



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

## Along the Way

Here follows a collection of unrelated items. You may find one or another to be of interest to you. If you do not, please accept them at least as a reminder that you have my prayers in a special way during this Lenten Season.

• The early days of Lent in recent years have held the joy of the Rite of Election. This year we celebrated it four times — at St. Patrick's, Corning; St. Francis, Geneva; and twice at Sacred Heart Cathedral. The rite is a special moment in the journey of faith, for those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil and for those already baptized who will seek full admission into our community of faith at the same time. It is a special moment for us as well, because it reminds us that our journey of faith continues and that we, too, must always be ready to follow the Lord.

• I'll be leaving this week for Tabasco, Mexico, for my annual visit to our sister diocese. Normally, I make this trip in January. It is later this year because of my retreat at Guelph. I shall greet Bishop Rafael, Father Paul Ryan and all of our friends there with your love. This visit offers an opportunity to reflect on our growing, common experience, so that we can learn from it and do some sound planning for the future. Please pray that we will be open to God's guidance during our time together.

• You are aware, I think, that our clergy have gathered annually for the past seven years to reflect on priestly ministry and the pastoral needs of the people of our diocese. We shall meet again this year, but we have made some significant changes in the format of the meeting. This time, there will be one session attended by all of our priests. In the past, we have offered the same program twice and asked each priest to attend one of them. In the past, the program has run from 2 p.m. on one day until noon on the next. This year, it will be a longer program; we shall gather for 48 hours. Finally, we shall meet during the Easter season instead of during Lent, as in the past. The convocation will be held from Monday, April 27, through Wednesday, April 29. You will be hearing much more about this event. I mention it now to ask for your prayers that God will bless us all in a special way through this gathering.

• I had a different perspective on a familiar event yesterday. Elizabeth Burke, a beautiful young woman of 16 and my goddaughter, invited me to be her sponsor at confirmation at St. Ambrose in Latham, where I once served as associate pastor.

Bishop Howard Hubbard confirmed 93 people in a joyful celebration. I must confess that I took great delight in being with Beth at this special moment in her life. I also enjoyed long moments of prayer with the community yesterday, as we joined ourselves to all who were being so deeply graced with new life.

At the top of this column, I promised you my prayers. At the bottom of it, let me ask for yours.

Peace to all.

## The Editor's Desk

As you've probably noticed in the editions of this week and last, we've been trying to improve our format for presenting parish and organizational news. As a result of that process, we've become more aware of just what kind of news gets in the paper and of which groups are submitting it.

We've learned that certain organizations and parishes are regular contributors to Parish Notes, Neighbors and the Calendar, while others rarely advise us of what they're doing.

We realize that some groups may not know that we're interested in their news, that some may be uncertain of the procedure necessary to get items into the paper, and that others may have been discouraged by past failures and no longer think it's worth the effort to submit news items to us.

We're hoping that we can resolve most of these problems, so that the information presented will more accurately represent the activities occurring throughout this 12-county diocese.

I'm now working on an all-purpose publicity form to assist publicists in getting their news to us and to assist us in preparing this information for publication. Starting next week, publicists — and, if you're planning the parish strawberry festival, that means you — can call us at (716)328-4340 (collect if it's a toll call from your area) and we'll be happy to send copies of the form to you. It will come with instructions and a definition of each of our departments. In addition, we find that parish bulletins and organizational newsletters are excellent sources for feature stories. If we haven't noticed interesting activities at your parish, ask your parish secretary if we're getting a bulletin each week, or send bulletins to the Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

And, for those of you who have been discouraged because you've never been able to get anything in the Courier-Journal, I'm offering a limited guarantee. If the item is newsworthy, reaches us by deadline, is submitted to us in a timely fashion — meaning that it's not a notice of an award that was presented four months ago — and is submitted according to our guidelines, we will get it into the paper within a reasonable amount of time. We can't guarantee that it will appear in the edition you request, nor that it will appear under the heading you desire, but it will get in.

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writers' signatures, full addresses and telephone numbers. They should be sent to: Opinion, Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 1½ pages.

We routinely condense letters, edit offensive words and libelous statements, and reserve the right to reject letters. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made, and the letters will reflect the writers' own styles.

Because submitted opinions exceed the space reserved for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent to other publications or persons. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.

## Letters

### Concerned Catholics speak out

To the Editor:

Officials of the Catholic Press Association contend that "dissent is very, very vital to news." They expressed their need to report "legitimate" dissent, and their desire to report dissent "fairly, reporting all sides of it" (CJ 1-15-87). While granting "good intentions" and technical competence of CPA publication journalists, judgments against their unknowing or deliberate practices of secularized consciences, which falsify and subvert Catholic faith, are inescapable and inexcusable. These judgments are applicable to the Courier-Journal during the past two decades. Massive judgments against the Diocese of Rochester for its unbridled "freedom" to publicly contradict Church authority, to omit and falsify Church teachings, disciplines and liturgies are likewise inescapable and inexcusable. We have provided Bishop Matthew H. Clark with a copy of our Nov. 25, 1986, appeal to the Holy See for a diocesan ordinary who bears witness to the truth and will lead us to sanctity, and for the relocation of Bishop Clark.

Legitimate dissent conforms to confidential representations to one's superiors and the Holy See. Logically and by Church decree, no one has a right to public dissent. Regardless of intent, the CPA renders public dissent as being legitimate.

