

Survey fosters doubts about diocesan leaders

To the editors:

After scrutinizing Bishop Clark's Synod letter of March 1991 and the accompanying survey form, I must confess a substantive queasiness about the success of the whole project.

The approach used in the letter emphasizes accommodation to externalities such as ethnic, geographical, political, and theological. The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. Its unity is One, and its mantle is there to cover secondary considerations such as the above accommodations.

The terms political and theological seem out of place in the treatment of a Communion — Church — whose unity is unquestioned.

The structure of the survey form is likewise accommodating to externalities, and furthermore tends to becloud the issues in some instances. For example, in the Worship Concerns section, one of the issues is "Involvement of the laity in liturgy — Mass." This presupposes an assumption that the laity is more important than the clergy in the liturgy of the Mass. I say this because nowhere do I see an equal concern

exhibited for the role of the clergy in our liturgy. Isn't this strange when these efforts are supposedly for the reinvigoration of the Church?

Now let us analyze the clergy situation a little more deeply. Bishop Clark has controlled the Diocese for well over 10 years. He doesn't seem to know how to rectify the diminution of the clergy other than to substitute laity — his preferences seem to be women and married priests. His seminary enrollments — even after his publicity campaign of 2 to 3 years ago for vocations — are not only anemic but for all practical

purposes non-existent.

And yet I have before me literature from a seminary in Connecticut which has over 100 seminarians and there are others. If they can do it, why can't Bishop Clark? Well there is a difference and of course it is in the outlook.

Clark's outlook, his philosophy, or whatever you want to call it, is I believe, to produce a non-gender priesthood attuned to sociology, psychology, politics, paragonism, and forget about the most important thrust of the priesthood — to serve God as an intermediary or better as an alter Christus — another Christ. And so today we are faced with a priesthood in shambles, many of its members not certain of themselves which is quite logical when we consider the Bishop's orientation. This dilution of the priesthood has no appeal to a sensible young man who is looking for God and so we are presented with the fait accompli of an anemic priesthood which is effectively not even weighted in the presentation of the survey form.

The survey form is a masterpiece of bureaucratic jargon with a potentiality of true achievement about as good as Saddam Hussein's Scuds.

I think the Bishop's letter and the Synod survey form exude an inchoateness and indecision that will be fatal to resolutions fruitful to the Church.

This is unfortunate but to be expected in the milieu of the Rochester Diocese where much more attention is paid to the accouterments of the this life than to the preparation required for the next.

William T. Hammill
Clardale Drive Rochester

New Age article misled paper's readers

To the editors:

I was appalled to see Rob Cullivan's front page April 4th headline: "New age... Alternative Spiritual Path." The article was very encouraging to anyone who might be searching for a new "way." The article didn't mention that the new age movement is a lie. When will the *Courier* ever have a front page article proclaiming the power of Jesus Christ to change hearts and lives?

What's next on the front page: "Witchcraft... an alternative spiritual path."

Gail Wakefield
Buckman Road
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: The actual headline on the article in question was: "Faith or fad? Phenomenon attracts followers seeking alternative spiritual paths."



First Saturdays confer abundant blessings to devotees

To the editors:

Every month the *Catholic Courier* publishes an ad for First Saturday devotions at Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester and St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn. The (*Courier's*) calendar also lists various parishes which offer First Saturday public recitations of the Rosary. I wonder, however, how many people understand the reasons for and benefits of First Saturday devo-

Part time isn't enough for chaplaincy service

To the editors:

The April 18th article "Diocese plans cutbacks at Pastoral Center," contained an inaccuracy, which I need to point out. As one of the "victims" of the diocesan budget cuts, I have no intention of remaining in my position as Director of Chaplaincy, when it is cut to half-time in July. I had submitted my resignation verbally on April 10th, but evidently that information did not reach the *Courier* on time, thus the erroneous information was published. Chaplaincy Services, if it is to continue as a quality ministry, cannot be accomplished in 20 hours per week.

Sister Clare Roland, Director
Chaplaincy Services — Social Ministry
Diocese of Rochester Inc.

