

# COURIER-JOURNAL

The Quest for Peace

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## Bishop to Speak at Oct. 22 Rally; Diocese Gears Up for Peace Drive

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### Msgr. Simonetti, Ex-Pastor, Dies

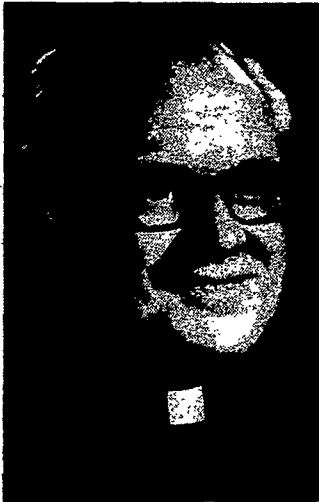
A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated this morning at the Church of the Annunciation for Msgr. Albert L. Simonetti, 73, who died Sunday (Sept. 18, 1983). Msgr. Simonetti who retired in 1978 was pastor emeritus of the Norton Street church.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey was scheduled to be the main concelebrant of the Mass.

Msgr. Simonetti was born in Rochester Aug. 12, 1910, son of the late Lorenzo and Adelaide Simonetti. He attended Holy Rosary School, Aquinas Institute, St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary, St. Bernard's Seminary and completed his studies in Pontificio Collegio Leoniano in Anagni, Italy.

Msgr. Simonetti also was ordained in Italy -- by Cardinal Marchetti-Salvagiani on April 11, 1936 in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the see church of Rome. He served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Francis Xavier in Rochester before being named pastor of St. Anthony in Elmira in December 1942 where he served until June 1953 when he was given the pastorate of Annunciation, a position he held until his retirement because of illness in 1978.

In August 1961, Bishop James E. Kearney appointed him a diocesan consultor, in which capacity he served un-



MSGR. SIMONETTI

til Bishop Kearney retired in 1968. Pope John XXIII appointed him a domestic prelate with the title of reverend monsignor in 1962.

Among many accomplishments, Msgr. Simonetti presided over two major rebuilding projects, both in the wake of fires. Following a blaze which completely destroyed St. Anthony's church and school in February 1947, the then Father Simonetti directed a campaign for the erection of a church and school to replace the ruined structures.

In August 1957, fire damaged the Church of the Annunciation and again Father Simonetti conducted a campaign to build a new school and later a new church,

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced last week in Rome, Italy, that he will speak at the national peace rally scheduled Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus. His theme will be "Religious Leadership in the Quest for Peace."

The bishop's decision was announced locally at a press conference Monday at the chambers of the Monroe County Legislature in Rochester by Giovina Caroscio, director of the diocesan Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry.

The press conference was conducted by the Seneca Depot October Action Coalition and Dr. Arnold Matlin also informed the press that other speakers will include Dr. Benjamin Spock and former congresswoman Bella Abzug. Dr. Matlin said the main speakers are scheduled

from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22.

Bishop Clark's decision is in keeping with the strong stance taken by this diocese in support of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," which was issued last May. The bishop's decision marks another step in the Rochester diocese's emergence as a national leader in the Church's involvement with the issues of peace and nuclear disarmament.

The bishop explains the reasons for his decision in his column, "Along the Way," on Page 3.

"I am aware that my very presence may be taken by some to express endorsement or support for sponsoring agencies, moral views or lifestyles inimical to the moral values cherished in our community of faith," the

bishop says. "Please let me assure such persons that this is not my intention," he continues. "In addition, the possibility that my intention may be misread does not in my judgment warrant my staying away from the event. On the contrary, it is my conviction that we all need to stand ready to proclaim publicly our deepest moral values and be willing to do the work of bringing their light to bear on the vexing questions of the day -- and we need to do that wherever there are people to listen."

The bishop anticipated some possible criticism of his decision and answered them in advance:

• "My acceptance of this invitation in no way indicates lack of regard for personal respect for the men and women who serve our country in military service or for those civilians employed

by the military. They do something noble and deserving of our thanks when they protect our God-given human liberties."

