

New York City Archbishop Is Installed

Pope's Authority Is 'Absolutely Indispensable,' Congregation Told

New York -- The authority of the pope is "absolutely indispensable" to the Catholic faith, said Archbishop John J. O'Connor at his installation as head of the New York Archdiocese.

The archbishop, who formerly headed the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., and was an auxiliary bishop in the Military Ordinariate in New York, spoke of papal authority in commenting on a letter from a schoolgirl who said "Until now I didn't know who you were."

Even so, she accepted him as her new bishop, Archbishop O'Connor said. "In the final analysis, ...she accepts me because the pope appointed me. ...That's why I am here. What I have or have not done before is of no real consequence, is it?"

"My few modest successes, my innumerable failures essentially count as nothing in comparison with that one reality, absolutely indispensable to our Catholic faith: the authority of the Holy Father."

The archbishop structured his homily around responses to letters he received from schoolchildren after his appointment was announced.

In the homily he commented on needs of the city including those of the hungry and homeless, the spiritually undernourished and the young. He also condemned abortion but pledged compassion to those who make the "tragic decision to abort an unborn baby in the sincere belief that this was the right, or at least the only, thing to do in the circumstances."

The archbishop's comments mixed the serious and the humorous. His self-deprecating touch drew applause and laughter from the congregation gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Among dignitaries attending the event were William Wilson, new U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo; New York Mayor Edward Koch; Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y.; Sen. Alphonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., and other government officials.

Prelates in attendance included Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, retired Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit, Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, Cardinal Luis Aponte Martinez of San Juan, Puerto Rico and retired Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle of Washington.

Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, Ohio, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Archbishop Bernard Law, who was due to be installed later in the week as archbishop of Boston, were present.

Archbishop Pio Laghi, the apostolic delegate in the United States, read the letter from Pope John Paul II appointing Archbishop O'Connor to the See of New York. The letter recalled that it was only five years earlier that the pope had

made Archbishop O'Connor, formerly naval chief of chaplains, a bishop for the Military Vicariate, and only nine months earlier that he had made him bishop of Scranton.

Archbishop O'Connor is the 11th bishop and eighth archbishop of New York.

After Archbishop Laghi led Archbishop O'Connor to his chair and handed him the crozier as his symbol of office, his fellow prelates and representative priests, Religious and laity of the archdiocese came by to extend their greetings.

At the end of the ceremony, Archbishop O'Connor told the congregation, "For better, for worse, this is what you got." The congregation applauded.

Archbishop O'Connor had taken formal "canonical possession" the previous day at a service attended principally by priests, Religious and deacons of the archdiocese.

At the installation, Archbishop O'Connor described the canonical possession ceremony as a marriage to the Archdiocese of New York. In that ceremony, he said, he "inherited at least 1.8 million Catholics as flesh of my flesh and blood of my blood, but more, I sincerely pray that many others of you, of all faiths, will permit me to serve you as well."

His favorite meditation is a saying of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "Give God permission," the archbishop told the congregation.

It is everyone's calling to give God permission "to open our minds and hearts so that he can indeed work through us," Archbishop O'Connor said. He said he prayed that as archbishop of New York he would "never impede any of you in any way from letting God work through you."

Archbishop O'Connor, 64, praised his predecessor, Cardinal Terence Cooke, who died Oct. 6. The cardinal's spirit "pervades this cathedral today," he said.

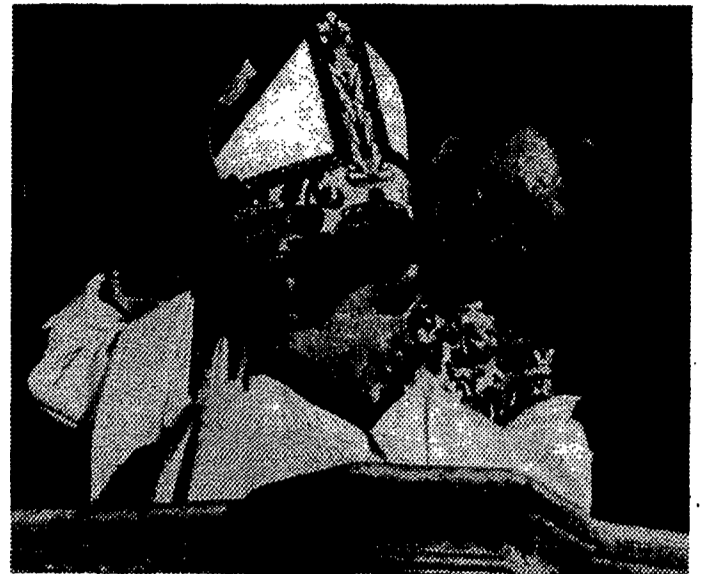
"It's no secret that he spent his life pleading for the protection of the unborn and preaching the sanctity of all human life, in his own words, 'from conception until death and at every moment in between,'" Archbishop O'Connor said.

