



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

## Bishop Clark Opens Holy Year

The Holy Year was officially proclaimed last Wednesday night at Sacred Heart Cathedral. More than 400 attended the Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, above. Right, a worshipper takes Communion. Left, Sister Mary Louise Heffernan, head of the diocesan Holy Year planning committee, greets some of the congregation after Mass.



### Insights In Liturgy

By Sister Mary Louise Heffernan, SSJ



### Sharing Our Pilgrimage

The evening news carried the activities of Pope John Paul II in his homeland Poland. Literally thousands and thousands of people "pilgrimed" to welcome him, to hear his words and to celebrate with him. Mixed emotions and feelings fill their hearts as they hope that his presence and power will influence change. Pilgrims journeying toward peace.

Each of us journeys as a pilgrim. Prayer, whether in the quiet of my room, in the midst of the community or on the way to a meeting or appointment has the characteristic of the wayfarer. In prayer there is the longing for deeper union and understanding of the Lord's

will. Pilgriming prayer develops and changes as life's journey lengthens. The heart becomes more open to the Word, responds with greater faithfulness and moves on with deeper trust. As people moving toward the kingdom, we beg the Lord to accept His will in our personal pilgrim ways.

"Be still and know that I am God." (Ps. 46) I believe that this is the stance of each of us as we pass in and out, up and down the pathways of life. To be physically still, to be still within and know that God IS. To trust deeply in our God.

During the coming months we are called to travel a somewhat corporate journey. When John Paul II announced the jubilee year of the Redemption, he revealed to us the opportunity to experience the love of the Father through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Aren't we pilgrim-

ing together in prayer?

During these days of jubilee we are called to reconciliation! Isn't this pilgriming prayer? During these days of jubilee we are called to reach out to our neighbor! Isn't this pilgriming prayer?

During these days of jubilee we are called to reflect prayerfully upon the Beatitudes! Isn't this pilgriming prayer? The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-11 reveal Jesus to us and call us to deeper prayer. They are not just pious sayings but the "stuff" that leads us to live as CHRISTIANS on the way. In the setting of Matthew's Gospel people pilgrimed to the place to hear Jesus. In our reading and reflecting let us journey to hear and respond.

It is good to be a pilgrim. It is good to move on and change. It is good to recognize weakness and discover strength. It is good to pray as we go, to let our coming and going deepen our rootedness in the Lord.

Sister Mary Louise Heffernan, SSJ, is the pastoral assistant at St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, and is serving as diocesan coordinator of the Holy Year.

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