

Take time to remember gifts from God

I received a letter this week from a person who was irate because the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy the correspondent attended took almost 50 minutes. Even worse, the priest had the nerve to preach for almost 10 minutes.

Didn't he realize how busy people are? What reason could he possibly have for keeping us in church that long? Doesn't he realize how busy people are today?

Several times recently I have noticed people racing through traffic lights that had already turned red so they would not have to wait for the signal to go through another cycle. I have also seen drivers impatiently speed past other vehicles on city streets in a way I thought put children and other innocent pedestrians at great risk.

More often than I care to admit, I grow impatient, even angry, when things I want to do or ask others to do take longer than or more time than I think they should. A variation on that theme is the frequency with which I set out to accomplish, within a given time period, more than I can reasonably ask of myself.

I doubt seriously that my correspondent friend would argue in calmer moments that 50 minutes for the celebration of Sunday Eucharist or 10 minutes for a homily on Sunday are excessive.

I cannot imagine that my driver friends, if they honestly reflected on their conduct in these examples, would hold that their driving was safe or ac-

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

ceptable. And I can tell you that when I act in the way I describe above, it is not because I intentionally decide that is the way I want to be.

I know of myself, and would guess of the correspondent and the drivers, that what we all do in such instances is surrender our freedom to the pressures of time.

If that is true, I think it not unfair to guess we do not have a corner on that market. From what I observe and hear I would guess that great numbers of people in our society — perhaps you as well — often feel pressured. I often hear people say things like:

"There is so much to do and so little time in which to get it done."

"I thought technology would shrink the work week and expand leisure time. It's done the opposite."

"I have it all and I can hardly catch my breath."

"I do lots of things but I never get a chance to think about what they mean or how one relates to the other."

If you are constantly active and feel

that you are accomplishing little, or that what you accomplish brings no lasting satisfaction, I have a suggestion to make: That you enter the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday, as generously as your circumstances allow.

Please don't hear that suggestion as another burden. Advent does not call us to extraordinary things.

Rather, it invites us to remember the wonders God has done for humankind through all the ages and what God has done for us all the years of our lives. It calls us to be aware of the present moment, but asks us to appreciate the now in the context of all that we cherish from the past and all that we long for in the future.

If you are looking for ideas of how you might enter into the Advent spirit, I offer this one for your consideration: Center your Advent prayer on the readings for the Sundays of Advent. Try to spend a little time with them each day.

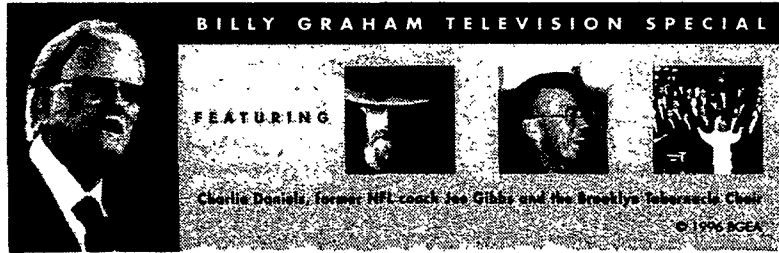
Through each day, try to be mindful of how the themes and lessons of the readings apply to your life, how the events of daily living shed light on the readings for you. If you can manage to persuade friends or family to join you in this, I think it will deepen the experience for you.

Whatever you decide, I wish you a blessed Advent and express the fond hope that we can pray for one another through the weeks ahead.

Peace to all.

HOPE

THERE'S



TUESDAY, DEC. 3 • 8:00PM • WROC/8

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

JESUS' PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953

Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

December, 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pope John Paul II 1	Rev. Fathers: Robert B. Hale, CSB 2	Msgr. J. G. Gefell 3	Walter F. Cushing 4	Edwin B. Metzger 5	Gerald Ragis, OSB 6	Bishop Matthew H. Clark 7
Edward Ondrako, OFM Conv. 8	All Priests on Sabbatical 9	Roy J. Kiggins 10	Donald E. McCarthy, CSB 11	Giles VanWormer, OFM Conv. 12	Michael G. Upson 13	P. Frederick Helfrich 14
John D. Dillon 15	Albert L. Delmonte 16	Robert W. Hammond 17	James R. Dolan, SJ 18	Matthew Temple, O.Carm. 19	Robert Moore, OCSO 20	James S. Kelly, OSB 21
Neil R. Miller 22	Daniel P. Torney 23	John A. DeSocio 24	Joseph DeMaio, O.Carm. 25	Richard C. Kinsky, CSB 27	Thomas H. Watts 27	William Donnelly 28
Thomas Burr 29	John J. Hempel 30	Eugene G. Emo 31	Look for the January, 1997 MPRP Calendar in the December 19th Catholic Courier.			

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