

## Vacation, celebrations prove to be fulfilling

It is good to be in touch with you again through "Along the Way." Since I last wrote in late June, I have had some wonderful experiences — an eight-day directed retreat; three weeks of vacation with my dear friends, Howard Hubbard and Tom Powers; and two spectacular days in Toronto for World Youth Day with our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

All of those experiences were reviving and enriching, each in its own way. I am grateful for their good effects on body and spirit. I am also grateful to Father Joe Hart, Sister Mary Ann Binsack and many other co-workers whose generosity makes such opportunities possible.

I don't think I have ever experienced a retreat or a vacation that went so quickly. The days seemed to fly by. That puzzled me for a while until I remembered that I could say the same thing about recent years. I cannot believe any more how rapidly they come and go. It may well be that this focused consciousness is related to the fact that I recently celebrated my 65th birthday.

I do not want my comments about the rapid passage of time to suggest that I minded coming back home. Much the opposite. As much as I enjoy retreat and vacation, I am always happy to be back in your midst. I experience that desire always when I am away; it is especially strong at times like this when I have had a chance to rest after a demanding year.

A few comments about post-vacation life:

1. World Youth Day was a wonderful experience. The *Catholic Courier* did a great job of reporting the event in last week's issue. To those reports, I add a note of thanks to all of our beautiful young people and the communities that supported them for their presence in Toronto. I found the witness of their faith to

### along the way

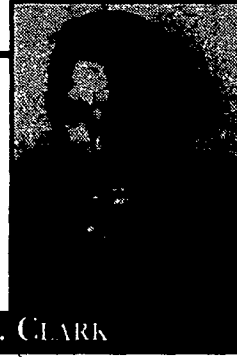
By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

be a great source of strength and encouragement. And I say that same thing of the generous adults who shared the journey with them. You need to know that, although the experience is exhilarating, it is not easy. The terms World Youth Day and comfort and convenience don't work well together!

Let me add a special note of thanks to the group from St. Bridget's, Rochester, the first group I encountered after my own eight- or nine-mile pilgrimage walk to the World Youth Day site. For water, nourishment, rest, a change of shirt and — most especially — generous kindness, I shall long be grateful.

2. Last week we hosted a convention of the Eastern Region of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians here in Rochester. That event drew more than 1,000 pastoral musicians from the Eastern Seaboard to the Four Points Sheraton Hotel and the Riverside Convention Center.

We can all be grateful to Joan Workmaster, Ginny Miller, their planning committee and a great number of volunteers. From all that I observed and heard from visitors during those days, they did a remarkable job in presenting an enriching and enjoyable experience for their peers and colleagues who gathered with us.



Many participants put themselves out to tell me how deeply appreciative they were of the hospitality they experienced from our team. I could tell that their comments were quite genuine. They found something special in the way our friends received them and treated them throughout the experience.

3. Two parishes are especially on my mind as I write on this Saturday evening. Tomorrow I am going to St. Paul's, Webster, to join in the celebration for their 35th anniversary of that wonderful parish. We'll celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. and then enjoy a picnic together.

I look forward to spending time with this warm and hospitable community as they celebrate an event that is so significant in their lives and ours. I should add that a special bonus for all of us will be the presence of Father John "Knobby" Walsh, founding pastor of St. Paul's.

St. Patrick's Parish, Seneca Falls is also with me in a special way this evening. On Monday morning we will celebrate the funeral liturgy for their pastor, Father David Gramke. Their loss leaves them in great sadness and pain, and with all of the uncertainty that attaches to such situations.

As I pray for them now, I ask you please to pray for their peace and comfort in this time of sadness. I know that their faith and generous spirit will see them through it all. But I also know that it will not happen automatically. It will happen through their prayer and ours. I know that you will remember them when you pray.

Enough for now. It's good to be back with you. I hope that you have been able to enjoy the summer.

Peace to all.

**no more sporing**

**Jules Minsin**  
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Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)  
Vol. 113 No. 43, August 8, 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: 1136 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624, 585/529-9530. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, NY.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624.

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## Rise up, Church, God is With You!

### Hispanic Mission

Holy Apostles Parish, 530 Lyell Ave.

**August 19-23, 2002 (7-9pm)**

- \* Featuring the group Comunidad Siervo de Cristo Vivo of Brooklyn, NY
- \* Events in English and in Spanish for the youth & children
- \* Bishop Matthew Clark will celebrate a 7:00 pm Mass on Friday, August 23. A reception will follow.  
(For more information call the Office of Spanish Apostolate at 585-328-3210.)

The Hispanic Mission in Newark & Geneva  
August 24 & 25, 2002

For more information please call Xochitl Palacio  
at 315-789-3204 or  
Sr. Luci Romero 315-331-3292