EDITORS' NOTE: We were not told of Sister Roland's resignation until we received this letter from her.

Is priest a candidate?

To the editors:

Regarding Father R. McBrien's article in 4/18 *Catholic Courier* it reads like a liberal Democratic sour grapes opinion. That's an "Essay on Theology" or is he going to run for an office?

And mentioning wars — what ever happened to WWII, Korea and Vietnam?

Ruth Moreland
Garden Drive
Irondequoit

tions.

The First Saturday devotions are a form of reparation to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart which were given to Sister Lucia as part of the Fatima apparitions. Just as Our Lord gave us the nine First Fridays of Reparation to console Him for the sins committed against His Sacred Heart, so now He has given us the First Five Saturday devotions to console the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the offenses committed against her.

As Our Lady disclosed at Fatima in 1917, personal sins affect not only the in-

'Bleeding heart' befits true disciples of Christ

To the editors:

Mr. Annunziata's letter ("Negative letters penned in response to columnist") to the *Catholic Courier* issue of March 28 was written in the tone of a typical "conservative" or "traditionalist;" his view of the world is the only view of the world. He professes to be a Catholic, but perhaps might strive to be more Christian. I would like to remind him that a Christian is a "follower of Christ."

I am certain that a traditionalist reading this has labeled me as a bleeding heart liberal by now. That is a label which I am proud of. I believe that the establishment at the time of Christ labeled him as a liberal, for he welcomed and sought out the disenfranchised and the sinners while he lived on earth.

I am praying for Mr. Annunziata and for all people who despise others with an opinion different from their own. May God enlighten them and make them tolerant, and loving of all creation. I also pray for myself that I, like Jesus, learn to love all things and all people as the creation of God.

Jim Pelc
Amsden Drive
Rochester

dividuals who commit them, but also the whole world. Individual souls are condemning themselves to hell, while their sins are the cause of God's punishments of war, famine, persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father, and the threat of annihilation of various nations. God has also used Russia as a scourge on the world as punishment for sins.

However, God is loving and merciful. He has promised, through His Mother, an era of peace and the conversion of Russia, but we must first repair for the offenses committed against Him and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and thus the reasons for five first Saturdays:

1. "The blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception."
2. "Against her virginity."
3. "Against the Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to accept her as the Mother of all mankind."
4. "Those who try publicly to implant in the children's hearts indifference, contempt and even hatred against this Immaculate Mother."
5. "Those who insult her directly in her sacred images."

(These quotations are the) words of Our Lord to Sr. Lucia, May, 1930.

To repair for these five offenses, Our Lady asks us, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, to (1) go to confession, (2) receive Holy Communion, (3) recite five decades of the Rosary, and (4) keep her company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to her. In return, she promises "to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation." (Her words to Sister Lucy) This is an important promise when we consider the shortage of priests and the increasing difficulty of having one at our side as we are dying. This act of reparation also brings down more of God's mercy and forgiveness to those souls who have offended the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Thus, our First Saturday devotions benefit not only our own but also other souls, and will ultimately bring peace to the world if enough people respond.

Jean M. Lloyd
Glendale Park
Rochester

CATHOLIC COURIER Bishop Matthew H. Clark, *President*
Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, *Gen. Mgr.*
Karen M. Franz, *Editor/Asst. Gen. Mgr.*

1150 Buffalo Road • Rochester, New York 14624 • 716/328-4340

Editorial Department:
Richard A. Kiley, *Managing Editor*
Lee Strong, *Staff Writer* • Rob Cullivan, *Staff Writer*
Barbara Ann Homick, *Staff Writer*

Babette G. Augustin, *Photographer* • Rebecca S. Roth, *Photo Intern*

Business Department:
Mary E. Bittner, *Office Manager* • Bernie Puglisi, *Advertising Manager*
Jeanne A. Morin, *Circulation Mgr.* • Kathy Welsh, *Ad. Account Executive*

Production Department:
Lorraine Hennessey, *Graphics Mgr.* • Michael Fleckenstein, *Graphic Artist*