

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, May 2, 1984

24 Pages 35 Cents

## Bishop Chosen as Delegate To German Peace Symposium

By Carmen J. Viglucci

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has been chosen as one of three representatives of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to attend an international peace symposium May 7-10 in Loccum, Germany. Other delegates from the United States will be Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan of Brooklyn and Edward Doherty, of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Office of International Justice and Peace.

The meeting happens to coincide with the first anniversary of the issuance of the historic pastoral letter on peace and nuclear armament by the American bishops.

The theme of the symposium, organized by the Protestant Academy of Loccum, a town just east of Hanover, will be "Peace As a Mission of the Church." Other groups sending delegates are the Lutheran Church, U.S.A.; the Russian Orthodox Church; the German Bishops Conference; the

Berlin Bishops Conference; the Protestant Church of Germany; the Reformed League, Federal Republic of Germany, and the League of Churches, German Democratic Republic.

Bishop Clark said that the symposium "will have two basic objectives: 1. to find common ground among the statements and positions of the represented church groups and common views of participants and 2. to try to come to greater sharpening of areas in which there are disagreements so to be able to discuss them easier and to understand the positions of others."

The bishop said that in addition to discussion among the

Continued on Page 7

- History of Peace Movement in Diocese
- What's Ahead on Diocesan Peace Front
- NC Report on the Year Since Pastoral
- Just What the Bishops' Pastoral Says
- Walks for Jobs with Peace Scheduled

### Bishop Clark Statement

Tomorrow will be the first anniversary of the issuing of the United States bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." At the beginning of this pastoral letter we said that we wished to speak words of hope and encouragement in a time of fear.

World events in the past year have in many ways heightened this fear. The decision to begin deployment of new missile systems in Europe and the subsequent positioning of Soviet submarines off the U.S. coastlines have demonstrated a failure to break the paralyzing grip of the spiraling nuclear arms race. It has also been disconcerting to see the termination of arms control negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

While these occurrences fuel the fear of nuclear war shared by people around the globe, the violence and tragedy of war continues to plague the peoples of the Middle East, Central America and other regions of the world. The senselessness of the bloodshed and suffering that afflicts so many people reminds us of the urgency of the task of finding new ways of resolving international conflict. It reminds us that we must heed the message of our Holy Father John Paul II when he said, "War should belong to the tragic past, to history; it should find no place on humanity's agenda for the future."

"The Challenge of Peace" recognizes both the urgency and complexity of the responsibility we have to build a future that realizes John Paul II's vision. With him we believe that peace must be "constructed patiently and with unshakeable faith."

During the past 12 months, we have worked toward that vision, and have come to learn in practice some valuable lessons about how we as Church can contribute to the universal quest for true peace. The dual task of transforming hearts and changing social structures requires steady, long-term efforts that can only be sustained by our faith and hope in Jesus Christ, and this realization has shaped our efforts to implement "The Challenge of Peace."

A significant part of our response as Church to the challenge of peace has been to encourage people to make prayer for peace an integral part of their lives. Several times during the year we have placed special emphasis on this. The season of Advent was designated as a time of prayer for peace, and Dec. 15, 1983, was a special day when the entire diocese joined together in this prayer. Our emphasis on prayer also stems from our belief that we as individuals are in need of conversion, a conversion that will free us to allow God's way of peace to permeate our lives. Thus, we have made prayer a fundamental part of our work for peace.

Aware of the complexity and urgency of our task, we have also engaged in educational programs that are aimed at building a peaceful future. We have been committed from the beginning to quality education programs on "The Challenge of Peace." Our education programs have been developed to inform people of the contents of the pastoral letter, but also to encourage and stimulate dialogue on how we can best realize our vocation as peacemakers. More than 40 parishes in the diocese sponsored in depth study and dialogue programs on the pastoral letter during this past Lenten season.

Many other parishes and schools in the diocese have implemented a variety of educational programs throughout the year.

Continued on Page 4



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

### Eleven Ordained Deacons

With Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey at his side, Bishop Matthew H. Clark imposes his hands upon the head of Permanent Deacon candidate Charles Birx during ordination ceremonies Saturday at

Sacred Heart Cathedral. At Birx' side is his wife, Ellen. Eleven men were ordained to the diaconate, including one transitional deacon, Patrick Sullivan. More photos on Page 3.