

Auburn girl's gift highlights celebration

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Last Sunday at Sacred Heart Cathedral we celebrated the Eucharist with new members of our church who were baptized or joined us at the Easter Vigil. There were new friends here from Auburn, Corning, Ithaca, Dryden, Newark and several other communities in our 12-county area.

For some it was their first visit to our cathedral church. For all of us, their presence was a reminder that God is always active among his people, renewing life and building up the community of faith.

For me — and I think for many of us — that renewing presence is also powerfully present in our children. There were many little ones in the church on Sunday.

Amanda, a beautiful little girl from Auburn, was among them and made the day especially happy for me. We had never met before, but apparently she had seen a picture of me in her school or parish church, and expressed curiosity about "that man." Her parents must have spoken kindly of me because Amanda, I'm told, was excited all week about the possibility of us meeting one another.

Sure enough we met, and Amanda gave me a picture of myself that she had drawn and colored. I was very much touched by her kindness, her delight, her trust and her innocence. To be sure, I am grateful for the gift of her picture, and she knows that. I am not sure if she can understand now how grateful I am for the gift of herself that

she offers just by being Amanda. If she can't yet, I am sure she will one day when one of tomorrow's children brings Amanda the same kind of delight she brought to me.

I suppose that Amanda's kindness had a greater impact because I received it when I was already mindful that Mothers' Day is upon us once again. That is a special day in our family and those of many others around the nation. My habit over the years has been to keep Mothers' Day clear on my calendar for a family celebration at my sister's home.

As things have developed over the years, we celebrate Mothers' Day in honor of my mother and my sister. But we usually add to that the celebration of the May 13 birthdays of my nieces Grace and Mary Ellen, and the May 14 birthday of my dear friend Tom Powers. This year Grace will be 23, and Mary Ellen will turn 20. I will hold the number of Tom's years in the deep chamber of my heart.

Some unusual circumstances change the pattern for this year. My mother will be here for Mothers' Day, and I will be home the following Sunday to celebrate Grace's graduation from the State University Col-



lege of New York at New Paltz, as well as the other events I just mentioned.

Many of you have said how much you enjoyed the contributions to this column from Margaret and Jane, and have asked if there might be others coming. Kathleen did send hers, and I'll be sharing it with you at the end of May.

Happy Mothers' Day.
Peace to all.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 103 No. 18 May 9, 1991
 Published weekly except week after Christmas.
 Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$19.50; Canada and foreign \$19.50 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.

Class of '71 at BK plans 20th reunion for June 28
IRONDEQUOIT — The Bishop Kearney Class of 1971 has scheduled its 20th class reunion for the weekend of June 28-29.
 Class alumni who have not been contacted by mail should write: Thomas Erb, 337 Ransford Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14222, or call 716/467-6196.

Czech ambassador to give talk at Fisher

ROCHESTER — Dr. Rita Klimova, the Czechoslovakian ambassador to the United States, will be the principal speaker at St. John Fisher College's 37th commencement at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. Klimova will receive an honorary degree during the ceremony.

Born in Czechoslovakia in 1931, Klimova immigrated to this country with her parents in 1939 to escape the Nazis. She lived in New York City until 1946, when she returned with her family to Prague. She completed her education in her native land, obtaining a master's degree and doctorate in economics from

the Prague School of Economics. She became a lecturer at the prestigious Charles University in Prague, and also was active in the Communist Party.

As Czechoslovakia's economy stagnated in the 1960s, Klimova began examining Western economic theories. She slowly dissolved her ties to communism. After becoming an active dissident, she was purged from the party after strongly opposing the Soviet invasion of her homeland in 1968.

Demoted from her lecturer's position to a spot in the university's accounting office, she eventually was fired in 1970 and turned to working as a freelance English interpreter. She later served as the English voice of Civic Forum, the movement that led the toppling of the communist government. Klimova was named ambassador in 1990.

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Graduation '91
 To recognize the achievements of seniors at both public and Catholic high schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester, the *Catholic Courier* will present a special **Graduation '91** supplement in its issue of **June 13**.
 This annual section includes feature articles, listings of graduating seniors, information on commencement exercises, and photographs of class valedictorians and salutatorians.
 Parishes throughout the diocese are being asked to submit lists of parishioners who are graduating from public high schools. Parents who wish to have their sons and daughters included in these parish lists should contact their pastors or religious-education coordinator as soon as possible. We cannot accept any names over the telephone.
 This annual supplement has long been among our most popular, and local companies and organizations should find it an ideal opportunity to promote their enterprises while applauding the scholastic efforts of diocesan youths.
 To place an advertisement in **Graduation '91**, call:
(716) 328-4340
Advertising Deadline: May 31 **Special Rate: \$16.50/col. in.** **Publication Date: June 13**

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