

# Holiday brings forth thoughts of gratitude

Thanksgiving Day. For so many this national holiday is a time of reunion and joy. Families gather in high spirits. Family cooks produce sumptuous meals. People relax in one another's company and remember the blessings of their lives.

That will be part of my experience around holiday time. After celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy with the community at Sacred Heart Cathedral I will drive to the home of Helen and Jim Early for the Thanksgiving feast. Grace, Mary Ellen and Kathleen will be at table. So will dear friend, Tom Powers. Margaret and Doug will be hosting Doug's family. Jane and Scott and their girls will be visiting friends in southern Indiana. We'll miss them.

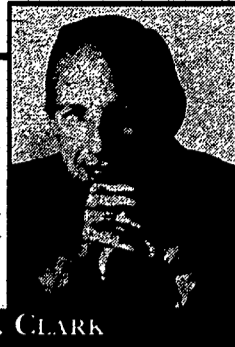
As the day approaches, I have tried to be aware of the blessings of daily living — the goodness of people, the opportunities for growth, the constructive, thoughtful activity of individuals I meet along the way. I find the exercise helpful because it concretizes a general spirit of thanksgiving into specific acts of gratitude. It seems strengthening to me to be specific about gratitude.

One can remember each moment of such thanksgiving and draw new life from it. In the remembering of such acts we are the more disposed to be aware of and to give thanks for other good gifts. In such fashion, a habit of giving thanks for blessings received makes us fondly aware of the givers of those blessings and joins us to them the more deeply.

Yesterday (Monday), for example, was a day rich in opportunity, not only to observe but to receive the kind commitments of others. In the morning I went to St. Patrick's School, Seneca Falls. Teachers from that school, from St.

## along the way

By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



Francis-St. Stephen's School, Geneva, and from St. Mary's School, Waterloo, gathered for a day on the study of the Holocaust. Their commitment to understand that horrible event is rooted in their desire to do all in their power that the young ones in their care never be ensnared by hatred of others, or act with cruelty toward their sisters and brothers. On the beautiful drive back to Rochester I thanked God for the opportunity to be with them.

Next stop — my rehab program. And there I was aware of the skills and sensitive care the nurses and other health care professionals lavish on us who are trying to regain strength and discover the best way to manage heart problems. They are unfailingly helpful. Do you have a question? They answer it. Aren't sure how to run a machine? They show you. Doing too much or too little in a given exercise? They tell you!

My office was the next stop. Fathers Joe Hart and John Mulligan and I had our customary Monday briefing meeting. At those sessions we review the current work and look at plans for the future. I enjoy those meetings even when we deal with problems. I say that because those

two friends have, among their many gifts, the ability to keep problems in proper perspective. They also have the gift of humor, which I find quite delightful.

In the latter part of the afternoon, our Stewardship Council convened. These women and men, so gifted and accomplished in a variety of professions, continue generously to give their time and talent to build up our local church. I think of this group as a blessing to us all for the ways they help us to be good stewards of the abundant gifts God entrusts to us.

After the Stewardship Council meeting I drove to the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph to have dinner with Msgr. Bill Shannon and Bob Miller, president of Nazareth College. Bill is a dear and longtime friend, but I had not had a chance earlier to become acquainted with President Miller. It was a wonderful experience to meet Bob and to enjoy a relaxing conversation over dinner with those good gentlemen.

At home after dinner Fathers Tom Mull, Tim Brown and I watched Monday Night Football for a while. I rooted for the Patriots to beat the Dolphins because a win by the Patriots would help the Bills. Next week the Bills and the Patriots meet in Foxboro. The Patriots, my heroes this morning, will be "the enemy" again in just a few short days.

As bedtime neared I took some time to track through the day. I tried to see the faces again, to remember the conversations, to recapture the impressions with which God had so graciously filled those hours. And I tried, as best I could, to express my thanks for it all, as I slipped into the gift of sleep.

Happy Thanksgiving to you.  
Peace to all.

## The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

### PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

"Almighty God, I ask You to grant us worthy and fitting priests to serve and sanctify Your people. Confirm and sustain those who are already ordained." Dear Lord, I pray for all priests whom You have chosen. Keep them faithful to Your teaching and never let them be parted from You. God of mercy and holiness, hear the cry of Your people for holy priests. Fill the hearts of priests with zeal, with a never-ending love for the Mother of God, and make them ever faithful to Your Church and its head. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

## December, 1998

| Sunday                  | Monday             | Tuesday                  | Wednesday          | Thursday                   | Friday   | Saturday                |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
|                         |                    | Revs. 1                  | 2                  | 3                          | 4  | 5                       |
|                         |                    | P. Paul Brennan          | Gerald J. Appelby  | John Eudes Bamberger, OCSO | L. James Callan  | Bishop Matthew H. Clark |
| 6                       | 7                  | 8                        | 9                  | 10                         | 11   | 12                      |
| Pope John Paul II       | Inactive Priests   | Ronald E. Gaesser        | Emmett J. Halloran | Francis R. Davis           | Michael Costanzo   | Charles E. Curran       |
| 13                      | 14                 | 15                       | 16                 | 17                         | 18   | 19                      |
| Paul F. English, CSB    | Joseph M. Egan     | Raymond H. Fleming       | Ronald P. Harley   | James Kelly, OSB           | Michael J. Mahler  | Charles J. Latus        |
| 20                      | 21                 | 22                       | 23                 | 24                         | 25   | 26                      |
| William C. Marceau, CSB | John L. O'Connor   | Msgr. William H. Shannon | Aelred Wentz, OCSO | Edward E. Steinkirchner    | Thomas R. Statt  | John Poluikis, CSB      |
| 27                      | 28                 | 29                       | 30                 | 31                         | Look for the January MPRP Calendar in the December 24th Courier. |                         |
| Gerald T. O'Connor      | Robert F. McNamara | Valentine A. Jankowiak   | Vocations          | Seminarians                |  |                         |

We rely on your financial help to publish this calendar each month. Please send donations to: MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Drive, Rochester, NY 14620-4746

## KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

### ADVENT WREATHS

from

**Logos, Inc.**

\$10.00 - \$120.00

Advent Candles

and Devotional

Literature also available



Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving from everyone at Logos!

**LOGOS**  
BOOKSTORE  
MUSIC • GIFTS • CARDS

### NEW LOCATION!

1520 Stone Ridge Plaza  
(716) 663-5085 • 1-800-755-6467  
Mail orders welcome

## The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe

A Rochester Children's Theatre Production



In this musical adaptation of C.S. Lewis' fantastic story, good triumphs over evil in a world of mysterious creatures, snow and magic. "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" highlights strong morals and personal integrity and is recommended for ages 4 and up.

General Admission Tickets

\$8.00

December 5, 6, 12\*, 13

2:00 p.m.

\* Interpreted for the hearing impaired  
Box Office: 399-2170  
Groups: 424-2979



Nazareth College  
Arts Center

The Callahan Theater • 4245 East Avenue • Rochester, NY 14618-3790