CATHOLIC COURIER DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.

'Courier' serves an important function

I enjoy reading the *Catholic Courier*. It's not unusual for me to stop in the newspaper's office on Wednesday afternoon to see if the new edition has been delivered yet. That way I don't have to wait for Thursday's mail delivery.

Whatever day I get my hands on it, I read it the same way I read most publications. First, I look at the letters to the editor, then the columns, next the lead story and, finally, the rest of the news pages.

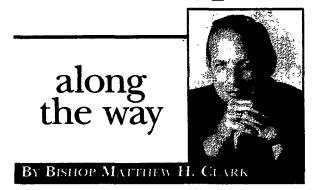
I enjoy the paper very much. Each issue has its own character. Some I like better than others. But week after week I find our paper to be informative, thoughtful and stimulating.

Even when I have experienced "acita" after reading some articles or letters to the editor, I remember that our paper serves an important function in our diocese.

I am not saying that our newspaper is a perfect product nor that our diocese could not possibly be healthy without it. But it is my opinion that this publication is among the best of its kind in the nation.

Further, I believe that it provides a forum for the communication of information and an exchange of ideas so important that our diocese would be impoverished without it.

Under my hat as contributor to the



Catholic Courier I know that I have appreciated the opportunity to communicate with you over the years through "Along the Way." The exercise of writing each week can be a tough discipline at times.

The bright side is that this work calls me to a reflection on life and ministry among you that I might not otherwise do and which I find very rewarding.

And many of you have been kind enough to say you have found encouragement from time to time in what you have read here. I am grateful for those connections and conversations. They expand my horizons and help me to look at challenging questions in helpful ways.

Under my hat as a reader of the Catholic Courier, I have taken seriously Karen Franz' invitation to think about the sample columns of those being considered as regular contributors. I have yet to come to a firm personal opinion on the matter, but I'll keep working on it and share it with Karen when I do. I am quite curious about what the decision will be.

Under my hat as president of the Catholic Press Association which publishes the *Catholic Courier*, I am deeply interested in the present and future health of this publication.

My hope, and the hope of all of us who work to bring this publication to your home each week, is that you will find reading our paper a rewarding experience. If you do, please let us know from time to time how and why that is so. Such responses help us to build on our strengths. If you are not satisfied with our work, please tell us why. We always appreciate opportunities to make our relationship with you, our readers, as helpful and rewarding as we can.

Let me close by repeating a request I make of you from time to time. That request is that you suggest themes and ideas for this column. If you have questions, concerns and curiosities that you think I might be able to address in some helpful fashion, please send them to me.

Although I can not promise beforehand that I will write about every idea submitted, I can tell you that I will take seriously everything that you might submit. I thank you for your kind consideration.

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Peace to all.



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