

# Period offers chance to gain perspective

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful Memorial Day weekend. For most it marks the unofficial beginning of summer, even though much activity continues through the weeks of June.

Over the weekend, I reviewed the calendar for June to see what is ahead and to get a sense of what I need to prepare for these occasions. It will be an interesting period of time.

My schedule includes ordinations to diaconate and to priesthood; the last of this spring's confirmations; high school graduations; meetings with community leaders; the celebration of Bishop Hogan's 50th anniversary as a priest; our National Conference of Catholic Bishops' meeting at Notre Dame University; conversations with individual priests; and a variety of meetings and appointments about everyday business.

It is a festive time of year — one that puts me in touch with individuals and groups in a celebratory mood. It is also a time of year in which I experience a drop off in the number of meetings on my calendar. Such groups as our Priests' Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council do not usually meet during the summer months.

I welcome this transition time each year, first, because it provides an opportunity to look back and put into perspective the events of a very busy year: What happened? Why did it happen? Did we learn anything



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**LONG THE WAY**

through the experience which will help us do it better another time? If we could go back and change one thing, what would it be? Of what are we most proud? Did we operate from a plan based on solid principles?

Secondly, this time is beneficial because it affords the occasion to make some decisions about next year, and to make those decisions based on experience.

Given the almost endless range of work that could be done, what is the best way to use my time and energy? How much time should I commit to prayer, to preparatory work, to reading? How much cushion should be built into the year's schedule to absorb unforeseen events?

Many more questions can be applied to each of those categories. But I hope those listed here will give you some sense of the kinds of questions I find constructive, especially at this time of the year.

I suppose that's because they help me deal in some reasonable way with the ever-changing reality of our community. And they help me to do so with an awareness that just as the community is changing, so am I.

There are really no set pastoral ways at being bishop that are valid and good for every time, place and circumstance. Communities change and so do bishops and so do the societal and ecclesial circumstances in which they interact.

I suppose the same could be said of being a parent or a teacher, a CEO of a large corporation or a nurse, a salesperson or factory worker. We all need to continue reflecting on life and the changes it brings, or life will pass us by and leave us clinging to our empty routines.

Our common call and responsibility is to do all of this while remaining anchored in the life-giving values of our faith tradition — to live in the love of Christ and to relate to our neighbors in that love; to be merciful; to be peacemakers; to be just; to serve.

There is little doubt about what Christ wants of us. He told us and showed us, gives us the strength to do it. The question is: How are we going to do it today?

Peace to all.

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A new monthly calendar will appear in the Catholic Courier on the last Thursday of each month.

**THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS**

**WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?**

*The following prayer was dictated by Our Lord to Sister Josefa Menendez at Poitiers, France, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 3, 1921, with the instruction: "Josefa! Repeat these words daily."*

**JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS**

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

*Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953*

**JUNE, 1992**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Reverend Fathers:	1 Leo Klem, CSB	2 Stephen Swigethy	3 William C. McCusker, SJ	4 Robert Moore, OCSO	5 Robert Beligotti	6 Ralph J. Fraats
7 Robert L. Collins	8 Robert C. MacNamara	9 Richard A. Hart	10 Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg	11 Robert J. Schrader	12 Jeremiah P. Moynihan	13 Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi
14 Thomas H. Watts	15 John D. Hurley	16 Francis R. Davis	17 Eugene H. McFarland	18 Robert J. Casey	19 Timothy Keatling	20 R. Richard Brickler
21 John V. Forni	22 Michael F. Conboy	23 Robert M. Egan	24 John A. Lynch	25 William M. Hart	26 Scott M. Kubinski	27 Robert P. Ring
28 Paul R. Schinacky	29 Thomas F. Nellis	30 Elmer J. McDonald	For subsequent months or extra copies write to: MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Drive, Rochester, NY 14620			

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