

Editorials

Nightmare

There is probably no way of accurately assessing the effect of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on war and peace. Therefore, there is no way of telling if it had anything to do with President Reagan's most recent proposals for cutting back on nuclear arms.

The president proposed that the U.S. and Soviets destroy at least 5 percent of their strategic nuclear warheads every year for up to eight years. He also wants to negotiate limits on long-range bombers and air-launched cruise missiles.

It is probably impossible that the Soviet Union was touched in any way by the bishops' document. But still Moscow has come up with its own plan for the two major powers to cut back on nuclear arms, which it presented to the United Nations. Basically, Moscow asked for the two nations to freeze nuclear armament under appropriate verification.

Regardless of the worth of either plan and notwithstanding ulterior motives, both at least represent consideration of arms reduction. A good step.

Still, something former President Nixon said last week was unsettling.

He said that he has persistent nightmares that Libya's Khadafy will gain nuclear capability. A good point, for while everyone is concentrating on the major powers, many other nations also possess nuclear weaponry and any one of them, including madmen, either presently on the scene or waiting somewhere in the wings, could touch off nuclear destruction.

Perhaps therein lies the strongest reason of all for the banning of nuclear weapons from this earth.

Gentle Man

Many words, through common usage, have lost their original flavor -- for instance, the word gentleman which over the years elided into one word from the original two.

If ever there was someone personifying the original connotation -- gentle man -- it was Cardinal Terence Cooke. A man of esteemed position, a leader of a huge and varied flock, and a person respected in the highest halls of government, the cardinal managed to maintain a quiet, easy-going demeanor that made all

feel comfortable in his presence.

In essential Christianity, he used his own affliction to teach the rest of us. A dying man, he spoke of the beauty and preciousness of life even for someone in his condition. One of his last acts was to urge the government to increase U.S. aid to poor countries.

A champion of life in all things, he chaired the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee and he headed this nation's military vicariate.

Many roles are thrust upon a prince of the Church, an archbishop of a metropolitan area and a national leader. Of all these, Cardinal Cooke seemed to regard his responsibility as teacher as most important. And he taught in the most efficient way -- by example.

An often harsh and crude world will miss Cardinal Cooke, a truly gentle man.

Quote

"We (the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.) have jointly created a cold war with a flash point so intense that we can barely maintain peace, and since we can barely maintain peace we can barely avoid a nuclear war" -- Bishop Francis Stafford of Memphis, Tenn.

and Opinions

Two Orders Endorse Talk

EDITOR:

We are writing in support of Bishop Clark's participation in the Oct. 22 national peace rally at the Seneca Army Depot. We are deeply aware that his decision is made in the context of prayer and the conviction that his ministry as bishop calls him to publicly proclaim his deepest moral values. The bishop's decision respects the complexity of the issues of peace and disarmament. We thank him for his careful and thoughtful communication with the people of the diocese. Our times call us to speak wisely and courageously for alternative ways to work for peace and he is leading us in our search. We join the bishop in prayer and fasting for a peace that halts the nuclear arms race.

Sister Jean Marie Kearse Congregational Council of the Sisters of Mercy
Editor's Note: The letter signed by Sister Jean Marie also included the names of the following members of the Congregation Council of the Sisters of Mercy: Sisters Marie Joseph Crowley, M. Noreen Graney, Janet Korn, Nancy Whitley. The names of the members of the Central Administration of the Sisters of St. Joseph also were included -- Sisters Elizabeth Anne LeValley, Clare Brown, Agnes Catherine Battersby, Ann Lafferty, Rosemary St. Peter, Maura Wilson.

2 Parish Staffs Back Bishop

EDITOR:

The staff of St. John the Evangelist parish has sent the following letter to Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

We, the staff of St. John the Evangelist, (Rochester, N.Y. 14610) want to state our support for you and your decision to participate in the Oct. 22 "Rally for Peace." Those of us who are free of prior commitments will join you on that day at the Seneca Army Depot.

We know that you will be caught in a crossfire in your decision. Many will not understand and will disagree while on the other side, there will be many who will encourage your stance and support it.

The issue of nuclear armament will not go away. We thank you for challenging us, as a staff, and all the people of our diocese to prayerfully reflect and act for the cause of peace.

Father Kevin P. Murphy
 Co-pastor
 St. John the Evangelist Church
 549 Humboldt St.
 Rochester, N.Y. 14610

Editor's Note: The letter also was signed by parish staffers Claude Lester, Sister Margaret H. Caufield, Anna Martin, Sister Barb Hamm, Father Peter Clifford (co-pastor) and Marlene J. Vigna, RSM.

EDITOR:

The staff of St. Mary's Church, Auburn, has sent the following message to Bishop Matthew H. Clark:

"Thank you for the prayerful consideration you gave to your decision to speak at the Oct. 22 Rally for Peace in Romulus, the site of the Seneca Army Depot. Thank you, too, for communicating so thoroughly to us, the people of the Rochester diocese, the various implications and consequences which entered into your thought and prayer. We are grateful for your courageous leadership and we pray that we may all come closer to recognizing the Spirit's prompting by just such a process of prayer, serious thought and the willingness to speak from the heart with respectful love for all other persons. You have shown us in a tangible way that it is only by being peaceful that peace may be possible for all of God's children."

