

Tale offers insight on founding bishop

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

In recent months — as our General Synod and the 125th anniversary of our diocese have drawn closer — I have thought a good deal about Bernard J. McQuaid. The reason for that focus is that McQuaid was our founding bishop and, in my opinion, did more to shape the personality and direction of our diocese during his 41-year term of service than did any other person in our history.

I admire McQuaid for many reasons. He was a person of vision, conviction and courage, and his record was astonishing.

A man of ideas, he participated in the lively theological and pastoral debates of his day. A person with a strong commitment to Catholic education, he gave high priority to Catholic schools and to the establishment of St. Bernard's Seminary.

A good pastor, he labored tirelessly for better than four decades to provide an environment that would allow Catholic immigrants coming to our country to remain good Catholics and to become good citizens.

In my admiration for his achievement I have tried to learn about the times in which he ministered, the better to understand his theological views and his pastoral decisions. In that effort, my respect for the man has grown.

Two reasons underlie my growing respect: 1) his perseverance over so many years, through so many challenging issues and 2) the fact that the well-being of the people entrusted to his care was always his highest priority.

But beyond the achievement of McQuaid lies the person, and I have enjoyed learning



A

LONG THE WAY

more about the personality of the man as he developed through the years. One story provided to me by Sister Eileen Conheady, SSJ, gives some insight into his respect for the gifts of others and into his own limitations.

The story: McQuaid frequently gave Saturday-morning conferences to the Sisters of St. Joseph. During a conference at Nazareth Normal School in 1899 — in the 76th year of his life and 31st of his service as bishop — he said,

"Now, you have your work to do in the schoolroom, and you can do it better than any priest. I cannot talk to children as I am talking to you. Often our priests talk way over the heads of our people, and especially those of the children. You can go down to the hearts of the children and teach the truths of religion in the best way possible. You can do it by the tone of your voice; by the smile of peace that you win by retreat with God in

Holy Communion. All these ways are so taking with the children, and a man has none of these traits of character. Children never run to me — that stern face frightens them."

To that quotation Sister Eileen adds the comment, "McQuaid went on to say that as a boy he got 'many a whipping' for his demeanor which struck his teachers as being proud. He notes that no one told him the difference between 'being proud' and having a 'proud appearance,' a 'faulty demeanor.' I don't know if this early emphasis on the sin of pride stayed with him, but he certainly gave a lot of instruction to the sisters with regard to humility."

It makes you think doesn't it? Here was man who fought many a battle, worked tirelessly for the well-being of children. And yet at a time in his life when he might have expected to enjoy the fruits of his labor in a personal way, he says to the sisters, "Children never run to me — that stern face frightens them."

McQuaid had 10 years of life and ministry left to him when he gave this conference. I wonder if he learned to smile more during those years or if in some other way he managed to communicate to children the love he had for them. I don't know the answer to the question.

I suppose it's not important that I do. What matters to me is that McQuaid cared about such things quite late in his life, even when he might have rested on his considerable achievement.

Thanks to Bernard McQuaid for being real, and to Eileen Conheady for sending me the story.

