

Bishop Hogan:

Efforts for Peace Will Be Remembered

This past Sunday the news reached us in early afternoon that Pope Paul had died. I was visiting my family in Lima and enjoying the dramatic conclusion of the PGA Tournament. The announcement was flashed across the television screen that there would be an hour-long special program at the end of the golf match giving a summary of the life and the major events of the reign of Pope Paul. The voice of the announcer broke in to say, "His was a great voice of hope to all of us in a world beset by awesome troubles."

To those of us who travel the road of pilgrimage in faith as did our spiritual father, Pope Paul, his death meant that he had been called home by the Lord whom he served so faithfully. He who had been Christ's Vicar on earth for 15 years, had been summoned to give an account of his stewardship. We believe that the only accurate judgment on his life has already been rendered. Meanwhile, countless voices will be rendering personal appraisals and judgments on his work. The opinions of today will surely be modified in the light of subsequent history. It will always be so. Some of his sharpest critics may be forced to say one day "Indeed a prophet walked among us."

I saw the Holy Father as a man of deep prayer, as one who accepted most seriously his awesome responsibilities. Leadership in the Church is not an easy task. If it weighs heavily at times on me as bishop of the diocese, what must it have been for Paul, the bishop of bishops and of the whole Church?

As his years advanced, his worries and anxieties began to take their toll. He suffered much from divisions in the Church and from dissident voices that

spoke openly their opposition. His best efforts to promote peace and justice in the world seemed to be fruitless. And his own physical condition for the last several years was a daily reminder of the Cross of Christ which he carried so patiently.

I am certain he will always be remembered for his efforts for peace. How can we ever forget the historical visit to the United Nations and his anguished cry, "War, never again!"? How can we forget his many journeys of thousands of miles beyond the Vatican — visiting South America on the occasion of the Eucharistic Congress, Uganda, Australia, Asia and the Philippines? And we must never forget that the work of Vatican II, initiated by Pope John XXIII, whom he personally loved and admired, was brought to completion under his personal guidance.

Pope Paul meant much to me personally. I spoke with him on three occasions and was near him for the canonizations of Mother Seton and Bishop Neumann. I have two treasured photographs taken with him just this past April 20. The occasion was the ad limina visit of the bishops of New York State. He was warm and friendly and spent almost one hour with us, greeting each of us personally. I can never forget the clasp of his hand and his penetrating eyes focused on me as if to say, "I love you, Joseph, with a father's love." I hope I conveyed to him what was and always will be deep in my heart, "I love you, Paul, with the love of a devoted and grateful son."

May the Lord grant eternal rest and peace to his noble soul.



Warmly greeting Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Cardinal Cooke, President, Governor in Tributes

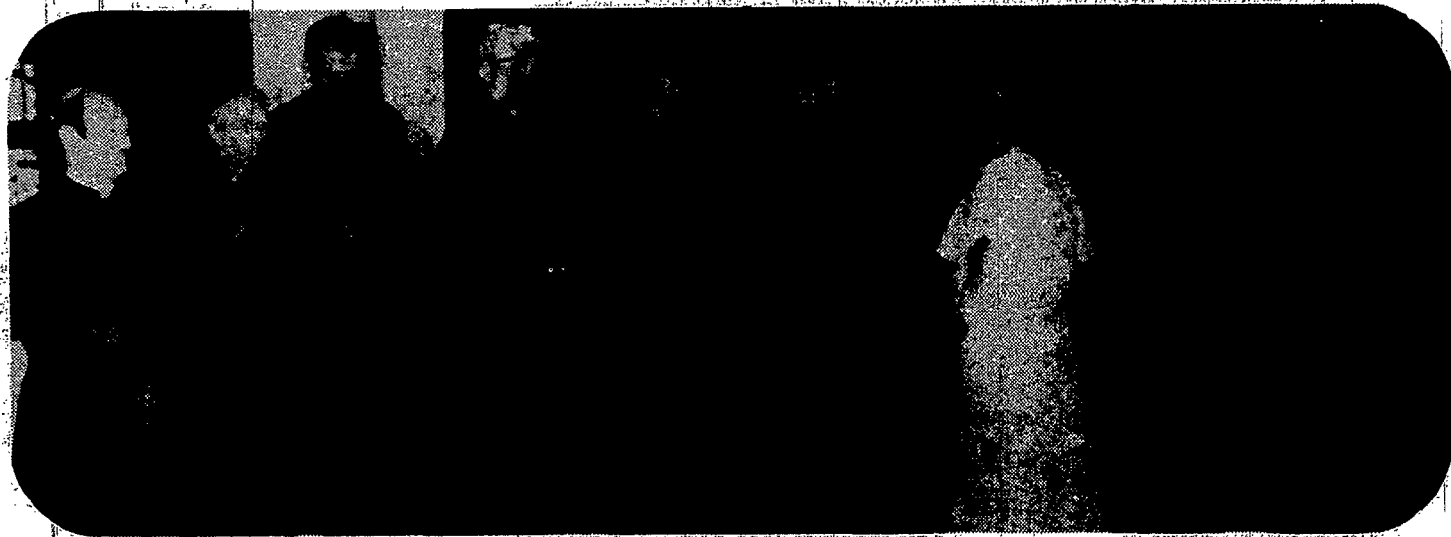
Cardinal Terrence Cooke of New York City was joined by President Jimmy Carter and Gov. Hugh Carey in praising the efforts of Pope Paul for world peace.

