

Day produces poignant blessing

Some notes from Washington, D.C.: This day between the meeting of the National Advisory Committee, which ended yesterday, and the meeting of the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference, which begins tomorrow, has been a most welcome one.

I had been looking forward to a full, free day in this interesting city, and had a general intention to see some of the famous sites I had not yet visited.

As it turned out I didn't do that. Instead, I stayed near the hotel at which we are staying, venturing out only for a midday walk, which included some time at Union Station, and a late afternoon run up and down Capitol Avenue.

When I returned from the exercise session, I made some phone calls and then organized the materials I'll need for our Administrative Committee meeting.

As you know, the National Advisory Committee reviews and makes recommendations about the matters to be considered by the Administrative Committee of the NCCB. I wanted to be sure to be prepared to do my part in faithfully representing the views of NAC to the Administrative Committee.

along the way

By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



Why didn't I take advantage of the opportunity to sight see in Washington? In part, because I was tired from the long sessions we had at the meetings of the NAC each day. In part, I just felt the need to stay on the quiet side of life so that I could think about and absorb all that has been going on recently.

My reference to "all that has been going on" is neither a negative nor a specific one. It simply refers to the range of activity in which I have been involved lately and my need occasionally to take time apart to review it, make appropriate connections, and make sense of it all. I have learned over the years that, if I fail to do that, I end up feeling scattered and lacking the sense of direction and organization I need to serve in a helpful way.

I want to tell you of the grace and

blessing of the day. It was a moment between the remembering and the thinking, the connecting and the organizing, in which the Lord called me to prayer. I use that language because I know that the awareness that I should pray did not result from any conscious decision of mine. It was more like an insight — freely given — that reminded me that all that I was doing at the moment was unimportant, and that it meant little unless it was rooted in faith and trust in God.

It was a wonderful moment for me — peaceful and encouraging — replanting in my spirit something I know and believe but which I all too often can forget or ignore in the flow of daily life.

I do thank God for the gift and hope that I can express my gratitude for it by a renewed commitment to prayer. If I could ask for an additional favor, it would be for the grace to realize next time much earlier than I did this time how essential prayer is in all of our lives.

Can you believe how quickly the days of Lent are passing by? I cannot. Please continue your prayers for blessings on us all and especially for sisters and brothers who will become part of our faith community at the Easter Vigil.

Peace to all.

Advertising opportunities keep springing up in the Catholic Courier

Milestones April 23

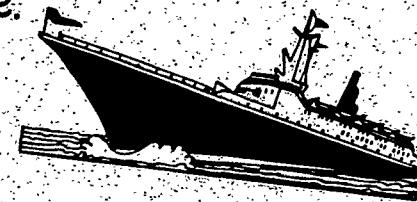
The *Catholic Courier's* annual tribute to priests, religious & married couples celebrating significant anniversaries, and to priests & religious retiring from active ministry. An especially well read section!

**Advertising Deadline
April 7**

Travel & Summer Recreation May 14

This special section will highlight domestic and foreign vacation sites, shrines, and other places of interest, with a special emphasis on opportunities for Catholics seeking relaxation and spiritual enrichment; tips on trip preparation; and staying safe and healthy away from home.

**Advertising Deadline
April 28**



The 1998-99 Rochester Catholic Diocese Directory

The comprehensive guide to the Catholic Diocese of Rochester. Heavily used by parish & diocesan staff. Reserve your advertising space now!

For more information on advertising in any of these special sections please call the Catholic Courier at 716-328-4340 (1-800-600-3628 outside the Rochester calling area).