

Summer offers chance to slow pace

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

In keeping with the practice of past years, I am going to take a summer break from writing "Along the Way." The next column I do will be for the August 6 edition of the *Catholic Courier*.

I think you will understand it when I say that - although I do enjoy writing this piece each week - it will be a welcome change not to have to do it for a while.

A break from writing - and a similar respite from preaching and public speaking - will offer a welcome opportunity to be peaceful, to rest, to read, to listen. I do yearn for that kind of nourishment and for the refreshment it brings.

Among the books I'd like to read this summer are: *The Revelatory Text* by Sandra Schneiders, IHM, an exciting new book on the interpretation of the New Testament; *Isaac Hecker* by David J. O'Brien, the biography of a 19th century thinker who is a figure of major significance for American religious and social history; and *The Diocese of Rochester* by Father Robert F. McNamara, the history of the first 100 years of our diocese.

I read Father McNamara's history shortly after I arrived here. Now I am anxious to reread it in light of the experience of the past 13 years and especially in preparation for our diocesan Synod. In addition to those



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books, I also want to read some novels as yet to be selected.

At the end of this week, we'll be gathering to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Jim Early. Their anniversary is June 24, but they were in Alaska for a family wedding at that time, so we'll honor them on July 3.

My mother and Grace, Jane, Mary Ellen, Margaret and Kathleen will all be there, and so will some other friends. Many of you have asked about the kids in the past several months. In August, I'll try to share some reflections on their life and growth with you.

Before saying goodbye to you for a few weeks, I want to mention the following:

- Thanks to the thousands of women and men of all ages who do so much day in and day out to build up the Kingdom of God in the local church. I am daily impressed by the strength of your commitment and want you to know of my gratitude.

- After a year of intense and sometimes controversial activity connected with our school reorganization program, we are noting some very encouraging progress. We'll soon be sharing some of that good news with you.

In the meantime let me encourage you, if you are at all inclined to do so, to consider sending your child to one of our Catholic schools. I think they offer an excellent religious, academic and social experience.

- I hope that you will be able to find some time in the weeks ahead to slow your pace of activity at least a little bit. Our needs, opportunities and tastes are all different, I know.

But I'm also aware that in recent months I have heard an uncommonly large number of people say, in one way or another, that the pace of life today is nearly unbearable. Can we help one another to live in a more humane fashion?

I pray that you'll be richly blessed during these summer days.

Peace to all.

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