

Commenting on a collection of items

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Every now and then I use this column to comment on a collection of unrelated items. This will be one of them. Here goes:

• I want to express my very best wishes and congratulations to Father Jim Moynihan as he prepares to take up his critical post with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. His gifts of mind and heart will be great assets at Catholic Near East, which serves the poor in a deeply troubled area of the world.

With all who know him I shall miss him very much. But I know none will miss him more than the people of St. Joseph's, Penfield, for whom he has served as pastor for 16 years. Jim is loved by that community for the quality both of his care and of his leadership.

He is also a person with a strong vision of the church, a conviction that we are a people for others. As I write, I think of his service as chancellor of our diocese, as diocesan leader in our Thanks Giving Appeal, as former member of the board and strong supporter of the *Catholic Courier*.

We should not be surprised when those serving the needs of the larger church claim the services of a priest with Jim's gifts and experience. Nor should we be anything but generous and loving in sending him to his new mission.

• The *Catholic Courier* was an interesting item on the agenda of our recent

meeting of our Priests' Council. Bishop Dennis Hickey and Karen Franz presented a "state of the *Catholic Courier*" to the membership.

The discussion was occasioned by a rise in postal costs and the need to raise subscription prices, but it ranged far beyond that issue. Financing, circulation, advertising and editorial content were all part of the conversation. It was one of those good moments in which all were pleased by the way an important issue was treated.

I know that I was happy with the council because of their recognition of the importance of our paper and its high quality, and because of their level of support for the *Catholic Courier*. We need to increase our subscription level, but I am convinced that we can do that with relative ease if every parish community does its fair share.

• Another word about the *Catholic Courier*. I hear the complaint now and then that our letters to the editor are generally negative in tone. To the complaint is generally added the question, "Why don't you print more positive letters?" I presented the question to the staff and was told that we print what we receive. In other words, people with good things to say about the paper or with constructive suggestions for its improvement are not taking the initiative to write. I wonder if that reality suggests a Lenten opportunity to offer sup-

port and encouragement.

• You have been graciously generous in your comments about my niece Margaret's contribution to "Along the Way" a few weeks ago. I have been passing your comments along to her and she's pleased by and grateful for your kind recognition. You have given much encouragement to my wonderful young friend. Who knows what seed has been planted by her first and fruitful venture into the world of journalism? I know another one of them, Kathleen, I am told, is putting her pen to paper for the same purpose Margaret did. Where will it all end?

• Lastly, a word of thanks to the wonderful people at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece. I had the privilege of preaching at their liturgies last weekend and enjoyed the experience immensely. The parish is a warm and hospitable community which has managed to involve peo-



ple of all ages in a strong participation in parish life. It was a boost to be with them, to be strengthened by their lively faith. Peace to all.

Applications now available for CHD grants

ROCHESTER — Application materials for 1991 grants from the Campaign for Human Development (CHD) of the Diocese of Rochester are now available. Groups with innovative projects that demonstrate a change from traditional approaches to poverty by trying to bring about institutional change in order to address basic causes of poverty are encouraged to apply for funds.

CHD funds projects that enable people of all races, creeds, geographic regions and backgrounds to work together for long-range solutions to poverty in the critical areas of social and economic development, housing, health, legal aid, education and communication. CHD makes

grants to groups in which those who benefit from the project must have the dominant voice in planning, implementation and policy-making for the project.

The campaign was established in 1970 by the United States Catholic Bishops as an education-action program to combat domestic poverty. Each year a collection is taken up in Catholic churches throughout the country for this purpose. This money is made available to self-help groups who are working to develop economic and/or social strength and self-determination in their communities.

All groups interested in applying to the Campaign for Human Development are required to submit a pre-application by March 1, 1991. Projects that meet the minimum criteria will need to submit a full application by May 1, 1991.

For pre-application forms and criteria contact: Ken Maher, Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut Plaza, Rochester, 14604, 716/546-7220; Kevin Hennessy, Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, 110 Exchange St., Geneva, 14456, 315/789-2686; or Kathy Dubel, Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, 160 High St., Elmira, 607/734-9784.

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