

Easter, 1993

My dear people,

The dawn of Easter Sunday retells the ancient story of the Resurrection. As Christians gathered in their places of worship during the Holy Saturday Night, the remembered story was retold. In rituals, which deepen our faith each year, we have found renewed faith and hope. The timeless message of new life inspires us to recommit ourselves to the mission begun by Jesus.

I see particularly in the faces of our newly initiated the wonder and awe of God's mysterious presence. The excitement of these



neophytes excites all who surround them with love. Their faith journey has brought them to this point of recognizing the Lord in our midst. As I called them to the Easter sacrament, they willingly joined hands and hearts in a single "yes" to God. Their eyes tell the story of God as God is manifest in the community of Jesus' beloved disciples, which embraces them in love. As they shared at the Table of the Lord, I renewed my sense of how intimately God chooses to be with us.

In these Easter days, I invite you to renew your commitment to the mission of Jesus. These Easter days remind us that our work is not one of darkness, drabness or secrecy. Rather, it is an opportunity to sing with excitement of all of

the wondrous things God has done for us. Our world may still present us with the temptations of sin and sadness, but we know that Jesus overcame these human maladies by his single victory over the grave. May the great 50 days of resurrection stir in your hearts a renewed awe and wonder at God's mysterious presence in your life.

I pray you and your family had a most blessed and joyous Easter holiday. Together we sing "Alleluia, he is risen! Our God remains close to us!"

Your brother in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*

† Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester

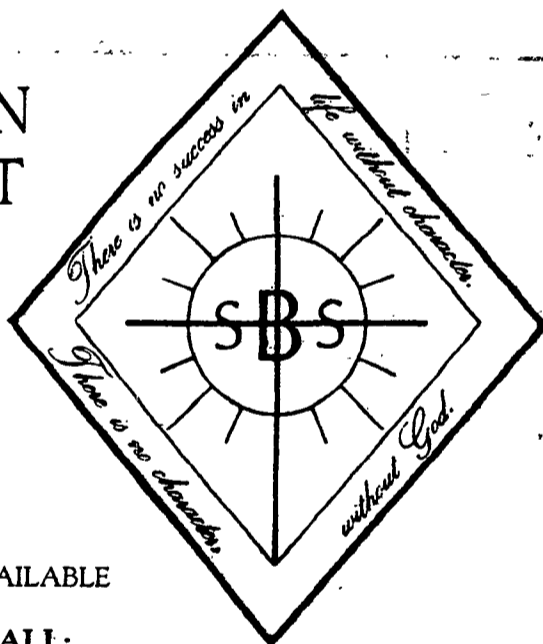


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