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Bishops to Meet May 2-3 The Issue: War and Peace

By Carmen J. Viglucchi

Nuclear deterrence, which has become a key issue in the U.S. bishops' pastoral on war and peace, "is tolerable as a policy only as it allows and is directed toward negotiation to the disappearance of all nuclear weapons," Bishop Matthew H. Clark feels.

"I have two things to say about this," he commented. "They come from the Holy Father. I, of course, respect his teaching authority and in this case he is right. Deterrence as an end in itself is unacceptable. Deterrence as a policy is tolerable only when it leads to the disappearance of nuclear weapons."

(Just last week in Paicenza, Italy, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, papal secretary of state, reiterated the Vatican position. "Deterrence based on equilibrium — certainly not as an end in itself but as a stage on the way to progressive disarmament — can still be judged to be morally acceptable." The statement he quoted comes from a June 11, 1982, speech that he delivered on behalf of Pope John Paul II to the U.N. second special session on disarmament.)

Bishop Clark's view also is compatible with the third draft of the American bishops' pastoral. Speaking to that point, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin, who headed the drafting committee, said its position on deterrence "is one of strictly conditioned moral acceptance."

"Each term of the phrase is necessary to understand our position," he said. "The basic position, shorn of all modifiers, is acceptance rather than condemnation of the deterrent. But acceptance is conditional; only a transitional strategy designed to reverse the arms race and reduce it rapidly."

Bishop Clark added that "we are not talking about unilateral disposition of nuclear weapons. The bishops urge a very careful, verifiable bilateral movement."

My second point on the nuclear deterrence issue is the concern of destroying life "totally out of proportion to the good to be accomplished and the evil to be experienced."

Bishop Clark sees "the moral challenge is not so much as to what we feel the other guy might do, the challenge is what Christ would have us do to live out our respect toward the God-given dignity of other people. The threat of evil does not justify our intention to do evil."

Asked about pacifism, the bishop said, "I don't think the letter suggests that pacifism must be the policy of any state. I think the discussion in Chicago will include substantial attention to this question. We need to remember that a just war is an absolutely last resort. Pacifism has always been the best way of dealing with the threat of war — even at the state level. People can picture pacifism as though it lacks strength and conviction. It requires, I believe, a strength that only can be found in God."

At its May 2-3 meeting in Chicago, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops will discuss at length and vote upon the third draft of its pastoral letter on war and peace.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has invited all diocesans to join in open discussion on the issue of nuclear disarmament which has become the focal point of the pastoral letter.

To that end, he has scheduled a public hearing at 7:30 tonight at St. Anne's Church, 1600 Mount Hope Ave., Rochester. At Chicago, he will take into consideration recommendations from the hearing.

This interview with Courier-Journal editor, Carmen J. Viglucchi, took place before the release of the third draft but it is mainly concerned with the general principles of the letter.

The bishop said the issue came up several times during his journey through the diocese during Lent. "Some have told me of preparations for our April 20 meeting in St. Anne's (tonight). And I have been told that students at Nazareth pray daily the prayer of St. Francis for peace in the world. Most frequently, I hear the people are praying for efforts extended in preparation of the letter and that it bears good fruit."

As to the magisterial force of the letter, the bishop said, "The intent is to help people in formation of conscience about a question everyone admits is most profound — life and death and the survival of vast portions of humankind. It will state the very strong moral conviction of bishops in our own faith tradition — we can legitimately expect that people will give it very serious consideration. It is hard to say in a blanket kind of way that the document will have this force or that force. Much more likely, several statements will have different levels of authority, depending on the matter addressed."

"For example," he continued, "in the letter itself it is stated that the whole document has been prepared with the careful counsel of experts on military and political matters. The bishops clearly recognize we are not experts in those fields. But insofar as we specifically address the spiritual and moral aspects, we will receive very careful attention of our Catholic people and the respectful audience of our society at large."

Speaking before the third draft was released, Bishop Clark said the letter needed further attention "in the section on pacifism and just war and legitimate self-defense, more explicit recognition of efforts the U.S. has made for reasonable arms limitation, sharpening and greater clarity on the deterrence question."

