Input sought to strengthen newspaper

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Among the several hats I am called upon to wear as Bishop of Rochester is that of publisher of the *Catholic Courier*.

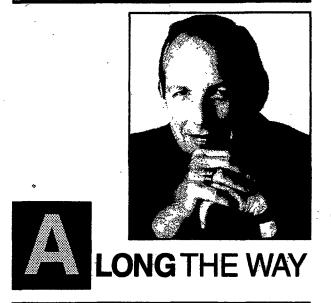
I think I need not spend much time convincing you that it is a formidable task, for which I have had little training and about which I have had to learn a great deal.

But it is an experience I have enjoyed very much. It has been stimulating and educational and, as is true under several other hats I wear, it has put me it touch with some rather remarkable people. I refer to the gifted and generous members of our Catholic Courier board and to our excellent professional staff.

Over the years I have tried to be faithful to my responsibilities as publisher. I have tried to meet those responsibilities by active engagement in the affairs of our board, of which I am president; by writing this column 40 to 45 times a year; and by being a faithful reader and an active promoter of this publication.

All of those activities require a certain amount of effort, some more than others. But none of them are a burden because I believe deeply in the value of the Catholic press and I am willing to give as much as I can to support a highquality Catholic newspaper for the people of our diocese.

As a further expression of my commitment to the Catholic Courier, I want to ex-



tend an invitation to you. It is this: under my hat as publisher of this newspaper, I invite you to participate in an ongoing conversation with me about this newspaper. I propose the following format for the conversation:

a.) I begin the conversation with this column, and in particular with the questions I will raise below.

b.) I ask you to think, talk and pray about the questions raised.

c.) You may write to me, expressing your point of view about the questions you would like to have included in this ongoing conversation. I realize that it is easier for some to speak than to write, so I'll be willing, when possible, to hear your responses when we meet. But please understand that I'll need to take notes to ensure that I don't forget or distort what you say.

d.) Every five to six weeks I will report to you in as fair a summary as I can manage the range of opinions you have submitted; and that I continue the conversation with questions, comments and responses that seem appropriate.

e.) At the end of this calendar year, I will try to summarize our work together and reflect on what other steps we might take in the future to improve and strengthen our paper.

I suggest the following questions as a starting point for our conversation:

1.) What do you consider the greatest strength of the Catholic Courier? How can we build on that strength?

2.) What do you consider the greatest weakness of the Catholic Courier? How can we do a better job in this area?

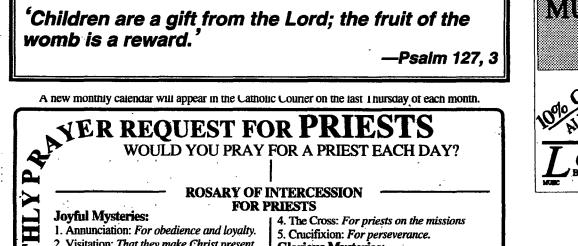
3.) What questions would you like to have included in our conversation about the Catholic Courier?

I thank you very much for your kind attention to these questions and look forward to hearing from you. Our work together will be neither scientific nor terribly systematic.

But I hope it will be the kind of honest and trusting dialogue that will help us to work together to strengthen our paper and make it of even greater service to our community.

Please address your correspondence to me at 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Peace to all.

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