

# Christ-like friends are God-given gifts

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark  
Monday, March 26:

I begin this column at LaGuardia Airport near Gate 20 as I await the 10 p.m. flight back to Rochester. I came to New York this afternoon to participate in a gathering hosted by Cardinal John O'Connor in honor of Bishop Francis Mugavero, the retired bishop of Brooklyn. It was a joy to be there, and I regretted the need to leave before the party ended.

Frank Mugavero is one of the great people I have met in my life. I stand in such admiration of him for many reasons. Among them are what I judge to be a keen pastoral sense, an openness to the impetus of Vatican Council II and a special sensitivity to the church's social mission.

While I admire all of these aspects of his person and ministry, what I have admired most of all for the 20 years I have known him is the evident respect and care he has

always shown to other people. I have always had the feeling when I have been with him that whether one was prince or pauper, Frank always would treat the person he met in such a way as to leave the person with a sense of being esteemed and encouraged. To me, that is a superb disposition because it imitates the manner of Jesus. He always treated others in like manner.

As I sit here thinking about Frank, I think of another person whom I also admire a great deal. Like the bishop, this individual has always manifested a special reverence and care for others. In a recent conversation, he told me of a hurt he experienced several years ago. The story was that some people he thought were good friends no longer acted like his friends when this person left a position of considerable influence for one of very little influence.

My friend told the story without any rancor or bitterness. That impressed me a great deal. And what stays with me the more is the fact that even while his friends were drifting away, he treated them no less kindly than he had done in the past. He did not tell me so; I know it because I was there.

These two individuals are not the only people I have met in my life about whom I could say such things. There are, thank God, many others like them, and it is a pleasure to think of all of them as I write. The awareness I have of such people is not at the level of just civility, important as that is. Rather, the awareness relates to that level of human life at which we make significant connections with one another, and help one another discover more about the meaning of life and love than we otherwise would ever have realized. Whenever we have a person like that in our



lives, we have a gift that is God-given.

Let me invite you, as we come closer to Easter, to be especially attentive to Jesus as he relates to others in the Gospel stories of this season. He is an exquisite revelation of the constant love and tender mercy in which our God always holds us, even when we turn our backs and walk away from those gifts. Lent is a wonderful opportunity for us to spend time with Jesus, to get to know him better and to open our hearts to his special care. When we do this, we always become more like him.

You may wish to remember and thank God for the people you recall in the same spirit in which I remember Bishop Mugavero and my other friend. To experience their kind of witness is itself a privileged way of being with Jesus in the power of the Spirit. Both ways of being with him deepen our capacity to extend his love to others.

Peace to all.

# Initiation preparations celebrate Lenten rituals

By Mary Lu Coffey  
Diocesan Liturgical Commission

For parishes fortunate enough to have catechumens — those preparing for baptism — in their midst, these "middle Sundays" of Lent are times of intense prayer and anticipation.

On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent we celebrate the scrutinies belonging to this time of final preparation, the Period of Purification and Enlightenment of the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults.

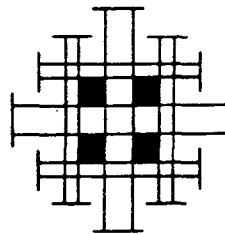
These scrutinies accompanied by the ex-

orcisms are sometimes misunderstood, partly because of the words themselves but also because, as a culture, we often ignore or even deny the presence and power of evil in the world. The scrutinies bring us face to face with that power and get at the heart of evil, that which holds us captive: the falsehood, greed, selfishness and wickedness that affect our personal values, the attitudes we hold toward ourselves, one another and God.

The scrutinies have a dual purpose: to reveal anything that is weak or sinful in the hearts of the elect so that it may be healed, and to reveal what is good and holy so that it may be strengthened.

