

Diocese Bids Bishop McCafferty Farewell

"I am the way and the truth and the life," concludes that portion of the Gospel according to John which was used at Friday's Mass of Christian Burial for Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty.

Bishop McCafferty died of cancer Tuesday, April 29. Thursday's Mass of Christ the High Priest and Friday's Mass were both celebrated in Sacred Heart Cathedral where Bishop McCafferty had been rector since 1972.

Bishop Clark was principal concelebrant Thursday and Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey homilist. Friday, Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York City was principal concelebrant and Bishop Clark delivered the homily.

"In an age," Bishop Clark said, "which proclaims 'I did it my way' and 'you can have it your way,' John McCafferty reminds us (of Christ's words) 'I am the way.'"

The theme of Bishop Clark's homily centered around "sorrow turned to joy... hope dashed and reborn." Referring to the Scriptural passage, the bishop said that Christ "tells them, 'I am going, not forever, not for no purpose, but to prepare a place for you... We will be together always.'"

"We have lost a man who for so long has preached the good news," Bishop Clark said, "his voice now silenced... will it ever be heard again? The words of Christ say it will."

"Great as he was, as wonderful as were his gifts, they are nothing compared to what will be... the absence is temporary — the pain and the loss will cede to everlasting joy," Bishop Clark told an overflowing crowd in the Cathedral. About 100 persons had to be accommodated in the basement where closed circuit television relayed the Mass.

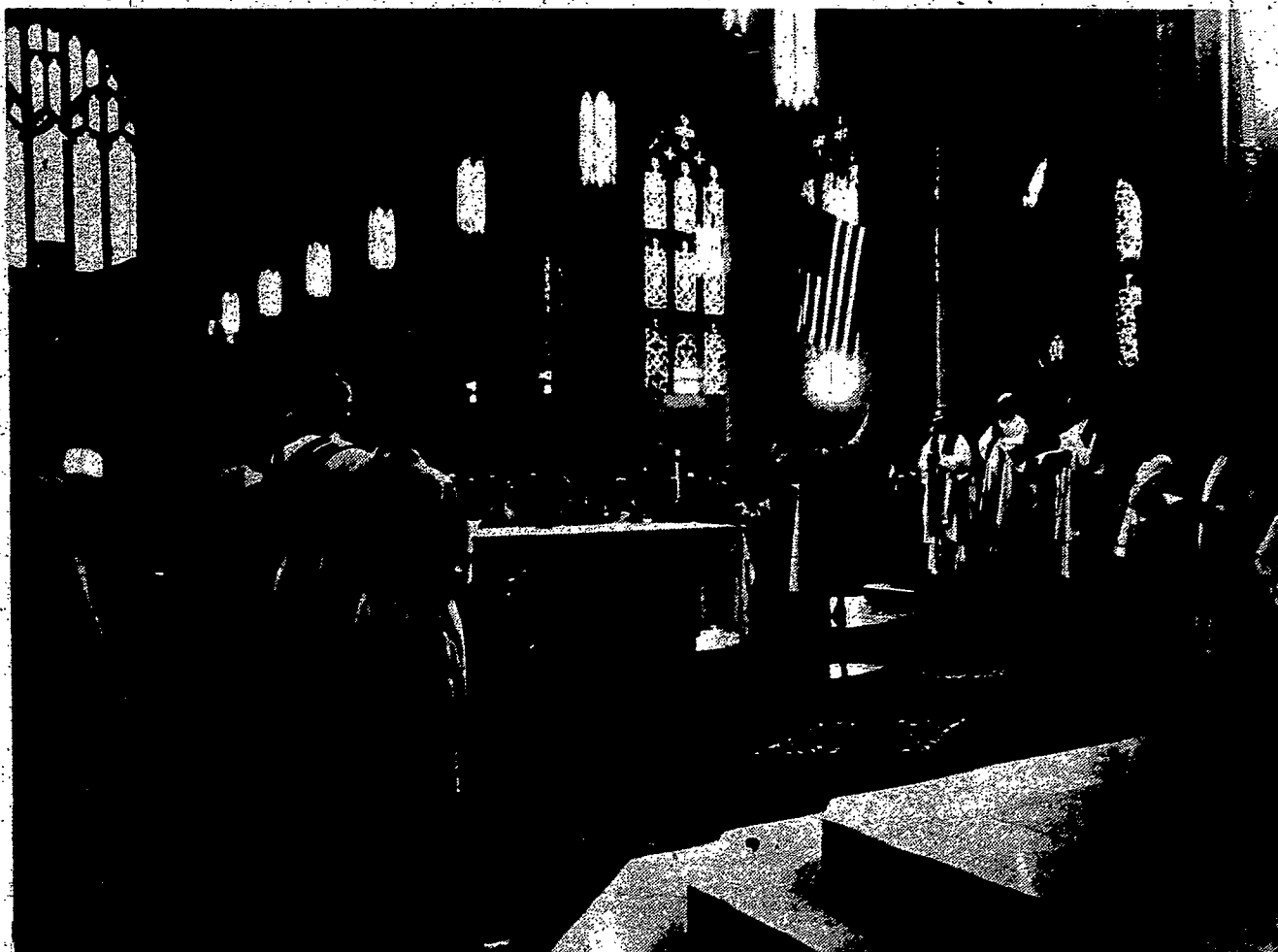
The burial Mass was only the second in the Cathedral for a bishop; Bishop Kearney's was the other.

