



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

Names come to my mind: George Stallings, Mary Benet, Tom Stransky, Tom Sweetser, Carol Holden. They are all people who have recently come to our diocese to share their study and experience with our pastoral leaders. Their topics included the experience of American black Catholics, collaboration in ministry, ecumenical marriages, evangelism and effective pastoral service.

Hundreds of pastoral ministers from our diocese and the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester gathered to hear our speakers. I know that all of us profited from the information and experience our guests so graciously shared with us. I am willing to guess as well that many were as touched as I was, not only by the living faith of our speakers, but by their loving willingness to

share that faith with others. Their presence was a witness that faith gives growth. It changes people. It makes life exciting.

That sense of vitality in the faith was very much evident in the people who came to share in these days. We are, dear friends, generously blessed by the Lord in the people responding to calls to serve in the Church these days. These men and women love their faith. They are willing to learn and are ready to share what they have received. It is a special grace to gather with them on occasions like the ones mentioned above. I always leave them with the sense that all of us, principal speakers included, have learned something and have taught something. It is a concrete experience of knowing the presence of Our Lord where two or three are gathered in His name.

This dynamism is born, in God's providence, as people search for ways how best to live out and share their faith in a changing, challenging world. Somehow they know that their faith will fade if its forms of expression remain frozen and inalterable. They realize, as well, that even the best contemporary expression of faith understanding can not fully capture the mystery it touches.

There are many examples in recent years of how the Church, reflecting on our ancient faith, has changed her practice and discipline for the good of people. Think, for example of how the celebration of ecumenical marriages has evolved in the last 30 years. Remember the changes in our liturgical rites. Consider the variety of ministries once reserved to priests to which people in the Church are now called.

Are these whimsical, arbitrary changes? No. They are attempts by the Church to live out in practice her renewed and deepening self-understanding. People who grasp that find great peace because of its congruence with their own human experience. We

retain our identity through the years of life, but we mature, appreciate and express ourselves in different ways as time goes by. Longstanding relationships are expressed in different ways over years. They would die if they were not.

People who cannot be at home with the reality of organic change will inevitably be unhappy with what is happening in the Church. Witness those who are deeply upset with Our Holy Father, John Paul II because he has invited leaders of a wide variety of world religions to a peace conference in Assisi. They charge him with indifference, at best, and infidelity to our tradition, at worst.

It is part of the beauty of being human that we have the capacity to grow and change through life. Part of the beauty of our community of faith is the capacity for a similar kind of growth. If this struggle to grow also gives birth to some tension — indeed to some mistakes — it is still to be cherished. For it is in such moments that we are most likely to turn to the teaching, guiding Spirit of the Risen Lord.

Peace to all.

Thanks Giving Appeal '86

Diocesan leaders tip scales toward increased participation

The 1986 Thanks Giving Appeal began this weekend, with parishioners throughout the diocese stopping at their parish halls after Mass to fill out pledge cards. In the next few weeks — as more people make after-Mass pledges and as appeal volunteers reach out to those who fail to do so — the Courier-Journal will take a look at the appeal and the diocesan programs it supports. This week's profile focuses on the appeal itself, through a discussion with three of its principals — Bishop Matthew H. Clark; Father James Moynihan, appeal chairman; and Father Peter Bayer, diocesan chancellor.

By Karen M. Franz

When diocesan leaders speak of the Thanks Giving Appeal, one dominant theme emerges — the concept of balance. They discuss the importance of weighing hopes for improved services against economic factors, of forging compromises between "needs" and "wants," and of walking the line between full awareness of Church and information overload.

But of all the weights in the balance pan, creating awareness is the measure most emphasized by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. "It is critical for as many people as possible to know what we are about as a community of faith," he says.

"I see the Thanks Giving Appeal as an event that's important in the life of our community of faith . . . not just because it is the way we raise the funds to run the diocese, but also because it is an opportunity for people to reflect on their faith," the bishop remarks, adding that the appeal "has created a heightened awareness of the makeup of our diocese."

Although few people look forward to effort entailed by the annual appeal, the bishop feels the system is superior to parish taxation — the means by which diocesan funds were raised prior to 1980 — because it challenges members of the diocese to examine diocesan programs and to take an active role in supporting them.

"Everyone contributed under the tax, by means of their parish contributions, but they didn't even know it," Bishop Clark explains. They didn't have the opportunity to invest themselves spiritually in what the diocese is all about. I'm delighted with the appeal because of the way it opens that opportunity to us."

"The appeal is not something added over and above what people have been doing (under the parish-tax system); it replaces the older system," he continues. "We invite people to see this as an opportunity to exercise . . . the obligation to contribute to our common work . . . We place our needs before the people and ask them to respond to these needs.

"Through the appeal, we hope to make people aware of the pastoral initiatives, of all of the wonderful things our people are doing," the bishop remarks. "I think there's a big gap between the level of activity in ministry and the level of awareness among the people. The opportunity and challenge of the appeal is to educate them. We need to challenge our community at large to seek information,

"One dimension of that is that through several media all year 'round, we communicate to people what is going on. It happens that the broad-based community doesn't always know all of these things at once . . . If people read the Courier-Journal all year, there's abundant information, and it's often specifically stated that they (the programs featured in C-J articles) are funded by the Thanks Giving Appeal."

Yet the bishop acknowledged that, by the same token, knowledge of some diocesan activities may be the reason some people hesitate to contribute to the appeal. It is easy, he says, to use one source of displeasure with the diocese or with the bishop himself as an excuse for not supporting diocesan activities. "I think that, like a family, we have to recognize that whatever we do, all the people are not going to be pleased," Bishop Clark allows.