• I intend in no way to communicate by my presence a lack of reverence for the United States. I have great love for my country and desire nothing more for her than that she grow in the strong principles upon which she is founded. Among those principles are the right to peaceful assembly and the right to stand in public opposition to government policies when they are judged to be not in the best interest of our nation."

The bishop may be reflecting the sentiment of the body of American bishops when he states, "To be there is not to state that I have by some mysterious gift become expert in fields such as

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**'We Are All For Peace BUT Not Oct. 22 March,' DPC Resolution Avers**

**By John Dash**

The Diocesan Pastoral Council Saturday refused to endorse the national Oct. 22 march and rally at the Seneca Army Depot.

The council made its wishes known in a complex series of votes following several hours of presentations and discussions geared toward encouraging the DPC to endorse the demonstration.

In fact, the only heavy gun the presenters refused to level was information that Bishop Matthew H. Clark had earlier decided to speak at the rally. Information on the bishop's decision was not forthcoming even after a direct question from the floor.

Only after the council decided not to endorse the rally, was it told of the bishop's intention.

Only 29 of the 54 voting members of the DPC were on hand. Two more votes were cast in absentia but they were ruled invalid.

The vote itself appeared confused at first, but once the smoke cleared, it was evident that the majority of the DPC was against demonstrating at the depot, yet was for peace and nuclear disarmament.

The council's agenda was crowded with presentations, starting with a showing of "Gods of Metal," a movie by Richter Productions for Maryknoll. The film takes its title from a homily by Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen in which he called the nuclear arms race a form of idolatry, the weapons themselves, "gods of metal." In one sequence a young child caresses a museum model of a rocket beneath a chapel-like skylight.

The movie stresses the connection frequently made in Church teaching between national spending for armaments and the lack of allocations for the poor.

The movie also features

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**'We Share Our Bishop's Concern but Speak As Women in World'**

**Sisters Council**

**By John Dash**

The Diocesan Sisters Council, representing more than 900 women religious in this area, has endorsed the national Oct. 22 Peace March and Rally at the Seneca Army Depot, the assumed transshipment site of the Cruise and Pershing nuclear missiles destined for deployment in Europe later this year.

The 28-member council not only unanimously endorsed diocesan participation, it is now working to ensure participation, both lay and religious, at the event which is expected to draw more than 5,000 to the area.

The council's endorsement followed a presentation by Giovina Caroscio, director of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, an agency which previously endorsed the pro-peace action.

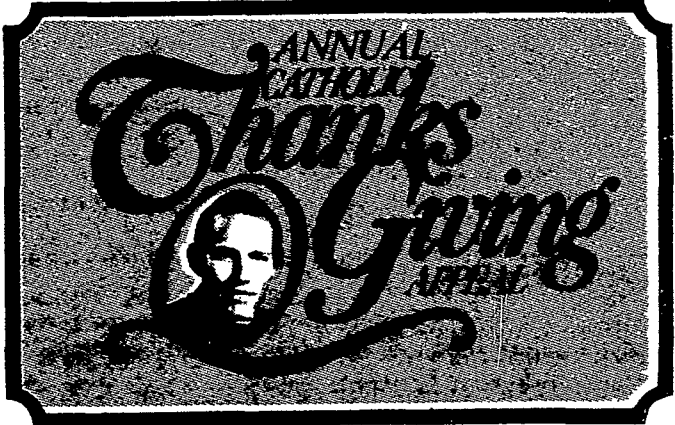
According to both Sister Susan Schantz, SSJ, president of the council, and Sister Judith McKay, SSJ, a council member, the sisters debated the question of religious endorsement at length, even to the point of raising such current questions as the cost to Seneca County for law enforcement during the demonstration.

Both women also said that the council's action was independent of both the U.S. bishops' recent call for an end to the nuclear arms race, and of the then-rumored endorsement by Bishop Matthew H. Clark of the Oct. 22 demonstrations -- though both lauded such moral leadership.

Sister Judith said the text of the council action reads, "The Diocesan Sisters Council unanimously endorses the events of Oct. 22, joining in the international events of that weekend; and also endorses participating in any way possible."

Sister Judith commented that members of the council "are going to be doing some very active communicating

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