

Bishop Calls for Conversion at Peace Rally

By John Dash

Romulus — Though Bishop Matthew H. Clark was applauded several times during his Oct. 22 address here, the most sustained sounds of approval when he told the 3,000 peace demonstrators: "Above all, however, whether the issue is the arms race, abortion or capital punishment, our reverence for life demands public policy which acknowledges and protects the sanctity of human life."

The occasion for the bishop's remarks was a rally opening three days of protest outside the Seneca Army Depot against the deployment of the Cruise and Pershing II nuclear missiles in Europe later this year.

"Reverence for life is not the sole possession of the ideologies of the right or the

left," Bishop Clark said. "Like the prophets of Israel, and like Jesus Christ, we in the churches and synagogues must lift our voices in an unending chorus that resounds with reverence for human life and echoes decisively through the halls of Congress."

That the bishop spoke at the rally was a point of consternation for several in the diocese, but among the diocesans present for his address, one heard nothing but praise and support.

One man, Chalmers MacCormack of Aurora, said that he had been moved to tears by the bishop's words, particularly, the bishop's references to prayer.

(The full text of Bishop Clark's speech appears on Page 2)

While the temperatures at Sampson State Park, the site of the rally, were moderate, a biting wind rose off Seneca Lake and burrowed through the layers of clothing worn by the demonstrators. At one point the chill became so evident, a rally organizer encouraged the crowd to "snuggle up" to stave off the bitter wind.

Earlier that day a large crowd joined an allied prayer demonstration organized by the diocesan Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry. An estimated 1,000 diocesans marched to and from a gate at the Army depot, reciting prayers and singing.

The principal speakers at the rally, besides Bishop Clark, were Bella Abzug and Dr. Benjamin Spock.

They were not, however, the sole attractions. Rally organizers also booked a number of entertainers and a number of speakers of perhaps less fame but no less ability.

One in particular, Michio Kaku, a nuclear physicist from City University of New York, several of whose relatives died in the bombing of Hiroshima, gave an impassioned plea against the deployment of the Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe. He called the deployment "a declaration of war on the Soviet Union."

The rally drew such varied groups as Catholics Against Nuclear Arms (CANAs), and the Coalition to Stop Electro-Shock, Lawyers Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control (LANAC), and the Diocesan Sisters Council, the Hamilton Friends Meeting, and the Fatima Peace Task Force.

And in a way, a sort of carnival atmosphere also was evident. Individuals dressed up as Death. One fellow in costume carried around a ferret. A county legislator handed out free flags. Vendors plied such wares as whole grain cookies, buttons, cider, and even Twinkies.

And musicians seemed able to sit down and entertain with a song on the spot.

It was the first day. Still to go, two days of more intense activity.



Jerry Driscoll, president of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, leads a line of Rochesterians onto a bus bound from the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse to the peace rally site.



Bishop Clark confers with his secretary, Father Louis Vasile.



Present at the rally were (from left) Father Edwin Metzger, Father Robert Kreckel, Msgr. William Roche and Sister Mary Jean Smith, SSJ.

Photos by Anthony J. Costello and Terrance J. Brennan



Women religious march with the crowd during the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry prayer demonstration

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Matthew H. Clark
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 95, No. 5 October 26, 1983

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)

Published weekly except week after July 4 and Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607, (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.