"I'm very much aware that some things I do displease some people," he admits. "But beneath disagreement, I hope people can find integrity and understand why I do them . . . I don't ever want to be in a position where I make a pastoral decision based upon the impact it will have on the Thanks Giving Appeal."

Each year, the bishop notes, he receives a certain number of letters from people who are angry with him or someone else in the diocesan structure, and who say they will not contribute to the appeal. "I try to encourage people to think twice about that decision," he says. "On the other hand, I hope that for the very same reason, some people will be attracted to contribute."

Father Peter Bayer's comments underscore that point. "The key thing here is that . . . we don't always have agreement on our theologies of Church," he says. "So a lot of the things we're doing many people don't think we should be doing." The chancellor noted in particular diocesan involvement with the U.S. bishops' pastoral letters on peace and the economy and the forthcoming pastoral on women in the Church.

"There are a lot of theologies of Church. A

lot of people would be happy with the good old days. Others would be happy with the Church of the '60s or the '70s, while others want to push ahead," Father Bayer explains.

"We'd like to think that our Church is broad enough and wide enough to encompass a lot of different theologies," Father Moynihan chimes in. "People should not withhold their contributions as a way of punishing those who don't agree with them.

"The Church of Rochester is doing so many things of which this or that issue is just a small fraction of the whole. It's hard to see how a thinking person would withhold his or her contribution to the whole in which they do believe — assuming that they do believe."

"By lack of a gift or of a generous gift, leadership is not provided to produce services," Father Bayer notes. Citing the 7 percent budget cuts Bishop Clark mandated in January to compensate for the 1985 appeal shortfall, he remarked that "the corporal and spiritual works of the Church are not being done as much as before.

"Translated, that means that we've asked the parishes to pick up costs . . . we are able to offer fewer opportunities for CERT (Continuing Education for Religion Teachers) volunteers. It has hurt the spiritual works of the Church," Father Bayer observes.

And a shortfall this year would almost certainly precipitate further cuts with marked ramifications for parishioners throughout the diocese. For example, Father Moynihan notes that one of the oft-forgotten diocesan services is evaluation and maintenance of a pool of teacher candidates. "If all of a sudden that

service were eliminated and a vacancy appeared mid-term, where previously a principal could call the diocese to find a replacement . . . they (the school) might not find a replacement on their own for a year," he observes. The same, he says, would go for parish directors of religious education or religious education coordinators.

"There could be a noticeable breakdown in effectiveness," Father Moynihan remarks.

"It would hurt the whole nature of the Church," Father Bayer claims. "You're talking about word, worship and witness — opportunities for people to become well-grounded in the faith, for outreach and for evangelization.

"For example, we didn't replace our family-life director last year, and I think we can see the impact that could have with respect to secularization in the whole range of family-life issues," he continues.

"The appeal does so much for so many people that (by failing to contribute) you're really going to lessen the effect of Christ in today's world," Father Bayer adds.

Such scenarios are alarmingly real because

Continued on Page 12

MR CARWASH

6.5 GALLON HOSE TANK MOTORIZED WATER PUMP

STEEL HANDLE

12 V POWER CORD

HIGH CAPACITY BALL BEARING WHEELS

9 FT HOSE

30 FT HD

The portable, low pressure rinsing machine and "HOTWAX" applicator, that plugs into your lighter receptacle. This 12V machine comes fully assembled with a 20 ft. power cord, 9 ft. hose and is mounted on wheels. Tank holds 6 1/2 gallons of water for rinsing or waxing. Can be stored easily. Mr. Carwash does not require a garden hose and can use warm water for winter use. Mr. Carwash is used with warm water reduces spotting and dissolves road salts, and when used with Mr. Carwash "HOTWAX" concentrate, provides added lustre to your finish. Mr. Carwash pays for itself quickly and would make a fine gift at **\$49.95**

AVAILABLE AT:

361 Armette Blvd Roch. 436-4217	812 W. Main Street Roch. 235-0214	411 Genesee St. Roch. 436-6795
NORTON'S AUTO SUPPLY 103 Main St. Macedon 986-4424	LIBERTEI BROS. 1991 Empire Blvd Webster 671-1851	WESTERN AUTO 7306 E. Main Street Lima 582-2094
1575 Mount Rd Blvd Roch. 621-3010	NU-WAY AUTO PARTS 215 Mechanic Road Roch. 482-3620	410 Spencerport Roch. 485-4480

Purchase Mr. Carwash factory direct and save \$5.00 with this ad.

NYCO MANUFACTURING INC
PO BOX 13854
ROCHESTER, NY 14613 (716) 647-3842

WHIMSICAL WINDOWS

Shopping for Window Fashions?

Use our New At Home Portfolio with Sample Swatches

\$2.00 (Refundable with 1st order)

In the Cobblestone . . . 924-2350
2 miles East of Victor Village, Rt. 96, Victor

Barn Bazaar . . . 586-1057
Clover at Jefferson, Pittsford

AIR ONLY ★ ESCORTED TOURS

You can have it all!

Luxury Four Nite Cruise — Three Nites Disneyworld

Air fare from Rochester — Rental Car — Three Day World Pass
Adm. Kennedy Space Center Super Value
Priced from \$794.00 pp twin occup

Senior Citizen Discounts!

Myrtle Beach — Excellent Fall Golf Packages, 3 nites from \$78.00 pp. dbl. Includes Green Fees, Hotel, Breakfast each day. Call on Low Air fares to match!

Las Vegas — 4 Nite Packages. Includes airfare from Rochester, Hotel, Bonus Coupons, from \$383.00

Jean Brown Travel
3220 Ave 889-9090

CRUISES ★ ALL INCLUSIVE