CATHOLIC COURIER DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.

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Columbus Day extends Sabbath

I don't know if you had a chance to relax on Columbus Day or not. I am aware that schools, banks and government offices were closed but I am not sure what other groups and organizations had a break. I am happy to say that our office was closed and that I was free from obligations on this beautiful October Monday. We have closed in past years on this day, but it seemed that something always came up to make it less than a full holiday.

As I begin to write this evening I do so with a sense of gratitude for the gift that this day has been. It was peaceful and relaxing. It provided an opportunity to absorb and think about some of the events that seem to have filled up the post Labor Day calendar. Most of all it offered a special occasion just to take it easy. And take it easy I did.

At 8 a.m. I celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy with the community who gather at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Then I took a run along the canal, read at different times during the day, ended each of those sessions by falling asleep, went to Shirley Kacprzak's wake, and cooked linguini carbonara for our household. Now I write these words with the hope that I will finish in time to watch most of the Baltimore Orioles-Cleveland Indians game. Although I'll be rooting for the Orioles tonight, I do só wearing a New York Yankees T-shirt in honor of the good fight they offered before elimination and as a sign of confi-



dence that, surely, it will be our year again next year.

I also called home to see how all were doing. The big news was a Saturday shopping trip that gathered Margaret's bridal attendants to pick out their gowns for Margaret's June 13 wedding to Doug McMahan. Those attendants are Doug's sister Danielle, and Margaret's sisters Grace, Jane, Mary Ellen and Kathleen. I must confess that I was a little concerned about that trip. You see, I have shopped with all of them over the years, save Danielle, and know how adventurous such excursions can be. Trying to be helpful, I offered to act as shopping coordinator for them. I have to confess to you that my sensitivities were more than slightly bruised by their immediate and unanimous decision to decline my offer. And even that mild disappointment subsided when I heard the news that those beautiful young women came to an easy, if not immediate, and unanimous agreement about their apparel

for the wedding.

Through the day I didn't make any intentional effort to track through the events of recent weeks. It just happened in an unplanned fashion that moments of happiness came back to me in ways that made me very grateful for the opportunity to serve as bishop among you. I think of the lively, inquisitive sense of faith of the people who gathered for our Saint Bernard's on the Road meeting on Wednesday; of the genuine spirit of gratitude and pride that characterized the people of Holy Apostles Parish when they gathered on Saturday to mark the 100th anniversary of their wonderful church; of the energy and good spirit of the married couples who came to Saint John of Rochester on Sunday to celebrate jubilees of 25 to 60 years.

As the day ends I am very grateful for the gift it has been. It has helped to rest the body. It has relaxed the spirit. It has connected me with people, communities and events that mean a great deal to me. It has been a Sabbath day and I thank God for it.

By the way, I enjoyed the linguini carbonara, but I think I went a little over the edge in cooking the eggs. Sometimes I get them just right; other times, no. There may not be a foolproof way to do it, but if you have one and are willing to share it, I would love to have it. I swear I'll take your secret to the grave.

Peace to all.





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For more information or to R.S.V.P. for the Open House, please call (716) 342-3052 by Wednesday, October 15, 1997. This is your chance to become a part of our growing tradition.

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