

ence Church

an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces.

The problems of New York City were also concerns of Cardinal Cooke. In a 1976 Easter message, Cardinal Cooke asked that New York City's continuing fiscal crisis not lead to cutbacks for the poor and disadvantaged.

During the 1977 mayoral campaign in New York City, he joined Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn in issuing a joint statement challenging the candidates to give more evidence in their campaigns that they recognized the "unprecedented problems" demanding action. The statement highlighted the issues of education, housing, criminal justice and unemployment.

Cardinal Cooke also joined Franciscan Father Bruce Ritter, director of Covenant House in New York, a shelter for runaways, in strongly criticizing child pornography.

In being named archbishop of New York in March 1968, Bishop Cooke succeeded Cardinal Spellman, widely regarded as the most influential Catholic churchman in the United States. The new archbishop had served Cardinal Spellman for a decade as secretary and auxiliary bishop, distinguishing himself in the areas of finance, fund raising and supervision of building programs.

The ninth head of the New York See, Terence James Cooke was born March 1, 1921 in a slum tenement on Manhattan's Upper West Side to Michael Cooke, a chauffeur and construction worker from County Galway, Ireland, and Margaret Gannon Cooke, also from Galway. He had an older brother and a younger sister.

The future cardinal grew up in Manhattan, the Bronx and West Nyack. After the death of his mother in 1930, his father reared the three children with the help of their aunt, Mary Gannon. The cardinal once said that the most important lesson he had learned from his father was: "Whatever you do, do it with all your heart."

After attending parish grade schools, Cooke studied for the priesthood at Cathedral College in New York City and at St. Joseph's Seminary in the Dunwoodie section of Yonkers. He did well academically, played the violin in the school's string ensemble and was a forward on the basketball team.

Ordained on Dec. 1, 1945, Father Cooke was first assigned as assistant pastor and later to a children's home.

In 1947, Father Cooke was sent to the Catholic University of America in Washington to study social work. After earning a master of science degree there in 1949, he did additional graduate work at the University of Chicago.

From 1949 to 1954, Father Cooke directed youth activities for New York archdiocesan Catholic Charities. He was procurator, or bursar, at St. Joseph's Seminary from 1954 to 1956, and also taught at Fordham.

He moved into the chancery office of the archdiocese in 1957 as personal secretary to Cardinal Spellman, became vice chancellor in 1958, chancellor in 1961 and auxiliary bishop and vicar general in 1965.

In 1966, the archdiocese was divided into six regions, and Bishop Cooke, in charge of 175 parishes in Manhattan and the Bronx, made regular rounds to talk to pastors about their financial and other problems. He became aware of the need to adapt inner-city parishes to the new conditions which followed the movement of their more affluent members to the suburbs. He speeded up the training of priests for specialized work with Spanish-speaking congregations and granted permission for the establishment of experimental parishes in Harlem and the Lower East Side where the priests worked as equals without a pastor.

Installed as archbishop on April 4, 1968, in ceremonies attended by President Lyndon B. Johnson and other leaders, he pushed through numerous administrative reforms, including the establishment of a research office to gather data for planning, the consolidation of administrative facilities and the publication of the first archdiocesan financial report.

Two months after his installation as archbishop, when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, President Johnson appointed the cardinal to a panel investigating the problem of violence in American life.

The archbishop subsequently urged speedy implementation of the report of the President's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, which had condemned "white racism" and called for radical efforts to bring blacks into the mainstream of American life.

His elevation to the College of Cardinals by Pope Paul came in March 1969.

Later that same year Pope Paul selected him to be a delegate to the 1969 world Synod of Bishops. Pope John Paul II likewise selected him to attend the 1980 synod on the family.

A gregarious man, Cardinal Cooke enjoyed most mixing with people. "It's fun going out and seeing people," he said once in an interview with The New York Times. "They shape you and their response makes the job bearable."

The cardinal was awarded the Lebanese Order of Merit Oct. 5, which is the highest honor given by the Lebanese government to foreigners.

Because of the cardinal's condition, the award was received by New York Auxiliary Bishop Joseph T. O'Keefe, vicar general and administrator of the archdiocese.

In recognition of Cardinal Cooke's work for justice, peace and freedom in Lebanon, the award was presented by the ambassador of Lebanon to the United States, Abdallah Bouhabib, a Maronite Catholic, and Ambassador Gazi Chidiack, formerly the Lebanese consulate general in New York.

Plans for the award began six months ago, they said, and were not prompted by the cardinal's serious condition.

The Lebanese officials told Bishop O'Keefe that the cardinal is loved by all the people in Lebanon and that the two foreigners most familiar to Lebanese Catholics are Pope John Paul II and Cardinal Cooke.



Cardinal Cooke attended the ordination of Bishop Joseph. L. Hogan in 1968. Seated, from left, Cardinal Cooke; Archbishop Pio Laghi, apostolic delegate to the U.S., Bishop Hogan, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Standing, from left, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey; Bishop James E. Kearney; Bishop Lawrence B. Casey; and Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty.



Cardinal Cooke chats with Pope Paul VI during a trip to the Vatican.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark receives his crozier from Cardinal Cooke at his installation June 26, 1979, at the War Memorial.



With the Presidents...

As a leader in the U.S. Catholic Church, Cardinal Cooke on numerous occasions was invited to the White House or would be visited by presidents in New York. Clockwise, from left, President Lyndon B. Johnson attended the cardinal's installation in 1968; with President and Mrs. Carter in 1978; meeting in the oval office with President Ford in 1974; at a K of C banquet in 1971 with President Nixon; with President Reagan shortly after the 1980 election.