

Editorial & Opinion

Itinerary for upcoming sabbatical begins to take shape

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

In April I wrote in this column of my hopes of taking an extended period of time away to study Spanish in Mexico. You have been most generous in your support of that idea. Hardly a day has gone by since then that several of you have not expressed support of the idea or asked me how my plans were coming. I am deeply grateful for that and, in light of the interest you have shown, want to update you on my plans as they are presently shaping up.

I mentioned a few weeks ago that Bishop Dennis W. Hickey and I are going to Rome for our *ad limina* visits during the week of October 9. I'll be returning from Rome on October 17, which is a Monday, and plan to leave for Cuernavaca, Mexico, by the end of that week.

Many details need to be settled as yet, but I hope to model my sabbatical along the guidelines used by our priests in their sabbatical program. That means that the study portion for me, the study of Spanish, will be complemented by a recreational and a spiritual experience.

The study portion is quite well in place. I plan to devote two seven-week periods to studying Spanish. I shall be attending the school in Cuernavaca where our missionaries in Tabasco have done their language study.

Between the two seven-week study components, I will

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take a vacation break, make my annual eight-day retreat and also make my yearly visit to our mission team in Tabasco. This year that visit will afford not only the opportunity to develop further our sister-diocese relationship with our friends in Tabasco, but will also allow me to test the Spanish I will have learned in the first study session.

I have one additional project planned during the interval between language sessions. In early January, I'll be attending a long-scheduled meeting of our committee developing "Partners in the Mystery of Redemption," our pastoral letter on the concerns of women. That eight-day meeting in Orlando will be devoted to reviewing the comments on the first draft of the letter and preparing

a second draft in light of that input.

I need to do some work in arranging all of these dates. When I do, I'll be happy to share that information with you. In any case, my plan is to be home for the celebration of Holy Week with you.

When I first wrote about this sabbatical project in April, I commended it to your prayer. Since then there have been some issues and questions to be worked out to make it all possible. I am convinced that your prayers were very much behind their resolution, and I am deeply grateful to you for them.

Now that everything is in motion and the time of departure draws nearer, let me ask you for a continuation of your prayers. This time, I ask you to pray that my efforts to acquire a modest knowledge of the Spanish language will be successful. I really do believe that it would enhance my ministry as bishop in the contemporary Church. I can promise you that I will work hard at it. I'll entrust the success of those efforts to your generous, prayerful support.

I'll write more about that later. In the meantime, I hope that the few days remaining between now and Labor Day and school openings will be very pleasant ones for you and your loved ones.

Peace to all.

'Unprofessional' to quote remark

To the editor:

In the article by Robert Cullivan regarding "leadership to charismatics" (C-J August 4: "Service team offers grassroots leadership to charismatics"), I felt that he was very insensitive to the people living in St. Monica's parish and on Genesee Street. This is a Catholic newspaper, written to promote unity within the diocese of all Catholics. Whether the statement was made or not, it was unprofessional to print it.

I was also unhappy that Mr. Cullivan didn't properly identify me as a co-leader of our prayer group, not leader.

When he interviewed me, Mr. Cullivan seemed interested in comparing the old with the new. I felt uncomfortable with that line of questioning and I told him so. Why look backward? What was good for that time, may not be good for now and visa versa. Why hurt the leaders present and past, by saying this or that is better? It seems to be what God is calling for now.

I thank those people from the previous setup: Father Jim Connolly, Erni Del Prince, Mike Hauck and Al Fleisher for their dedication to the renewal. I appreciate all that our present service team — Fran Thomas, Don Germano and Paul Gerwitz — are doing to

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help the leaders and the renewal; Father Bill Moorby for his time, love and gifts; and Sheila Cody for her true dedication throughout.

God is working in his people in many ways. The Charismatic Renewal is one of them. Our hope is to lead all people into a closer walk with Him, not specifically into the Charismatic Renewal. The renewal is a means — God is the End!

Louise Dale
Co-leader

Good Shepherd Prayer Group

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reaction to this story makes me think of the Roman practice of killing the bearer of bad news. We at the Courier-Journal don't endorse the attitude behind avoiding the center, but neither do we engage in censoring our news sources or in sanitizing their comments. If you don't want to see it in print, don't say it.

Deacon thanks St. Bernard's staff

To the editor:

I want to publicly thank St. Bernard's Institute staff for their dedication in teaching our Christian faith. I was recently ordained as a permanent deacon in June. One of the requirements in becoming a deacon was to take a prescribed course outline covering different subjects which would lead to a master's degree or a certificate in theology.

One of the points I would like to convey is that St. Bernard's is one of the most important assets in the Diocese of Rochester for the teaching of the Catholic faith. It is where men and women, single and married, of all backgrounds come to work and study together. St. Bernard's is a place where a student can learn and probe the true meanings of the doctrines of the Church.

St. Bernard's gives a student a very well-rounded outlook of the Church by the many diverse views which come together in the classroom. This is important for anyone who wishes to minister to people. The need to have an open

mind and the ability to process Christian understanding and love is a vital criteria for a minister. St. Bernard's is a place which opens one's mind to God's love, if one listens.

Hopefully, because of its uniqueness, St. Bernard's will once again become a place where our seminarians will be taught along side the many people who are also striving to know the faith. St. Bernard's has so much to offer: co-education, ecumenical surroundings, and very qualified professors — professors who are very spiritual, and who go out of their way to help students understand the course material.

As a deacon, I thank St. Bernard's for well-rounded, spiritually filled classes which have opened my eyes and heart to the people of God. The staff makes it a place where students are challenged to look beyond ourselves and to see God working in places we normally do not realize.