The third draft reflected further work in all those areas.

The bishop said that he does not think "the basic issue is in question." And he sees virtually unanimous approval at the Chicago meeting May 2-3.

Bishop Makes Urban Shifts

CPPS Priests to Go From St. Anthony's To St. Jerome's

At the request of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the Precious Blood Fathers will be leaving St. Anthony's parish in Rochester and will take over St. Jerome's parish in East Rochester, as of June 28.

The change was the principal one in a series that will see Father John Mulligan, pastor of St. Stephen's in Geneva, become pastor of St. Anthony's; Father Anthony F. Calimeri, longtime pastor of St. Jerome's, move into the pastorate of St. Francis in Phelps, and Msgr. John F. Duffy, leave that position to go on sabbatical. These latter changes will not be effective until September.

Father Nicholas Arioli, CPPS, will be the pastor at St. Jerome's. He is presently treasurer of the general council of the Precious Blood Fathers and has spent the last six years in Rome in that position. An associate pastor will be appointed later.

This will take place in September.

Father Mulligan was recently appointed by Bishop Clark to head the new Division of Urban Services and will take this post July 1. The appointment to the city parish fits in with his new duties. In that vein, Bishop Clark approached the Precious Blood Fathers with the request to make the parish switch.

Father Peter Nobili, vicar-director of the Precious Blood Fathers, wrote the bishop early this month. "To help facilitate your plans for revamping urban ministry, the Precious Blood Fathers are relinquishing St. Anthony of Padua parish ... We support you in your efforts to better coordinate ministries for the city."

Father Nobili continued that his order "gladly accepts the offer ... to staff St. Jerome parish in East Rochester with a pastor and one associate."

In a letter to St. Anthony's parishioners, Bishop Clark announced the move, noting that "careful consideration has been shown both for the needs of the diocese and of the society (Precious Blood) ... At the same time I am appointing Father John Mulligan as pastor ... I know you will welcome him and the many gifts he brings to this new ministry among you."

Bishop Clark expressed "gratitude to Father Albert



FATHER CALIMERI



MSGR. DUFFY



FATHER MULLIGAN

DePascale and Father Carlo DellaVecchia and all the Precious Blood Fathers who have served so generously at St. Anthony's."

At the same time, he wrote St. Jerome's parishioners that their parish would be a setting for a new ministry of the Precious Blood Fathers.

"After consultation with Father Calimeri, I have decided to appoint him to a new pastorate at St. Francis in Phelps ... I join all of you in expressing deep gratitude to

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'Thornbush' Celebrations Scheduled April 29, May 5 At Cathedral, Horseheads

The diocesan Task Force on the Pastoral Letter on Women in the Church is completing plans for the diocesan Eucharistic celebrations on April 29 at Sacred Heart Cathedral and on May 5 at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be the celebrant at these Eucharists of Reconciliation and Renewal for all diocesans.

April 29 marks the first anniversary of "The Fire in the Thornbush," Bishop Clark's pastoral letter which has nurtured diocesan-wide reflection and discussion

concerning the place, role and contributions of women and lay men in the Church. Throughout the diocese, parishes and other worshiping communities have had study groups, discussion sessions and special evenings of prayer around "The Fire in the Thornbush."

About a third of diocesan parishes have already submitted reports on the insights and suggestions generated in their discussion groups; the rest will submit such reports over the next couple of months.

"It is heartening to see how

widespread the dialogue on 'The Fire in the Thornbush' is throughout the diocese and how many men and women are gathering in their parishes to reflect on Bishop Clark's pastoral letter. Wonderful exchanges and suggestions are emerging all over and that is a tribute to the faith and seriousness of the people of the diocese," said Sister Mary Sullivan, RSM, chairperson of the diocesan Task Force on the Pastoral Letter.

The Eucharistic Liturgy on April 29 and May 5 will celebrate the reconciliation and hope of men and women

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This Weekend Vocation Sunday

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CHD Collection

This Sunday is Vocation Sunday as well as the time for the annual diocesan Campaign for Human Development collection.

The pope's vocation message and an accompanying story are on Page 7.

An account of two of the local self-help groups created by the 1982 CHD collection is on Page 2.