

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Sunday afternoon, Passion Sunday.

I am sitting in the Rochester railroad station on this damp and cold afternoon of Passion Sunday waiting for train 63, the Maple Leaf Special. If all goes well, my mother will arrive on that train to spend Holy Week with us at Sacred Heart.

The people I live with know she is coming and would know it even if I did not tell them. They are aware of her visit because of the appearance of now familiar signs: I got a haircut yesterday, my room has never been neater and there is a high gloss on my shoes.

Mom will remark on all of these preparations and others as though they were all done at the last minute for her benefit; I, of course, will argue strongly that things today are just as they always are. We'll both know the truth of it but we'll do it all again the next time she pays a visit.

Waiting for her this afternoon at the train station is a pleasant experience in itself. It also presents an opportunity to look back over these weeks of Lent to remember how often

you have been signs of hope to me and to one another during our Lenten journey.

Among others, I remember and give thanks for the following:

- Our catechumens and candidates. I thank you for your generous example of faith and for all of the encouragement you give to the rest of us. You are strong signs of hope; we thank you now by special prayers for you in these last days before you participate fully in the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

- Our priests. I thank you for your fraternal support and affection. Most especially I thank you for all that you do to confirm our brothers and sisters in the faith. I promise you my prayers in these days with particular hope that your participation in the mysteries of Holy Week will deepen in you the realization that our people love you very much and want nothing more than to be of mutual support in your journeys of faith.

- Our brothers and sisters in religious life. Thank you for the powerful witness and generous ministerial service you give to our community day in and day out. You have responded to the Church's call to renewal in a generous and creative manner. My hope is that the Lord will richly minister to you during these special days and draw you to ever deeper life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- All of you -- men and women, boys and girls. You are the people to whom the Risen Lord entrusts the transformation of the world. In your home, on the job, in school, in many and diverse ways, you build up the body of Christ and give glory to God. Thank you for your courage, your unsung service, the powerful grace of your daily witness. You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world. May your deepest grace these days be an awareness of the beauty of your person, your vocation and the sheer greatness of all you do for the love of God and neighbor.

Easter peace and blessings to all.

International Economic Input for Bishop Clark

Following is a report, prepared by the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace, on input from diocesan missionaries and their colleagues to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, in turn passed on to the U.S. bishops for their consideration in preparing the pastoral on economics.

There were different approaches taken to gather input from our diocesan missionaries as well as from interested persons with whom they work in Brazil and Mexico. During his trip in early December to Brazil, Bishop Clark dialogued with a Brazilian doctor who works in a clinic and with a missionary priest as well as with some of our diocesan missionaries.

In Mexico City during his visit to our sister diocese of Tabasco, Bishop Clark met with some of the staff of the Office for Social Justice of the Mexican Episcopal Conference. Bishop Carlos Talavera who chairs this committee for the conference was also present.

Several common themes appear in all of the input. There is general consensus in affirming the American bishops in writing this pastoral letter; even though it is understood that the pastoral letter is written for Americans, it will also have impact in Third World countries.

There is a need for more conversation and consultation with Third World churches and people so that American bishops and American church people can be more knowledgeable of the real situation they face. There was emphasis in the fact that even though there have been official contacts between the National Catholic Conference of Bishops and Conferencia

Episcopal Latino Americana, there needs to be contact at lower levels since the upper echelons of the structure at times are too removed from reality.

There is some concern that if the pastoral letter is not strong enough in enunciating and applying Catholic social teaching to economic reality in the Third World it would be dismissed as irrelevant.

There needs to be a strong call in the pastoral to allow each country to work out its own solutions to economic problems. Solutions dictated by others are another way of oppressing, and usually are not based on the reality faced by the country.

Regarding trade, the pastoral letter must try to raise an awareness that trade between the U.S. and Third World countries is not trade among equals. Therefore, there has to be a bias toward helping Third World countries find favorable trade agreements.

There were also specific concerns related to the realities of the two countries. In Brazil there is a lot of concern to what is happening with land. Multinational corporations are buying huge extensions of land and displacing all those peasants who up to then had farmed the land as their means of survival. When peasants unite and protest being uprooted, national security is immediately invoked and human rights violated. Also in a country where there is no welfare or unemployment compensation, people who get uprooted have almost no choices left for survival.

Another problem presented by multinational corporations' investment and development is the need of developing an infrastructure: electricity, roads, etc., whose expense has to be borne by the country, while benefits are accrued to the corporations.

The last point brought up was the fact that awareness of what corporations are doing in Brazil by the home country can help the local situation. An example regarding an English company and the way pressure had come to bear on them at home and how things had changed in Brazil was used to explain how this could happen.

It was suggested that maybe the church as an entity, or through the encouragement of the church, some corporations, could provide funds for experiments in industrial development in the Third World. This development would be based on the special circumstances faced by that country and could serve as models or experiments for future industrialization.