While choosing to profess Catholic faith is a subjective act, the

content of Catholic faith is objective and articulately defined. Judgments of good and evil, true and false teachings, of inordinate pride and humility, public dissenters and scandals, etc. are objective — correctly identifiable by informed non-believers.

The Courier Journal is collaborating in the falsification of Catholic faith in featuring the subversive "Essays in Theology" by Father McBrien, who scornfully rejects and ridicules the faith and authority of the Vicar of Christ, and of the Church's ordinary magisterium. Father McBrien demonstrates inordinate pride, blind obedience to the spectrums of psychologies, theologies and sociologies, and self-gratification for "human freedom."

Father McBrien prayed for the Holy Father's recovery, when as a result of his wounds, the Holy Father would "more fully understand what it means to be Christian and Catholic." Father McBrien introduced Hans Kung at Notre Dame as "my fellow Catholic theologian" after the Holy See declared that Kung cannot be considered a Catholic theologian. Father McBrien wants theologians to be empowered to contradict and overrule formal teachings of the hierarchy. He has pronounced papal encyclicals to be erroneous — "mistakes."

The "freedom" that McBrien and other public dissenters pursue is a

predominant characteristic of their "Acquired Inspirational Delusions Syndrome." The spiritual AIDS victims divinize human freedom and satisfy self-gratifications as judges and image-makers of God.

In its pervasive divinization of human freedom, the Diocese of Rochester is a model of self-gratification by its priests and women religious. It is not rational to honor Father Charles E. Curran as a "priest in good standing." The Canonical Institutes of women religious continue to live rebelliously and repulsively in rejecting Church authority with constitutions that reject canon law, are incompatible with Catholic faith and unacceptable by the Holy See. They hired public dissenter Sister Sandra Schneiders to enlighten them in "Self-Determination and Self-Direction Among American Women Religious" (Oct. 9-10, 1986). Are the priests and laity who accept their parish activities and delusions more or less culpable?

Bishop Clark has disregarded repeated appeals to stop scandals and to serve in the mission of the Church: "For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the Truth."

Joseph J. Murray, Chairman  
Concerned Roman Catholics  
of the Diocese of Rochester  
38 Wyndover Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

### Writer questions editorial missive

To the Editor:

Observations on a recent Courier-Journal's column (CJ, Jan 15: The Editor's Desk, "Covering Dissent"):

I would like to discuss two points in particular: "correspondents who warn, chastise, scold and even damn the editor," and the statement that there is not enough space to print the pope's lengthy messages.

It is unlikely that these correspondents do not wish the Courier-Journal to print both sides of a controversy between Church teaching and dissenters like Father Curran, as the editor suggests. It is more likely a question of where the Courier stands on these issues, and the influencing effects it has on the not well-catechized. For example, the National Catholic Register always prints both sides of these same issues but, unlike the Courier, there is no doubt that the paper's policy is to stand behind the pope and

Church teaching. This is usually done through editorials written by staff members — something that rarely happens in the Courier-Journal.

Another strong indication of where the Courier-Journal really stands is evidenced by the introduction recently of the new column by Father Richard McBrien. Father McBrien has always been a defender of dissent, even before the recent cases involving Father Curran, Archbishop Hunthausen, etc. A darling of the liberal media, Father McBrien never fails to inform them, as well as the national TV audience, that most American Catholics don't really pay much attention to Church teaching on morality — as if that were some sort of badge of honor. This new column will be another strong voice in favor of the growing number of dissenters who are busily chipping away at American Catholics' allegiance to the Vicar of Christ, Pope

John Paul II.

In light of the above, I don't think the editor will convince her correspondents and other loyal Catholic readers that even though it may seem like the Courier is biased toward the news of dissenters, it is not the paper's objective.

As for the second point, regarding lack of space for the pope's lengthy messages, there is a solution. The Courier could replace Father McBrien's lengthy column with the pope's lengthy messages. This would do two things: It would make many loyal Catholics happy with fewer disgruntled correspondents, and it would be a big step toward helping the not well-catechized.

Can there be a more noble mission for a Catholic newspaper?

Dorothy Prinzi  
Nile Drive  
Rochester

### Stubborn reader exhorts all to recite Memorare for peace

To the Editor:

Early last summer I wrote about a simple idea — to "gird the world" with a prayer for peace. The Feast of the Assumption seemed an appropriate date for each Catholic to recite the Memorare for peace at his or her own convenience.

No money would have been involved. To spread the word, the cover story would simply have suggested that other papers copy the idea and pass it along to their foreign counterparts. Nothing happened.

other person say a daily Memorare for peace? 'Tis better to light that one candle.

Grace B. Carnes  
Eagle Ridge Circle  
Rochester

### Fr. McBrien column demeaning to pope

To the Editor:

The decision to include Father Richard McBrien's column in the Courier-Journal is indeed sad, to say the least. I am dismayed to read his obvious demeaning of the pope and true Church teachings.

We do not need any more theologians with their errant views being published in our once-trusted Catholic publications.

Dolores Kellett  
Corning Park  
Webster

In October, world religious leaders met at Assisi with the express purpose of praying for peace. Again, I opined that the world is made up of all people, great and small, and more often than not God hears more clearly the voice of the least of His children. I hoped the idea would take root. I even thought to get the ear of the bishop, but he has too many other concerns.

Finally, I wrote to the secular press (USA Today, because they have wide foreign coverage), recommending a non-sectarian approach, which would even include Russia, under the headline "Think Peace." That, too, failed.

I'm stubborn! Won't just one

