

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



The Courier-Journal's week off and my writing of an advanced holiday deadline make it three weeks since I have done this column.

I have missed doing it. As I have said to many of you in private conversations it does require some discipline and commitment to do something each week. But I have found it to be a rewarding personal experience and one from which I derive a lot of joy. It's a privilege to be in touch with so many good people each week through this paper.

The Christmas season has been a time in which I have experienced the Lord's presence in ways which have forced me and helped me to meditate on His humanity and our own, and to appreciate how precious a gift it is that His power can shine brightly even in our own weakness.

I think for example of the suffering, final illness and death of Sister Ann William Bradley of the Daughters of Charity

who did such immense good and inspired so many at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester.

In her 44 years she accomplished enough to fill most longer lifetimes. But I wonder if she leaves any stronger legacy with those who knew her than the utter simplicity of heart and deep faith with which she accepted her own humanity and the Lord's final, loving claim on her.

And I remember as well on this Epiphany night the radiant example of Licia Park whose years among us numbered only 15. Although her years were fewer than any of us would have chosen for her, she too, by a final, faithful acceptance of her own mortality taught me and many others something more about what it is to be a human person baptized into the Lord's dying and rising.

For the thousands of persons who joined in the prayer surrounding the last hours and final committal of these two

beautiful women Christmas may never be quite the same again. I say that because I believe they put us more deeply in touch with our own human condition and that is a privileged place of encounter with the Lord who dwells deep in our hearts.

As I think about those events and this Christmas season I realize that part of the lesson of them is that we need to help one another to be unafraid of our own human weakness. More, we need to help one another rejoice in it because it is now part of Christ and in Him becomes a vessel of the wonderful power of God.

Even now I think of the ways — and they are many — in which I am part of or experience or cause pain or alienation. There is a darkness about that, as I am sure there can be for all of us at one time or another. But in the grace of the season and this night I am encouraged that the light of Christ is so strong that it will always penetrate that darkness.

He humbled Himself to share in our humanity so that we could share in His divinity.

Peace to all.

## Bishop's Day with Youth Is Scheduled for March 3

"Peace and Youth Go Forward Together," the title chosen by Pope John Paul II for his Jan. 1 peace message, also will serve as the theme of Bishop Matthew H. Clark's Day with Youth scheduled Sunday, March 3.

The March 3 event will be only one of many programs for diocesan youths scheduled as part of the International Year for Youth, according to the diocesan Department of Youth Ministry. A youth pilgrimage to Rome also is being planned for August.

Patrick Fox, department director, also is asking "everyone in the diocese to join with the Office of Youth Ministry to make all the Wednesdays of 1985 special days of prayer for the needs, hopes, concerns, problems and aspirations of youth. I ask everyone to

join with me in whatever way they find appropriate to pray with and for all of our young people."

He asked diocesans to "take a few minutes each Wednesday and join in a project that goes beyond the Diocese of Rochester to dioceses across the country."

Referring to the theme connecting youths and peace, Fox said, "Peace challenges everyone and first of all the consciences of mature men and women. It would be a mistake to speak of young people and their responsibility for peace and to make no reference to adults because youth is always a relationship of 'part to the whole' and it goes forward with the society to which it belongs."

### Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:

Father Terrance K. Fleming, to chaplain at Genesee Hospital, effective Jan. 14.

To Sabbaticals, Spring Semester 1985, January through June

Father James M. Moynihan, to American College, Louvain, Belgium.

Father Lawrence E. Murphy, to American College, Louvain, Belgium

Father Richard J. Shatzel, to Catholic University, Washington, D.C.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

### Birthday Blessings

Seven infants, all born during the sesquicentennial year -- all of Old St. Mary's Parish downtown -- received a special New Year blessing from Father James Lawlor, pastor, on Friday, Dec. 28. Left, Linda Quinlan holds infant son Thomas, as older son Timothy gets an eyeful of the proceedings. Center, Paul Roland, in the arms of his mother Jane, lets fly some verbal sentiments on Father Lawlor's blessing. Right, Shannon Klos awaits her turn patiently in the lap of her mother Donna. All the infants were presented with pink baby-size tee shirts proclaiming the 150th anniversary of Old St. Mary's and the city of Rochester.

I a  
in  
and  
v, I  
the  
nry  
een  
c at  
arc.  
ohn  
Last  
the  
  
the  
o a  
olic  
ging  
sly  
el"  
and  
  
in a  
linal  
ican  
also  
the  
olic  
ould  
tion  
ity"  
k in  
tical  
  
AL  
lark  
  
D  
  
i  
  
an  
  
9, 1985  
  
580)  
c after  
y the  
iation.  
35c. I  
Canada  
South  
14607,  
Postage  
POST-  
ages to  
on St.,