The archbishop of New York City said that Pope Paul was "an instrument of reconciliation and a visible center of our unity in faith and love."

"As the faithful successor of St. Peter, he not only guided the Vatican Council to a happy conclusion but also worked and prayed to bring about the spiritual renewal of the Church in the service of mankind."

"We will always remember him with deep affection as the Pope of peace and justice who was a sign of hope for all the members of God's one human family. I have no doubt that in the judgment of history, the extraordinary pastoral leadership of Pope Paul VI will be recognized and forever appreciated."

In Washington, President Carter said Pope Paul was a "man of peace and profound spirituality, he will be greatly missed, not only by all Roman



Pope Paul enjoys visit from Cardinal Terrence Cooke and the eight bishops of New York State dioceses in April of 1978. That's Bishop Hogan fourth from left. (RNS).

Catholics, but by all people, whatever their religious convictions.

"Of Pope Paul's many contributions, two stand out for me at this sad moment: First, his untiring efforts in the ecumenical movement. Not only was he inspired in the cause of humanity to pursue greater unity of purpose within the Catholic Church, but also among all other faiths. Second, Pope Paul's world travels, at no small expense to his own physical well-being, exemplified his role as pilgrim, carrying the message of peace and love to the far corners of the world, including an inspiring visit to the United States."

"... With his passing we have all been deprived of a strong voice for reason, for moderation, and for peace."

In Albany, Gov. Carey said that the Pope "devoted his life and his ministry to seeking world peace, to stabilizing the unity of the family in a time when that unity was under severe attack, and to consolidating the gains in religious harmony begun by his great predecessor John XXIII."

Bishop Hickey:

The whole Church has suffered a great loss in the passing of Pope Paul VI. He will rank with the great popes of the last centuries for his guiding the Church through the transitional period following Vatican II.

He combined in his administration the skills of the Apostles Peter and Paul.

As Paul he was the successor to the apostle who traveled all over the world to establish contact with the Greco-Roman communities, the apostle on the move who tried to make the faith relevant to the cultures of his time.

As Peter, successor to the first pope, he was the immovable rock on which rest the unchanging basic doctrines and tenets of the Church.

Bishop McCafferty:

Pope Paul VI was the most outstanding religious leader of this century. His great witness of kindness and patience stands as his ending moment before the eyes of the world which challenged and resisted many of the values he was compelled by his office to affirm and reaffirm during his 15-year Pontificate. He fully and faithfully conveyed and applied the Word of Christ, cost what it may to him personally. He was a simple man like Peter. A prayerful man who so often seemed surprised when he was misunderstood or his guidance misapplied. We pray now with Christian optimism that he will be richly rewarded by Him whose work he has done so well.