

# My memories of the Synod

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

On this dark Monday afternoon, I find myself pleasantly tired. That sense of tiredness comes from the full schedule of the General Synod. The pleasant nature of that tiredness comes from the beauty of the people who were part of the event. Seldom have I had an experience of church that has been as sustained or as concentrated as was the experience of this past weekend. Although each of the 1,500 or so persons who participated might put it in different words, I would guess that all who were present would say that the event left us with much to think about, much to process.

I know that I am not in a position today to think about it in any systematic fashion. But I would like to continue what has already begun in me by sharing with you some of the questions, ideas, vignettes and memories that have claimed by attention and invited me to think and pray in the hours since our concluding Eucharistic Liturgy yesterday afternoon:

- the gathering ritual on Friday evening. Each parish community was named and, at the naming, the delegates from that parish rose. I am sure many were impressed, as I was, by the number of our communities and their diversity;
- the comment by one of our pastors that we effectively serve people and support them when we meet them in their pain and in their gifts;
- the ability of participants to articulate simply and honestly their convictions about the



**A**

**LONG THE WAY**

themes under discussion, and their willingness to listen respectfully to others — even when their points of view were quite different;

- the generous, enthusiastic participation of friends from other faith communities, many of whom gave up their entire weekend to be with us;
- the beauty of the prayer experiences prepared for the assembly, and the joyful faith of the participants;
- the willingness of folks to hang in there even when things didn't go the way they had hoped, or when our treatment of them wasn't as free of loving as it ought to have been;
- the joy or countless reunions between and among friends who had not seen one another

for long periods of time;

- the college student who rode nine hours on a bus to participate
- another college student who wanted to talk about how best to help a pregnant friend when the father of the child has walked out and when the friend is frightened to death about her parents' reaction;
- still another college student who asked me after the concluding liturgy, "Why is there no representative of young people on the Implementation Commission of the Synod?"
- the experience of the Eucharistic Liturgy at the Community War Memorial. The last time I celebrated the Eucharist there was on the occasion of my installation as your bishop more than 14 years ago. I can't begin to describe all of the memories evoked by the celebration on Sunday, but I can tell you that the liturgy that day was one of the most beautiful I have ever experienced in my life;
- finally, at least for now, the gratitude I know in my heart for Father Joe Hart and Marcy Holtz. Their leadership has been thoughtful, generous and competent. I can't imagine how they might have done better what they have done on our behalf.

As I indicated last week, I'll be leaving for Rome on Saturday to be with the other bishops of New York state for our *ad limina* visit to the Holy See. For that reason I won't be writing a column for the October 14 issue of the *Catholic Courier*. I look forward to telling you about the Rome experience when I return.

Peace to all.

**Call 723-8760**

Personalized to meet your needs:

- Companionship
- Senior sitting
- Shopping
- Meal Prep
- Respite Care
- Transportation
- Light Cleaning

**Reasonable Rates! Fully Insured. Bonded**

**SFS SERVICES for SENIORS**  
1100 Long Pond Rd.

**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.

**Quorum Securing Life**

Contact your Quorum Independent Distributor

**21st Century Electronics**  
Laurelle Ermatinger  
(716) 425-3499  
**FREE DELIVERY**

*The Rochester Theater Organ Society*

"Dedicated to preserving the sound of the 'King of Instruments'"

presents:

**KARL COLE**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16**  
**8:15 P.M.**  
At the Auditorium Center  
875 Main St. E.  
Special discount for senior-citizen groups of 10 or more.

**50% OFF**  
This ad entitles single-ticket buyers to 50% off the \$6.50 purchase price by presenting this ad at the box office the evening of the concert  
**For Further Information, Call RTOS at 544-6595.**

**Leewards**  
*Where Something Special's Always Happening!*

**ANNOUNCING THE**

**GRAND OPENING**

**OF OUR NEW GREECE LOCATION IN THE STONE RIDGE PLAZA ON WEST RIDGE RD.**

Watch for our terrific Grand Opening Specials to get you going on all your Fall and Christmas craft projects today.

**Now with 2 convenient locations to serve you**

<b>HENRIETTA:</b> 1100 Jefferson Rd. (Rochester Henrietta Plaza) 272-9310	<b>GREECE:</b> 1250 Ridge Rd. West (In the Stone Ridge Plaza) 621-2770
--	---

**FALL CHARITY BAZAAR**  
**OCTOBER 14-16**  
**THURSDAY-SATURDAY**

**SWEET ARTS CAKES & CANDY SHOW**  
Saturday, October 15-Sunday, October 16

**CELEBRITY LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST**  
Saturday, October 23 1pm  
Sponsored by WVOR and Focus International. Entry forms available at Mall Info Center.  
Deadline to enter: Wednesday, October 20

**IMAGE '93**  
A Holiday fashion extravaganza & buffet dinner Thursday, Nov. 4-6pm at Ridgemont Country Club. Tickets available at Mall Information Center \$20.00 per person

**LONG POND AND RIDGE RD. WEST IN GREECE**