"What can I do but ask for your prayers, ask for your indulgence, your understanding of my weakness, your sympathy with, yes, my stupidity...and your forgiveness for my sins."

"I need you very much. I need your strength, I need your wisdom, I need your counsel, above all, I need your love. And, oh how much, how very much I will love you in return," the archbishop said.

The archbishop's serious remarks were broken up with bits of humor.

"Mr. Mayor, how am I doing?" he began his homily, imitating Mayor Koch.



Archbishop John O'Connor places his mitre on the head of a younger John O'Connor, an altar boy at his installation Mass last week. (NC Photo)

Later he said, "Ich bin ein New Yorker," an echo of President Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner") speech more than 20 years earlier.

A shorter John J. O'Connor joined Archbishop O'Connor during the ceremony and briefly wore the archbishop's mitre, which slid down over his ears.

Young John O'Connor, 10, a fifth grader at Visitation School, had written to the archbishop pointing out that they have the same name and saying, "I would just love to go to St. Patrick's Church just to see you become an archbishop. The day when you become an archbishop is my granddad's anniversary and the day before my birthday."

The boy told Archbishop O'Connor that he was becoming an altar boy the same year that the older O'Connor was becoming an archbishop. "I hope I can be just like you when I grow up," he wrote.

During the ceremony the younger O'Connor served as altar boy and at one point the archbishop placed his mitre on the boy's head.

"Would I really want young John J. O'Connor to be just like me when he grows up? If not, why not? That is a sobering question indeed, for to the degree that I can merit young John's trust, I will be the kind of bishop you magnificent people deserve," Archbishop O'Connor said.

COURIER-JOURNAL

TOUR

ITALY • ROME • THE VATICAN

MAY 21st TO JUNE 3rd



TOUR LEADER
FR. ALBERT DELMONTE
Pastor St. Salome's Church

ITINERARY

MILAN (1 night) Lake District, Lake Garda/Verona

BALZANO (1 night) Cortina

VENICE (2 nights) Padua

FLORENCE (2 nights) San Gimignano/Siena

ASSISI (1 night)

SORRENTO (2 nights) Pompeii/Naples

ROME (3 nights)

Features:

- Round trip air transportation from Rochester.
- Travel by First Class air-conditioned motorcoach.
- 12 nights accommodations at Superior Tourist or Tourist Class Hotels with private bath or shower.
- 18 included meals: 12 Continental breakfasts with juice and 6 dinners (B,D on itinerary). Featuring: —Welcoming dinner with wine. —Lively evening with drink and tarantella floorshow at a popular Sorrento nightclub.
- Full day sightseeing in Rome includes St. Peter's, Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, Catacombs and Michelangelo's "Moses" in the Church of St. Peter's in Chains.
- Guided half day sightseeing in Venice, Florence, and Assisi.
- Admission fees to all included sightseeing.
- Professional American Express Tour Manager accompanying group throughout Italy.
- Transfers between airports and hotels in Italy.
- All taxes, tips except Tour Coach Driver & Tour Guide.
- American Express Vacation Kit and canvas tote bag.

14 DAYS

ESCORTED From ROCHESTER

BY FR. ALBERT DELMONTE

Per Person. Double Occupancy From
Rochester Single Occupancy Available

\$1699.00

COURIER-JOURNAL TOUR DEPT.

114 South Union Street • Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Please send brochure to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

5/21