



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

Empowered by the Spirit

Sunday evening.

The Feast of Pentecost leaves me with many strands of thoughts and several intentions in my prayers this evening.

I remember this day, during which I experienced the vitality and gifts of our local Church. There was a beautiful morning confirmation of 11 of our young sisters and brothers from St. Monica's and St. Augustine's in Rochester. In the afternoon, Bishop Kearney High School graduated 270 young men and women. Later on, I had the opportunity to open the Marian year by praying the rosary and saying a few words on Monsignor Joseph Cirrincione's "Rosary for Peace" program. At the end of the day, I had supper and a short conversation with members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Each of those events was a reminder to me that the power of the Holy Spirit was not lavished on the community once and for all time at Pentecost, but that God ever renews and strengthens the people He loves so much.

If the memories of this day in our local Church provide food for meditation this evening, so my awareness in recent days of two sister Churches brings a special sense of immediacy to this Pentecost feast.

I had the great pleasure of participating in the celebration honoring Bishop Frank Harrison on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in Syracuse last Thursday. The event also marked the closing of the year-long observance by our sister diocese of the 100th anniversary of its foundation.

The Mass was celebrated in the renewed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, with the vibrancy and devotion that typify that local Church. Bishop Tom Costello preached what I thought was a brilliant homily, in which he spoke of our call to holiness and prayer and of Frank Harrison's response to that call throughout the 50 years of his priesthood.

The celebration was a rich one, and I left strengthened in my own faith because I had been privileged to join that community.

A second local Church has been part of my thought and prayer these days: the Archdiocese of Seattle. Throughout the week, I had a chance to review the documentation published on the plan proposed by the commission of three of our bishops and accepted by the Holy Sec. That plan calls for the restoration of Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen to his full authority, proposes the transfer of Bishop Donald Wuerl to a place as yet unspecified, and names Bishop Thomas Murphy, now Bishop of Great Falls-Billings, Montana, as Coadjutor Archbishop of Seattle.

I know that many have prayed for the Church in Seattle during the long months of strain that its members have experienced. At this new moment, I hope that we can again commit ourselves to pray for healing and reconciliation in the community, and that God will give gracious guidance to Ray Hunthausen and Tom Murphy in their service to the people of God.

Both of those local Churches come to my mind on Pentecost, when we celebrate the great feast of the Church's beginning and ongoing life. It is likely that neither Church will ever again experience a year quite like 1986-1987. It is also likely that, in God's providence, both will come to new life through their response in faith to all that this year has been for them.

The same is true for us. We have good times and hard times, but God is present in both, calling us to new life.

Peace to all.

The Editor's Desk

An editor's appeal

I have distinctly mixed feelings about comments made at a recent *Thanks Giving Appeal* listening session and echoed in telephone interviews I conducted thereafter. It seems that those charged with running the appeal — on both diocesan and parish levels — feel one of the biggest obstacles to their success is what they perceive as the diocese's poor image/low publicity profile. They believe that the people in the pews don't realize that their contributions support many vital programs.

To remedy this situation, organizers look immediately to the *Courier-Journal*. They suggest that the appeal office solicit our staff for more and more articles. As one pastor put it: "I would like to see a reference throughout the year that this program (featured in a C-J article) is possible because people are supporting the *Thanks Giving Appeal*."

Before I respond to that proposal, I want to emphasize that the *Thanks Giving Appeal* is the essential fund-raising activity of the *Diocese of Rochester*. Without the TGA, diocesan operations would surely cease. As such, the appeal is a highly newsworthy event, and we attempt to give it all the coverage it so obviously merits. This week's page 3 story is just one example of the news coverage we automatically devote to the appeal. Last year, moreover, we published a series of feature articles, demonstrating the various types of services the diocese provides to parishes and individuals.

I am very reluctant, however, to plague readers with references to the appeal in every article regarding a TGA-funded program. I object to turning journalism into advertising. If I were a subscriber, I would object strongly to this type of editorial policy.

On the other hand, I sympathize with TGA organizers' frustrations. If not from the TGA, they must ask themselves, where do people think the money comes from? Maybe it's not obvious to everyone that the spiritual formation programs that led up to last week's deacon ordination (C-J June 4, page 1) were funded by the TGA. Maybe people don't make the connection between the benefits parishes will eventually derive from captive insurance (this issue, page 3) and the TGA money that enabled the diocese to participate.

But if readers don't come to realize that the *Thanks Giving Appeal* is the backbone of this diocese, someday every C-J article may end with the words: "This service brought to you by the TGA."

Letters

Institutions don't teach us to be Christian

To the Editor:

I would like to address two issues that have surfaced frequently in recent issues of the *Courier-Journal*, and which are of great concern to the Catholic Church today. They are very different and yet revolve around a simple truth: that, when man uses his wisdom rather than God's to solve problems, the results are fraught with failure. The greatest source of God's wisdom is scripture, and therein lie the simple answers to all our problems. The truth *does* set us free.

The first issue on which I would like to comment is that of the shortage of priests. While the Catholic Church has demanded for centuries that its priests be celibate, this was certainly never required by our Lord. In fact, it appears that most of the apostles and disciples were married. Jesus says we must put Him before all else in our lives, but each person is called to his own trials and for different durations. And, Jesus promises, if we turn to Him, to give us the grace we

need to get through them.

Some are called to celibacy, but if you are not given this "gift," then no number of rules will make it "work." The Church has paid a great price for its rules, and vast numbers of men called to serve God as priests have suffered terribly over the ages (as have lovers, children and families). All this because men chose to sin by imposing their will upon others, rather than listening to God.

