

# Welcome to the new *Catholic Courier*

Welcome to the *Catholic Courier Monthly*.

I have looked forward to writing those words of welcome for a long time — ever since we began planning the renewed *Catholic Courier* more than three years ago.

This handsome, monthly edition is one of three versions of this publication. The second is a tabloid-sized, four-page edition you will receive with your parish bulletin at Sunday liturgy. The third is an expanded and enhanced online edition — [www.CatholicCourier.com](http://www.CatholicCourier.com) — that will be available at any time to those who enjoy the use of a computer.

Part of my excitement about this venture is that it will allow us to offer to every Catholic household in our diocese information that we hope will help them to be as well informed as possible about the life of our church. We hope, too, that we can contribute strongly to our great diocesan goal of helping our people of all ages to understand, celebrate and share their faith.

Until now, no one medium has existed to allow us to reach all of the Catholic households in our over 7,500-square-mile, 12-county diocese. No single newspaper, radio or TV station penetrates all of our more



**Bishop Matthew H. Clark**

## Along the Way

than 160 parish communities.

That has been a cause for frustration for me, as I am sure it has been for many of you. I have heard often over the years such comments and questions as, "Why don't you ever talk about this?" or "Why did we never know that the diocese was doing that?" or "We never knew that there was such a policy, or document or resource." In many cases — certainly not all — such things were being reported, but we were unsuccessful in our efforts to inform everyone. Our new *Catholic Courier* is not a magic solution to that problem, but it gives us a better chance than we have ever had before to improve in this regard.

Another exciting possibility enhanced by this development is that of relating well to a much wider con-

stituency than we have had in recent years. The truth is that this effort was born in part by the strong evidence that our readership is continually growing older. We simply have not been reaching the younger generations. We hope deeply that what we are beginning now will open new doors for us. The engagement of the young is critical to the good health not just of tomorrow's church but also of today's. I know that we need their rich gifts and good hearts to be all that God wants us to be. I am equally certain that we can help them in their efforts to live the Gospel in their daily life.

I am delighted that we will have the capacity to regionalize our weekend publications more than we were able to do in the *Catholic Courier's* old format. That is important in a diocese as extensive and diverse as our own. Editions that serve the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier will include stories that are of specific interest to those areas. Soon, we will publish a Sunday edition in the Spanish language. I am very pleased about that, too.

Some who read these words are faithful, longtime readers of the *Catholic Courier*. I thank you for your support over the years. We

could not have kept going without you. I truly hope that you will find the new *Catholic Courier* to your liking. If it does not fall easily into the rhythms of your life, I hope that you will be patient with the adjustment and that you will soon be at home with it.

Others who read these words may never have held the *Catholic Courier* in your hands before. Let me extend to you, too, a sincere invitation to allow the *Catholic Courier* to enter the patterns of your life. I think you will agree that to live the Christian life is not easy. And, I would guess that we are one in our conviction that it is very helpful in meeting that challenge to have solid, consistent information about our faith tradition, the support of knowing how our sisters and brothers rise to the challenge and the sense of life-giving communion that these can bring to us.

I conclude by inviting you to a commitment to spend some time each week with the *Catholic Courier* for the next year. I am confident that at the end of that year you will judge this new three-format publication to be wide-ranging, informative, educational and helpful in living the Christian life.

Peace to all.

At age 11, Katie worries about a lot.  
Like boys, school, and her mom's cancer.

**GIVE NOW.**  
**THANK YOU.**

Gifts like yours to the United Way Community Fund help kids like Katie face the challenges of dealing with a parent's cancer without having to do it alone. With your continued generosity, we can support programs for kids, so they can find the strength to support their loved ones. Invest in our community today. Give the United Way.

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