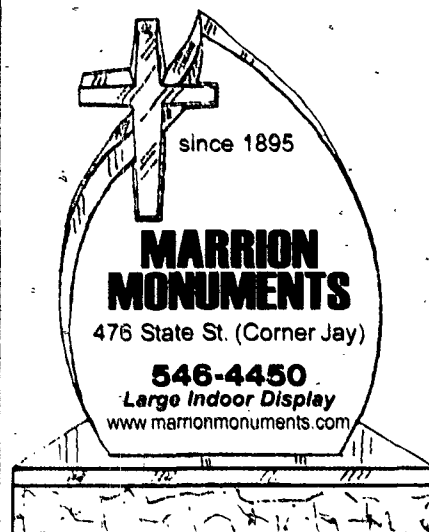


# Many reasons for new *Catholic Courier*

I am looking forward to April when we publish the *Catholic Courier* in its new three-part format: monthly, weekly and dot-com editions.

We have been working on this project for some time. Our gifted, experienced and generous board members have advised us. Our pastoral ministers have added quality to the effort by their cooperation and helpful suggestions. The staff of the *Catholic Courier* has contributed an immense amount of expertise and technical know-how. No less importantly, all of the above have persevered in the effort, which — like most significant endeavors — had its share of snags and setbacks.

As we come nearer to the day when we begin this new direction, I want to express my thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen. I also want you to know that the project has my full support.



**Bishop Matthew H. Clark**

## Along the Way

I want to touch briefly on some of the reasons why I strongly support the new *Catholic Courier*:

1) Our monthly edition will be delivered to every Catholic home in our diocese. This will allow access that no other medium — print or electronic — offers to us.

2) The monthly edition will allow more in-depth, systematic treatment of issues, themes and questions that are relevant to Catholic life in this day and age.

3) Our weekly edition — received with the parish bulletin — will allow us to keep abreast of current events, and diocesan news and activities.

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4) Our weekly edition will also allow us more flexibility for regional coverage, a feature I hope will be attractive to folks in different sections of our diocese.

5) Later this year, our weekly edition also will allow us to communicate on a regular basis with our vibrant Spanish-speaking communities.

6) Our dot-com edition will allow those who enjoy the use of computers to access the *Catholic Courier* 24/7. It also recognizes that the Web rather than newspaper, radio or television has become the primary source of news for many of our people.

7) Our dot-com edition, we dearly hope, will serve to engage the interest of younger generations in the life of the church and in the resource that is the *Catholic Courier*. Our research indicates that, while we have a solid and loyal group of readers, our readership is an aging one. I am convinced that our church has much to offer the younger generation. No less am I convinced that the younger generation has a great deal to offer to the church.

Our Synod experience indicated

that the people of our diocese place high value on lifelong opportunities to grow in the knowledge, love and service of their church.

In addition to providing information that helps us to understand and live our faith, I hope that the renewed *Catholic Courier* will be an effective vehicle of information that heightens awareness of diocesan life and helps to achieve our common purposes. I have long yearned for a medium that allows us to make available to every Catholic home information about our faith and our church that is important to all of us.

I am aware that there is no magic in this. We will have to work hard to produce an enriching, informative, stimulating product. At the same time, even the highest quality work will bear good fruit only to the degree that people commit themselves to reading and thinking about what is presented.

Please pray for God's blessings on this initiative. Please spend some of your precious time delving into the new product. Please encourage others to do the same. Thanks very much.

Peace to all.

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