

COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, October 12, 1983

24 Pages 35 Cents

Bishop Participates In Open Hearing On War, Peace

By Carmen J. Viglucci
Seneca Falls -- If it were a World Series, Bishop Matthew H. Clark and his initiatives for the cause of peace would have won hands down here Sunday at a public hearing he called to discuss his decision to speak at a peace rally Oct. 22 at the nearby Seneca Army Depot.

Twenty pre-registered speakers were heard on the rally issue as well as on the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace." Sixteen were supportive, most strongly, of the bishop's decision to speak, three were opposed and one didn't address that issue directly.

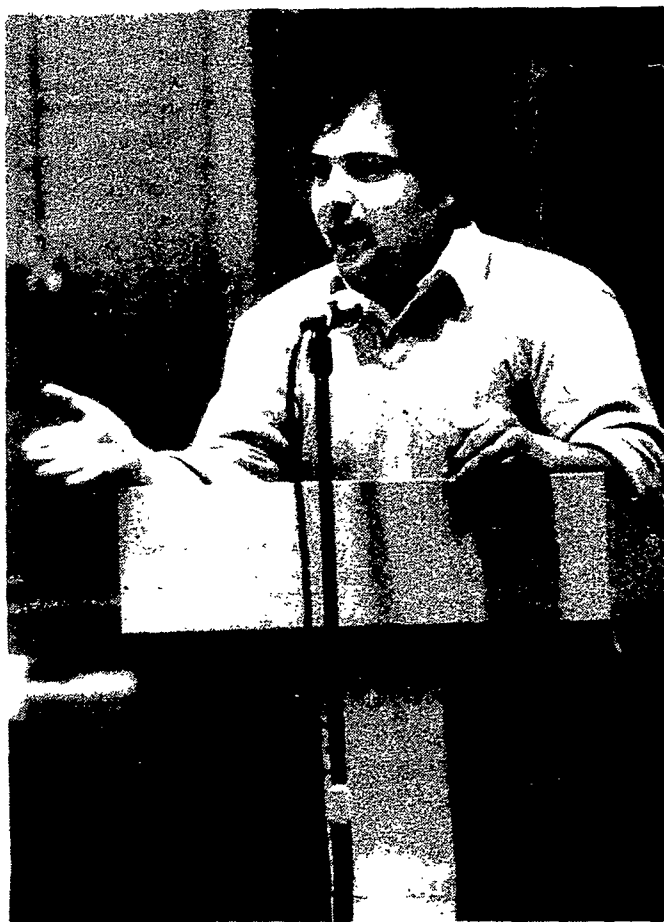
The hearing took place at St. Patrick's school gymnasium and each of the 20 were given three minutes to speak. Bishop Clark sat at the head table along with Father Charles Mulligan, diocesan director of Social Ministries; Mary Heidkamp, director of the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace; Giovina Caroscio, director of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, and Father Michael Conboy, St. Patrick's pastor. Just under 200 persons attended.

In a very unusual scenario, probably only possible in the post-conciliar Church, a bishop stood and discussed his policy with obvious critics. And despite the candidness, often expressed sharply, the meeting was run with, in the bishop's words, "civility and charity." Several times, in response to direct criticism, particularly of his peace rally stance, the bishop searched for, and usually found commonality of sentiment with such speakers.

And though there was disagreement expressed of the bishop's peace options, the majority of the speakers not only supported the bishop's position but warmly applauded it.

After a welcome and scriptural reading by Father Conboy, the format consisted of introductory remarks by Bishop Clark, followed by the speakers. The bishop asked each to remain at the microphone and he often, particularly with those who disagreed with him, discussed their talks with them. The bishop closed the hearing with more informal comments.

Expectedly, most of the criticism directed at the bishop came from those who do not support the peace rally and/or the national pastoral letter. Perhaps more surprisingly, some discontent was heard from pro-life speakers who were not so opposed to the peace rally as unhappy with the fact that the bishop's appearance at



Paul Sandroni, Seneca Falls
"I don't want to see my children crawling in the rubble of nuclear waste."

the rally precludes his attendance at the Right to Life convention scheduled the same day in Rochester.

This point of view was expressed by Elizabeth Shipley of St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, who spoke of "the frustration of those in the pro-life movement"

because of the diocesan emphasis on the peace movement and her perception of a lack of involvement in pro-life activities, such as picketing of hospitals performing abortions.

Just before Ms. Shipley

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Priests Council Endorses Rally

By John Dash

On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the diocesan Priests Council endorsed the Oct. 22 peace rally at Sampson State Park by a vote of 20 to 1 with no abstentions, Father Joseph Jankowiak reported last week.

Father Jankowiak, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Rochester, is president of the council, the canonically established voice of the clergy of the diocese which serves as a consultant to Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

The council and the bishop met Oct. 4 at Roscommon Inn outside of Victor.

The question of council endorsement of the Oct. 22 rally, at which Bishop Clark will be a featured speaker, was raised at the priests' September meeting.

A similar endorsement has been made by the diocesan Sisters Council. The Diocesan Pastoral Council, however, voted not to endorse the rally.

The rally has been called to protest the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe later this year. The rally site is adjacent to the Seneca Army Depot, the alleged transshipment point of the nuclear weapons.

The Oct. 22 event is but one of several such protests being conducted internationally on the deployment.

The council's resolution read:

"Whereas the 'Challenge of Peace' (the recent pastoral letter by the U.S. bishops on questions of war and peace) compels each diocese to consider the pertinent local issues and concerns regarding the arms race; and

"Whereas the deployment of Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Western Europe represents an escalation of the nuclear arms race; and

"Whereas our bishop has made a decision to participate in the Oct. 22

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Cardinal Cooke was noted for his love and concern for children. Here he holds a youngster at the opening of a low-middle income housing project in New York City. (NC Photo)

Cardinal Cooke: 'He Offered His Pain As a Beautiful Gift'

Cardinal Cooke biography, photos, other stories, Pages 12, 13.

His "final" message, Page 22.

New York (NC) -- The funeral Mass for Cardinal Terence Cooke, who died Thursday, Oct. 6, of acute leukemia was scheduled to take place 2 p.m. last Monday at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

(Bishops Matthew H. Clark and Joseph L. Hogan were to represent the Rochester diocese at the rites).

Cardinal Cooke was archbishop of New York City and the head of the U.S. Military Vicariate. He was 62.

The cardinal's body was received last Thursday at the cathedral and lay in state daily until Monday.

Father Peter Finn, director of communications for the archdiocese, said the cardinal would be buried in the cathedral's crypt as his predecessors were.

One of the best known and influential members of the American hierarchy, Cardinal Cooke died at his residence in New York at 4:45 a.m., the archdiocese announced.

The announcement said he died

"peacefully...in the shadow of his beloved Cathedral of St. Patrick."

Less than a day before the cardinal's death, Father Finn said Cardinal Cooke was offering the pain of his leukemia "as a beautiful gift for others."

"That might sound a little bit staged, but that's the way the man feels," said Father Finn.

The cardinal's death was mourned around the world.

Since 1968 Cardinal Cooke headed both the nearly two million member archdiocese and the even larger Military Vicariate, the worldwide See whose members include American Catholics in the armed forces and their dependents.

He was elevated to the College of Cardinals in 1969.

Outside the church he was a friend of presidents and politicians. He met on several occasions with Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan, and also served on governmental advisory bodies.

Shortly before his death Cardinal Cooke was visited Sept. 25 at his residence by President and Mrs.

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