

Structures must fit current needs

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Our National Conference of Catholic Bishops meets this week in St. Paul, Minn. Our plenary session begins on Thursday morning. I'll be leaving today so that I can attend some committee meetings. Wednesday's meetings will be on Women in Church and Society and our ad hoc committee on the Life and Ministry of Bishops.

The agenda for our plenary sessions centers on the size, shape, scope and purpose of our conference. A committee of our membership has — at the request of the conference — done an enormous amount of work to study that theme. They have prepared some models for our consideration, and we will review, discuss and vote on them during our session in St. Paul.

The models developed set forth a

conference structure that remains basically the same, one that calls for some moderate downsizing and a third that rather substantially reduces the size of the conference.

I should add that the process allows a great deal of freedom to scrap the models or to alter them in any way we see fit. My guess is that we'll come very close to the model calling for some moderate reduction in the size of our structure.

Money has been, without question, an important factor in this consideration. But it is certainly not the only one. The bishops recognize that it is a useful, sometimes necessary, exercise to review the conference's structure, work and cost from time to time. In this age of rapid change, it can happen that what served our purpose 10 years

ago no longer does the job. We recognize the need to be good stewards of the resources available to us.

Those who have been following the *Catholic Courier* will be aware that we have been engaged in a similar enterprise here in our own diocese. I am happy at the progress we have made and hope that this work, as it continues, will leave us in an excellent position to respond to what we decide through our synodal process. I want very much for us to be able to move with the results of the synod in as careful and efficient way as possible.

Shortly after my return from St. Paul, Father Joe Hart, director of the synod, will share a preliminary report with me on the results of the survey we conducted this spring. I await that meeting with a high level of interest and curiosity. It will provide us with a wealth of information about our pastoral needs and possibilities.

I am going to spend the morning at home and look forward to catching up on some work that has backed up some in the midst of a fairly hectic spring



schedule. I have been pecking away at the backlog for a while and hope that this morning's work will allow me to clean my desk before I leave for St. Paul this afternoon. I think I can make it.

By a happy coincidence, the Yankees are playing the Twins in Minnesota tonight. If I can get a ticket, I'll go. But both teams are hot, and tickets may be in short supply. I'll let you know how I make out.

Peace to all.

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Final Informational Meeting: Monday, June 17th, 1991, 7:00p.m. at the St. Charles Borromeo School Library.

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CSJ named head of superintendents' council

ALBANY — Sister Ann McCarthy, CSJ, has been named new president of the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents, announced Joseph W. McTighe, executive secretary to the council.

Sister McCarthy, currently superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Albany diocese, was elected to a two-year term as president at the council's spring meeting in Syracuse.

A Sister of St. Joseph of Brentwood

(Long Island) for 40 years, Sister McCarthy served in the Brooklyn diocese before her move to Albany in 1990. She holds a doctor of education degree in social studies from the University of Georgia and a master of arts in secondary social studies from Brooklyn College.

Among Sister McCarthy's academic achievements is a National Endowment for the Humanities scholarship awarded in 1984 for study at the Principals' Institute at the University of Oregon.



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