Another concern was the fact that the pastoral letter does not do an analysis of the capitalist system which has some tenets that are contrary to Gospel teachings. This analysis would help in trying to evangelize those who make decisions in order that they can apply the social teachings of the Church on those decisions.

One last concern expressed was that perhaps examples and applications in the pastoral letter might tend to weaken it since information and interpretation could tend not to be interpreted in different ways.

To conclude, interest in this pastoral letter runs high not only among our missionaries but also among those from the countries we serve. People were extremely grateful of the opportunity Bishop Clark gave them to review the pastoral letter and provide input. They were also wholly supportive of the efforts of the American bishops to address this very complex and extremely important issue and offered both their prayers and their support.

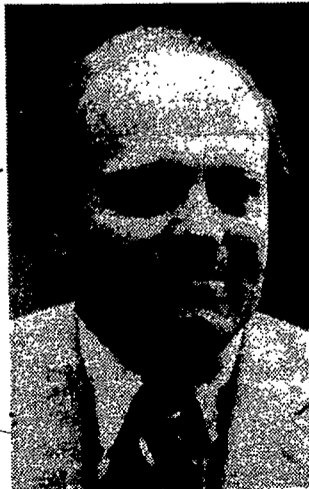
If you want peace, work for justice.

Pope Paul VI

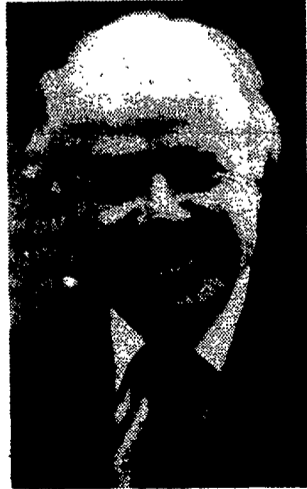
That's what the Elder Craft Shoppe Development project is doing in Rochester. Aided by the Campaign for Human Development, elder crafters are able to continue a cooperative venture for seniors on fixed incomes. Seventy crafters have their handmade work on sale at their cooperative shop at the Village Gate. Crafters also make up the volunteer sales force.

CHD funds partially support the salary of a manager to provide a stable staff to boost sales and membership.

CHD is sponsored by the United States bishops. It helps poor Americans help themselves through projects that work. Donations are needed. The CHD collection is scheduled Sunday, April 21.



ANTHONY J. COSTELLO



CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI

Because of a printing error in last week's Courier-Journal, the namelines of Anthony J. Costello and Carmen J. Viglucci were transposed. The story concerned the fact that Costello, publisher and general manager, and Viglucci, editor of the Courier-Journal, are leaving their positions to pursue other interests.

SCHOOLS

Notre Dame

Elmira -- The National Council of Teachers of English has awarded Notre Dame School a superior rating in its Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary magazines. "Genesis," ND's student magazine, was judged to have outstanding writing, wide variety, excellent editing, high-quality design and graphics appropriate to themes of writing, clear evidence of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary involvement with good writings from other subject areas and student involvement in the editorial, production and business aspects.

Nazareth

Nazareth Academy's sophomore class contributed \$1,000 to the Corpus Christi Health Center through a bowl-a-thon which took place March 2. The students obtained per pin pledges from other students, teachers and parents. The Webster Avenue center provides free medical services and relies on grants and donations. The sophomore effort was organized by Sister Damian Goffredo. Michelle Terry raised the largest individual amount, \$81.40.



CROSSROADS III

Easter Sunday

Sunday's readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; John 20:1-9.

The primary feast of the Church year encircles us with a sense of living hope. The first reading is Peter's testimony that Jesus lives: "... they killed him ... only to have God raise him up." The second readings (both Colossians and Corinthians) speak of putting off the old and on the new. They speak of that new spirit -- new attitude -- which marks a Christian and allows that person to become a living sign of hope. The Gospel reading recounts the timeless story of an open tomb, a vision of angels, a sense of exhilaration and fear turned into joy. All of these speak of hope -- an understanding of things being more than they appear.

To this Easter feast, we bring the world of 1985. We bring the fear which grabs the heart and causes one to lose hope. We bring the global chaos and confusion and face a challenge to be light. We bring the individual concerns of our elderly, youth, handicapped and people broken in spirit. We bring these and listen to a voice which speaks of peace. A clarion call goes forth -- triumph does rise from defeat -- death has given birth to life!

This is a week for rejoicing. We put aside the mantle of penitence and gather with neophytes, with renewed Christians, with all people of good will and we rejoice! Christ is risen! We are an Easter People, "Alleluia" is our song!

Project:

1. pray in thanksgiving for the gift of new life which comes through the resurrection of Jesus;
2. let your life's expression show your Easter joy;
3. look at your life and see the signs of new life and hope.