

# A look back as vacation beckons

In keeping with a pattern I have developed over the years, this week's "Along the Way" will be the last until the August 8 issue of the *Catholic Courier*. Between now and then I shall put aside my trusty laptop computer and enjoy a change of pace from the year's usual round of activities.

I look forward to the change. It has been a wonderful year — one full of healthy activity and progress for our local church — but one that claimed much energy from many people. I, for one, will welcome the opportunity to reflect in some quiet on all that has happened and to begin to absorb it.

I always enjoy doing "Along the Way." But each year I take extra pleasure in this final, pre-vacation piece. There are two reasons for that, I think. The first is the opportunity it affords to remember the blessings of the year. The second is the joyful anticipation of vacation leisure it provides.

Regarding the first: Much has happened this year. Our parish communities, regions and diocesan offices continue to work hard to live out our Synod priorities in realistic and helpful ways. Across our diocese this past year we have engaged in significant discussions about the centrality of the Eucharistic Liturgy in Catholic life, and about related questions of ministry.

Our priests and other pastoral min-

## along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

isters continue to serve with vision and generosity, ready to adjust to rapidly changing circumstances even when such adjustment involves considerable personal sacrifice. More and more gifted men and women, including many of a new generation, step forward to place their gifts and talents at the service of the faith community.

Each of these — and many other blessings I will not name here — bring joy to my heart as I review the year. But what pleases me at least as much as any of these is the evident sense of common purpose with which we are doing them. Our Synod experience provided a solid foundation for that common purpose; we continue to build and shape our vision on it.

It is not always easy to dream and plan with others. But we are finding out in fresh and rewarding ways just how important such collaboration is in this age of the church's life. Recently, a person relatively new to our diocese put it this way, "I'm excited by the way people and

communities here work together. One has the sense that you are not isolated units, each working on its own. You're trying to accomplish something together. That's great."

Regarding the second reason: Writing this end-of-June column is a foretaste of vacation leisure. It won't surprise you to know that my plans this year are very much like my plans for the last 30 years. I'll spend some time with family and enjoy a time at the ocean with other friends. The days with both groups will be lots of fun, but they will be relatively quiet.

I am anxious to catch up with my sister and brother-in-law, who just returned from an exciting trip to Ireland. It will be good to see my five beautiful nieces again. When I am with them, I laugh a lot. And, as you know, I learn quite a bit. Of course, always woven into pre-vacation thoughts are my dear friends, Howard Hubbard and Tom Powers, companions for all the years. My nieces are not the only ones with whom I can laugh and from whom I can learn while on vacation!

Thanks for all of your prayers and support through this year and through all of the years. People like you make this a wonderful diocese. You make it a joy to serve among you as a bishop.

I hope the coming weeks will be good to you. Please be assured of a fond remembrance in my daily prayer.

Peace to all.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 107 No. 39 June 27, 1996

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.



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# BINGO

<b>SUNDAY</b>	6:15 pm St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester	716-544-9951
	7:30 pm Holy Family Church	1099 Jay St., Door M, Rochester	716-328-3110
	7:30 pm St. Boniface Church	15 Whalin St., Rochester	716-271-1468
	7:30 pm St. Rita Church	New Location, Knights of Columbus, Barrett Dr., Webster	716-671-1100
<b>TUESDAY</b>	10:00 am Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church	Bingo Palace, Rochester	716-467-2725
	7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester	716-544-9951
	7:30 pm St. Helens Church	Gates Center Bingo, Westmar Plaza	716-235-1210
	7:30 pm St. Francis Xavier	316 Bay St. (School Hall)	(716) 288-9700 or 482-3211
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7:30 pm Holy Family Home School Assoc.	1099 Jay St., Door M, Rochester	716-328-3110
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:30 pm St. Stanislaus Church	1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester	716-544-9951
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:00 pm St. Marks Church	54 Kuhn Rd., Rochester	716-225-3710
<b>SATURDAY</b>	12:30 pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church	Bingo Palace, Rochester	716-467-2725
	7:30 pm Good Shepherd Church	3288 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester	716-334-3518
	8:00 pm St. Thomas the Apostle Church	41 Colbrook Dr., Rochester	716-342-2323