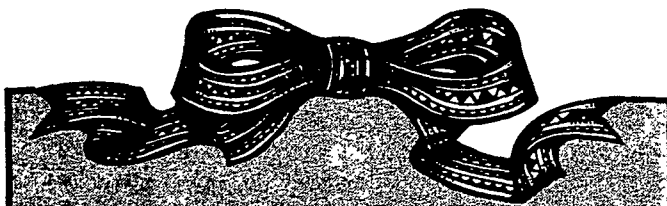


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Ribbons for Peace

Recognizing that not everyone is able to attend the Oct. 22 peace rally or even pray vigils the night before, the Mercy and Justice Committee of the Sisters of Mercy suggests that anyone wishing to participate may wear a purple ribbon to signify.

The committee recommends wearing of a piece of ribbon either on the lapel or as a necklace "so that we may be in solidarity with one another." Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-22, for the intention of peace and nuclear disarmament.

Peace Rally Said Largest Ever in Upstate New York

The peace rally scheduled at Sampson State Park, near Romulus, Saturday, Oct. 22, will be the largest ever in upstate New York, according to its organizers.

The demonstration, protesting the alleged presence of nuclear weapons at the neighboring Seneca Army Depot, coincides with U.N. Disarmament Week and the International Days of Protest against Cruise and Pershing II missile deployment in Europe.

The rally is being organized by the Seneca Depot October Action Coalition, composed of peace and justice organizations across New York State. It will begin at 10 a.m., with the main program lasting from 1 to 3 p.m.

Among the main speakers will be Bishop Matthew H. Clark who has chosen the topic "Religious Leadership in the Quest for Peace."

The bishop in particular and the rally in general have received strong support from a wide spectrum of dioceses, many of whom will participate. A project of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy has been to arrange for bus transportation. A late report shows eight buses, with 44 persons each, have been chartered.

At least another three buses and a large van have been arranged for by the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, according to Kathy Duple and more than 100 sisters will attend under the auspices of the Diocesan Sisters Council.

In addition, many are arranging for their own transportation with car pooling a popular activity.

To complement the demonstration, 15 churches across the diocese are participating in a prayer vigil, Friday evening, as part of an Office of Liturgy project.

In addition, Bishop Clark has reported "the greatest outpouring of support for anything I have ever done."

A day of civil disobedience also will take part on Monday, Oct. 24, but the bishop and the diocese have withheld support from this activity.

Bishop Clark is not the only prominent speaker for the main portion of the program. Former congresswoman Bella Abzug, representing Women U.S.A., and Dr. Benjamin Spock, retired pediatrician and anti-war activist, are also on the agenda.

Bishop Gets Wide Support For Peace Rally Decision

By Carmen J. Viglucci

Describing the reaction to his decision to speak at the Oct. 22 peace rally at Sampson State Park, Bishop Matthew H. Clark said, "It has been the greatest outpouring of support for anything I have ever done."

The bishop continued, "It has been a most remarkable offering of sacrifice, fasting, prayer — literally edifying for me. There has never been so much positive mail on any one thing — from high school students, from older citizens, from many sources."

"Frankly, I was worried about the decision," he said. "Some said it might be seen as letting down a whole generation of older Americans but this has not been so."

Since making the decision to speak at the rally, Bishop Clark has used many forums to explain his position. In his

weekly column in this newspaper, he wrote on Sept. 21, "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. Please let me assure such persons that this is not my intention. 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 will be one of

three main speakers at the day-long rally near the Seneca Army Depot, the alleged storing place for nuclear arms. He will have eight minutes and his topic will be "Religious Leadership in the Quest for Peace."

Although obviously convinced of the importance of the Oct. 22 rally, the bishop points out that that "is just one step."

"We need to be patient and take a long view — to open up this position to all members of Church and all members of society."

Although the bishop's decision has been roundly applauded both within religious circles and in the secular world, it has not been without criticism, some of which has come from pro-life activists who feel the bishop should attend the Right to Life Convention, also Oct.

22, in Rochester.

