

# Gift will offer stability to schools, families

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It is a pleasure to begin this column with a word of sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wegman for their generous gift in support of Catholic school education for children of low- and moderate-income families in the city of Rochester.

Their generosity will bring greater stability to our system and, I hope, to families as well because their gift will help qualified children who enter our system to remain with us through their junior high school years.

The details of that gift are spelled out on pages 1 and 3 of this week's *Catholic Courier*, so I will not go into them here. I would simply like to express my delight that the gift of Bob and Peggy Wegman will help both our schools and families interested in them to do some longer-range planning, and thus bring our Catholic-school efforts in the city to a new level of stability.

I want you to know that in thanking the Wegmans for their gift, I refer not only to the money they have offered. I refer also to the great amount of time, energy and interest



## A LONG THE WAY

they have devoted to our goal of keeping Catholic school education available for children in whose lives it can make an enormous difference. They took the time to understand our current problems and opportunities. They spoke with our school people. They visited our classrooms. They offered their ideas and were receptive to the ideas of

other interested parties. Their encouragement has been honest and consistent, and I am personally very grateful for it.

My gratitude goes as well to the great number of men and women who have worked so hard to help us make the adjustments necessary to keep quality Catholic-school education available as an option in our community. The work has been difficult, sometimes painful. And it is not over. But your commitment and generosity have brought us a long way. My hope is that the benefits we all will derive from the gift we celebrate today will encourage us to keep at our common task in the years ahead.

I hope that all readers of this column will consider themselves an active part of that effort as we move forward. We need your ideas, your understanding, your moral and financial support. If you wish to offer any of those gifts to me, I will see that they receive all due consideration. If you have questions about our efforts, we will try our best to respond to them.

Peace to all.

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Let's talk about mental illnesses.

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