

# Dare yourself to dream

The quiet woman came to the mini-retreat I led at the youth-ministry convention because, as she put it to the whole group, "I have been around a long time and I wanted to be with you to pray, share my experience and hear of yours." She told us that she is 77 years of age. She didn't speak much that day, not in words anyway. Just her presence brought strength, encouragement and inspiration to all of us. I know that her thirst for growth and her curiosity about tomorrow excited me very much. They still do.

At our marriage jubilee celebration at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, I congratulated one couple on 63 years of married life. The wife said, "63 years. Same guy. Same problems." Her grin was wonderful as she said it. So was his as he heard it. I knew that the grins said as much about their tomorrows as they did about their yesterdays. What I took from those great grins was the encouragement to find happiness in the ordinary, the daily and the routine of life. They were married the year I was born. If God grants me their length of days, I'd like the

## along the way



By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

zest for life they now possess.

The young offer similar gifts. They share their dreams. One young man told me recently that he wants to be a professional actor. A senior in high school has her heart set on admission to Notre Dame University. I root for them in my prayer every day, hoping that their dreams will be realized.

But they know, and so do I, that there is no guarantee that that will happen. Otherwise they would not be dreams. Both young people work and trust, but they understand that they may know disappointment. I am always touched when the young allow me to be close to their

vulnerability. They help me to be more comfortable with my own.

The desert alive with flowers, the lion living peacefully with the lamb, paths made straight are all symbolic of Advent vision and promise. They invite us to express our dreams and to place them before the Lord in a spirit bursting with trust.

That is not easy to do — too much possibility of disappointment. But we have John the Baptist and Mary and Elizabeth to inspire us. And we have Jesus, too. They were not afraid to search. They worked hard. Above all they dared to dream and to share their dreams with others.

Is the dream alive in people you know? What are the signs by which you perceive that life? And what about you? What hopes and dreams quicken your pulse, and spice up your life? If you have a moment, you might rest with those questions. If you are so disposed you might share your responses with people you trust. If you choose to do so, my guess is that it will be good for them and for you.

Peace to all.

## MISSION NEWS

"For my eyes have seen your salvation ..." Luke 2:30



This baby girl was abandoned by her mother in India, where girls are often not wanted because of the expensive dowry that must be paid when they are married.

Garima was luckier than most baby girls. Abandoned by her family, she was found by villagers and brought to the orphanage in Indore, where Sister Amila's community, the Missionaries of Charity, will ensure that she lives and comes to know the redemptive power of Jesus Christ and His love and compassion. Throughout the Missions worldwide, there are some 10,000 young men and women novices in Religious Communities preparing for a lifetime of service to Christ and to the poor.

Won't you please help them?

Through your prayers and your Christmas gift to the Propagation of the Faith, sisters and Brothers in the Missions can continue to welcome people to Christ's family and to share with them His message of love and life.

### THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH

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12/00

Come and visit our beautiful new South 45 garden and lawn crypt section, a garden-like setting of two, three and four grave lots, including a raised-lawn crypt area highlighted by a bronze statue of Christ fallen under his cross

Memorial Mass is open to the public every 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 am. May through October at All Saints Mausoleum Chapel. November through April at All Souls Chapel. Following Mass visitors are welcome to join our Bereavement Support Group 9:30-10:30 am in the cemetery office building.

## Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

2461 Lake Avenue Rochester, NY • 716-458-4110 • www.holysepulchre.org



# Marriage Issue

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