

Niece's wedding provides joy-filled day

It was close to 8 a.m. Saturday morning. I was enjoying a cup of coffee in my sister and brother-in-law's kitchen. The back door opened and in came my niece Margaret Helen Early, sporting her marvelous smile. She was wearing jeans, a T-shirt and sandals. Nothing unusual about that. But she was also wearing her wedding veil!

The sight of the wedding veil was not a total surprise. After all, I was in Waterford to share the joy of Margaret's marriage to James Douglas McMahan, which was scheduled to take place just two hours later. But why the veil just then? Why the veil with that outfit?

Those of you who are more practiced in such matters than I am know the answer to these questions. Margaret had just returned from the hairdresser who not only did her hair but placed her veil exactly as Margaret wanted it. She wore the veil home to eliminate the risk of disrupting the happy union of veil and hair that she and the hairdresser had taken pains to achieve.

Margaret's return galvanized the household to an intense level of activity. Beautiful young women dressed in blue gowns emerged from all directions. Photographers arrived. We shifted furniture. I even struggled, thick-fingered, to help my brother-in-law with his shirt studs. No easy task.

I abandoned that scene as soon as possible for three reasons: 1) I had exhausted my technical skills helping Jim with his shirt; 2) I welcomed the chance to pray and collect my thoughts before the ceremony; and 3) I did not want to see Margaret in her wedding

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

gown before she came down the aisle of St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

It was a most memorable day, one that I shall remember for a long time. Margaret and Doug, surrounded by people who loved them, seemed relaxed and happy and much in love with each other. The liturgy was joyful and richly enhanced by the renovated organ and new sound system at St. Mary's. The bridal party — formed by the sisters and friends of the bride and groom, Doug's brother and his nephew — were nothing short of spectacular. My pals, Bishop Howard Hubbard and Father Tom Powers, have known Margaret all of her life and celebrated the liturgy.

You would have loved the party that followed the wedding. Margaret, in bridal white and always in veil; her four sisters and Doug's sister, Danielle, all in blue; Doug and his pals danced up a storm for the entire afternoon. I do not know how they did it because I swear that their activity was the equivalent of three hours of nonstop aerobic exercise. It was a great delight to see wonderful, energetic young people like them

having such a good time.

Now the wedding day, so long anticipated, is over. Helen and Jim Early were hoping to rest on this Monday following the wedding. Those of us who were privileged to be their guests are back to our normal routines. Margaret and Doug are on their honeymoon. I would guess that all of us — in one way or another — still carry some piece of the experience that gathered us in Waterford on Saturday. Doug and Margaret will remember it because it was the first day of their married life. The rest of us will remember it because we are somehow connected with Margaret and Doug, love them and want to support them through the years as we tried to support them on Saturday.

I am confident that our newly married friends will do very well. They prepared for married life in a spirit of faith and prayer. They are mature enough to know that they will have to deal with many challenges. They are fortunate enough to have loving family and friends, and wise enough to be open to their support. They are generous enough to extend themselves in service of others.

The image of Margaret on the dance floor at her wedding reception will stay with me for a long time. Her face shone with joy; her dance celebrated life; her gown, first worn by her mother at her own wedding, sang of love for family. I hope to get my hands on a picture of her in motion. It will be symbol of the joy Margaret brought to me that day and has brought to me all her life.

Peace to all.

Sponsor a Child at a Catholic Mission. It's Affordable!



Little Maria sells oranges on the street in a village in Guatemala. Her family can't afford to send her to school. Will you help a poor child like Maria?

Your opportunity to help a very poor child is *much* too important to miss. And Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), an international *Catholic sponsorship program* can show you the affordable way.

Ordinarily it takes \$20 a month to provide one poor child with the *life-changing* benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to sponsor at a level you can afford (minimum \$10). CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionary partners that *your child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.*

Your sponsorship pledge helps provide a poor child at a Catholic mission site with nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school — whatever is needed most. Your pledge gives a child hope for a brighter future. *You can literally change a life!*

To help build your relationship, you receive a picture of your child (updated yearly), information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA newsletter. But *most important*, you receive the satisfaction of helping a poor child. *Become a sponsor for one poor child today!*



CFCA
Catholic
Child
Sponsorship

416

Yes, I'll help one child:

Boy Girl Teenager Any in most need

My monthly pledge is:

\$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 Other \$ _____

I'll contribute:

monthly quarterly semi-annually annually

Enclosed is my first contribution of \$ _____

(Make check payable to CFCA.)

I can't sponsor now, but here's my gift of \$ _____

Please send me more information about sponsorship.

FOUNDED AND DIRECTED BY CATHOLIC LAY PEOPLE

Name _____

(please print) Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Send to: CFCA

c/o Jodi Marcello, Catholic Courier

P.O. Box 24379

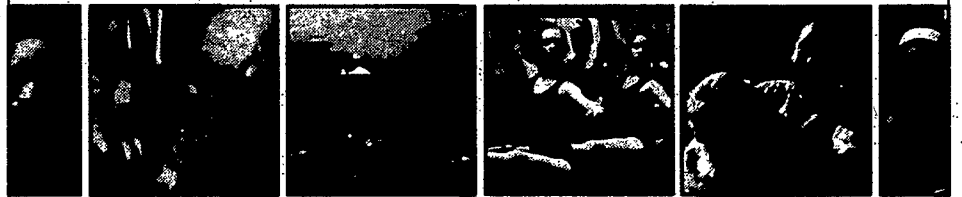
Rochester, NY 14624-0379

716-328-4340

Financial report available on request

Donations are U.S. tax-deductible

YOUR WILL HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE OUR WORLD.



WILLPOWER™

You can make a difference in people's lives for generations to come—just use your WILLpower™. Because your will is *power*.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE™

Use your WILLpower™ to preserve causes that reflect your values and change our world forever.

MAYBE IT'S THE ARTS

— to bring beauty into the world.

A CHARITY

— to take care of the world.

OR THE SCIENCES

— to change the world.

USE THE POWER OF YOUR WILL

If you have a will, include a gift through planned giving. If you don't have a will, make one and make a difference.

Find out more by calling (716)-238-3000 for your free copy of "WILLpower™".

To request your copy by mail, write to:

WILLpower™, 55 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY 14604. Or talk to your attorney or financial planner for more information.

WILL POWER

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.™



WILLpower™ is a community collaborative coordinated by Rochester Grantmakers Forum and the Advertising Council of Rochester. Space donated to the Ad Council as a public service of this publication.

Rochester
Grantmakers
Forum