Thursday night at the Mass of Jesus Christ the High Priest, also in the Cathedral, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey told Sacred Heart parishioners in the packed church, "He loved every one of you. You were his pride and joy. In the words of the psalmist, you were the apple of his eye."

He spoke of Bishop McCafferty as a "strict constructionist" in matters of faith, "strict in interpreting the canons," and "an inspiration to everyone who knew him."

Bishop Hickey said that the life of a Catholic priest is epitomized in carrying out the will of God. He reminded that even Christ, in Gethsemane, said, "Your will, not mine."

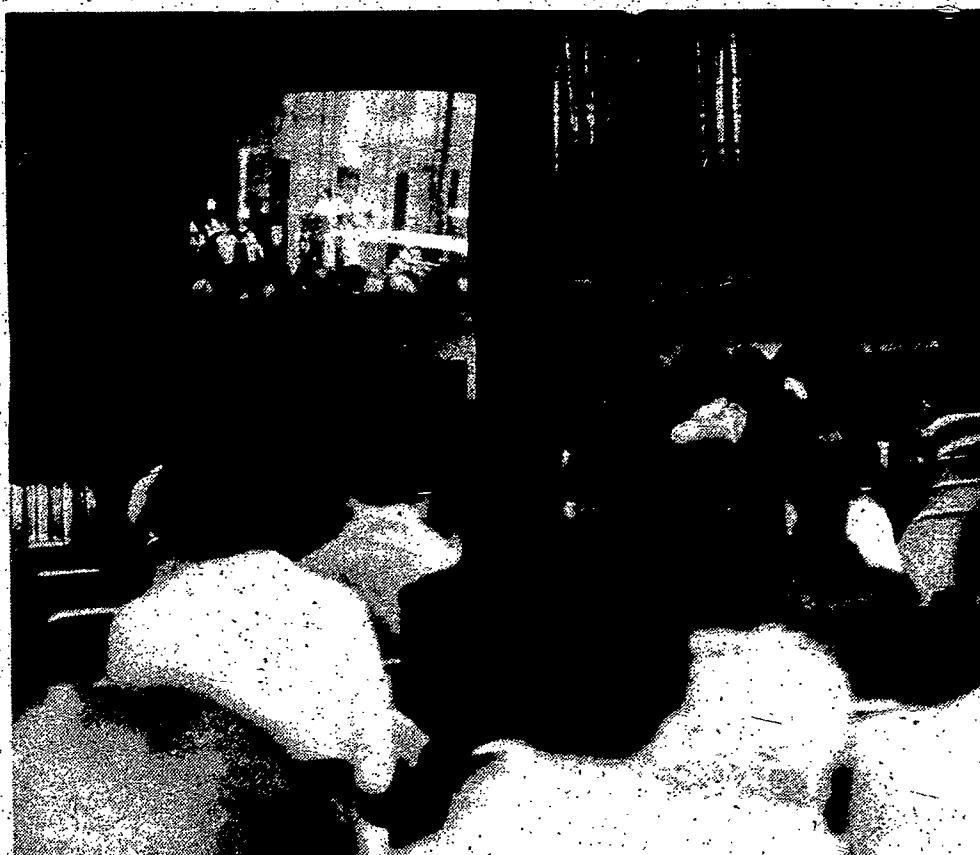
"John McCafferty, in this very sanctuary 35 years ago, in his characteristic booming



Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ, leads the singing during the funeral Mass last Friday in the Cathedral.

voice said, 'I am willing and ready,' to serve the Lord.

The homilist pointed out that Bishop McCafferty's priestly life had been one of service to his flock.



Closed circuit television brought the funeral Mass to part of the overflow crowd who watched in the Cathedral basement.



A combined choir from area parishes was led by Sister Margaret Canfield of St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt Street.



Brother Brian Walsh of Bishop Kearney High School does the first reading at the funeral Mass. Bishop Clark, Cardinal Cooke, Bishops Hogan and Hickey listen.



Bishop Hickey delivered the homily at the Thursday Mass of Christ the High Priest.



Bishop Clark gave Friday's homily.