

Editorial & Opinion

Visit promises renewed relationships, restored reserves

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark
Monday, March 7.

This evening I shall be leaving for Tabasco, Mexico, to make my annual visit to our sister diocese. I am always happy to go there to be with our Mexican sisters and brothers, and to spend some time with our pastoral ministers. I remain convinced that our relationship with Tabasco already is and increasingly will become an important aspect of our life.

As I mentioned recently, a great deal of study is going on about the nature and structure of the Church. Quite central to that study is an attempt to retrieve and renew the ancient, strong tradition of the local churches and the communion that exists among them. That ongoing work will have much effect as the years go by. If we are to remain healthy, we'll need to keep in touch with that development, and I believe our relationship with Tabasco will help us to do so.

In addition to that underlying benefit, our relationship with Tabasco also offers us several other advantages. Among them are: 1) significant association with a local church that is materially poor but that offers us an abundance of spiritual riches, 2) an opportunity to share our experience, as we work to make people conscious that

Along the Way



we all are the Church and that each of us has responsibility for her/his life, and 3) the privilege of walking with the people of Tabasco as they struggle with an environment that can be hostile to the Church.

Two exciting developments have occurred since last year's visit. We now have four lay people committed to join Father Paul Ryan on our pastoral team. We also have worked out with our friends in Tabasco what we hope will be a more fruitful way of relating to the other pastoral ministers with whom we shall be working. Both improvements were made possible because of what we

have learned through our experiences thus far. That in itself indicates to me that we are on the right track.

On a more personal note, I am happy to be going because the trip will offer some time apart from the demands of daily life, which have seemed heavier than usual this winter. I am sure that a part of that sense relates to the deaths of dear friends and the need to deal with the sadness of their loss. Whatever the causes, I know that my emotional reserves are a little thin just now. I am hopeful that hot weather, a change of scenery, a different set of responsibilities and a day at the beach will do good things for me.

While I am gone, I shall be praying for you and will count on your prayers. Please pray for all of our sisters and brothers in Tabasco. That is the fundamental and essential commitment we make with one another. Without it, nothing else we do with or for one another will mean a thing. Without it, we'll have no place in our hearts for them, nor they for us.

Because of this trip, I will not have a column for the *Courier-Journal* next week. But I shall try to keep careful notes and look forward two weeks from now to telling you the story of the Tabasco journey.

Peace to all.

Letters

Questions reason for using photo

To the editor:

As a subscriber to the *Courier-Journal*, I've grown accustomed to accurate reporting of events and issues relating to the Catholic Church and, more specifically, to events and issues of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

It is, therefore, difficult to understand why a photo of a Catholic Schools' Week event in Milwaukee was chosen for publication in the February 25, 1988, issue of the *Courier-Journal*.

Surely there was one local event captured by photographer Bonnie Trefelet that could have enjoyed the publication space.

The several fine features and photos of local school news you have been running all month have not gone unappreciated. But please be consistent and sensitive to your readership.

A photo in a widely read publication is "worth a thousand words" of endorsement. A photo depicting a Milwaukee school event does nothing for the morale of the Rochester students, faculty, parents and parishes who are trying to maintain the spirit and successes of our Catholic schools.

Judy Ann Taylor
Rugby Avenue
Rochester

EDITOR'S NOTE: The general policy I instituted upon my arrival nearly three years ago is to put a serious priority on local coverage. That priority, however, does not totally exclude good photos and stories from outside the diocese. We published the photo in question because it depicted a creative and novel school project, one that might even be worth adapting for local use next year.

