

All are invited to join pastoral discussions

With this week's issue of the *Catholic Courier* you will find a copy of "From East to West a Perfect Offering," a pastoral letter on the centrality of the Sunday Eucharist in Catholic life.

We are sending this pastoral letter to all Catholics of our diocese — even those who do not normally receive the *Courier* — asking that you read it, reflect on your experience of and hopes for our Sunday worship, and join your brothers and sisters in faith in making that experience as rewarding and life-giving as all of us want it to be.

In a very short time, your parish will be receiving materials designed to help you reflect on this pastoral letter. People like yourself in all of our worshiping communities will be invited to share your thinking and to hear your neighbors express theirs on our Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy, described by Vatican Council II as the "source and summit" of our Catholic life.

Among the hopes I have as we come to this new moment in our ongoing work are the following: (1) that we will come to a deeper understanding and love of the central mystery of our faith, which we celebrate week in and week out all the years of our lives; (2) that through our study, prayer and conversation we will develop a more lively sense of the intimate connection between liturgy and life; and (3) that because of our work together we will make wise decisions about how best to adjust to a decreasing number of ordained priests available for the service of our faith community.

I have a strong conviction that your love

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

for the faith, your lived experience and your concern for others will make this time of reflection on our Sunday worship a most fruitful event for our local church. My strong intuition is that this work will do much to deepen the quality of our liturgies, draw people back to active participation in Sunday worship and allow us to make some necessary and practical adjustments in a peaceful and rewarding way.

Your participation is important to us. I urge you not to leave the work to others in the mistaken belief that your voice doesn't count for much or that your experience means little. Your questions, concerns, experiences and insights will be the fuel of this effort. Through your sharing of them, we will be better able — under the guidance of the Holy Spirit — to deepen the quality of our worship and to make good decisions about the future.

Again, I ask you the favor of reading "From East to West a Perfect Offering." As you do so, you might keep in the back of your mind such questions as the following:

Do you participate regularly in the Sun-

day Eucharistic Liturgy? If so, why do you participate? What makes you glad that you went to Mass? What are the good things about it that you think could be even better? What about our Sunday worship frustrates or disappoints you? What can be done to improve it?

If you do not regularly participate in the Mass, why not? Was there a time when you did participate regularly? If there was such a time, what led to the change in your practice? Is there anything any of us might do to encourage your return?

Does your experience of our Sunday worship help you to make practical, encouraging connections between your faith and the demands of everyday living? If so, how does it happen? If not, how can we help you to make the link?

These questions are just some beginning suggestions. Please adjust them, add to or subtract from them in any way that would be helpful to you. For example, you may be a regular churchgoer who is deeply concerned that your spouse, children, grandchildren are not. How do you think they would respond to these questions?

Two further favors: (1) Please keep your copy of the pastoral letter for future reference. It will be helpful to you in your local conversations and you may be able to share it with interested parties whom we have missed in the distribution, and

(2) Please pray that God will shower blessings on all in our local church as we take up this work.

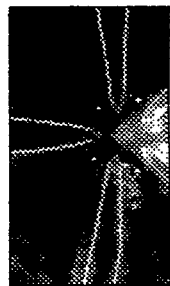
Peace to all.

Coming Attractions

from the *Catholic Courier*

Grief & Bereavement

Publication Date: November 7th
Advertising Deadline: Oct. 24th



of hospice care.

This supplement will offer information on grief and the grieving process. Stories may address the traditions ethnic communities draw upon at times of loss; the role parishes play as comforter, church guidance on end-of-life choices; and the growth

Advent Coloring Book

Publication Date: November 28th
Advertising Deadline: Nov. 7th



The Courier's Advent Coloring Book is published to assist our subscribers in explaining the Catholic faith to children. Published as a keepsake coloring book, this supplement is a fun teaching tool for children ages 3 to 7 years old.



Christmas Gift Guide

Publication Date: December 5th
Advertising Deadline: Nov. 21st

This special section will help families to celebrate the season of anticipation through projects, special meals and activities. It also will offer a look at the significance of gift giving as a prelude to Epiphany.

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