

Rest, relaxation, reading fill vacation time

It is good to be at home again after vacation. I had a wonderful time during that most welcome break. As usual I spent time with family and my longtime vacation buddies, Bishop Howard Hubbard and Father Tom Powers. An added bonus for a few days was the company of Msgr. Philip Morris, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark and classmate to Tom and me.

To call our group unexciting would be the understatement of the year. We eat. We sleep. We pray together. We read. We go to the beach. We watch ball games and videos. We exercise. That's tame content, don't you think? If just the naming of our activities is not enough to convince you of how quiet our life is, just remember that we do these things in the same order at the same time every day. Well, that may be an exaggeration. But you get the point. We live the quiet life and are quite happy to do so.

For whatever excitement that sparked those vacation days, we thank friends from Rochester and Albany whose hospitality we enjoyed on several occasions. It was good to connect with them, good to spend time with friends whom we don't see often enough during the course of the year.

As usual, I did some reading that I found enjoyable and enriching. I thor-

along the way

BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK



oughly enjoyed reading *John Adams* by David McCullough. I did not know much about our second president and his leadership through the beginnings and early development of our country. But a leader he was, who spent his life in public service. As might be expected, his career involved him in disputes on a regular basis. The book is the story of that leadership and the controversies in which he became embroiled. I much enjoyed the fact that we follow Adams through his letters to his beloved spouse, partner and adviser Abigail and his longtime friend, sometime bitter adversary, Thomas Jefferson. It's a great story of gifted people hard at work to realize their dreams.

A second book I enjoyed is *Founding Brothers* by Joseph J. Ellis. Ellis writes of the same era as does McCullough, but he includes the contributions of those he judges to be the major leaders of the

time. To John Adams he adds: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, James Madison and James Monroe. Reading the two books whetted my appetite to learn more about them all, but especially about Washington and Jefferson.

I'll mention one more book in which I took delight: *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. It's a book about rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail. Bryson is a keen observer of life and what's happening around him. He is also a great storyteller whose writing style and sense of humor I enjoy very much. Another interesting book by Bryson is *In a Sunburned Country*, the story of his travels in Australia.

Now, after such a peaceful and restful break, it's time to get back to the normal rhythms of life. I am happy to be back and look forward to what lies ahead. I can't think of a more exciting start to all of that than our annual diocesan Youth Convention, which takes place at SUNY Geneseo this weekend. It's always a privileged time for those who attend, youth and adults. Please pray that we'll be open to God's presence and loving call in our lives.

Peace to all.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
PRESENTS

Leadership Days 2001

"Valuing Diversity: The Inclusive Church"

August 8

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

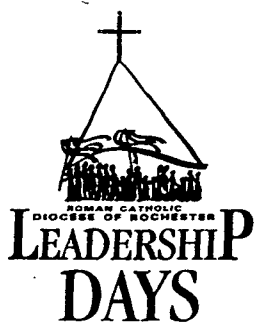
FEATURING

Ms. Mary Jane Owen, TOP, MSW, Executive Director of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities in Washington, D.C. Ms. Owen authored the document, *"Can People with Disabilities Claim to be Members of a Distinct Culture?"*, as well as materials distributed by the National Office for Persons with Disabilities.

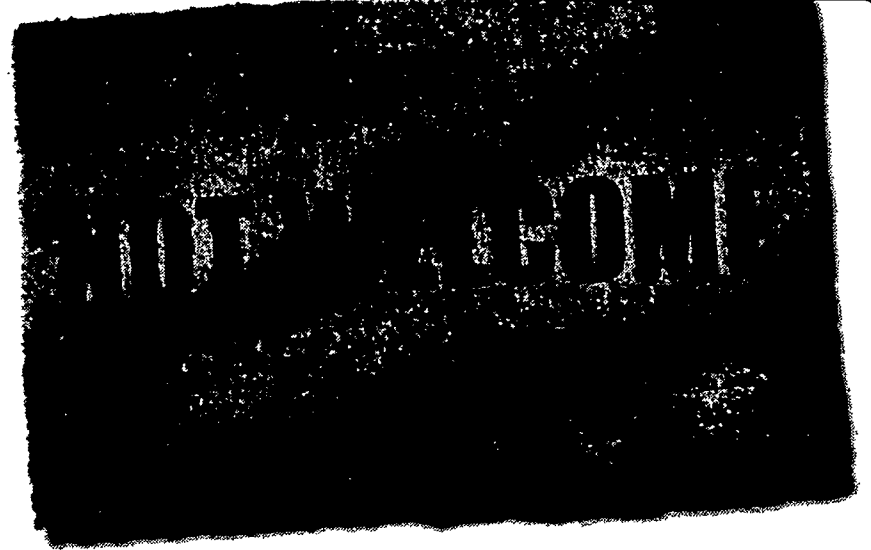
Mr. Ronaldo Martinez Cruz, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Mr. Cruz was appointed by Pope John Paul II as an observer-specialist to the Synod of America, Vatican City in 1998. He co-authored *Encuentro 2000. Many Faces in God's House, A Guide for Multicultural Communities*, and has worked with the Bishops of the United States on other publications.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Nearly 30 workshops offered over three sessions and a variety of vendor displays
- International Banquet including world cuisine and entertainment
- Affordable registration
- Air-conditioned classrooms



For more information or to register for Leadership Days, please contact Parish Support Ministries at (716) 328-3228, ext. 342, (800) 388-7177, ext. 342 or e-mail moss@dor.org.



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