

# Faith needed as Dallas decisions implemented

Once again, it seems important to devote some of this space to the issue of the sexual abuse of minors by clergy. This time, I offer a few personal reflections on the meeting of our episcopal conference in Dallas, trusting that you have been following the media coverage of the event. Some notes:

1) It was a very intense time. Beginning to write about it helps me to recognize how powerful an experience it was. In talking with some of the bishops during and after the event, I took comfort in the fact that I was not alone in needing to sort things out. Among those emotions and concerns that touch me are fatigue, worry, frustration, anger and a feeling that the task ahead is overwhelming. I need to recognize these things in my spirit so that I can learn and draw energy from them rather than be controlled by them.

2) In the midst of such heavy stuff I am aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church — in the life of each one of us — with all of the powerful gifts that the Spirit lavishes on us. I suspect that even my awareness of that presence is a grace from God, who knows my heart and how deeply I yearn for the wisdom and strength only the Holy Spirit can give. I have always thought that your

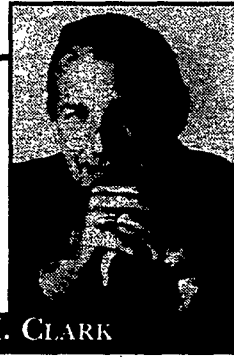
## along the way

BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

faith is a privileged vessel for such gifts. Hearing the Word and breaking the bread reveal the Lord to us and draw us closer to this life. So does my experience of the generous faith of the people of God in our diocese.

3) The meeting in Dallas was an important one. It will not solve all of our problems, but it gives us clear standards by which to work on this painful matter. I believe that we have the ability and the will to do the hard work that remains. But I do not take that for granted. We will be able to accomplish it only if we stay rooted in faith and pray daily for God's blessings on all of us.

4) As a first step in our continuing work, I will ask our advisory panel to review diocesan policy in light of the charter we adopted in Dallas and to recommend to me any changes we should make to conform our policy to the



national standard. In addition, I will ask the panel to continue to advise me how most effectively and fairly to implement our policy.

5) I promise you my best effort to ensure that we have an effective policy to guide us in this matter. Further, I promise that I will be faithful to its provisions and to the advice of our advisory panel. If you judge that I am falling short in this matter, I hope that you will let me know of your concerns. In any case, I ask for your prayerful support that God will bless this work and all who participate in it.

6) During the week we will have a meeting with our priests. The purposes of that meeting are to provide an update on the Dallas meeting, to support one another and to reflect on how best we can minister to the people we serve during this critical time. As is true of the meeting in Dallas, our gathering of priests will be yet another step in a continually unfolding process.

My hope is that the pain of this experience might, in God's providence, be the seed of new strength and spiritual renewal for all of us — bishop and priests — who, united in bonds of faith and affection, are the presbyterate of this wonderful diocese.

Peace to all.

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David Craighead,  
Professor Emeritus of Organ at the  
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David Craighead Recital  
Monday, July 29, 7 p.m.  
Downtown United Presbyterian Church



John Bell, an ordained minister in the  
Church of Scotland and music leader  
of the Iona Community, an ecumenical  
association in Scotland.  
*Multicultural Event: One Is the Body*  
Tuesday, July 30, 8 p.m.  
Convention Center



Bishop Matthew H. Clark  
*"Closing Eucharist:*  
*Preaching a Voice of Hope"*  
Friday, August 2, 10 a.m.  
Convention Center

### Convention Highlights:

- Children's Choir Festival Concert
- Concert by Rochester's cappella group Magnolia
- Hymn Festival
- Multicultural Banquet
- Organ Chorus
- Eucharistic Prayers
- Special Forum on the Arts

For more information or a brochure, contact the Office of Liturgy at  
(585) 328-3210, ext. 345 or register online at [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org).  
Advance registration — June 28.

## Kids' Answers from page 11: lector, priest, deacon, usher, cantor, altar server

## INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

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La Gestion des Biens de Dieu:  
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