

People of faith are reminders of Easter Spirit

As the Easter season continues, I am aware of so much life in the community, of generous people who truly try to live a life of faith.

It is always and everywhere good for the spirit to be so blessed. I am especially grateful for such signs of life at this time in the life of the church. It's not an easy stretch for any of us; therefore, it's especially important that we stay alert for God's loving presence in the midst of suffering. And we need to do that not just for ourselves, but also with a view to helping others find light in this time of darkness.

Several images of life and encouragement pass before my mind's eye as I write these words late on Monday evening. I have just returned from Immaculate Conception Church where I confirmed candidates from that parish, St. Monica's, St. Augustine's, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Ss. Peter and Paul, the Newman Community of the University of Rochester and the Emmanuel Church of the Deaf.

To look out at that assembly tonight was to look at the beautiful human face of the church. There were people there who come from or whose ancestors came from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. There were the young and the old; fifth-graders and doctoral candidates; gay and straight people. Among us were the deaf

along
the way



By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

and the hearing communities; rich and poor; single, married and widowed folks; priests, men and women religious. It was just an incredible experience. I found myself wishing that all of us could worship often with such a diverse and exciting community.

I also think of a liturgy at which I presided late last week at Groveland Correctional Facility. I baptized and confirmed one of the inmates at that celebration. I'll long remember the look of joy on his face from the beginning to the end of the liturgy. Nor will I soon forget the spirited participation of the entire assembly, who clearly rejoiced at what was happening in their brother's life.

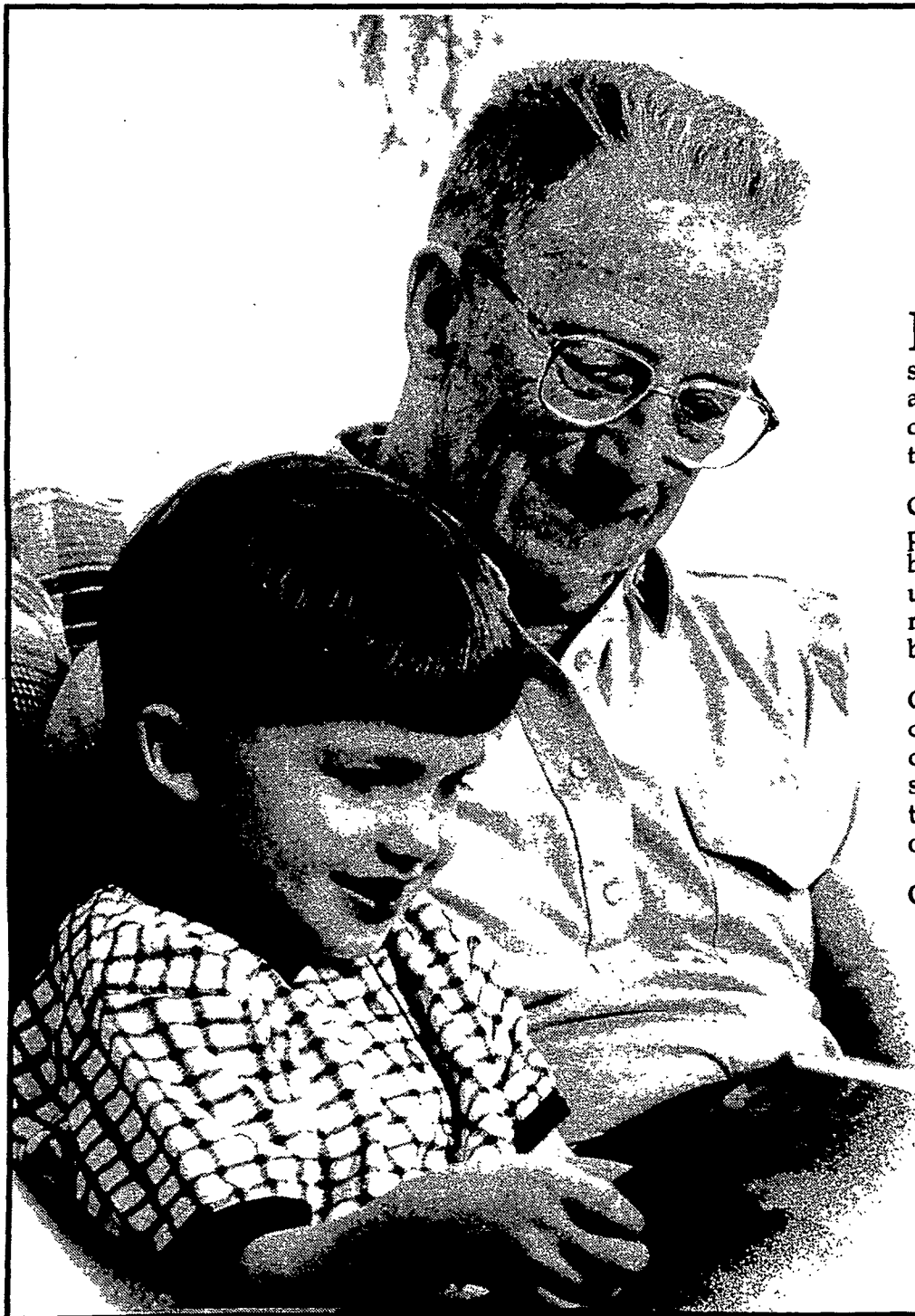
There was also a pair of meetings last week that I found very heartening. They took place at St. Mary's in Rochester and St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, where we had the first two of three hear-

