

God has tender love for all of us

*Dear beloved,
we are God's children now;
what we shall later be has not yet come to light.
We do know that when it comes to light
we shall be like God
for we shall see God as God really is.*

1 John 3:2

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

This passage has always been one of my New Testament favorites. I am sure that's because the words touch the mystery of our relationship with God. But I am also certain that I keep returning to them because they speak to me about the dynamism of human life in a joyful and hope-filled way.

This week I found myself circling back to this passage with unusual frequency. That's primarily because of Julie Neff, Anne Kidera, Joe Kita and Margaret Mitchell Bills.

On Thursday Julie, my grandniece, absolutely lit up the room when she and her parents, some friends and I gathered to celebrate her parents' second wedding anniversary. It was a joyous occasion made the more so by the beauty, innocence and openness of this little child.

As I watched Julie react to the motion and colors around her, and noticed her respond to the affection shown by all in our company, I couldn't help think about her future. What will she be like when she starts to walk? To talk? To go to school? To date?!!!! What will be her special gifts? And toughest challenges? Who are the people



LONG THE WAY

who with her family will love her and support her through it all?

On Saturday at St. Mary's, Canandaigua, Anne Kidera from Rochester's St. Thomas More Parish gave a witness talk as we honored a group of high school seniors who were nominated by their parish communities to receive the Hands of Christ award for faithful and generous service. On Sunday afternoon at St. John the Evangelist, Greece, Joe Kita from St. Mary's, Scottsville, did the same.

Both Anne and Joe were remarkably powerful witnesses who spoke from the heart as they reflected on their personal experience. They spoke about the people who had touched their lives, about how they have come to know God's love in the care, affection and witness of others. As Anne and Joe spoke, I remembered that

they had once been the size of Julie and marveled at how God had so graciously and kindly led them to this stage in their lives.

This morning at St. Augustine's, Troy, I joined our family to celebrate the Mass of Christian Burial for my aunt, Margaret Mitchell Bills, called home to God in the 100th year of her life among us. One of the readings her family chose for the liturgy was the passage cited above. The family told me that they chose it because they saw in Margaret, even in the 100th year of her life, an innocence and openness to God that they found astounding. She was a person of deep faith and utter confidence in the goodness of God.

Shortly before Margaret died she asked her daughter (I'm sure, to make her smile), "I'm almost 100 years old. Do you think God has forgotten me?" That seemed hardly likely to the family. One of them put it well for all when he said, "How could God forget anyone who talks to him 10 hours a day?"

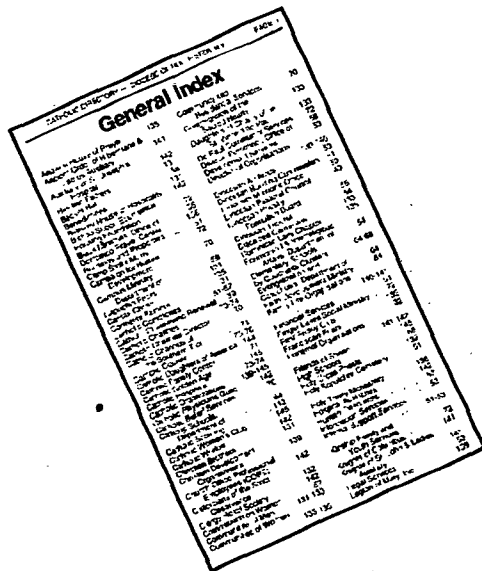
Margaret's life and death, her faith brought me back to Julie and Anne and Joe once again — and to God's tender love for each of them. God will stay with them for all of their days — no matter what — just as God stayed with Margaret through the years.

Such experiences give me confidence that God will also love and lead you and me to the fullness of life for which we were made.

Peace to all.

The '95-96 Diocesan Directory!

This 146-page loose-leaf book is your guide to every parish, office, agency and organization in the 12-county Diocese of Rochester. It contains telephone listings for all clergy and church personnel, as well as complete Mass schedules for every parish in the diocese!



Mail orders may be placed by sending the coupon below — with payment — to the address indicated on the coupon.

Directories will be shipped after October 1, 1995

Directory Pages with Binders

1-3 sets.....\$16 each
4 or more sets.....\$13 each

Directory Pages only

1-3 sets.....\$10.00 each
4-6 sets.....\$8.50 each
7 or more sets.....\$7.50 each

1995-96 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY c/o CATHOLIC COURIER
1150 BUFFALO ROAD, ROCHESTER, NY 14624

Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ page sets only

Enclosed please find \$ _____ for _____ page sets with binders

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please make checks payable to Catholic Courier Directory)

Major Credit Cards Accepted

account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

The papal visit in 150 color photos

Get the only book to document the entire U.S. visit by Pope John Paul II. The full-color 8-1/2 X 11" picture book features the work of 10 award winning photographers and three writers. The foreword is written by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J.

Witness the Pope's visit — from Rome and in the papal plane, to stadiums, cathedrals and celebrations in New Jersey, New York and Baltimore.

POPE JOHN PAUL II AN AMERICAN CELEBRATION



Foreword by
Archbishop Theodore McCarrick

Satisfaction guaranteed

Book will be delivered the first week of December.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail \$18.95 per copy to:

Pope Book
The Catholic Courier
1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624