The whole community joins in prayers of

From  
Repentance  
to Rebirth



intercession for the elect mindful of its own call to conversion and renewal in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery at Easter. The prayer of exorcism follows the intercessions, asking God to free the catechumens from "the spirit of deceit, from false values that surround and

Continued on page 15

**NEXT-TO-NEW SALE**  
**Blessed Sacrament School Hall**  
Monroe Ave. at Oxford St.  
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
April 4,5,6 — 9a.m. - 8p.m.  
Saturday, April 7 (half price)  
9a.m. - 2p.m.  
Come For Lunch or Supper

**"LAS VEGAS"**  
5-N-CHARTER 4/8, 4/15, 5/13, 5/27, 9/16, 10/14, 10/26, 11/19, 12/16 **\$325\***  
7-N-CHARTER 6/16, 8/18, 9/1, 9/15, 10/20, 11/17, 12/15, 12/29 **\$365\***

**DISNEY EUROPE**  
DISNEY WORLD ONE WEEK RT-Air Hotel, Car **\$274**  
LONDON FR. **\$388 USD**  
DUBLIN & SHANNON FR. **\$487 USD**  
FRANKFURT FR. **\$418 USD**  
AMSTERDAM FR. **\$388 USD**

**ATLANTIC CITY**  
1-N-Pkg. FR. **\$139**  
2-N-Pkg. FR. **\$179**  
3-N BUS TRIP "CAESARS" **\$24-27** **\$169** get \$25 Bonus

**RENO** 4-N-Pkg. Air-Hotel-Car **\$403**  
**TAHOE** 4-N-Pkg. Air-Hotel-Car **\$545**

WE FEATURE **Santitas**  
Vincent R. Gallo's  
FOUR SEASONS TRAVEL  
448 TITUS AVE.  
CALL NOW 467-6253

**Dresses, Veils, & Accessories available for First Communion**

**Pollincoqs and Pigtails, Inc.**  
Children's Shop • Pittsford • 586-7338

**Haddock Fish Fry**  
Includes Fish, French Fries, Coleslaw, and Rolls  
**\$5.75**  
With Soup & Salad Bar  
**\$6.75**

★ Bring this ad in to receive **\$1.00** off your 2nd meal

**Salmon Creek Country Club**  
355 Washington St., off Ridge Rd. W.  
15 minutes west of Long Ridge Mall  
For Reservations **352-3664**

**436-8870**  
**LOUIE'S SWEET SHOPPE**  
675 BROOKS AVE. ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14620

The Very Best in Homemade Ice Cream, Candy, Lunches and Dinners  
Now Featuring our Homemade, Hand-Dipped Chocolate Rabbits, Novelties and Egg Creams — Also, our Homemade, Hand-Decorated Easter Baskets and Eggs.

Only 1/2 mile East off Brooks Avenue exit from Rte. 390

"Since 1925"  
Mon-Thurs. 10-7  
Friday til 8

**Think Spring!**

The Catholic Courier will be presenting a special Spring Home and Garden Section in our May 3rd and May 10th issues.

In a recent survey, more than 20,000 Catholic Courier subscribers said they plan to make major home improvements this year.

The same survey showed that subscribers pay close attention to advertisements in the Catholic Courier and make buying decisions based on those ads.

It's a sure bet they'll be reading the ads in the Home and Garden sections of the Catholic Courier editions of May 3 and 10. And acting on them, too!

Would you like to help those 20,000 subscribers with their home improvement projects? Then place your Home and Garden ads by calling the Catholic Courier's Advertising Department at: **(716) 328-4340!**

1/16 page	2 3/4" X 4"	\$75.00 per week
1/8 page	5" X 4"	\$150.00 per week
1/4 page	5" X 8"	\$275.00 per week
1/2 page	10 1/2" X 8"	\$550.00 per week
Full page	10 1/2" X 15 1/2"	\$1100.00 per week

**DEADLINE FOR THIS SPECIAL SECTION IS FRIDAY, APRIL 20TH**

**Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)**  
Vol. 102 No. 12 March 29, 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.