

Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Chicago -- There was something holy about the moment. At least that is the way it seemed to me when the bishops rose to applaud the news that we had approved by overwhelming vote our pastoral letter -- "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

The ovation was not self-congratulatory. It was rather an expression of gratitude for all of the support, prayer and sacrifice which you and hundreds of thousands of people like you so generously poured into our effort.

It was for the theology class at Mercy High who presented such a mature paper out of our public hearing. It remembered the woman who took a step to heal a rift of many years with a one-time friend.

It was for the theologian who contributed so generously by reviewing the three drafts of the letter.

Included in it also was the young man who forgoes chocolate on his break and translates his urge for the candy into a prayer for peace.

I know that I remembered in that moment the friends who took no solid food and prayed for peace for the duration of the meeting.

Thank you all for your inspiring support.

If this effort is to bear more fruit, your continuing support is essential. We will ask for that in a number of ways as time goes by, but let me ask you please to make every effort to read the letter when it is available to the general public. It is of considerable length (about 85 pages in its printed version) but can be read in a relatively short period of time.

I am looking forward very much to receiving the final version of the letter. It was not possible in Chicago to continually amend the text and at the same time pay attention to the debate. I opted to listen to the debate and, therefore, do not have the amended version.

Until I receive it, I continue to think about some of the impressions that remain with me:

1. The whole effort has made me think and pray very much about the diversion of our resources from peaceful purposes to the development and production of ever more destructive systems. I agree wholeheartedly with the letter contention that the arms race is an act of aggression against the poor.
2. I am convinced anew by all that has gone into the letter that we need at many levels to develop humane and civil ways to settle disputes and disagreements. Cold silences and angry shouts do not do much to heal or rebuild when we have lost peace with one another.



Archbishop Philip Hannan of New Orleans, left, addresses his fellow bishops as they consider their war and peace pastoral during their meeting in Chicago. In front of him are Bishops James Griffin of Columbus, Ohio, and Robert Mulvee of Manchester, N.H. At right, Archbishop Edmund Szoka of Detroit makes a point while Bishop Ernest Unterkoefler of Charlotte, S.C., listens attentively. (NC Photos)

3. It is through communitywide commitment to prayer that we will find light for the road to peace and the courage to follow it.

If you have begun and flagged in that effort, please don't be discouraged. The moment is all you need to begin again.

It is all a part of the perseverance I mentioned last week.

Peace is God's gift but we know that it is also an enormously difficult work.

We need to walk with one another along the way so that we don't grow weary.

DPC Approves Budget of \$4.3 Million

Corning -- A \$4.3 million budget calling for \$2.7 million to be raised by November's Thanks Giving Appeal was recommended for approval Saturday by the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Meeting at St. Mary's here, the DPC recommended by a 26-1 vote that Bishop Matthew H. Clark implement the budget.

One recommendation for a change was approved. By a 25-1 vote, the group asked the Ministerial Review Committee to look for additional funding for the diocesan tuition subsidy program.

Father Peter Bayer, Pastoral Planning Office director, said diocesan funding for the program was \$75,000 four years ago. It now stands at

\$145,000, he said, although there was only a \$9,000 increase proposed for next year.

Robert O'Gara of Owego received the body's support for his motion calling on the MRC to look for additional funding for the program, possible through unspent budgets or the appeal surplus.

The subsidy program, which provides money to needy families for Catholic school tuition, has been receiving increasing requests for aid, Father Bayer said. The MRC members present said they would study the issue and make a recommendation to the bishop.

Father Bayer also told O'Gara that diocesan departments had been allowed five percent increases without being asked to justify them. O'Gara suggested that all increases should be supported in future years.

Larry Michael of Fairport, MRC chairman, said the budget calls for an increase of 7.2 percent in the annual appeal goal. That compares with a 15 percent increase last year and a 39 percent increase the year before, he said.

Total spending will increase 10.9 percent. The budget recommended to the bishop calls for expenditures of \$4,321,000. Of that amount, \$1,588,000 will be

generated by diocesan departments and investment income; \$2,733,000 will be the goal of November's appeal.

Father Bayer said last November's appeal received pledges of \$4,040,000, and, to date, \$2,870,000 has been paid.

The DPC also approved a revised constitution, changing the terms of office and the number of priests and sisters in its membership. Beginning with the 1984 elections, DPC members will serve three-year terms, with each region electing one of its three members each year. Terms have been two years since the DPC was organized in 1975.

The constitution also calls for three members each from the Priests Council and Diocesan Sisters Council. Previously those groups elected five members each.

The meeting, the first for the DPC in the Steuben Region, was the last of the year for the council. The 1983-84 council will organize at a day-long convocation June 4 at St. Thomas More in Rochester.

Open House

Elmira -- St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing will hold open house 2-4 p.m., Sunday, May 22.

Deacons Call Church to Humble Origin

By Palma Trentacoste
NC News

San Francisco -- The revival of the permanent diaconate "is calling the Church back to its humble origins," representatives of more than 100 U.S. dioceses were told at the annual convention of the National Association of Permanent Diaconate Directors in San Francisco.

Father Michael O'Connell, president of the association, said at a convention liturgy that deacons "are reminding those of us who think ministry is just a careful strategy of managing God's work by objective, that a father's patient vigil with a sick baby is more to the point."

The meeting whose theme was "The Explosive Impact of Diaconal Ministry," included directors and staff members of diaconate training and continuing education programs, deacons, and wives of married deacons.

The U.S. bishops authorized the ordination of permanent deacons in 1969. More than 90 percent of the permanent deacons in the Church worldwide now are in the U.S. The National Association of Permanent Diaconate Directors was organized in February 1977.

Bishop Names New Pastors

Bishop Matthew H. Clark this week named Father William J. Cosgrove to the pastorate of St. Dominic's Parish in Shortsville, and Father David P. Simon to the pastorate of St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Apalachin.

In addition, he announced that Father Douglas C. Hoffman and Father Michael J. Mahler would assume chaplaincy duties at Cornell University.

Father Cosgrove is pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Clyde and St. Patrick in Savannah, a post he has held since 1976.

Father Simon is associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus to which he was named in 1978.

Father Cosgrove, ordained in 1955, has served at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Peter and Paul in Rochester,

St. Michael's in Penn Yan, St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell and St. Francis Xavier in Rochester.

Father Simon was ordained in 1967 and has served at St. Patrick, Victor; DeSales High School, Geneva; St. Augustine, Rochester; St. Mary, Dansville; and Holy Cross, Ovid.

Father Hoffman returns to the diocese from a period of study. He has served in a number of capacities in the diocese, from associate pastor, through regional coordinator, to director of a diocesan office, and chairman of the board of diocesan divisional directors.

Father Mahler has been chaplain at SUNY Geneseo since 1976. He has also served associate pastorates at St. Margaret Mary and Holy Apostles in Rochester.

Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:
Father William J. Cosgrove to pastor of St. Dominic's Parish in Shortsville, from St. John the Evangelist, Clyde, and St. Patrick, Savannah.
Father Douglas C. Hoffman to chaplain at Cornell University, from study leave at Catholic University of America.
Father Michael J. Mahler to chaplain at Cornell University, from chaplain at SUNY Geneseo.
Father David P. Simon to pastor of St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Apalachin, from associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus, Rochester.