Deacon Charles P. Kohlmeier
Silvercrest Drive
Webster

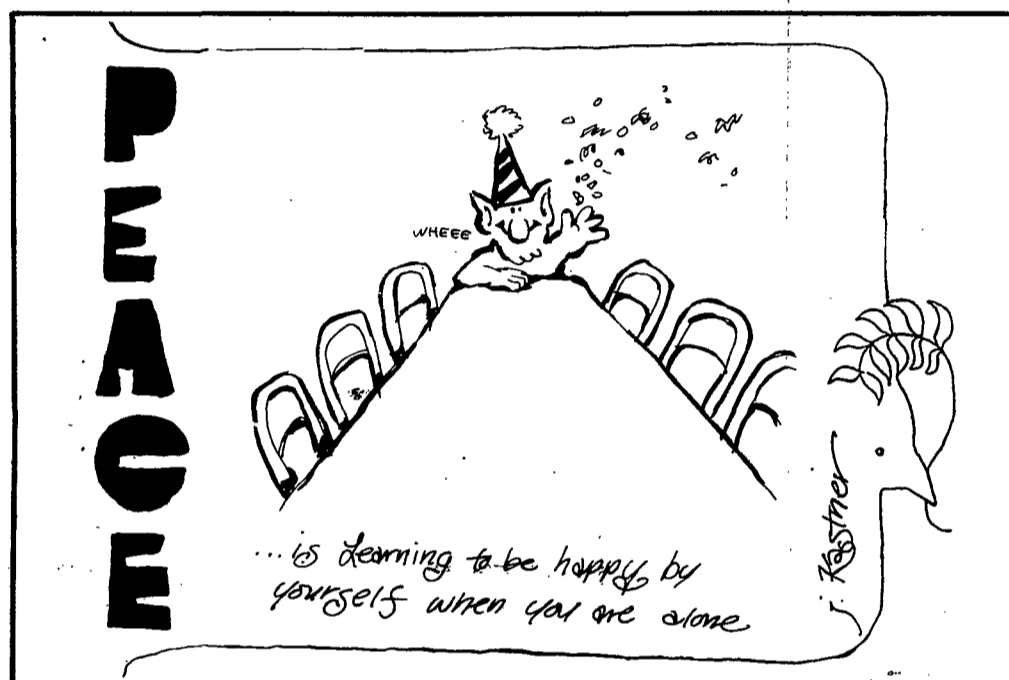
C-J Letters Policy

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: Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY, 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.



Astonished by exclusion of Lefebvrite's letters

To the editor:

Your response to my letter (C-J July 28: "C-J shouldn't reject criticism") is truly astonishing. Healing, dialoguing, rejection, reconciliation and yes, even negotiation, are not just a matter for the Vatican. All Christians, you included if you are part of the Church, have the positive responsibility to heal the wounds of discord, whatever their origin. The question is whether it is proper for a Christian paper to reject a human being. Please don't try to compound the error. You indicated that you would cease publishing letters from Mr. Moore, even those you have not read, for they have not even been written. What kind of a Christian attitude is this? Madam, you insult our intelligence by censoring what someone who has something to contribute to our present troubles has to say.

I happen to disagree with Archbishop Lefebvre's actions and probably would disagree with Mr. Moore on more than one issue. However, I would like to know what they have to say. Even as I disagree with them, I am certain that they are not totally wrong, for no one is ever totally wrong. Have you ever considered that if Mr. Moore does not consider himself a member of the Diocese of Rochester our response is to do soul searching rather than condemn him as a pariah? Have we been so stubborn in our self-righteousness that we have perhaps made it impossible for Mr. Moore and other people to be part of our fellowship? You and I and all the readers of the Courier-Journal and even Bishop Clark have the responsibility to bend over backwards to heal the wounds that mark the Body of Christ. Should we neglect to do so, we will share the burden of responsibility for the divisions that are tearing the Body of Christ. If we lose Mr. Moore and many others who agree with him, the Church will be impoverished. For this we will also have to answer one day.

Brian Sullivan
Rochester

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please, Mr. Sullivan, don't put words in my mouth. I wouldn't treat Mr. Moore as a pariah, and I haven't rejected him as a human being. But except in unusual circumstances, the Courier-Journal does not publish letters from those who are not mem-

bers of the diocese — not because we don't want to hear what these people have to say, but because the small space we have for letters must be devoted to the myriad viewpoints expressed by those who are members of the diocese.

In his last letter (C-J August 4: "Leaves readers with final thoughts"), Mr. Moore clearly stated that he is not a member of this diocese, nor of the "Conciliar Church" to which he says it belongs. So, although I respect Mr. Moore and his religious beliefs, I do not feel I can continue to publish his letters. Simply put, one can't disavow the diocese and then expect to be given space in the diocesan newspaper to evangelize for what he himself calls another religion. And judging by his August 4 letter, Mr. Moore seems to accept that he can't have it both ways.

Certainly all Christians must help to heal the wounds in the Body of Christ. The best way for members of the diocese to do that, however, is through prayer that Rome and the schismatic Lefebvrite church will eventually reunite.

Invites visitors to parish

To the editor:

Regarding an article written by Robert Cullivan on August 4 on the Charismatic Renewal Center ("Service team offers grassroots leadership to charismatics"), I must object to one statement: "Yet leaders acknowledge that the center is not as well-used as they would like, and speculate that some members may be reluctant to visit the center because of its Genesee Street location."

As an active member of the St. Monica's Church, where the center is located, I invite all those "reluctant" members to visit our church. We are a warm, loving, Christian community in the city, and even though you lock your cars, we at St. Monica's do not lock our hearts or our open arms to anyone in the community. Check us out on Genesee and St. Monica's streets and leave your reluctance at home. You won't be sorry. Then go and visit the (charismatic) center.

Kimberly May
Rochester