

## Baseball, books highlight vacation bliss

The experience repeats itself year after year. It really is a pattern now — regular and predictable and very much a part of life. I mean, first yearning for time away as the end of June draws near. Secondly, I refer to a similar yearning — almost an itch — to come home to daily, normal life when vacation time comes to a close.

I am truly grateful for the vacation time I just experienced. My gratitude goes to Albany Bishop Howard Hubbard and Father Tom Powers, my vacation companions for many years; to my sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Jim Early, for gracious hospitality while I was in Waterford, N.Y.; and to many co-workers whose generous support makes possible such times of relaxation and renewal.

You know by now that Howard, Tom and I do not search for activity while we are away. Daily life through the years provides that in generous measure. Rather, we are inclined to enjoy the peace and beauty of the beach, do some reading, some exercise and, generally, to process as best we can all that has gone on in the months prior to summer break.

One thing we did do this year that we had not done in a while was to see some baseball games. This year we attended three. Two were Cape Cod League games — one a regular-season game and, the other, their annual all-star game. The third involved a trip to Boston for a game between the Red Sox and the Montreal

### along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

Expos at Fenway Park. All of the games were most enjoyable. It was a pleasure to watch the college students play in the Cape League games. And, certainly, it was exciting to see such great players as Nomar Garciaparra and Vladimir Guerrero, perform in the major league game.

Among the books I enjoyed most while on vacation were *No Future Without Forgiveness* by Desmond Tutu; *The Changing Face of Priesthood* by Donald B. Cozzens; *It's Not About the Bike* by Lance Armstrong with Sally Jenkins; *Papal Sin* by Garry Wills; and, *The Quotidian Mysteries* by Kathleen Norris. Although I had no particular system or organizing principle for summer reading — some books I selected myself, others were gifts — I found the ones I mentioned to be enriching and challenging. Each of them made me think about my own experience, each lead me to "conversation" with the author. I am grateful for the gifts

each one gave to me and hope that I can invest their gifts in my future work and ministry.

Last night I went through the personal mail that came to me at home while I was away. When I finish writing this, I'll be going to the office to get into the flow of the correspondence that arrived at the office while I was away. I put it that way — "get into the flow" — to indicate that, save for mail marked "personal and confidential," mail is processed as much as possible during my absence so that it can be moved expeditiously upon my return.

This first week back will be interesting. I look forward to hearing the above-mentioned Father Cozzens when he comes here to speak on Wednesday. I also anticipate with joy a visit to Our Lady of the Genesee at Piffard on Friday to ordain one of their community to the diaconate.

On the weekend we will have our annual High School Youth Convention at SUNY Geneseo. And, on Sunday, I will be joining our friends at St. Anne's, Palmyra, and St. Gregory, Marion, for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Anne's.

It is very good to be back with you. Thank you very much for your birthday and vacation greetings. Such kindnesses remind me not only of your daily generosity but also of why it has always been such a joy to serve among you.

Peace to all.

My dream:  
to read my kids a bedtime story.



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