

Exciting events ease return from vacation

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It's good to be home and back to work after a most pleasant vacation. My thanks go to the many good friends who sent vacation greetings and to all co-workers for their generous support.

As much as I enjoy vacation time — and I truly do — it is always a pleasant experience to get back to work. And this year, even the usual re-entry experience seemed easier than usual. That may well be because the exceptional events of the coming weeks have already begun to absorb considerable thought and energy. I am thinking of such events as International Youth Day to be held in Denver next week, our General Synod at the beginning of October and our ad limina visit to Rome a week after the Synod.

It is events such as these — together with the more common but no less beautiful experiences of life in our local church — that make ministry among you so rewarding. As I have told you so many times before, to be with you in such a privileged way is to be convinced often and strongly that the Holy Spirit is wonderfully active among us. For that activity and your generous response to it I am always most grateful.

I make that statement not with any sense that we are without our problems or to



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suggest that we don't need consistently to call one another to better things. I say it, rather, out of my experience of you as a faithful people who love the Lord and who want to respond generously to the Lord's loving initiatives in our lives.

Doing so is not always easy. We can be self-centered. We can be blind to the truth of another. We can too easily over-simplify the complex, and complicate the simple. We're capable of all sorts of things like that. All of us are. That's not because we're evil or stupid or ill-willed. It's because we're human with the need ever to grow in the image of Christ.

For that reason I think that the mark of a vibrant Christian community is not freedom from faults and failings so much as a gracious and willing disposition to reconciliation when we have hurt one another.

A bit of summer reading led me to think quite a bit along such lines. I'm thinking of Peter Hebblethwaite's book *Paul VI: The First Modern Pope*. Pope Paul VI was Bishop of Rome during a very sensitive time in the history of our church. In the midst of much difficulty — some of which he experienced in a very personal way — he remained a person of exceptional civility and respect for others.

Indeed, one of his great gifts to the church is his commentary on the nature and qualities of dialogue among Christians and between Christians and other communities. I believe it will serve the church for many years to come.

But, enough for this week. Please renew your prayers for God's good blessings on our preparations for the Synod. Pray for those from your parish who will be attending, and speak a word of encouragement to them. Also, please hold close to your heart all of the beautiful young people from our local church who will be joining the throngs in Denver next week.

There's a whole lot going on. Thanks for being so much a part of it all.
Peace to all.

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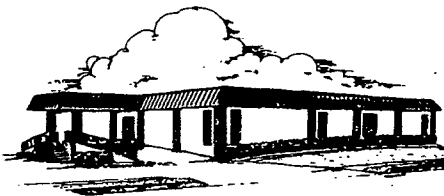
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ENTERTAINMENT
SATURDAY

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BLACK MOUNTAIN CLOGGERS-11am and Noon
SAGEHEART PUPPETS-1pm, 3pm and 5pm
ORIENT EXPRESS
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SUNDAY

SALLY FOX STILTS DANCER EXTRAORDINAIRE-10am
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Dixieland Jazz-2pm and 4pm
FREE FACE PAINTING BOTH DAYS-2-6pm
\$1.00 Admission includes All Events
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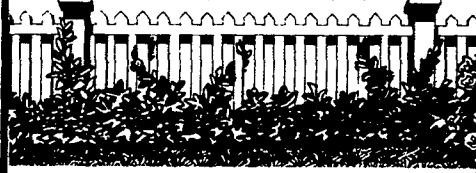
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CELEBRATE WITH US!

Join us in celebrating two joyous events in the life of the local church — the culmination of the Seventh Diocesan Synod and the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Rochester.

In conjunction with the diocesan Office of the Synod, the *Catholic Courier* will present two commemorative publications: a special synod/anniversary issue of the *Courier* and a keepsake program for the 125th Anniversary Mass.

The *Catholic Courier's* special edition — to be published September 30, 1993 — will be distributed by mail to nearly 49,000 subscribers and to an additional 1,200 delegates to the General Synod. It will contain articles on various aspects of diocesan history, the agenda for the General Synod, and analyses of the recommendations on which delegates will be asked to vote.

The keepsake booklet will serve as a program for the Anniversary Liturgy, which will be celebrated at the Monroe County War Memorial at the close of the General Synod on Sunday, October 3, 1993, before a gathering of approximately 5,000 members of the diocese and church dignitaries.

You can participate in the festivities — and help support the Diocesan Synod — by placing a congratulatory advertisement in these two special publications (a portion of the proceeds will help underwrite costs of the General Synod).

To place your ad in these special commemorative publications call Kathy Welsh or Bernie Puglisi at (716) 328-4340.

Advertising deadline is Tuesday, August 31, 1993.

YES! Include my family's name in the *Catholic Courier's* Sept. 30, 1993, 125th Anniversary/Synod issue AND the program booklet for the Diocese of Rochester's 125th Anniversary Mass on Oct. 3, 1993. You will receive a patron listing on a page with other individuals and companies.

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$50

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