

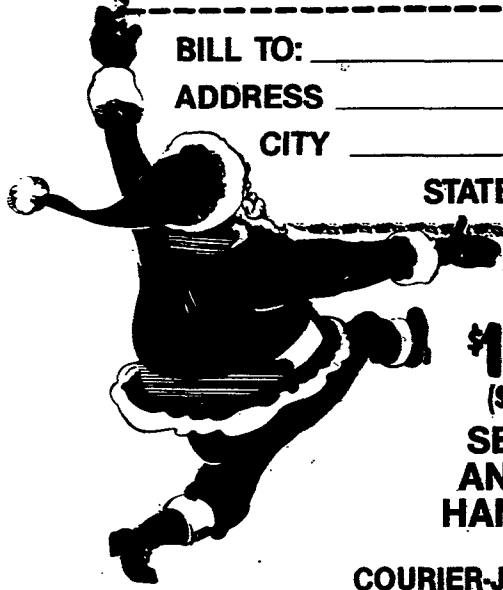
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Vol. 99, No. 12 December 24, 1987  
Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)

Published weekly except week after July 4 and Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 50¢. One-year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624, (716) 328-4340. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark

# Along the Way



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Bishop's Office

My dear people,

When I was ordained a bishop, I chose the motto "God's love endures forever." It was taken from Psalm 135 and expresses the ongoing nature of God's presence throughout the history of the Hebrew people. God's love continued to touch the lives of people and became incarnate in the Word Made Flesh.

The year 1987 marks my 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. It is a year of gratitude and appreciation. It is a year when God's enduring love has become even more evident to me in the people and events of my ministry.

As we move to celebrate the Christmas mysteries, I am especially appreciative of the Word incarnate. The Jesus of Bethlehem continues to inspire us today. He summons us to be love incarnate to others. Jesus asks us to witness his presence to poor, forgotten and marginalized people. He calls us to celebrate His presence in our family lives and evolving relationships. Jesus asks us to gather in prayer in praise of the God who created us.

In the spirit of Christmas, I wish you God's enduring love and that special peace that only God can give. I thank you for the unique gift you are to me. I rejoice in the birth of our Savior and ask you to be evangelists of the Good News: Today is born the Savior, Christ the Lord!

May God's richest blessings be with you and your family. May the divine Love that touches the hearts of all guide you in the coming new year.

Your brother in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*  
† Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

*His Love Endures Forever*

## Pope's schedule includes students

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II will begin his Christmas ceremonies with Roman schoolchildren and end it with foreign diplomats, according to a schedule released by the Vatican.

Highlights of the three-week period include the traditional Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, the "Urbi et Orbi" blessing on Christmas Day, and the papal Mass on January 1, the World Day of Peace.

On Sunday, Dec. 20, the pope blessed

nativity figurines brought to St. Peter's Square by the city's children. On January 9, he will greet the diplomatic corps at the Vatican and deliver an address that traditionally touches upon many of the world's political trouble spots.

In one innovation this year, the pope will join members of the Taizé Community, an ecumenical prayer group based in France, for a prayer vigil at the Vatican December 30.

The following is the pope's Christmastime schedule released by the Vatican December 12:

- Sunday, Dec. 20, after the Angelus in St. Peter's Square, blessing of figurines from nativity scenes in local schools, homes and parishes;
- Tuesday, Dec. 22, meeting at noon with members of the College of Cardinals, the Roman Curia and the papal household for traditional Christmas greeting and talk;
- Wednesday, Dec. 23, weekly general audience at 11 a.m.;
- Thursday, Dec. 24, midnight Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, expected to be broadcast live to many parts of the world;
- Friday, Dec. 25, Christmas Mass in St. Peter's at 10:30 a.m., followed at noon by the pope's blessing "to the city and to the world" ("Urbi et Orbi") and Christmas message from the central balcony of the basilica;
- Wednesday, Dec. 30, weekly general audience at 11 a.m. At 6 p.m., the pope will join youths from the Taizé Community for a prayer vigil in St. Peter's Basilica;
- Thursday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 p.m. the pope leads the traditional year-end "Te Deum" of thanksgiving at Rome's Jesuit Church of the Gesu;
- Friday, Jan. 1, at 9:30 a.m. Mass in St. Peter's Basilica with children's choir to celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of God, and 21st annual World Day of Peace;
- Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 9:30 a.m. the pope marks Epiphany with a Mass in St. Peter's, including the ordinations of new bishops and archbishops. No weekly general audience;
- Saturday, Jan. 9, talk to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican.

## A long winter's nap

In keeping with our U.S. Postal Permit, the Courier-Journal will not publish on December 31. Our next issue will be Thursday, January 7.

The staff of the Courier-Journal wishes each of you a joyful Christmas and a wonderful year ahead. See you on January 7.

