Father Cuddy's column — "Usually, I am not enthusiastic about baptism at Sunday Mass because most people just want to go to Mass and a baptism can take an undue amount of time." That statement says a lot more than meets the eye. It subliminally tells me that Father Cuddy is opposed to baptisms during Sunday Eucharist and also he does not accept Church teaching in regard to baptisms. It also tells me that as a presider he does not adequately prepare before a liturgy because if properly done, a baptism takes very little extra time. Finally, it tells me that he is unable to make judgments in regard to the Eucharistic liturgy, since presiders do have the right and the responsibility of shortening other parts of the liturgy when baptisms take place to keep the overall time of a liturgy within normal parameters. I question the wisdom of Father Latus on calling on Father Cuddy to preach throughout the diocese. I further resent the use of "supply" when talking about the most important role in the Eucharistic liturgy, that of presider/preacher. When I want a "supply" of something, I go to the supermarket.

Second, Mr. Joseph Murray wrote a letter to the editor on girl altar servers. As far as I can see, this is a classic case of "not seeing the trees for the forest." I suggest that Mr. Murray take a course on relevance and spend his time on something more constructive than worrying about some little girl carrying a cruet of wine. His letter calls us to conversion. Unfortun-

nately, I am not interested in being converted into a scrupulous nitpicker. Does he seriously think that Jesus Christ is mad because there is a little girl on the altar? Does he think that the entire body of Church teaching is compromised because a small female holds a paten? I submit that people like Mr. Murray impose a burden on us. We are forced to deal with trite mediocrity when real issues are left unattended. This is how the evil works, in my opinion.

A.T. Rimore
49 McCall Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Where Was The Glory?

Editor:

I read with interest Bishop Clark's ordaining the permanent deacons at which time he addressed their vocations as the call "to make known to the world the glory of God shining in the face of Christ." Where is the glory when an organization ordains a married man yet discriminates against a celibate religious merely on the basis of sex? In these days of enlightened Vatican II, a nun cannot give the homily not because she is a nun but because she is a woman. Yet, historically there were female deacons in the early Church. We may have "come a long way, baby" but obviously not in the eyes of the present hierarchy.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave or free, there is neither male nor female. For all are one in Christ Jesus."

If this is the type of treatment we receive in God's House, is it any wonder what we get in the marketplace?

Marion L. Brown
33 Irving Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Prenatal CF Test Wrong

Editor:

The President's Commission on Medical Ethics and Behavioral Research has recently predicted that the advent of prenatal diagnosis of cystic fibrosis will lead to a "a new program of mass genetic screening of vast proportions." Since there is no known prenatal cure for

CF, the net product of such eugenic measures will be the selective abortion of thousands of preborn children afflicted with CF.

Who gets the "credit" for this extension of "health by death" ethic into national medical policies and the American conscience?

Credit goes primarily to the March of Dimes which since the late 1960s has poured thousands of research dollars into the prenatal detection of CF.

This is the same March of Dimes which has already brought the American public programs of prenatal diagnosis and selective abortion of Tayh Sachs children and Down's Syndrome children; research and promotion of AFP screening for neural tube defects in utero; and fetoscopy — a form of live fetal experimentation used to detect non-treatable blood anemias while the child is still in the womb.

For more than a decade, Right-to-Life warnings against the eugenic trends of MOD research and programs have fallen on deaf ears. Now the prenatal test for CF threatens the lives of thousands of preborn children affected by the disorder. Wake up, America — it is the 13th hour!

Randy Engel
Director
U.S. Coalition for Life
Box 315
Export, Pa.

Mini-Series Objection

Editor

I, too, objected to the TV mini-series "The Thorn Birds" being shown during Holy Week. I have written a letter to the television network, expressing my disapproval. If anyone would like to write to the network, this is the address:
ABC Television Network
1330 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y.

With my letter I enclosed a list of those sponsors of the program which a friend had made for me. If the Courier cannot publish this list, I would be glad to send a copy of it to anyone who wishes either to write to the sponsors and/or boycott those products on the list.

Jean DeJoy
151 Garrow St. Ext.
Auburn, N.Y. 13021
Editor's Note: Writer DeJoy included a list of 50 sponsors.



"A LOT OF PEOPLE LAUGH, FATHER, BUT OUR KIDS OBEY US."

Pray Rosary For Peace

Editor:

In May 1916 Our Blessed Lady appeared to three little children at Fatima. At that time she gave us the Peace Plan from Heaven. She told us to say the rosary every day. If we had followed her advice then we would not be trying today to compete with Russia on arms, nuclear and conventional. Our Lady said if enough prayed the rosary, God would give us peace. May I suggest that during the month of May which is Our Lady's month, more of us make the effort to say at least one decade of the rosary. Also try to participate in the Rosary March for Peace which will be held May 1 at the Liberty Pole downtown and at St. Mary's Church. I feel we still have the power to change the course of history if we put out some effort.

Mrs. H. Pikuet
460 Chestnut Ridge Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Needed: More Volunteers

Editor:

I must commend Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Maurice Tierney, director of Catholic Charities, and his assistant William Privett on their splendid efforts in implementing Project Lilac. The project itself was well-conceived and well-implemented: the goal, to reach out a hand and uplift the spirits of those hospitalized here.

I and my staff have done our utmost to upgrade the quality of patient care at Rochester Psychiatrist Center. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals three-year accreditation just received gives us some testimony to the substance of our efforts.

Yet more is needed. The 150 volunteers from St. Thomas More in Brighton and St. Joseph's in Penfield have brightened the days and evenings of many of our patients. Such involvement on the part of the parishioners of these churches clearly demonstrates a caring and concern that is needed, wanted and welcomed.

Martin H. Von Holden,
DPA, MA
Executive Director
Rochester Psychiatric Center
1600 South Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

How About Day for Bishop?

Editor:

I would like to comment on the nice letter that was written about my friend Bishop Clark. It was written by a lady who lives in Horseheads. I would like to thank the lady for this letter about my spiritual uncle, Bishop Clark. I agree wholeheartedly that he is a great bishop. I think it should be considered to have a day declared as Bishop Clark Day.

Miss Edie Reidy
634 Penna Ave.
Elmira, N.Y. 14904

2 Comments On Liturgy

Editor:

I am not a flaming liberal. Even so, I cannot help but to

Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writer's signature, full address and telephone number. They should be sent to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union S., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, no longer than 1 1/2 pages.

We routinely condense letters, edit offensive words and libelous statements, and reserve the right to reject letters. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and the letters will reflect the writer's own style.

Because submitted opinions exceed the space for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.