

Bishop Clark to Right to Life Convention:

'Yours Is Truly A Labor of Love'

(Following is the text of Bishop Matthew H. Clark's address at the New York State Right to Life Convention in Rochester, Oct. 22, 1983)

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to gather with you here this morning and to welcome you to the Diocese of Rochester. It is not that often that our area has the privilege of hosting the New York State Right to Life Convention.

It is inspiring to me as a bishop to see so many of you assemble for the sole purpose of preventing the death of the unborn child. Because I know as you know that the unborn child who lives through your efforts will probably never thank you, never know your name, or ever be aware of your struggle and efforts to give him/her life.

Yours is truly a labor of love.

The violence perpetrated against the child in the womb escalates every year.

Whether it is the result of ignorance, shame, convenience, or quick profit, the womb has nonetheless become the free-fire zone for the defenseless child.

It is our charge as Christians to lift life up, to respect it, to cherish it in all stages of development and in all phases of life.

Not only are we as Chris-

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tians seeking to protect the unborn who are aborted by the emptying of the womb, but we are also seeking to prevent abortion of persons that occurs by the denial of adequate housing, adequate food and clothing, by denial of employment, and threat of war.

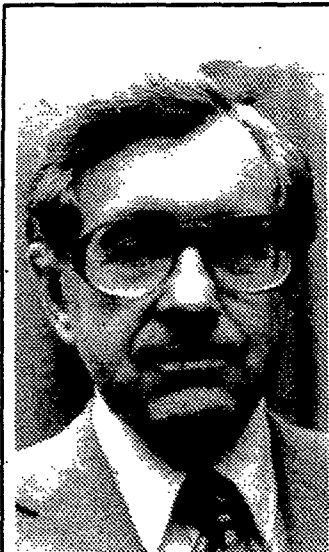
Let us continue to struggle together to end violence, to bring justice and a change of heart of some of our lawmakers, medical professionals, scientists, friends, neighbors, and at times ourselves, and let us remember always to raise our

hearts in constant prayer, supplication, to ask our God for His grace to bring about a greater awareness of his tremendous love for all of us.

Jesus suffered the ultimate sacrifice because of our infinite worth, whether we are too small to be seen, too helpless to function, too difficult to love.

I exhort you to continue your work against violence, remembering Jesus' words from Matthew 25:40 "Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me."

Photos by Joan M. Smith



Dr. Bernard Nathanson, obstetrician, gynecologist, attended the Right to Life conference to discuss his recent book "The Abortion Papers." He was a former director of an abortion clinic in New York City but now has become a leading pro-life advocate.



Ray Wright, husband of Mary Wright, chairman of the NYS Right to Life Committee, Jean Doyle, president of the National Right To Life Committee, and Senator Henry J. Hyde attended the conference.



Listening to Mary Wright, chairman of the NYS Right To Life Committee, are Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, Reverend Michael Merrill, Parma Free Methodist Church, Democratic assemblyman Roger Robach, Joan Allgaier, state legislative director, and Father William B. Smith.



Courtly Protest

Carrying a flag and poster branding Supreme Court justices as "murderers" one of a small group of demonstrators stands outside the Supreme Court as the justices convene for their first day of deliberations. Other demonstrators carried five black coffins to represent the 17 million who have died through abortion since the 1973 Supreme Court ruling which legalized abortion. (NC Photo)

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