

President

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

General Manager

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey

Editor/Asst. Gen. Mgr.

Karen M. Franz

Editorial Department

Managing Editor

Richard A. Kiley

Staff Writers

Lee Strong

Finger Lakes

Rob Cullivan

Monroe County

Mike Latona

Southern Tier

Photo Editor

Babette G. Augustin

Photo Interns

Kellie Mc Cann

S. John Wilkin

Business Department

Circulation Manager

Jeanne A. Morin

Office Manager

Amy D'Accursio

Receptionist

Lenna Hurley

Advertising Department

Advertising Manager

Bernie Puglisi

Advertising Account Exec.

Kathy Welsh

Production Department

Graphics Manager

Lorraine Hennessey

Graphic Artist

Kim Parks

Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

Was privileged to view visiting icon

To the editors:

With the diocese on the verge of a very important self-study, with extensive preparations underway for the Big Synod, and Vatican II having honored Mary with the meaningful title, "Mother of the Church," along with the Holy Spirit, what greater inspirer can the Synod have than "Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Americas."

Several weeks ago the diocese was graced with the presence of the replica of the missionary image, the tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a gift loan from the Mexican people.

I am so grateful to have been privileged to be here in Rochester at the time of Her visit and deeply edified by the sincerity and faith of our laity, so eager were they to pay homage to the blessed tilma and learn about this powerful apparition that happened in the "one America" so many years ago.

But it saddens me to realize so many parishes missed out on not only the opportunity to show their love for Mary, but also on the graces She had to bestow.

I may be mistaken, but I saw very little write-up announcements of the tilma coming to our area in our one and only official diocesan paper. How great it would have been to see "Her" image on the front page of the *Courier-Journal*!

As one becomes familiar with the story of the apparitions in 1531 to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian; it is clear why the Holy Father deems Mary under this title so powerful at this time and marked Her as the special patron of the



unborn. When Mary appeared she was wearing the tasseled cincture which was the symbol of a pregnant woman of Juan Diego's tribe. Hence She is considered to have been carrying Jesus in Her womb at the time of the apparitions. What more magnificent example can we have for the Pro-Life cause!

Vatican II calls us the People of God. When given the chance, the People of God really leap to the occasion to "love" Mary as was so evidenced by the three packed churches hosting the missionary image. I was privileged to attend.

This great love for Our Lady is also true of my dear Papuan New Guineans. Let there be any excuse for a procession, Mass, festive occasion, etc. of any kind to honor "Mama blong Got," there is no question of inconvenience. It might take three days coming down from the rugged mountains, crossing dozens of flooded torrents, carrying their food and (children) on their backs; but come they would in droves.

Why so many parishes failed this opportunity to host our own "Queen of the Americas!" Perhaps Her time scheduled for our diocese was extremely limited! I pray, that was the reason. God & His Mother bless you!

**Sister Sylvia
Marist Missionary Sisters
On home leave in Rochester.**

EDITORS' NOTE: For the benefit of any new subscribers, we should explain that *Courier-Journal* was the name of this newspaper until February of 1989.

Would church allow orders for female Episcopal priest?

To the editors:

I have been thinking of the regrettable shortage of vocations to the priesthood in our country. Two solutions frequently advanced by many are the ordination of married men and the ordination of women.

While speculating on this I recalled some instances where Episcopal priests, who were already married prior to their conversion to Catholicism, continued their ministry as Catholic priests and were allowed to remain in the married state.

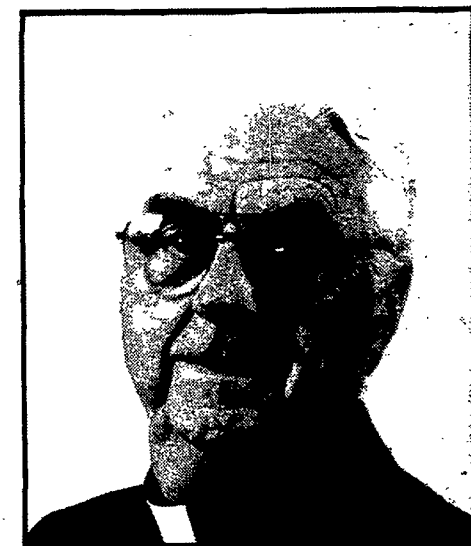
The thought crossed my mind that if a single female Episcopal priest converted to Catholicism would she be allowed to continue in her ministry as a Catholic priest?

I have deliberately used the example of a single Episcopal priest since if I said she was married it would just complicate the issue.

Both of these individuals bring along with their conversion to Catholicism impediments to the priesthood. The male brings his married state and the female brings her womanhood. One has been granted a special case waiver but would the other be granted the same concession?

It is very possible that before too many years this issue could be raised as more and more women are ordained in other religions.

**Walter C. Ervin Jr.
West Third Street
Elmira**



Father Thomas K. Cleary, pastor emeritus of Holy Cross Church in Dryden, died Dec. 3, 1989.

Thanks for story

To the editors:

After reading Mike Latona's article in the August 20 issue on the Dryden Parish-Holy Cross Church ("Dryden parish reaches final stage of \$350,000 renovation project," page 6), my husband and I wish to thank you for making us aware of such an event for someone dear in our hearts, Father Tom Cleary.

Our trip last Saturday to the dedication ceremony was truly an emotional satisfaction and happiness experience in knowing Father Cleary and those of the parish feeling the same.

The spirit of that parish community and the effort put on in such a structure by all of those is truly blessed. With a backbone like Father Cleary the faith in yourself and your church can succeed. Just as he made our marriage one so has he believed in the Holy Cross Church as one.

**Susie and John Alexander
RD 3, Elmira**

Protests article reporting outcome of pastor's law suit against bishop

To the editors:

Unnecessary? Absolutely!! Unchristian? Most definitely!! I am referring to the article regarding Father Norbert Nolan in your Sept. 3 issue ("Vatican upholds bishop's action in removing pastor at Mt. Morris"). We see no reason for reviving the negative publicity that this priest has received. Our priests need support, prayers and encouragement to follow their vocations with faith and perseverance, and this priest did not get the support he should have. St. Christopher's parish has been delighted to have him in residence. He has helped many of us to grow in faith and we wish him well.

The second unbelievable event in that issue was the front-page coverage of the "Rapture" etc. We fail to see any relevant information in that story. It was far more than we ever wanted to know. Apparently the writer was desperate for copy. Surely there must be something pertaining to our Catholic religion that you could write about.

I truly wanted to cancel our subscription last week, but then I thought: How else can we keep up with the "shenanigans" of the Rochester diocese??

**Dolores and Frank Cervelloni
Baymon Drive
Rochester**