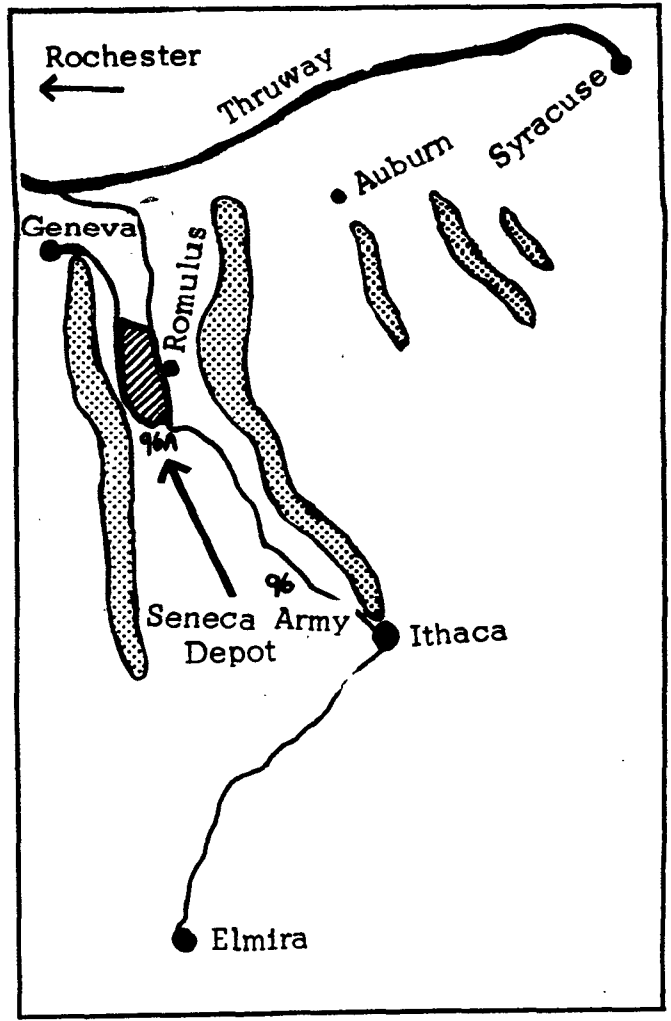
"I was invited to address the rally at Sampson Park much prior to receiving the invitation to say a prayer of thanksgiving at the luncheon (as part of the Right to Life convention). Having the invitation to Sampson — and I knew it would not be universally popular — I thought it through carefully and prayerfully. I reached the decision and conveyed it to those who invited me."

"In light of the earlier invitation, I thought it perfectly understandable that I not turn (rally organizers) down to say a prayer at the luncheon. Bishop Hickey (diocesan auxiliary bishop) consented to do the prayer and I know he will do it well."

"I can only ask people to review the facts. My decision was made with care. I think it

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The Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry invites all interested people who attend the Peace Rally on Oct. 22 to join in a symbolic walk from Sampson State Park to the Seneca Army Depot airstrip field. To arrive at the state park, if coming from Rochester, Auburn and other points north of the depot, the Thruway is the easiest access. Exits at Geneva (42) and Waterloo (41) will provide the quickest routes. From Geneva exit take Rt. 14 south to Rts. 5 & 20 east, exit at Rt. 96 A and continue south 5-6 miles to the entrance of the park; from Waterloo take Rt. 414 south to Rts. 5 & 20 West, exit at Rt. 96A and continue south to the park. Arriving from the south (Elmira, Watkins Glen, Ithaca), State Police will be trafficking the intersection of Rts. 96, 96 A and 414. At that point, follow the directions around the east boundaries of the depot and arrive at the park from the north on 96A. When entering the park, it is important to note the main traffic circle some .4 miles inside the main entrance. All traffic will be directed to designated parking. Those participating in the walk to the airstrip should gather just before 11 a.m. at the southeast point of that traffic circle. A banner, the "Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry" will be visible. Following the walk of little more than a mile, a brief prayer will be offered, and then the return walk to the rally site in the park. Participants are encouraged to bring banners and pictures. Concessions will be available.



Right to Life Convention Scheduled

If pre-registration statistics are any indication, the New York State Right to Life Convention scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn will be well attended. Two-hundred, and fifty people have thus far registered and will be on hand to hear the luncheon keynote speaker, Illinois Congressman Henry J. Hyde who authored the Hyde Amendment which since 1976 has banned the use of federal funds to pay for abortions, except where the life of the mother is en-

dangered. Also, Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Auxiliary Bishop of the Rochester Diocese and the Reverend Michael Merrill of Parma Free Methodist Church will lead in prayer.

Those attending will also hear an afternoon address by Olivia Gans, an organizer of the New Jersey Chapter of Women Exploited by Abortion (WEBA). Ms. Gans will discuss the physical and psychological effects of abortions and the need for women who have had abortions to work through their pain.

Other major speakers include Dr. Bernard Nathanson, author of "Aborting America"; Father William Smith, professor of Moral Theology and Dean of St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, Yonkers, N. Y., and Indiana attorney James Bopp Jr. who will address "Legal Issues of Abortion." There will be three panels: Abortion and the Protestant Community; Current Issues and Strategies; Federal and State; and Personal and Family Crises of Unplanned Teen Pregnancy.

Local legislators attending

will be Roger Robach, Assemblyman 134th District; Gary Proud, Assemblyman 131st District; and L. Paul Kehoe, Senate District 53.

Mary Wright, chairperson for NYS Right to Life noted that several awards will be presented. One will go to a volunteer who has provided enormous leadership and dedication and another, the first annual Cardinal Terence Cooke Award, will go to an individual who exemplifies the strength and commitment to the right to life of unborn children such as was demon-

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