

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



The holiday advances this week's deadline for the Courier-Journal. I'll be leaving town in an hour for a meeting in Chicago. Before I go, I would like to say a word of thanks to you and then make two requests of you about this newspaper.

• Yesterday I celebrated the fifth anniversary of my installation as the eighth bishop of Rochester.

I thank all of you who so kindly offered prayers and good wishes on that occasion. I express particular gratitude to those who gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral to share in the Eucharistic Liturgy last evening.

It was an occasion of great joy and peace for me during which I remembered and thanked God for the many blessings given to me through you during my years as your bishop.

You have been gracious, hospitable, generous, forgiving, encouraging, loving, creative, challenging, faithful and great signs of hope.

Above all, I thank you for your recognition that bishops are not finished persons set apart in some mysterious way from the common run of humanity. We are pilgrims very much like you who need to grow daily in faith, hope and love if we are to

be faithful to that which the Church calls us.

You have been extraordinary in your sensitivity and assistance as I have tried to respond to the need to change and grow during these years. Indeed, it has been your example in faith which has so often been the prime stimulus in that ongoing process.

Thank you so much.

• Two requests about the Courier-Journal:

1. I ask you the favor of spending some extra moments reading this newspaper and reflecting on the ways you can benefit from it in terms of education and enrichment in the faith.

In particular, I ask you to make an effort to read the four-page Faith Today supplement we carry each week. I think it provides an excellent opportunity for families, neighborhood and parish groups to reflect on the implications of faith in the contemporary world. I would be especially appreciative if those of you involved in parish religious education programs would review Faith Today with a view

toward sharing your suggestions on how we can put it to best use.

If you have any suggestions, I would love to have them and will gladly respond to any I receive.

2. A second favor I ask of you is to think about becoming a contributor to the Courier-Journal by writing now and then to the Opinion page. I do not think I am alone in my curiosity about what others have to say concerning matters of common interest to us all. For that reason I am an avid reader of the letters-to-the-editor column in all of the periodicals I read.

I would love to know more of what you are thinking about your faith, your Church, our children, this paper, the issues of the day, what we ought to be doing together, what we ought to stop doing, how we must prepare for the future — and a range of subjects to be limited only by your imagination and interest.

If you have a moment now or some time during the summer, please think about dropping us a line.

Peace.

## Bishop's Anniversary Noted at Lunch, Mass

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated his fifth anniversary as Bishop of Rochester last Tuesday, June 26. Clockwise, from below -- at an afternoon luncheon with diocesan employees at the Mapledale Party House, the bishop had a chance to show off one of his five nieces, Margaret Early, to Sisters Ann Miller, Janice Morgan and Anne Guerin of the diocesan education office; at his anniversary Mass that evening at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bishop Clark gets a rousing hug from cathedral pastor, Father Robert Miller; overlooking the crowd gathered at the Mapledale; during his homily, the bishop asked those that had attended his installation at the Community War Memorial to raise their hands, among them Sister Roberta Tierney, diocesan director of education, and his family -- his mother, Grace; sister, Helen Early; her husband, James; and their children.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan



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