

Statement articulates common vision

In this column I am writing during the week before the first Sunday of Advent, I am going to ask a favor of you. When you have finished reading Along the Way this week, please cut out and post in some prominent place (your refrigerator door?) this copy of our diocesan mission statement:

MISSION STATEMENT Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

We, the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Rochester, joyfully embrace our baptismal call to worship God, to preach the good news of Christ, to build up the community of faith and hope in the Holy Spirit, and to serve those in need.

As pilgrims nourished by the Eucharist for our journey of faith, we work with other churches and with all who seek harmony within the human family to advance the reign of God.

Continuing our diocese's century-old tradition of courage and creativity, and responding to the Second Vatican Council's call for the ongoing conversion of the Church, we strive to meet the needs of our community in this time and place.

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I ask this favor of you so that, as we approach this season of remembering and rejoicing in God's love for us in Je-

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

sus Christ, we might also remember the ways in which our community of faith has committed itself to respond to that gift.

There is nothing fancy about our 114-word Mission Statement. Nor is there any particular magic to developing such a statement and printing it.

But it is important for communities as rich in diversity as ours is to have a common vision.

Such a vision reminds us of the bonds of faith and charity to which we are called. It helps us to focus our energy and make decisions necessary for our life and growth.

I do believe that our Mission Statement reminds us in a brief and clear way of the elements that help to define Catholic life and can, therefore, provide helpful points of reference against which we can assess present activities and de-

velop plans for the future.

For example, the statement calls us to commit to: the quality and richness of our life of worship; concern for one another in community; love for the Scripture; and service of our neighbors, especially of those most in need.

Our Mission Statement speaks of the joy and hope that should characterize us, even as it reminds us of our need continually to experience ongoing conversion in the power of the Holy Spirit.

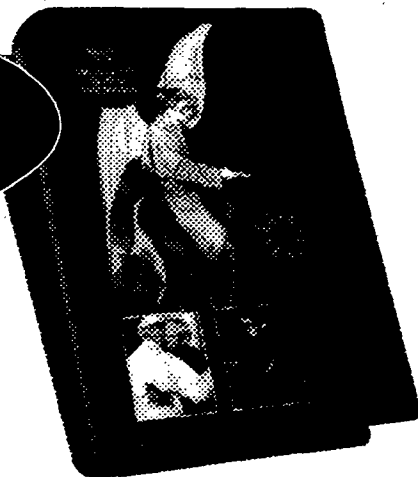
It reminds us that we are called to rejoice with others over all we hold in common, and to work tirelessly with them to heal the wounds of sin and division that divide us.

Finally, it challenges us to imitate our mothers and fathers in faith, who with great courage and creativity, laid the foundations upon which this wonderful diocese has been built.

As indicated above, I hope you will clip the text of our Mission Statement and post it where you will see it frequently. More importantly, I invite you to join me in thinking and praying about it during this Advent season.

I hope that the statement will be of encouragement to all of us, as together we seek to live as loving, committed Catholics in today's challenging world.
Peace to all.

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THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

Donations are needed. Costs are rising and our funds are low.
Won't you help us continue this ministry for our diocesan priests?
Send donations to: THE MPRP, 70 Green Knolls Dr., Apt. A,
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Act of Consecration

Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the Flock, I consecrate my priestly life to Your Heart, pierced on Calvary for love of us. From Your pierced Heart the Church was born, the Church You have called me, as a priest, to serve in a most special way. You reveal Your Heart as a symbol of Your love in all its aspects, including Your most special love for me whom You have chosen as Your priest-companion. Help me always to pour out my life in love of God and neighbor. Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in You!

Dear Blessed Virgin Mary, I consecrate myself to your maternal and Immaculate Heart, this Heart which is the symbol of your life of love. You are the Mother of my Savior. You are also my Mother. You love me with the most special love as this unique priest-son. In a return of love I give myself entirely to your motherly love and protection. You followed Jesus perfectly. You are His first and perfect disciple. Teach me to imitate you in the putting on of Christ. Be my motherly intercessor so that, through your Immaculate Heart, I may be guided to an ever closer union with the pierced Heart of Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the Flock, who leads me to the Father in the Holy Spirit.

DECEMBER, 1995 DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Look for next month's MPRP Calendar in the December 21st Catholic Courier				Reverend Fathers:	James F. Doyle	Robert M. Egan
3 Robert Grzybowski, OFM, CONV.	4 Lance Gonyo	5 Michael Hayden, OCSO	6 John C. Murray, CSB	7 John L. O'Connor	8 Leo Dunn, CSsR	9 Peter Enyan-Boadi
10 Francis M. Feeney	11 Thomas M. Erdle	12 Dr. Austin Budnick, OFM	13 Robert Cheesman, CSsR	14 Frank E. Lioi	15 William D. Lum	16 Roy J. Kiggins
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31 Richard Meisinger, CPPS						