



Helen Brock of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church greets Alejandro Gomez after he returned from Mass at Corpus Christi on Sunday, May 25. Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

## Gomez

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But shortly afterward at a press conference in the church, Gomez declined to comment when asked whether he had traveled to either country or whether he had met with representatives of either country.

"Many things can be taken in different ways. There are situations where one has to say something only at the proper moment," he said. "I am a Christian person with Christian beliefs. I am not a member of any political party or organization unless it is a union organization."

Before he fled from El Salvador, Gomez was an official of a construction workers' union. Since his arrival in Rochester, he has spoken before hundreds of people, describing his arrest and torture at the hands of his government, and his fear that he and his family will be killed by right-wing death squads if they are forced to return to El Salvador.

Sanctuary supporters believe Gomez' arrest last week was timed to coincide with a resolution before city council to declare Rochester a sanctuary city. The resolution was scheduled for discussion at the Tuesday, May 27, city council meeting.

Gomez is also scheduled to appear at a deportation hearing in Buffalo before Immigration Judge Gordon Sacks on Tuesday, June 4.

But Gomez believed the arrest could have a positive effect on his hearing. "It could be in a positive way because of the solidarity shown in this city and in other cities in this country," he said.

Both Alejandro and Leticia Gomez have been arrested before by the INS. In January, 1985, they were picked up in connection with the arrest of 16 sanctuary workers across the country. In January of this year, the Gomezes were subpoenaed to testify at the trial of 11 of those sanctuary workers in Tucson. Six of the 11 were found guilty last month of smuggling, transporting and harboring illegal aliens. Two others were convicted of assisting in the operation of the sanctuary movement.

The outcome of the Tucson trial along with Gomez' arrest has left sanctuary workers in

Rochester wondering whether they too will be prosecuted. "I don't know if they are thinking about that, but the possibility could exist," Gomez said.

Although members of the sanctuary committee were shocked by Gomez' arrest, Morrison said she did suspect some kind of action was forthcoming. "Our phones have not been working properly and we have observed some surveillance," she said. "I had a premonition that something was going on, but I thought it would be directed at us."

Despite the way he was arrested, Gomez said he and his wife plan to continue speaking publicly. "We have always spoken in a very open way. We have not hidden ourselves and will not do that. We are doing nothing wrong."

They still hope to return to their own country someday. "When the situation in El Salvador changes completely, our wish is to go back there," Gomez said. "Naturally, this is not possible because there is a war there."

"Every person who is speaking of justice and peace in El Salvador, regardless of their economic or social condition, is considered an enemy and receives repression," he said.

While that war continues, Gomez said he and his family would like to remain in Rochester where they have friends and supporters. If they are deported, he said, they would seek asylum in another country rather than returning to El Salvador.

During his detention in Buffalo, Gomez said he was well treated, but was not given any reason for his arrest.

When he was released and saw the crowd waiting outside the detention center for him, Gomez said he was surprised and cheered by the familiar faces. "For me, it was a big thing," he said.

Another "big thing" was the \$47,000 raised for his bail. Donations from more than 200 groups and individuals ranged from single dollars to \$5,000 bills. "That fact is expressing huge solidarity in the U.S. for refugees and also support for the sanctuary movement," he said.

But equally meaningful was a note from his children which he found lying on his bed when he finally arrived home late Saturday night. "Daddy, we have fixed this bed the way you like it for you," it read.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

## Along the Way

Let me use this week's column for some comments I've been storing up during the Easter season:

● Many thanks to all of the men and women all over our diocese who were so generous in helping our sisters and brothers prepare for the Easter Sacraments.

I have been deeply impressed by what I have heard and by what you have told me. Our commitment to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and all it represents to us has been a grace for our life, and I am glad that we have made it.

Once again, I thank the many communities of faith who have worked so hard to bring this about, and I encourage those who have not begun to think seriously about doing so. I invite you to take advantage of the excellent assistance available to you from the Pastoral Office.

In a similar vein, I want to express my admiration and my thanks to our newly confirmed young men and women, and to those who generously worked with them. There is a special joy in being with our candidates when it is obvious that they put so much of themselves into their preparation.

Those who help our candidates prepare for confirmation always say that their faith is deepened by their ministry to and with our young people. I am sure that is true, but I am aware as well of the generosity with which they give themselves and wish to thank them for it.

I wish also to thank Bishop Hogan and Bishop Hickey for their generous ministry in confirming during the Easter season.

● Our newest parish, Transfiguration in Pittsford, is launching an interesting venture — a group called Men's Fellowship. Its purpose is a spiritual one, in that the members hope to help one another live out their baptismal vocations in the midst of the demands of daily living. They want to be better persons, servants of the Church and of civic communities.

I had the pleasure of being part of their first meeting, and I am confident that somehow this new venture will be a great blessing to the parish. Of particular interest to me is the awareness I sensed in the members that this can be a transformation for them. I have promised them my prayers that God will bless their efforts, and I invite you to pray for them too.

● Today (May 21), at St. Mary's in Rexville, we had our annual gathering in honor of our priests celebrating the silver and golden anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood.

Nearly 160 priests gathered to celebrate the Eucharistic liturgy and to enjoy a fine dinner prepared by the parishioners of St. Joachim's, Canisteo, and St. Mary's.

This day always brings back fond memories of the first time I spoke to our priests. It was in May, 1979. They were gathered at Our Lady of Mercy, Greece, and I telephoned them from Rome where I was on my pre-ordination retreat at the Renewal Center conducted by the Divine Word Fathers. It was the beginning of an association I treasure.

I congratulate our jubilarians once again and, for myself and you, thank them for their loving ministry among us. Peace to all.

### K of C council schedules program on Family Camp

Rochester Council 178 of the Knights of Columbus has planned a social hour on Thursday, June 19, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the council hall, 670 Thurston Road, Rochester.

Father David Mura is scheduled to present a slide show on the 1986 Family Camp, a program of Christian family renewal, at

Kamp Koinonia. Refreshments will follow the slide show. All interested people are welcome to attend.

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## Footnotes

by Dr. Joseph G. DiPrima

- Q. I have pain in my heel when waking up in the morning and standing for long period of time. What is it? What can be done to relieve the pain?—C.A.**
- A.** This type of pain is usually caused by a heel spur or bursitis in the heel. These conditions can be caused by flat feet, overweight and certain types of arthritis. Treatment usually consists of reducing the inflammation with anti-inflammatory drugs, injections and physiotherapy. You might then need a device worn in your shoe to take the pressure off the heel and support the arch of your foot. Occasionally, the spur must be surgically removed.

Have Any Questions? Please write

**Dr. Joseph G. DiPrima**

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