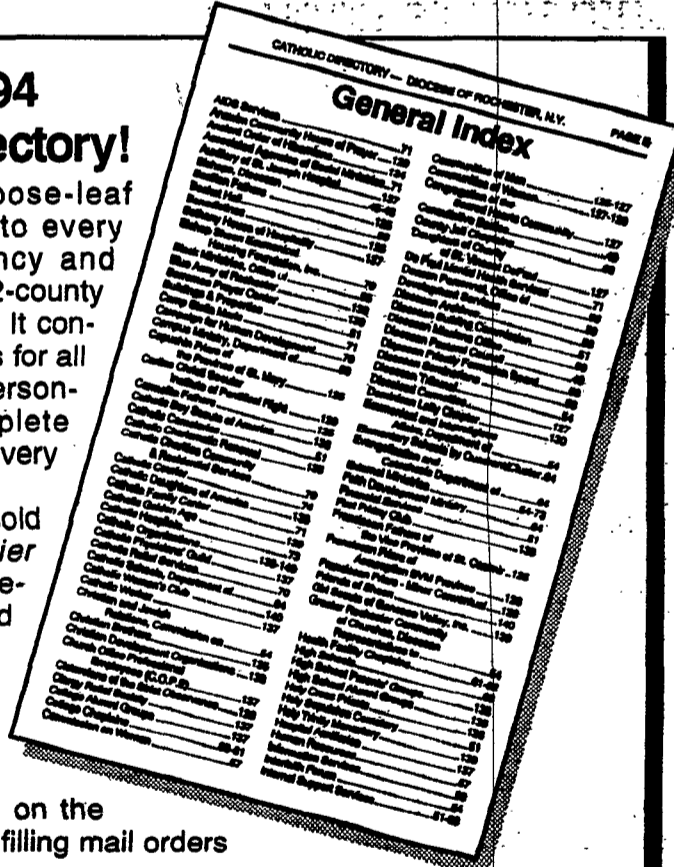
Peace to all.

Get your '93-94 Diocesan Directory!

This 140-page loose-leaf book is your guide to every parish, office, agency and organization in the 12-county Diocese of Rochester. It contains telephone listings for all clergy and church personnel, as well as complete Mass schedules for every parish in the diocese!

Directories will be sold at the *Catholic Courier* booth during the diocesan General Synod Oct. 1-3.

Mail orders may be placed by sending the coupon below — with payment — to the address indicated on the coupon. We will begin filling mail orders on Oct. 4.



Directory Pages with Binders
1-3 sets\$15 each
4 or more sets\$12 each

Directory Pages only
1-3 sets\$9.50 each
4-6 sets\$8.00 each
7 or more sets\$7.00 each

1993-94 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY c/o CATHOLIC COURIER
1150 BUFFALO ROAD, ROCHESTER, NY 14624

Enclosed please find \$_____ for _____ page sets only
Enclosed please find \$_____ for _____ page sets with binders
Total enclosed: \$_____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
(Please make checks payable to Catholic Courier Directory)

SCOUTING RETIREMENT VALUE?

HOW ABOUT A FREE SAMPLE?
SAVOR OUR LIFESTYLE FOR 3 DAYS AT NO COST
Come Yourself Or Bring Friends

NO STRINGS...NO PRESSURE...NO KIDDING!

Marina, recreation island with heated pool & jacuzzi, screened picnic area, shuffleboard & horseshoes; fishing, driving range, softball field, game & meeting rooms, auditorium, security patrol, paramedic station, bank, Post Office, beauty shop, laundromat, bus service and much more (really)...

Enjoy The Freedom Of Renting For Just \$301/Month

RESERVATION DEADLINE OCT. 10, 1993

OPENINGS UNTIL NOV. 19, 1993

CONVENIENT TO ORLANDO & TAMPA

1-800-424-3602



FEDHAVEN APARTMENTS P. O. Box 8317 Fedhaven, FL 33854

Everyone needs a PAAL.



Stay protected with the PAAL, Quorum's Personal Attack Alarm that blasts 103dB (min.) when you simply pull the pin. Choose either the standard or sports model. Carry it to school, the mall, the park, wherever you go. PAAL lets out a cry for help whenever you need it. And only Quorum gives you that kind of technology and security.

Contact your Quorum Independent Distributor
21st Century Electronics
Laurelle Ermatinger
(716) 425-3499
See us at the GENERAL SYNOD

Meet the small, un-silent type.

Presenting the ELERT from Quorum. The portable motion detector that blasts 103dB (minimum) whenever moved.



It operates simply on batteries. And you can attach it to everything from your desk to your personal computer. Only Quorum products give you that kind of technology and security.

Contact your Quorum Independent Distributor
21st Century Electronics
Laurelle Ermatinger
(716) 425-3499
See us at the GENERAL SYNOD