Editor's Note: The letter was signed by members of the staff of St. Mary Church, 15 Clark St., Auburn, in the following order: Gary and Rose Marie LaLonde, Religious Education; Peg Herstine, Adult Education-Catechumenate; Sister Dorothy Meisenzahl, school principal; Sister Chris Lloyd, pastoral assistant; Maryrose Barron, administrative assistant; Father Joseph R. Catanise, priest-intern, and Father Edward A. Zimmer, pastor.

Let's Say The Rosary

EDITOR:

October is still the month

of the Holy Rosary, even though its recitation has become less popular during the "renewal" years. Perhaps we have forgotten its origin and its power, so, may I please remind you.

In 1208, Our Lady not only taught St. Dominic to pray the rosary, but also promised great and lasting results to this devotion when properly used. One result was the conversion of more than 100,000 Albigensian heretics.

It is composed of 15 decades, like the 150 psalms of the Canonical Office. Each decade is prefaced by a Pater (which originated with our Lord Himself when His apostles asked Him to teach them to pray) and a consideration/meditation on some one of the mysteries in our Lord's life, which mental picture holds the attention from wandering. The Hail Mary is a prayer of greeting to Our Lady; that of the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation and of St. Elizabeth at the Visitation.

Again heresies are spreading and infecting the Church, causing divisions, even as our Holy Father exhausts himself by personal visits to the countries of the world in the cause of peace.

St. Bernard says, "God wishes that we should have everything through Mary."

At Fatima, she said, "Say the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world. Add after each decade the following prayer: 'Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.'" She also promised that, when a sufficient number of people fulfill her requests... "Russia will be converted and a period of peace will be granted to the world."

During the remainder of October... and after!... let us renew our faith in, and our love for, Our Lady's own prayer -- the ROSARY.

Sister St. Bernard
 St. Joseph Convent
 Infirmary
 4095 East Ave.
 Rochester, N.Y. 14610

Nukes Won't End World

EDITOR:

After reading your editorials and opinions to the editor: Somehow I don't buy the

end of the world by nuclear arms.

Some or most persons better re-read the Bible. People today will tell you like the Supreme Court justices interpret the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

When mankind discovered fire, he was going to burn the earth to a crisp. He invented gunpowder he was going to blow the earth to smithereens. Now with nuclear energy we fear the same fears our ancestors did. Japan, Germany and Italy were to conquer and divide the world by military force. Like the white man did to the Indians. They conquered 2 1/2 continents from the Indians and if you ever studied ancient history all empires that rise will fall. Quite a few fell after WW II.

If history is recorded right, Attila the Hun wanted to conquer the Vatican and sit on the pope's throne and make the pope polish his boots. What's the difference, people are dying of starvation or Syrian guns or Lebanese guns that are manufactured in Russia or here.

I guess like any other time in history, you'll live till you die. Whether it's hunger, disease, abortion, old age, accidents, etc.

John Yuhas
 RD 1, Box 269
 Maryville, N.Y. 13111

Anti-Nuclear Message

EDITOR:

As a musician, I often used lyrics to express my thoughts. The old song "Eve of Destruction" reminds me of uneasy times 21 years ago. Remember the Cuban crisis? Remember the practice air raid drills?

As a 13-year-old then, I also recall how scared I was whenever I heard a plane. Was it friend or foe? And wars all over the world still frighten innocent children, and we still are on the "Eve of Destruction."

The hope is at the end of the song -- "you can bury your dead, but don't leave a trace; hate your next door neighbor, but don't forget to say grace." The hope is that all Christians will challenge their personal beliefs in human respect and life by speaking against nuclear arms.



"DO NOT LAY UP TREASURES OF SILVER AND GOLD, MY SON, FOR THEREIN LIES FOLLY. RATHER, GET YOURSELF A McDONALD'S FRANCHISE."

The next war won't leave a trace. The hope is in loving our neighbor and remembering to say grace!

Mrs. Donna Carson
 267 Winchester St.
 Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Bond Issue Supported

EDITOR:

There are few problems confronting the "Family of New York" more serious than the continuing deterioration of the transportation facilities that are the backbone of this state's economy. As the recent bridge disaster in a neighboring state tragically reminded us, we cannot ignore this problem any longer.

I have proposed, and both houses of the Legislature have passed, a \$1.25 billion Rebuild New York bond issue to provide funds to renovate roads, bridges,

waterways, rails and airport facilities. As the sweeping, bipartisan endorsements of the Rebuild New York bond issue demonstrates, the need for this program is clear.

To help your readers decide this issue for themselves, I have directed that informational materials be made available upon request. The materials can be obtained by writing: Bond Information Task Force, Building 5, 1220 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12232; or by calling a toll-free information number, 1-800-424-4421.

The need is real and the issue is important. I urge your readers to know the facts and make their vote count by supporting the Rebuild New York bond issue on Nov. 8.

Mario M. Cuomo
 Governor
 State of New York
 Executive Chamber
 Albany, N.Y. 12224

ANNUAL CATHOLIC
Thanks Giving
 APPEAL