

# Synod energy continues to spread

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It's a strange and, to me, unwelcome sight to see the earth covered with snow on the Feast of All Saints. November 1 seems just a little early to be drawn to thoughts of winter.

I am scheduled to visit our community at All Saints, Lansing, tonight (Monday) and hope that the foot of snow that has fallen in the Ithaca area does not necessitate a postponement of our feast-day gathering there.

In the month since our General Synod, I have been very pleased at the level of interest and enthusiasm I have encountered about the experience in my travels around the diocese.

Those who participated in the gathering at the Rochester Riverside Convention center seem genuinely pleased at the experience. And it seems to me that there remains a high level of interest among those who participated in any phase of the process.

It is a pleasure to comment on that excitement because it indicates that the energies of our people, which made the Synod process such a gratifying experience, are still at a high level. Such energy will be a critical factor as now we enter seriously into the implementation state of our work.

As you know, our Implementation Committee has already begun its work. We have met three times — twice before the General Synod, once after it — and have scheduled monthly meetings through June of 1993. In addition to the plenary sessions of the committee, sub-groups also will be meeting to work on various segments of the



## A LONG THE WAY

committee's charge.

I am very pleased with the work of the committee thus far. In a special way I have been delighted by their insight — indeed, their insistence — that just as grass-roots input and participation were the strength of our Synod, so will that kind of commitment at the grass-roots level help us to implement the Synod as fully as all of us want to do that.

All of us know that such implementation will require careful thought, honest and trusting dialogue, a willingness to make choices and a shared resolve to move forward together.

Part of my joy during the whole of the Synod experience thus far has been the ability and willingness of so many participants to do all of the above.

I would add to that observation the encouraging note that our Synod partici-

pants have been able to do those sometimes difficult things while offering a careful, respectful hearing to those whose views differed from their own.

In testimony of that attitude, let me conclude by quoting an excerpt from a letter I received this morning and which I just read as I took a break from writing:

"...(the Synod) was an exhilarating experience for me. I was delighted and also encouraged to be among those sincere, dedicated sisters and brothers, listening to their heart-warming and soul searching discussions, truly listening to one another's point of view, ready to change their own if they were convinced of the need to do so. And some did! My joy was so great that it spilled over into tears as I glanced around the tables and noted the various nationalities and races; it was for me, like being at a huge banquet where everyone present was a guest of honor. A reflection and a taste of the kingdom to come, and oh how many times I intensely thanked God for allowing me to be there to experience it."

The writer of those words kindly shared her experience of the Synod with me. She had her own experience of that event and has her own way of expressing that experience. I share this portion of her letter with you because we have received letters of this kind from people who live in all parts of our diocese. To me they bespeak the kind of energy to which I referred above. And that gives me great hope that in the implementation of our Synod we can do something of which we can all be very proud.

Peace to all.

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