



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

## Along the Way

### A people claimed in love

When John Paul II came to the United States for his second pastoral visit here, we bishops met with him at Los Angeles. We met him on two different occasions on Wednesday, Sept. 16. The first meeting — of which I wrote last week — was at the San Fernando Mission, where our Holy Father and four of our bishops gave talks. The second part of our day was at Dodger Stadium for the celebration of the Eucharist with the pope and 60,000 people from southern California.

Prior to the Mass, there was a wonderful celebration of the diversity of the peoples who make up the population of the region. On that warm, clear evening, the stadium was filled with the sound of music from a black gospel choir, a youth chorus, a Scottish pipe band, Croation singers and a huge orchestra. Dancers representing the cultures of Japan, Vietnam and the United States were among those who stirred the great crowd with color and motion.

Part of the delight of this portion of the evening came from the way in which the program was produced. It was not a static affair in which one act followed another on a small stage. Those who designed the evening did so with a view to using virtually the entire playing surface of the stadium. As a result, people felt close to the performers, and there was almost an electric sense of communications and participation among all who gathered there.

That beautiful spirit flowed into the celebration which followed. The familiar symbols, motion, sights and sounds of the Mass replaced those of the earlier celebration, but there remained that vibrant sense of participation and communication among all who were present there that evening.

It is difficult to explain all of that, because symbols are not easily explained; they are to be experienced. But there was a sense of great unity among us that night, as well as a powerful experience of being together in the presence of God.

Let me mention some elements of the celebration that remain with me as contributing to its beauty.

1) **The spirit of the people:** Those in the stadium were much aware of the presence of God, not only in the Word and the Eucharist, but in each other. That awareness always shows where it is present and it certainly shone forth in Dodger Stadium.

2) **John Paul's manner of presiding:** I remember his prayerful, recollected spirit, which allowed him to be deeply and prayerful silent at one moment and joyfully exuberant at another. I had the sense that the spirit of the crowd called him deeply to prayer and vice versa.

3) **The humanity of the celebration:** There were moments of deep and prayerful silence during the celebration. There were also moments of laughter, applause, joyful music and tender embrace. I have strong memories of the pope's participation and obvious delight in all of that.

As I look back on all of it now, the liturgy was an especially significant moment for me, because it spoke to me in a special way about belonging to a people who are claimed in love by a gracious God, about a sense of purpose in life, about the significance of all human experience and about the hope that is always there for those joined in the Body of Christ.

The memory of it all renews my conviction about the importance of the Eucharistic liturgy in our life as well as we possibly can. But more about that another time.

Peace to all.

## The Editor's Desk

### New feature

This week I am pleased to introduce the cartoon "Peace" by Rochester-area commercial artist John Kastner. Peace has appeared for some time in the newsletter of the Peace and Justice Education Center, and will now be a weekly C-J feature.

In proposing the cartoon to me, John explained that he intended not to preach or aggressively lobby for action on world peace issues, but to use the cartoon as a gentle reminder that each of us is responsible for furthering peace on the homefront. As the weeks go on, you will see that his creatures are cute, little aliens — but also that they frequently seem very human, both in their failings and their virtues. I hope that they will be a subtle example for all to nurture peace in our own lives.

### C-J Letters Policy

The Courier-Journal wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting Church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the Church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader

interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: Letters to the Editor, Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

PEACE



## C-J Letters

### Finds school statement 'simplistic'

To the editor:

It is with all due respect that I feel I must take Bishop Clark to task for his statement in the Sept. 10 issue of the Catholic Courier-Journal regarding the state of the Catholic schools in the Rochester diocese ("Bishop acknowledges need for school plan").

To state, simply and simplistically, that "there are too many schools" and "we will have fewer buildings," is to abdicate his responsibility as the Church's representative to the people of the diocese.

Until all of us, laity and clergy, face the fact that the handing down

of the body of doctrine, the call to service and the establishment of community, which are the marks of the Catholic school, are the responsibility of the whole Church, Catholic schools will continue to face extinction in this country.

Let us take a lesson from our Jewish sisters and brothers whose tradition is far older than ours. For over 5,000 years the Jewish community has mandated and maintained its own schools as the transmitters and preservers of a rich heritage. And even a cursory reading of Marx or Lenin brings home the fact that it is through the

ordered molding of the minds of the youth that revolution and change are brought about.

If we as the community of Catholics are to transform the world while preserving the heritage we have received through scripture, tradition and ecclesial documents, then the Catholic schools is the logical arena in which to do this.

By merely looking at bodies and bucks is to close one's eyes to what the real responsibility of the Church is: to teach as Jesus did.

Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ  
Associate Director  
Catholic School Administrators  
Association

### Absolutes do not rule out mother's role

To the editor:

Before Father Hohman summarily dismisses the statement attributed to Mary — "One day through the rosary and the scapular I will save the world" — he should ponder equally "extravagant" statements of St. Paul: "I bear in my body what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ." And of St. Ignatius of Loyola: "For the greater honor and glory of God" (emphasis added to both quotations). Salvation in Jesus is absolute. This

compares with the sun, which is absolutely in the most perfect position (to sustain) human life on earth. Given this absolute, mothers nevertheless save their charges by seeing that they have the proper relation — enough sunshine and no harmful exposure — in this absolutely perfect solar relationship. Mary has this same relationship in our salvation absolutely merited for us by our blessed Lord. Thus the statement (Father Hohman discussed) is correct.

I am forwarding to Father Hohman a copy of the book *The Glories of Mary*, in which the author, St. Alphonsus of Liguori, summarizes his own and other saints' favorable comments on this subject. This highly informative and illuminating book is available for \$3 from OBL Victory Mission, Rev. Ronald Tangen, RR#2 Box 25, Brookings, SD.

Louis J. Pasqua  
Exchange Street  
Geneva

### Suburbs inhospitable to hungry, homeless

To the editor:

The Diocese of Rochester has done wonders caring for the needs of the hungry and the homeless. However, there seems to be "no room at the inn" in the towns of Monroe County.

The state has allocated \$2.68 million for low-income housing for 50 residences, yet the towns seem to turn their backs to this need. Will not the towns of Monroe County reconsider the proposed sites, or will the towns continue to widen the chasm between rich and poor?

If you presently reside in the suburbs, how would you feel if you were in the low-income bracket with no decent place to live? Thomas Merton wrote: "When a street is not inhabited, it is a dump. A street may be a dump for thousands of people

who aren't there . . . The street can be inhabited if the people on it begin to make their life credible by changing their environment. Living is more than submission; it is creation. To live is to create one's own

world as a scene of personal happiness."

Think about it.

Anthony R. Brach  
15 Oakbend Lane  
Rochester

### Congratulates religious jubilarians

To the editor:

I would like to congratulate all those sisters mentioned in today's Courier-Journal who are celebrating 25, 50 or more years in the convent (C-J September 17: "Annual diocesan celebration honors religious jubilarians"). Several of those mentioned have touched my life with their gifts for teaching, for music and with their special gift of

friendship. It is remarkable to see how many of those with 50 or more years of service are still going strong. Their enthusiasm and dedication are an inspiration to all of us. May God continue to bless their work and give them His peace and joy.

Jane Zicari Cala  
Paxton Road  
Rochester