

Along the way

# Printed word's magic links people

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

When you read these words, there is a connection between you and me. My writing communicates to you something that is inside me. By reading these words, you take that something inside yourself, and when that happens we are engaged or connected in a way. When that engagement occurs, we enjoy a possibility for further interaction which we did not enjoy before.

I write these words at one moment, and you read them at another. I write in a guest room on the second floor at Becket Hall on Gregory Street in Rochester. Where you are reading them I can only imagine. It's Saturday morning now, and I write during our second "Call to Priesthood" day. I do not know exactly what day it will be as you read these words or what your day will have been like: But I hope that as you read you will feel as connected to me as I do to you as I write.

That connection is something of the ma-

gic of the printed word. It can bring people to one another even when they are separated by time and distance. It can appeal to the mind and touch the emotions. It can awaken memories, stimulate the imagination, and give birth to dreams. The printed word can do that because it is one of the prime vehicles people have by which they share their inner lives with others and thus build up the human community.

The *Catholic Courier* does that in a special way this week. We celebrate 100 years of service this newspaper has offered to this diocese. Quite fittingly, the words and pictures on these pages join us to our mothers and fathers in the faith as we remember them and the heritage they passed on to us.

This week's edition also places before us the experience of sisters and brothers who make up our diocese. And they inform us about John Paul II and Catholic life in other nations. You will also find opinion pieces that may encourage, challenge, console or anger you, or that may do all of the above.

In short, these pages give you a taste of what it's like to be Catholic today. Here you will have a taste of the communion that is our church, of her variety, of her suffering, of her hopes and dreams.

I do invite you to take some time now and at other moments through the week to read this newspaper with care. You may wish to read it with a pen in hand so that

you can note what is significant to you. You may ask yourself: What has provided me with information I did not have before and am glad to have now? What stimulated a line of thought or prayer that I found rewarding? What was omitted which in my judgment would have made this issue more rewarding? What has challenged me to rethink positions or opinions that I thought were quite settled? Was there anything that settled a doubt I had? Or raised a new one?

These questions suggest some of the main services our Catholic newspaper should be providing. It should inform, challenge, stimulate and encourage us in our Catholic life.

I know we never do that perfectly. And I know, as I am sure you do, that there is a wide variety of taste and opinion within the Catholic community. It is rare when all of us are of one mind about anything that does not touch the core of our faith. But I do believe that the *Catholic Courier* provides us with a resource that becomes more important as time goes by. Life moves so rapidly today and issues are so complex that we need to remain connected with one another in our faith community. And our community of faith needs to be connected with the Church of Rome and all of the local churches that stand in communion with her.

So, dear friends, I do urge you to continue your practice of reading the *Catholic Courier*, and to support it as a valuable and necessary resource in our diocese.

As I look back on my 10 plus years of association with this newspaper, I do so with a sense of gratitude. That gratitude is for the great good our paper does in communicating Catholic life, and for the connections it makes possible within our commun-



ities and with other communities.

I experience those connections most personally when what I write in "Along the Way" becomes the subject of our conversation when we meet personally. People often say that they feel that they get to know me when they read these columns. That is a comment deeply pleasing to me because it is so personally affirming and encouraging. But it delights me as well because it exemplifies — in a very concrete way — the potential for learning, stimulation, communication, thinking, and discussion that the *Catholic Courier* places before us 50 times a year. And at 25 cents a week (for parish subscriptions) that's an educational steal anywhere.

Thank you so much for your support of the *Catholic Courier*.

Peace to all.

**Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)**

**Vol. 102 No. 1 Jan. 4, 1990**

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 \$15 plus postage.

Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340.

Second-class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

*Please tell them  
you saw their  
ad in the  
Catholic Courier*

**Congratulations  
and Best Wishes  
to the  
Catholic Courier  
on your  
100th  
ANNIVERSARY**

**Logos  
book store**

— featuring the finest in —  
★ BOOKS ★ GIFTS ★ CARDS ★  
★ JEWELRY ★ POSTERS ★ MUSIC ★  
★ BIBLES ★ STATIONERY ★ PLAQUES ★  
★ FAMILY VIDEO ★ CLERGY SUPPLIES  
THE STREET OF SHOPPES  
1600 Ridge Rd. West 663-5085

**Happy  
Anniversary  
from  
St. Stanislaus Kostka**

34 St. Stanislaus St.  
Rochester  
New York

**Congratulations  
to our friends at the  
Catholic Courier  
on Their  
100th Anniversary**

**From your friends in Heating and Air  
Conditioning for over 55 years.**

**BRANDT**  
Heating and Air Conditioning

24 Hours  
Emergency Service

Senior Citizen  
Discount



**288-4270**

946 Atlantic Avenue



**Chemung Canal Trust Company**

The Respected Bank

**Our interest  
is in you!**

MAIN OFFICE: One Chemung Canal Plaza, Elmira, NY  
Arnot Mall • Corning • Horseheads • Southport • Westside  
Big Flats • Elmira Heights • Montour Falls • Waverly

Member FDIC

Catholic Courier 100th Anniversary

100th Anniversary

Thu