

# COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, July 4, 1984

24 Pages 35 Cents



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

## Bishop Celebrates Anniversary Mass

Bishop Matthew H. Clark embraces his mother, Mrs. Grace Clark, during the offertory part of the bishop's anniversary Mass last Tuesday, June 26, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. More than 800 attended the

celebration which noted the fifth year since Bishop Clark was installed as the eighth Bishop of Rochester. More photos, Page 3.

## Theologians Protest Attacks On Liberation Theology

By Jerry Filteau  
NC News Service

An international group of prominent theologians has issued a "vigorous protest" against attacks on liberation theology by church officials.

Calling Christian liberation movements among the poor and minorities "a sign of hope for the whole church," the group said that theology needs "freedom of research and expression" to reflect on such movements.

"Any premature intervention by higher authorities risks stifling the Spirit," the group said.

The theologians who form the editorial board of Concilium drew up the statement at a meeting in the Netherlands in mid-June. Board members simulta-

neously released it June 25 in their respective countries. Concilium is an international theological journal founded in the 1960s as a forum for new theological views and trends following the Second Vatican Council.

The statement did not cite any specific names or incidents, but it was occasioned chiefly by a recent critique of liberation theology by German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said Father David Tracy of the University of Chicago, one of the leading Americans on the Concilium board.

In March an Italian Catholic monthly published a 5,000-word essay by Cardinal Ratzinger which he had origi-

nally delivered at a meeting of the doctrinal congregation, but which was not released by the congregation. The cardinal praised some branches of the "extraordinarily complex phenomenon" of liberation theology, but he devoted most of his attention to criticizing liberation theologians who "have made their own the fundamental Marxist option."

Among theologians Cardinal Ratzinger named as unacceptable were Peruvian Father Gustavo Gutierrez, a member of the Concilium board and one of the most widely known liberation theologians; Jesuit Father Jon Sobrino, a Spaniard working in El Salvador, and Hugo Assman, a Brazilian ex-priest who is an acknowl-

edged Marxist writer but says his thinking is still influenced by Christianity.

Father Tracy said Cardinal Ratzinger had quoted Father Gutierrez out of context, misrepresenting his thinking.

The American priest said the Concilium board was also concerned about the removal of church permission to teach from two Brazilian proponents of liberation theology. One whose teaching permission was revoked, he said, was Father Ludovico Boff, whose better-known brother, Father Leonardo Boff, has had his writings under Vatican investigation for several years.

In the statement the Concilium theologians described Christian liberation movements and basic Christian communities in poor countries as "a real renewal" in church life that shows "a new vitality of faith among the people." At the same time, they said, some leaders and members of such movements have been killed, tortured and forced into exile by those holding political and economic power.

"Within the church," they said, "while some holding positions of authority have sometimes supported and

## Prelates Prod Congress on Use of Nukes

Washington -- In an unusual appearance as the only witnesses invited to a congressional hearing, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago and Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York June 26 questioned the morality of nuclear warfare, opposed the "MIRVing" of nuclear weapons and sought re-evaluation of the MX missile.

They also criticized deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe, said they were disturbed by proposals for major increases in spending for nuclear weapons systems, and expressed skepticism over the proposed "star wars" space-based defense system.

But they praised other aspects of U.S. defense policy, including President Reagan's remark in his 1984 State of the Union address that "nuclear war cannot be won."

The two prelates read excerpts of their 18-page prepared testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and answered questions from the few congressmen in attendance.

They also frequently explained and defended the U.S. bishops' 1983 pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

Cardinal Bernardin chaired the peace pastoral drafting committee and now heads the U.S. bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities. Archbishop O'Connor was a member of the drafting committee and now chairs the Committee on Social Development and World Peace of the U.S. Catholic Conference, public policy agency of the bishops.

In discussing what they termed "this awful dilemma" of nuclear war, the two churchmen reiterated the pastoral's position that strictly conditioned deterrence is morally acceptable.

They also emphasized that while on a theoretical level they would not exclude use of a nuclear weapon, they doubted that nuclear weapons actually could be used without violating several moral principles. Those principles included:

- That civilians not be endangered;
- That the warfare not escalate;
- That no adverse "collateral damage" be sustained, and
- That the good resulting from the step be proportionately greater than the bad.

"We're very skeptical that these weapons could be contained within morally acceptable limits," Cardinal Bernardin said. Use of a nuclear weapon against non-combatants "is to be condemned," he said.

"We'd rule out first strike (use) of any weapon," Archbishop O'Connor added.

The two church leaders discounted 1982 U.S. government suggestions that America might win a "limited nuclear war."

Therefore, they added in their written testimony, "we were gratified to read President Reagan's assurance in his most recent State of the Union message to Congress that 'a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.'"

They also warned "that with the deployment of U.S.

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## Disney World to Get Neighboring Shrine

Orlando, Fla. -- The Diocese of Orlando has announced plans to build a shrine to Mary near Walt Disney World to serve the thousands of tourists who visit the region.

"The time has come to provide proper facilities for our visiting faithful," said Father Joseph Harte, diocesan development director. "For too long we have been expecting them to use their ingenuity and their enthusiasm of faith to find out where Masses are offered."

The name of the shrine will be "Mary, Queen of the Universe," Father Harte said.

The diocese has been providing Masses at six local hotels on a rotating basis. But sudden changes in scheduling sometimes led tourists on a game of "hide

and seek" for Mass, the priest said.

When opened, the shrine will consist of a main church building which will open to a courtyard. Located on the other side of the courtyard will be a theater, museum and religious articles complex. Through the use of audiovisuals, the history of the Catholic Church, information about Mary and lives of the saints will be shown in the theater.

Stations of the Cross will also be located on walkways around the shrine.

Cgroundbreaking is scheduled for Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Estimated cost of the shrine is \$2 million. Money for the project will come from touring Catholics, Father Harte said.

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## Church and City

As Rochester celebrates its sesquicentennial, it is appropriate to note the Church's parallel development within the center city down through the decades. The Courier-Journal describes the services of representative parishes and other Church institutions and how they have adapted to the ever-changing needs of urban residents. Pages 6, 7.

