

Engaging young adults in church life

It's good to be with you again in the pages of the *Catholic Courier*. Much as I enjoyed the respite during vacation from normal daily scheduling, I am happy to be re-engaged in the life of our wonderful diocese.

I thank most sincerely all of my co-workers whose commitment and generosity allowed me such a care-free vacation. I thank you for your prayers and for your kindness in sending birthday greetings. Your goodness made my entry into my 67th year a pleasant experience.

During a talk about generational differences — given at our Priests' Convocation in late April — Bill Pickett, our director of pastoral planning, described one's 66th birthday as entry into elderhood. I had never heard the term before and was intrigued by it. When my birthday came, I remembered Bill's use of elderhood and had some fun talking about it with Howard and Tom, my vacation buddies.

I think of it again as I write because this afternoon at St. Thomas More in Brighton, I'll be joining a group of young adults for a picnic and the eucharistic liturgy. That event will gather women and men aged 18-40 who wish to share and



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

grow in faith with their peers. And, although I am sure each will have her or his particular reason for attending, my guess is that they will hold in common a spiritual thirst, a desire for deeper life.

We had a lot of excellent input about their generation at our convocation, and much interesting discussion about its members. As I remember those stimulating sessions, I recall some of the central themes that emerged:

- 1) The 18-40 generation seeks a spiritual life.
- 2) They have a different attitude toward institutions — the church included — than that held by us approaching or already arrived at elderhood.

3) They are a gifted group with a much wider range of life options than we enjoyed.

4) They have many questions about church and faith, and expect clear and honest answers to them.

It was clear to me at our assembly in April that all of the priests and pastoral ministers who participated hold these young adults in great affection. We want very much that they should be participants in the life of the church — for our good and, we hope, for theirs.

But we also realize that we need to work hard to engage them. Some questions illustrate the challenge. Where and when can we meet them? Are we as willing to listen as we are anxious to speak? How do we meet them, work with them where their spiritual thirst intersects with the church's rich spiritual heritage? How do we accompany them, support them as they cope with the enormous cultural, social and economic pressures of the day?

We certainly won't explore these questions this afternoon. Our time together will be limited, and it's a moment for relaxation and renewal. But I very much look forward to the gathering as an opportunity to hear

something about the lives of these wonderful people, their hopes and dreams, the questions and problems that tax their spirits.

I should mention that today's session was planned and organized under the leadership of Shannon Loughlin, who heads up our diocesan program of young-adult ministry, Father Lee Chase, pastor of St. Thomas More, and their committee.

You have been kind enough to read these words. If you are between 18 and 40 years of age, may I ask you to think about two questions: What does the church need to understand about you in order to serve you more lovingly? What concrete steps might we take to connect effectively with you as you look for satisfaction of your spiritual hunger?

If you are closer in age to me than you are to our younger friends, I invite you to think about that generation. How are they different from us? Which of those differences please us? Which of them cause concern? How do we initiate/sustain respectful, mutually beneficial conversations between the generations?

It really is good to be back with you. Thanks for your support.

Peace to all.

Pope John Paul II Coins Withdrawn By Vatican!



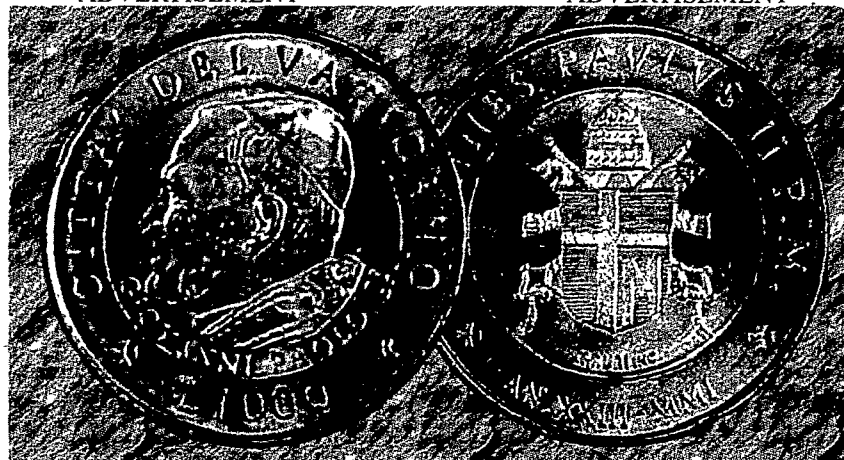
Actual Size: 27mm

The last coins of the Vatican a runaway success with collectors and the public alike.

Minneapolis, MN - Historians, knowledgeable collectors and the public alike are rushing to get the 2001 Vatican 1000 Lira coins that feature Pope John Paul II, now withdrawn from circulation by the Vatican. This low mintage coin is the final Lira coin produced at the Vatican Mint ever to be issued with a portrait of the Holy Father.

"We have just seen the biggest event in the history of coins, which saw many countries abandon their national currency bringing to an end thousands of years of history and tradition in favor of the Euro" said Ian Clay of the Westminster Mint. The Vatican has minted coins since the 8th century, but never again will they produce a coin bearing the image of the Pope and the Lira currency of Italy. The worldwide appeal of John Paul II, who has served for more than 20 years and the limited number of coins available, is thought to be fueling demand. "Unlike large countries such as Germany, Spain and France who need to produce millions of coins each year just to satisfy the everyday needs of commerce, the Vatican is only serving a tiny population of between 700 and 800 people, making these coins almost impossible to find" says Clay. These beautiful bimetallic coins feature the sculpted image of Pope John Paul II along with the denomination and the words Vatican City. The reverse shows the papal coat of arms, the cross symbolizes loyalty to Christ, and the capital M under the cross refers to the presence of the Madonna. People the world over will cherish this coin for its religious symbolism and for its place in the history of numismatics" says Clay. The Westminster Mint is

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making their limited inventory of these authentic Vatican collector's items available to the public. "This coin will become a treasured heirloom to be passed on from generation to generation, we expect a fast and complete sellout and once our supplies have gone we'll never be able to repeat this offer" says Clay. Westminster Mint, an international dealer and the importer of the coins are making the Vatican 1000 Lira available for \$19.95 each. The price includes a clear protective capsule, collector display case, certificate of authenticity and shipping and handling. This onetime offer is backed by a 100% 30-day money back guarantee. Orders will be limited to 5 coins. Send your check to:

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PONTIFF ACC BISHOP'S RES

WASHINGTON Pope John Paul II the resignation of Thomas V. Dail N.Y., and name for Brooklyn, C and Houma-Thib

In Brooklyn, successor is Bishop DiMarzio of Car pope transferred G. Jacobs of Ale Houma-Thiboda named Father P Charlotte diocese new bishop of successors were named in Camdria. Archbishop talvo, papal nuncio States, an changes in Wash

ARCHBISHOP SEX-ABUSE LA

BOSTON (C) lawyer who helped Sean P. O'Malley the clergy sex-abuse Diocese of Fall has been named Boston archdiocese handling the moral suits involving facing the archdi

In a July 31 s archbishop said Thomas Hannigan in facilitating s matters such as the process toward timely resolution

STUDY RECON SAINT'S EXISTI

MEXICO CITY year after Pope canonized American indigenous saint, released a new study the existence Cuauhtlatotzin.

The investigation public July 31, several thousand descended on Mexico of Our Lady of celebrate the anniversary canonization.

The report analyzed uncovered evidence several letters and that researchers Juan Diego's evidence supports the case that this character, the report's author, Asuncion Garcia said in a press sta