

Reminder of Christ's prevailing love

Please accept my affectionate best wishes to you and your loved ones as we come closer to our celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

My fondest hope is that the Easter feast will find you experiencing new and deeper life. My deepest prayer is that you will find the strength you need to be a free and loving disciple of the Risen One.

I wrote in recent days that people walk with more bounce in their step as our late-arriving spring comes close to center stage. Budding trees, the long delayed home opener of the Rochester Red Wings and April's full moon help to dim memories of a long, sometimes harsh, winter. They orient us to the warmth and brightness of summer.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

Even as we rejoice in the emerging signs of spring, we are aware that in many ways we still walk through a spiritual winter. Who is free from deep concern about the war in which we are now engaged? Who does not pray that somehow

new life will emerge from the darkness of destruction?

Who is not concerned that so many families live in poverty, that so many children are hungry in our communities — even in a land of immense wealth?

Who does not care about the horrible impact of drugs in the lives of people, or about the quick-fix violence to which it gives birth on our streets, or about our burgeoning prison population?

We are all aware of these and other winter realities that challenge us today.

I mention them not because you are unaware of them and not to discourage you. Rather, I cite them to remind you that the celebrations of Holy Week and the Easter season

are not empty rituals or exercises in nostalgia.

No, they are solemn celebrations in which we experience anew the saving power of Christ who transforms our hearts and strengthens us to bear witness to his redeeming love for all people.

Easter is Christ's pledge that ultimately his love will prevail over war and violence and hunger. Easter is Christ's call to us to live and act in his Spirit so that we build peace without machines of war, seek resolution of human problems without violence and end the scandal of hungry children in a land of abundance.

In prayer for one another, may we ask God for the grace to live Easter more fully than ever.

Peace to all.



Come and visit our beautiful South 45 garden section, a garden-like setting of two, three and four grave lots, including a raised-lawn crypt area highlighted by a bronze statue of Christ fallen under his cross

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Catholic Courier
to honor
'Milestone' Anniversaries

The *Catholic Courier* again plans to honor couples who are celebrating "Milestone" anniversaries this year.

Couples who marked or will mark 25, 50 or more years of marriage this year may be listed in the special Milestones/Vocations issue, which will be published May 15.

We will accept anniversaries occurring between Jan. 1, 2003 and Dec. 31, 2003. Please send the following information: Full names of husband and wife; date of wedding; church and city where married. Also include a telephone number should questions arise.

Deadline for submission is Thursday, May 1.
Send the information to:
Catholic Courier, PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624
or e-mail it to agall@catholiccourier.com.