

Trips to South America hold deep meaning

I am writing on Saturday this week; usually I do so on Sunday or, occasionally, on Monday. The reason for the earlier writing is my departure this afternoon to visit our Sisters of St. Joseph who minister among the people of Brazil.

You may recall that such visits were a regular part of Bishop Joseph Hogan's ministry, and they have been an important part of mine since my first trip in January 1981.

In the years since then, I have visited our sisters in Brazil and our Sisters of Mercy in Chile every three years. In January of 1999, for example, I went to Chile, spent four or five days with the Sisters of Mercy, then went on to Brazil for a visit of similar length with our sisters there.

This year I consulted with the sisters of both congregations and, with their agreement, am trying a new pattern of visits. This year I'll visit the sisters in Brazil; next year I'll go to Chile. The third year I'll stay home. This will allow more time with the sisters and make the travel a less-pressured experience. In any case, we'll test it out to see how it works.

I'll try my best to prepare and e-mail a column from Brazil in time for next week's *Catholic Courier*.

Life has been so full lately that I

along the way

BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

haven't been able to focus as much as I would like on the days ahead. Now that the hour of departure is so close, I am becoming excited about the visit.

These journeys have always been important to me. They are wonderful reminders of the breath and diversity of the church's life. Given the cultural and economic differences between the church in our country and in those two nations, these trips push me to be aware of the essentials that make us one in faith and call us to deep bonds of charity with one another.

Another gift these visits have offered me is a fresh perspective on life in our own local church. To step away from the day-to-day life of our community, to be at some distance from it, inevitably allows me time and space to remember and appreciate more deeply all that is good

and beautiful in our diocesan faith community.

I come to realize, when privileged to witness the strong faith of our neighbors to the south, how strong is your faith and how generous you are in living it day after day.

I am delighted to tell you that my niece, Grace Early, and I will be traveling together. Grace came with me in 1999, and we had a wonderful time sharing something of the life of our sisters.

Grace found it a most rewarding experience, so much so, that as we flew back home three years ago she expressed interest in going with me the next time, too. I said I'd be delighted to have her good company — the rest is history!

You can be sure that I will express your affection and gratitude to our sisters in Brazil and to the people with whom they share their lives. Since the Sisters of St. Joseph began their work in Brazil in the late '60s, the people of our diocese — you included — have been very generous in your support of them.

You can be sure that they do not forget you when they pray, nor do the beautiful people among whom they serve.

We'll be in touch next week. In the meantime, let us pray for one another. Peace to all.



**Catholic
Family
Center**

Pregnant? Need Help?

Catholic Family Center's Pregnancy Hotline

CALL 1-800-CARE-002

25 Franklin Street • Sibley Tower Building, 7th Floor
Rochester, New York 14604-1007 • 716-546-7220
www.cfcrochester.org



CLIP AND SAVE

Feet First

Pedorthic Foot Care

John J. Jacobs, Ph.D., Certified Pedorthist
Quality Full Service Pedorthic Care, Custom-Molded Shoes, Custom
Foot Orthoses, Shoe Modifications, Depth-Inlay Shoes, Insoles & More

"We fit feet, to keep feet fit"

We accept Medicaid, Medicare & Other Insurance Plans
Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10-5:30 • Sat. 10-3 or by appointment

TOPS BRIGHTON PLAZA • 585-442-4990
Not good with any other offer. Save this coupon for future use.
Expires 12/31/02.



Featuring
DREW

\$15
OFF

P. W. MINOR

Hand depth
P. W. Minor & Drew Shoes
with coupon only.

Trouble Hearing? The Future Has Arrived

New Technology



**A Whole
New Way
Of Hearing**

The Direct System eliminates feedback.
Improves sound quality, reduces occlusion
effect, and reduces distortion...resulting in
improved natural sound quality.

If you would like to hear more natural sound, call:

Jules Musinger, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Suite 115
1561 Long Pond Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14626
225-5900

Suite 508
220 Alexander St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14607
442-4220

Connect with Direct: A new way of helping the world to hear. www.soundtecinc.com

Nazareth College Arts Center

The Shaw Festival's Production of

A Room of One's Own

"A woman must have money and a
room of her own if she is to write fiction."

— Virginia Woolf

Friday-Saturday, February 1-2 • 8 p.m. • Tickets: \$32

For tickets and more information, call (585) 389-2170.

For group rates, call (585) 424-2979.



4245 East Ave.,
Rochester, NY
14618
www.naz.edu

EXPERIENCE THE
excitement!
Nazareth College Arts Center

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 113 No. 15, Jan. 24, 2002

Published weekly except the first Thursday in January and the last Thursday in December.
Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign
\$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624, 585/328-4340. Periodicals
postage paid at Rochester, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624.