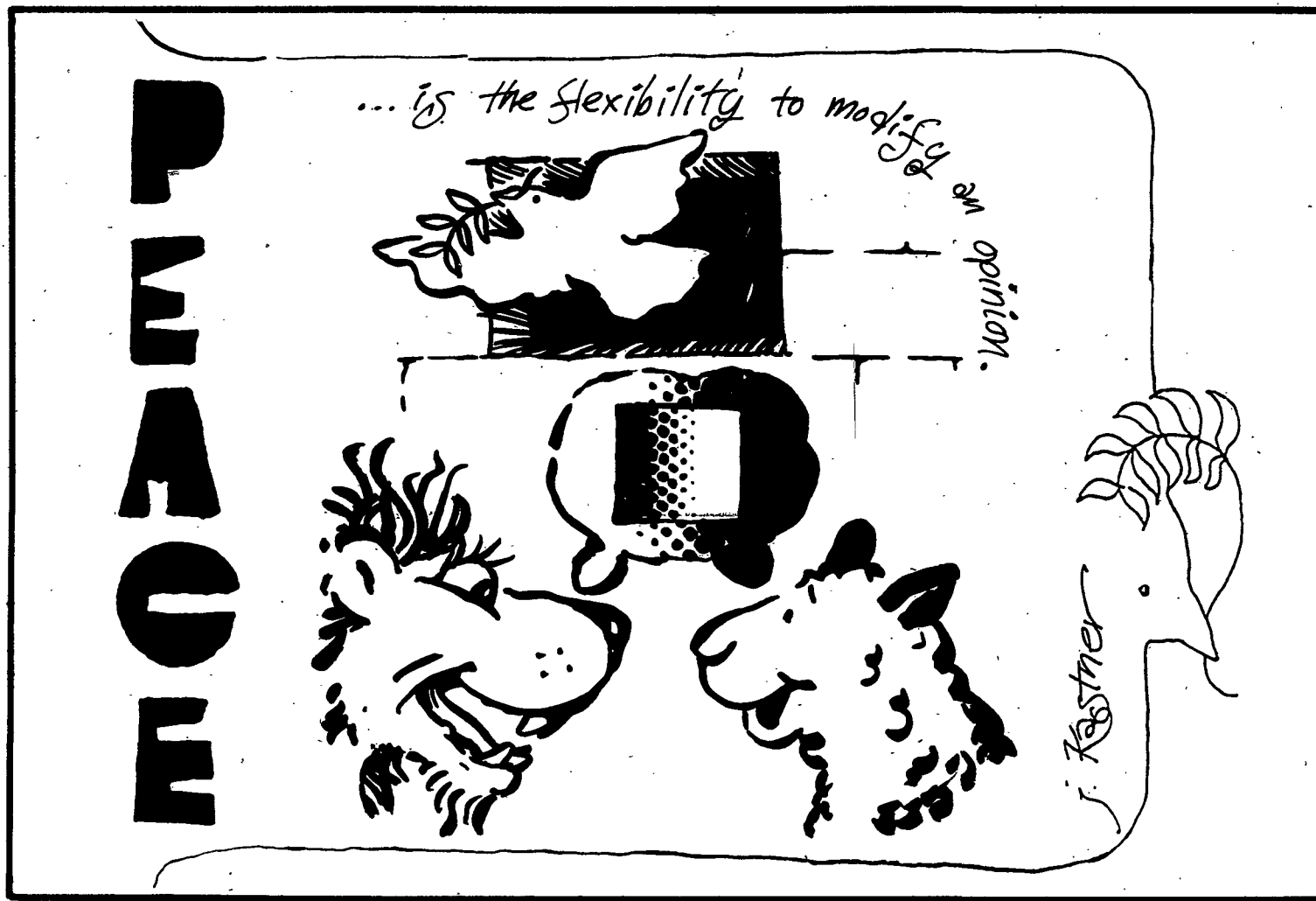
Liked march coverage, urges joining crusade

To the editor:

Thank you for the excellent front-page coverage of the March for Life event which occurred in Washington, D.C. (C-J: Jan. 28). The article covered extensively the activities in Washington, concerning the issue of abortion. The large picture of some of the marchers on page one — taken inside St. Theodore's Church — added a local touch of interest to the story.

The crusade for saving the lives of the unborn continues every Saturday morning in Rochester. A group meets at 9:35 a.m. in front of Highland Hospital on South Avenue to pray 15 decades of the rosary for the ending of the holocaust. Those interested in partaking would be most welcome.

Nicholas Hober
Member, Rochester March for Life Committee
Lapham Street
Rochester



Despite Gorbachev, oppression continues in USSR

To the editor:

Recently we've all been singing the praise of the new master diplomat on the stage of world politics, Mikhail Gorbachev. Our hopes that the world will be a better place for the next generation cause us to applaud the openness Gorbachev has introduced into Soviet society. Soviet newspapers actually print criticism of the government, limited as that may be, and some groups have even held anti-government demonstrations. Unfortunately, one man can not keep the winds of change blowing. In fact, Gorbachev may already be out of breath. Earlier this month, 29-year-old Petras Grazu-

lis was tried and convicted in Soviet occupied Lithuania for failure to respond to a government order to reenlist in the Soviet army. Grazulis has already served his mandatory military service, but believes he is being punished for participating in peaceful demonstrations in Riga, Latvia this past November. Grazulis feels that he is unable to serve a regime that occupies his homeland as well as persecutes his fellow Catholics, and hence was sentenced to 10 months in a labor camp. He is presently on a hunger strike protesting religious and national persecution in Lithuania. Meanwhile, as Lithuanians plan peaceful

demonstrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the restoration of their nation's independence, 10,000 Russian troops are moving into the area, billy clubs are being distributed to local police and ambulances are appearing in Lithuania from other parts of the Soviet Union.

As we sing the symphony of praise for Mikhail Gorbachev, let us not drown out the bittersweet blues of a people struggling to survive.

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Gilbert Hall
University of Rochester

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.

Publication of column 'confers dignity, respect'

To the editor:

Martha Kelch's letter of January 21 ("Surprised by dearth of pro-McBrien letters") inspired this one.

I look forward every week to reading Father McBrien's *Essays in Theology*. They provide both mental and spiritual stimulation. I just wish they were longer so that he could expand further on the material he writes about.

For too long Catholics were shielded from diverse opinions. You confer dignity and respect on us by presenting them in our diocesan paper.

Marie E. Klein
West-Washington Street
Geneva