

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



In a few hours my retreat which began a week ago this evening will come to an end. Early tomorrow morning I shall leave Wernersville and drive back to Rochester.

I write these words while seated on a bench under an oak tree. Before me in the twilight stretch out the easy, rolling hills of southeastern Pennsylvania. It seems especially quiet at this hour. The rustle of the leaves and the whirring and hooting of the night creatures are only reminders of just how still it is.

In this inviting, soothing place I wrestle with the happiest of dilemmas: I'll hate to leave this retreat but I can't wait to come home. In the face of such a happy problem one can only surrender. I don't mean the kind of surrender one is compelled to give to overwhelming force, but the kind of surrender invited and made joyful by a God of disarming graciousness.

So surrender I shall and simply thank God for what has really been a time of holy leisure. Among other things I thank Him for the long hours of quiet for prayer and for his holy Word which nourished that prayer. I thank God for the physical beauty of the countryside, the majesty of the clear night sky and the glory of dawn. I thank Him for the chance to run and swim and walk until I thought my legs would fall off.

I thank Him for the profound witness of faith offered so sincerely and lovingly by my sister and brother retreatants who are now 20 days into a 30-day retreat.

For the skilled and understanding Jesuit who walked so easily with me along the way I am deeply grateful.

To a loving God I offer thanks for confidence strengthened and hopes reborn, for a deeper appreciation of my own humanity and less fear of its limitations.

For family and friends who are incredibly kind and generous in their affection I am deeply grateful. All of you — as you bear and manifest Christ in your life of faith — sustain my own faith and give me new energy for our common journey.

None of us knows for sure where that journey will lead us but there is no doubt that our pilgrimage continues. There is new life to be lived in the Church and it will be all that it can be when every one of us is fully a part of it.

That can be exciting — who doesn't relish growth? But it can also be frightening — who enjoys leaving behind the familiar and the accustomed?

And yet the call to grow daily in faith is always there. It may

challenge you in a way different from the way in which it challenges me: It may press each of us now as it did not ten years ago. But it is there and, because the Spirit of the Risen Lord is always alive among His people, it will not go away.

We need to challenge one another to new life and, with the care of the Lord Himself, we need to sustain one another when the going gets rough.

With my thanks for your daily challenge and support I wish you —

Peace.

## Names Make News

Cuban Archbishop Evelio Diaz y Cia, who headed the Archdiocese of Havana, Cuba, for more than a decade after Fidel Castro came to power, died July 21 in Havana, Vatican Radio reported. He was 82. Archbishop Diaz y Cia headed the archdiocese from 1959 until his retirement for health reasons in 1970. His funeral was in Havana July 22... Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, responding to an invitation by Poland's primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Gniezno and Warsaw, will travel to Poland Aug. 10-20... Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Andrew G. Grutka of Gary, Ind., and named Auxiliary Bishop Norbert F. Gaughan of Greensburg, Pa., as his successor. Bishop Grutka, who turned 75 last November, was the first bishop of Slovak ancestry to be ordained in the United States and has headed the Gary Diocese since it was formed in 1957... Mother Teresa of Calcutta, a 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner for her treatment of the poor in India, is expected to come to Pittsburgh for eye surgery, a spokeswoman for a Pittsburgh Medical Center said. Marti Walsh, associate director for press relations for St. Francis Medical Center, said no date had yet been set for surgery on the 73-year-old founder of the Missionaries of Charity. Mother Teresa is expected to have surgery for the removal of cataracts and the implant of a lens in her left eye.

## Mass Opens Festival

City Councilman Tony Sciolino presents Bishop Felice Leonardo of Italy with a Rochester city medallion at the Mass officially opening La Fiera Italiana on Sunday, July 22 at Old St. Mary's Church. More than 150 attended the liturgy co-celebrated by the prelate of the twin dioceses of Cerreto Sannita and Sant'Agata Dei Goti, near Naples, and Father Rino LaDelfa, associate pastor at Holy Cross Church. Following the Mass, Bishop Leonardo offered a blessing at a ribbon cutting ceremony opening La Fiera at the downtown festival site.



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