

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



A friend is a blessing. At least, that's what I think about at this moment as I enjoy the peace of the Summer.

It's been a time of reunion with people whose friendship here and in other places has been important to me.

I have met them in New York and Chicago at meetings I have attended and I have met them in Waterford where I grew up. Some others have been kind enough to come to Rochester. A few, long unheard from, have written unexpected letters.

Their kindness -- and yours -- has been a Summer tonic and leads me to note the following about friendship. -- The first old friend I remember outside my home is the grandfather whose name my father bore and I now carry. Each day on the way home from school, I passed my grandparents' home and remember the joy of stopping to see them. Those visits were special because they meant peanut butter sandwiches and my grandfather's long arms around me as I sat in his lap and listened to the adventures

of unseen radio heroes such as Jack Armstrong.

Dad, as I called him, told me of his own boyhood in the days before radio and of the ways he and the other lads amused themselves. In this and many other ways, he took interest in me and knit my generation to his own and me to himself.

To this day his memory reminds me that while it is a blessing to have old friends, it is a special grace to have friends who are old.

-- Mary, at least as I know her, is a thoroughly delightful young woman. She is bright, easy to be with, involved in a variety of activities and would seem to have not a care in the world. But Mary admits to being afraid when she thinks about going to college. When asked why, she replies with an honesty which is quite endearing, "I'm not sure people will like me."

They will, of course, but at the moment neither you nor I nor anyone else will be able to convince Mary of that.

Mary helps me remember the times in my life when I went to new places among new people -- to Troy for high

school, to Worcester for college, to Albany, Rochester and Rome for seminary, to Colonie for parish assignment, to Rome for work in the seminary, back to Rochester as bishop.

Although I may have used different language than she uses and although my own way of expressing it may have changed through the years, still I can say that I have brought Mary's apprehension and question to all of the major changes in my life: "I'm not sure people will like me."

Is that doubt -- or one like it -- any part of your memory or present experience as you think of friends and going to new places?

If it is, I hope you have someone like my grandfather whom you can remember. Friends, after all, are gifts in whom the Lord reminds us of how lovable we are and how loving we are meant to be.

Next week this writer goes to camp with the kids. Pray for me!

Peace.



An 'Uplifting' Experience At St. Mary's Downtown

Most people come to Mass for a spiritual "lift" every weekend. Parishioners at Old St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester now have another "lift" when they arrive for weekend services.

Installed in an addition to the northwest wall of the church, the lift can accommodate people in wheelchairs as well as those who have difficulty in climbing the stairs in the entranceways. The lift became operational on Sunday, July 31.

Two years of discussion and planning went into the project, with the hope that coming to St. Mary's will now be easier for those for whom the steps had become a real obstacle.

Parishioners have donated \$14,430 toward the total cost of the building of the addition and installation of the lift, amounting to \$30,000. A small plaque will be placed in the lift as a gesture of gratitude to those who donated.

Ministers of hospitality in the parish have been prepared to operate the lift and to assist people to become comfortable using it.

"Over the years many people have been unable to worship at St. Mary's because of the inaccessibility of the steps," remarked Father James Lawlor, pastor, "so we are happy now that longtime parishioners and



Worshippers who cannot climb the steps can use the new lift on the north side of the church.

others who use the lift will be able once more to be with the community for Mass. It is the final realization of a dream for us, and we hope the word will spread so that more of

our people can join us." W.C.M. Builders of Rochester were responsible for the construction, and Midstate Elevator Company of Syracuse installed the lift.

Our Pilgrimage Churches Holy Year 1983-1984

By Father Robert F. McNamara

Little St. Francis of Assisi Church at 77 Whitney St. in Rochester shares with big Sacred Heart Cathedral the honor of being a pilgrimage church in the Holy Year of the Redemption, 1983-84.

St. Francis is a principal center of our local Spanish-speaking community. That is one reason why Bishop Matthew H. Clark chose it as a Holy Year church. Pilgrims who journey there will also be expressing their solidarity with the 20,000-30,000 Hispanic Catholics of the diocese.

But St. Francis of Assisi started, not as an Hispanic but as an Italian parish. In 1929, Bishop John F. O'Hern established it as a mission chapel to serve Italians who lived at a distance

from the Italian church, St. Anthony of Padua. The diocese bought a bankrupt neighborhood movie-house called the Ideal Theater. It was then equipped for church use inside and remodeled outside to look a little more like a church building.

The first fulltime pastor was young Father Joseph A. Cirrincione. He headed the parish from 1935 to 1977. As pastor, Father Joe (later a monsignor) did much for the religious and social welfare of his people, especially in the days of the Great Depression.

After World War II, St. Francis became even more widely known as the broadcasting center of the radio Family Rosary for Peace which began March 4, 1950. Its daily broadcast (6:30 to 7 p.m.) is carried by seven radio stations and five cable outlets throughout Western New York. Msgr. Cirrincione, through retired from his pastorate, still conducts the program.

Monsignor is a great devotee of Our Lady of Fatima, whose shrine in Portugal he has visited many times. Pilgrims to St. Francis Church this year will want to say a prayer before the statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (1950) and the Immaculate Heart of Mary (1949). Also before the shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima (1948) in the lovely garden outside the church. Father Cirrincione had the Portuguese sculptor Jose Thedim carve all those statues; and all three were likewise personally blessed by Pope Pius XII.



Hiroshima Anniversary Is Warning Against War, Vatican Radio Says

By Nancy Frazier

Vatican City (NC) — The anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, contains a warning for scientists and for world leaders who make the choices between war and peace, Vatican Radio said.

The Jesuit-run station broadcast a lengthy commentary Aug. 6 to mark the 38th anniversary of the atomic attack on Hiroshima which killed 120,000 people immediately and left thousands of others affected by radiation.

"Since then, 38 years have passed, and while the world commemorates the innocent victims of that day, one cannot try to hide the fact

that, thanks to an ever more exasperating technology addressed to destruction rather than to the good of humanity, thanks to an unrestrained arms race, the current atomic arsenals are capable of destroying not only just one city with all its inhabitants, but the entire earthly globe and all of humanity many times over," Vatican Radio said.

The commentary said that the anniversary presented two "principal warnings" which "humanity can no longer pretend to ignore."

"The first regards the responsibility of modern science and of the technology which is the fruit of such a science; the second, the re-

sponsibility of those who make the choices between peace or war," Vatican Radio said.

These responsibilities "involve a precise moral choice: an option in favor of the progress of man and his happiness, or else of his destruction," the commentary added.

Vatican Radio said it considered it "not only opportune, but indispensable" to recall Pope John Paul II's message at Hiroshima on Feb. 25, 1981.

"To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war," the pope said in 1981 at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in Japan. "To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace."