

Thanks for your TGA support

On this Friday afternoon, November 7, I shall be leaving for Washington, D.C., and a meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Our General Assembly begins on Monday morning and concludes on Thursday at noon.

I am leaving today because our Administrative Committee meets tomorrow and because I want very much to participate in a seminar on lay ministry that will be offered on Sunday.

You know quite well by now that attendance at all-day meetings is not my favorite sport, much less when I am obliged to attend them for three and one-half days in a row.

Yet I am happy to attend these sessions because they are often quite interesting, participation in the conference is very much a part of my responsibility, and I treasure the opportunity for sharing experiences with and learning from brother bishops.

It is stimulating and enriching to talk about the pastoral life of our respective local churches. I always return encouraged. Sometimes that is because I learn new and helpful ways to approach particular issues. On other occasions, such conversations offer the welcome encouragement that we are on the right path.

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

Before I leave I want to express the hope that you will be a contributor to our Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal this year. The TGA is an annual event through which we ask all of the people of our diocese to help provide the financial underpinnings for our life together.

Your TGA gift stands in support of such endeavors as our Synod Implementation and Pastoral Planning, Parish Support Ministries, Faith Formation, Catholics Charities, Human Resources services and Financial and Information services.

I want to assure you that we value highly every gift that we receive. And we try to be as careful and thoughtful as we can in directing your gift to areas that meet our common responsibilities and advance the life of the church.

Our goal this year is \$5 million. That represents a 3-percent increase over what

we received last year. We believe that we can achieve that goal because you have been so consistently generous and responsive in the past.

If you made an offering last year, it is my fond hope that you will look favorably on this year's TGA as well. If you did not participate last year, or have never joined this effort, I ask the favor of your serious consideration of the possibility of making a gift this year. If all in our diocese made a gift according to their means, we would have no trouble at all in achieving our goal.

If you are interested in making a gift, but have not received enough information or materials to allow you to do so, please contact your local parish or my office. We would be very pleased to assist you. If your circumstances do not allow you to make a gift of money to this year's effort, I thank you in advance for the support of your prayer for our success.

Finally, I offer a word of thanks to those who sent me recipes for spaghetti carbonara and, especially, to those who gave particular attention to how best to work with the eggs. It all sounds pretty simple, but I always find the doing quite challenging. I will let you know how it goes.

Peace to all.



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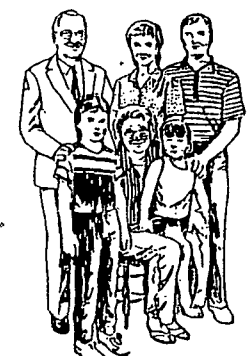
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