

## Sharing the gifts of life

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Easter Sunday, 1994

My dear sisters and brothers,

Please accept my prayers and very best wishes as we celebrate Easter. I hope that the seven weeks of this holy season will be a time of special awareness for all of us and that we will grow in appreciation of God's immense love for us all in Jesus Christ.

For my part, I shall be aware of the generosity with which you share your goodness and gifts with one another. Most often you do that in quiet and hidden ways. I know about your generosity not because you speak of it, but because others tell me of it and because I see signs of it everywhere.

I saw it in our communities when you supported our young people in their efforts to prepare for World Youth Day with John Paul II, and I saw it in the moving ways in which our delegation of young people celebrated those days in the Rocky Mountains.

Your abundant goodness has been so evident in our Synod process. From its beginning, you have been generous and wise in your participation. It has been a remarkable experience for me to witness your willingness to search for truth wherever it may be found; to lay aside your own agendas when that truth asked you to do so. That kind of generosity makes me confident that we



**A** LONG THE WAY

will enjoy the fruits of our Synod for years to come.

You have been patient, generous and responsive as we have made adjustments in our Thanks Giving Appeal. I find it a remarkable source of hope and a tribute to you that — as we moved to a completely voluntary program — you gave a higher number of gifts, a greater average gift and helped us to exceed our target goal.

The examples I mention above — important as they are — are but a small indication of the ways in which, day in and

day out, you make the love of the Risen Christ visible in this time and this place. For myself and the thousands of unnamed beneficiaries of your daily acts of love I offer heartfelt thanks.

We know that in the months and years ahead we will enjoy new opportunities and face fresh challenges. Our experience tells us that both require energy, faith and patience. It is a source of Easter joy to me to know that the Risen One has blessed you so abundantly with those precious gifts.

I hope that this Easter season will help all of us to be more aware of the precious gift of life we share, and allow us to be confident that we do something quite beautiful when we share that gift with others.

Peace to all.

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by

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Forum Room

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Prior to the lecture, Nazareth College will present the Alice Foley Community Service Award to Pearl W. Rubin, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the quality of life in the Rochester area.



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