

Youngest niece tells side of story

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It is Friday of Memorial Day weekend. I am about to pack for my trip to Rome, which will begin with a 3:30 p.m. flight to New York. Before I go, I have a couple of quick errands to do and some correspondence to complete.

Before leaving, I want to share with you Part III of "Our Side of the Story," an ongoing saga produced by my nieces. This one is done by Kathleen Loretto Early, the fifth and youngest of them. Kathleen's entry follows those sent in by Margaret and Jane, and printed here in the past few months.

You will recall that "Our Side of the Story" was born as a result of their claim that when I write about them I don't tell the whole story, and that even the part I do tell is not sufficiently rooted in the facts. My counter claim, of course, is that you don't have to get all the facts straight in order to convey the truth. But I will now present Kathleen's version and let you decide for yourself:

• • •
Hello. My name is Kathleen. I am 14 and I am the fifth niece. From reading Margaret's story, I see that stretching the truth runs in the family. Or Margaret misunderstands the rules when we go shopping.

- Rule Number 1: Kathleen is the boss.
- Rule Number 2: Don't listen to Uncle Matt.
- Rule Number 3: If there are any problems, go back to Rule Number 1.

Now I will tell you my viewpoint of Uncle Matt.

He is OK, but he is a tease. Whenever he comes home to Waterford and my sisters and I have a vacation coming up, my uncle always says, "Come on out. Take the train, and I will be more than happy to have you guys. The sisters will love to have you stay with them." In translation, "I'll see you next time I come home to Waterford."

When we have a big dinner he insists that I have to sit next to him so that every five minutes I can run and fill his water glass. Plus he also charges me 25 cents a hug.

But I still have to admit he is always trying to prove that his hair is thicker than mine. Well, it's true. I admit it. Uncle Matt's hair is curlier than mine.

He makes fun of me most of the time for wearing two Swatch watches and two ID bracelets.

That's all I have to say for now except, keep using the conditioner for your unmanageable hair! I love you, Uncle Matt. Ciao.

Kathleen

• • •
So now you have it. Before you make any judgments about credibility, let me tell you a story about Kathleen. A few years ago, I celebrated my 25th anniversary as a priest. Kathleen Lynd, a friend of mine and a parishioner at St. Ambrose, Rochester, very kindly prepared an entertainment for the occasion. In preparation for the party, she telephoned my sister for some family background information.



Kathleen Early was home alone at the time. In response to Kathleen Lynd's question, Kathleen said, "I don't have that information now, but have your people call my people on Monday, and we'll work it out."

Now, really, which of us will you believe? I love you, too, Kathleen. Peace to all.

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