A second issue of concern is that of the closing or cutting back of Catholic schools in recent years. Again, our Lord never called us to set up institutions of learning but, rather, to have faith in Him, commit to follow Him and to preach the Gospel. When the Spirit of God truly lives in us, we are changed from within and we become effective witnesses for Him. We do not need Catholic schools trying to teach religion, but, in fact, spending their time and money to try and bring about academic excellence and

athletic superiority. What we need is the Gospel read and lived in each home and people putting it into practice in our communities.

Instead of Catholic schools struggling to teach English, math, science, etc., on a small budget, we should leave these subjects to the local school system and have our churches put their time and effort and *prayer* into teaching excellent religious education programs for children, adults and families. These programs would have Bible study as their foundation. We are called to be witnesses to Jesus in the world. How beautiful it would be if Catholic children and teachers were "side-by-side" examples to those in the public schools.

Institutions are not necessary to teach us how to be Christian; all that is really needed is to invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts!

Anne Bartholomew
Woodlyn Way
Penfield

Varied menu of columnists offers food for thought

To the Editor:

The other day, I sent you my renewal subscription to the C-J. I had been away for a vacation and, on my return, the first thing I did was to check my mail for bills. So it was then I hastened to send my check for the one from you.

When the necessities had been taken care of, I sat back to catch up on my favorite "On the Right Side" columns by Father Paul J. Cuddy. It has been a number of years since I last wrote you to express my appreciation for his reporting, and I want to again tell you how much I look forward to reading his tidbits of information about the priests and nuns with whom I had contact when I did volunteer office work at St. Helen's Church in Gates for Father J. Beecher Sullivan and Father Lane, of blessed memory. It warms my heart when Father Cuddy mentions those who are still with us as he goes about his joyful apostolate of helping out all over the diocese.

In addition, I enjoy his sensitive humor touching on sacred and mundane matters. Of his loyalty to the Church and to the pope, there can be no doubt, and in his love and satisfaction with being a priest, there is no doubt.

I could mention many of his discourses, but I will zero in on the recent column reporting the exchange of correspondence with Sir Alec Guinness, prompted by Guinness' portrayal of *Monsignor Quixote*. I was deeply impressed and touched by it, but it took Father Cuddy's initiative to contact him, expressing for all of us who saw the picture our perception of the mystical glory of the priesthood. (Why is it that converts to our faith have such a keen understanding of the Transubstantiation, which eludes many of us who have been "reared" in the faith?)

The reply from Sir Alec Guinness to Father Cuddy was an inspiration, elicited by Father Cuddy's kindness in writing to him. And we avid readers of "On the Right Side" benefited by

the exchange.

It may interest you to know that Father Cuddy's remarks have been noticed as far away as St. Petersburg, as I recently noted that our Bishop W. Thomas Larkin of St. Petersburg — whose roots are in Mt. Morris, N.Y. — mentioned, in his Florida Catholic column, Father Cuddy's remarks about Mother Teresa of Calcutta. That's an accolade, isn't it?

Well, I don't mean to imply that the sun rises and sets with Father Cuddy's columns. I look for Father Albert Shamon's clear expositions on the gospels and to the warm and kind words of Bishop Matthew Clark. Also of interest are Father McBrien's columns. Sometimes I applaud him, sometimes hiss him, and sometimes can't figure out just what he is saying, but he sure makes me think!

In summation, I just want to say I anticipate with interest each issue of the C-J.

Rhea M. Gartland
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Suggests petitioning Vatican on subject of girl altar servers

To the Editor:

"Bishop of Rochester asks priests to use altar girls" was a front-page story in the May 21 issue of the national Catholic weekly newspaper *The Wanderer*.

The article related how Bishop Matthew Clark asked the priests of his diocese, at the Marriott Thruway Inn on April 28, "to disregard a Vatican order disallowing altar girls" by appealing to a "higher law of love."

Does this indicate that other Vatican orders can be disregarded for the same reason? The important question, though, is whether or not serious sin is involved.

No doubt supporting the Vatican order on altar servers would incur the wrath of some feminist groups. However, most of these groups favor abortion and are rather fanatical about removing masculine pronouns from our daily and Sunday readings at Mass.

To me, it would be better to

petition the Vatican if we so favored girl altar servers, rather than to violate a Vatican order.

For, if a Vatican order can be disregarded by a bishop and his clergy in favor of a "higher law of love," why can't a member of the laity disregard an order from a bishop or priests for the same reason?

Robert Bart
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Ithaca

Show others the way to the light; don't add to the darkness

To the Editor:

I simply want to register my disappointment in Father McBrien's column being added to the *Courier-Journal*.

Although factual and objective reporting is obligatory in any news medium, I also believe that a medium purporting to represent the authentic Catholic view of our faith

should not add to the confusion but to the unity of the Church.

Father McBrien shows a consistent resistance to whole-hearted obedience, which is the only enlightened response possible to the truth of Christ. We must be showing others the way to the light, not adding to the darkness.

The *Courier-Journal* has reached

the point at which we no longer know whether to read it or cancel it.

Kathy Crane
Martinot Avenue
Rochester

Reader complains about C-J dissent reportage; says unworthy news elevates her blood pressure

To the Editor:

I am writing in disagreement to your newspaper. It carries very little worthy news. My blood pressure goes up everytime I read of someone disagreeing with our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. If they do not want to be followers of his on such matters as women priests and women leaders in the Church, why

don't they join some other denomination? The Catholic Church is and always will be headed by the pope in Rome, and we are his followers.

I subscribe to the *Wanderer* and thank God that we still have a good Catholic newspaper.

Henrietta Powell
East Steuben Street
Bath

Guidelines

The *Courier-Journal* welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writers' signatures, full addresses and telephone numbers. They must be brief, typed (double-spaced, please) and no longer than 1½ pages.

Letters should be mailed to: Opinion, *Courier-Journal*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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.