

Be generous with gifts from God

I did not do "Along the Way" last week because I was in Marriottsville, Md., for a meeting of our National Advisory Council and, later, in Washington for a meeting of the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Both were interesting sessions.

I enjoyed the work and the association with wonderful people at both meetings. I was also very happy to return home when the meetings were over. I always am.

This week I want to extend to you and to your loved ones my very best wishes for a blessed Easter feast and for an Easter season marked by a deepening friendship between you and the Risen Christ. It truly is a time when we are invited to rejoice in the express will of Christ for all of us: "I have come that you might know my joy and that your joy might be complete."

To help us come to that deeper understanding, the church calls us to hear once again the awesome stories of reconciliation, new insight, growing understanding and confident discovery that helped the close friends of Jesus, indeed the whole community, work through the fear and uncertainty

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

in which the passion and death of Jesus had left them.

Think of Peter meeting Jesus by the lake. Imagine Peter's joy. Not only does Jesus graciously forgive him, he calls Peter to the pastoral care of the community.

Remember the companions on the road to Emmaus. When they remember all that happened, tell the stories and break the bread, they discover the transforming presence of the Risen One in their very midst.

Be encouraged that the 12, huddled in fear in the upper room, find their courage again when the Christ stands in their midst and offers them his peace.

Those stories are not just about the Christ and those good friends way back then in that far-off place. They are about you and me today in this place as we know in our hearts our continuing need for the reconciliation, vision,

courage and peace that only Christ can give to us.

They are his promise to us to be with us always, even until the end of time. That strong, beautiful promise recognized that what is full in him is only begun in us. The promise carries the insight that we can still be unfaithful, do damage to one another and otherwise offend against the life he so generously shares with us.

But it is important to remember that the promise is alive not only to heal and reconcile. It is there also to strengthen us to extend to others as best we can the very gifts the Lord has lavished on us.

That is why it is so important in this holy season to remember the ways in which we have known and still do know the faithful, loving presence of God in our lives. No gift we have from God is for us alone. It is for the good of all. Easter is a special reminder of that and a particular invitation to be lavish with the gifts we have.

Our Lord desires to share with us his joy and wants our joy to be complete. We can offer no finer response to that gift than to share that joy with others.

Happy Easter.
Peace to all.

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.

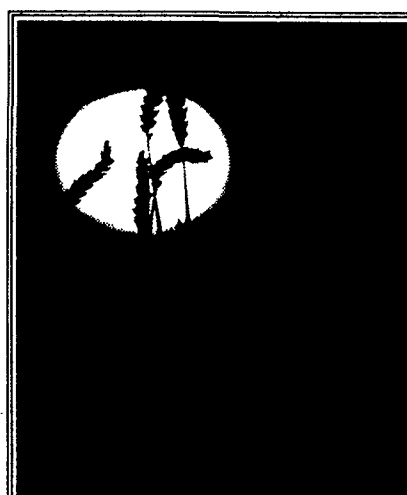
Imprimatur: E. Morrogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953

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

April, 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. Fathers:	1 Thomas B. Celso	2 Victor W. Bartolotta, Jr.	3 James B. Cosgrove	4 Ralph J. Fraats	5 Bishop Matthew H. Clark
6 Pope John Paul II	7 Inactive Priests	8 Mitchell Zygallo	9 Leo A. Hetzler, CSB	10 Gennaro J. Ventura	11 John A. Reddington	12 William D. Tobin
13 Marcellus Earl, OCSO	14 Frederick G. Betti, SJ	15 William Spong	16 Michael Costanzo	17 James B. Callan	18 Paul E. English, CSB	19 George P. Heyman
20 William B. Leone	21 John J. Nacca	22 Edward L. Palumbos	23 Daniel P. Tormey	24 Paul J. Ryan	25 James J. Marvin	26 Dr. Joseph A. Hart
27 Frederick F. Eisemann	28 Alexander H. Bradshaw	29 Francis R. Davis	30 Dr. Austin Budnick, OFM	Look for the May MPRP Calendar in the April 24 Courier.		

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Publish His Glorious Works throughout the Earth!
— Psalm 96

Happy Easter from
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Bus Trips to Toronto...

All trips include bus, event ticket and dinner in Toronto. Departure from Rochester.
Riverdance (day trip) June 14 & 21
Ragtime (day trip) June 28
Jolson, The Musical (day trip) Aug. 9
Yankees vs. Blue Jays (overnight) July 5-6

Music of the Night

Music from Andrew Lloyd Webber with Colm Wilkinson
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