ings we'll have in our diocese this spring about what is on our people's minds concerning public-policy issues. What a pleasure and boost it was to hear so many people of solid faith speak so ardently of their concern for the poor and vulnerable and those who have no voice in our society. They are in touch with the church's solid body of social teaching and are inspiring in their determination to honor that teaching as fully as they can.

As I think back on those three experiences of the Easter season I thank the Lord for every one of them. They remind me of important Easter gifts available to all of us; the power of the Spirit to transform our diversity from a divisive force into a source of new strength and richness for our community; the power of the Spirit to free us from forces and circumstances that keep us prisoners; the power of the Spirit to draw us to fidelity to the beatitudes in everyday life.

I hope that you have experienced new life in this Easter season. You might take a moment as you finish reading this to sit quietly and try to remember what has happened to spark life, to renew hope in you during this holy time. My guess is that if you do, you will be aware of one or another that otherwise might have escaped your notice. I hope so anyway.

Peace to all.



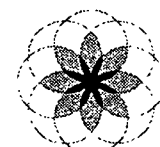
Come Celebrate Life with Us.

Imagine living on 14 beautiful, park-like acres just minutes from some of Rochester's finest shopping, entertainment and cultural activities. Having convenient transportation to take you to the doctor, grocery shopping, or banking. Making new friends and taking up new interests.

Come celebrate that lifestyle with us at Chapel Oaks, Rochester's premier retirement community. Delight in your own one or two bedroom apartment with private patio or balcony, but leave the upkeep to us. Enjoy gourmet meals in the beautifully appointed restaurant-style or private dining rooms. Settle down with a good book in the library, or play chess in the evenings with a friend.

Come see for yourself why Chapel Oaks has become the lifestyle of choice for so many active seniors. You'll see the value of a rental concept with no entrance fee or endowment. You'll instantly feel the security and peace of mind that comes from having priority access to a full continuum of health care services, should you or your loved one ever need them - right on the St. Ann's campus.

Call us at 585-697-6600 today to arrange your personal tour.



S T. A N N ' S
C H A P E L O A K S
Full of Life

1550 Portland Avenue, Rochester, NY 14621
www.stannscommunity.com

CA
I
By
Sta
ans
the
rec
Sha
Naz
T
181
ing
A. S
Col
pro
Till
has
ofst
in h
prol
Naz
Tho
phys
chol
the
have
Ti
mea
bate
ious
lels
and
how
deca
Fc
char
have
pain
repo
Osar
ing f
of hi
M
ple t
man
she s
Chri
Am
marr
the v
the n
she s
natio
cultu
offer
nario
geted
Ame
Sin
gled
befall
O
Fr
Fat
Dioc
April
Roch
An
baptiz
Churc
ologic
Berna
March
Foll
servic
es: H
Paul
John
vanna
ther C
State
Psychi
forts
compi
pointe
the A
his ret
"Fat
spiritu
charis