

Delegates call for gulf dialogue

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

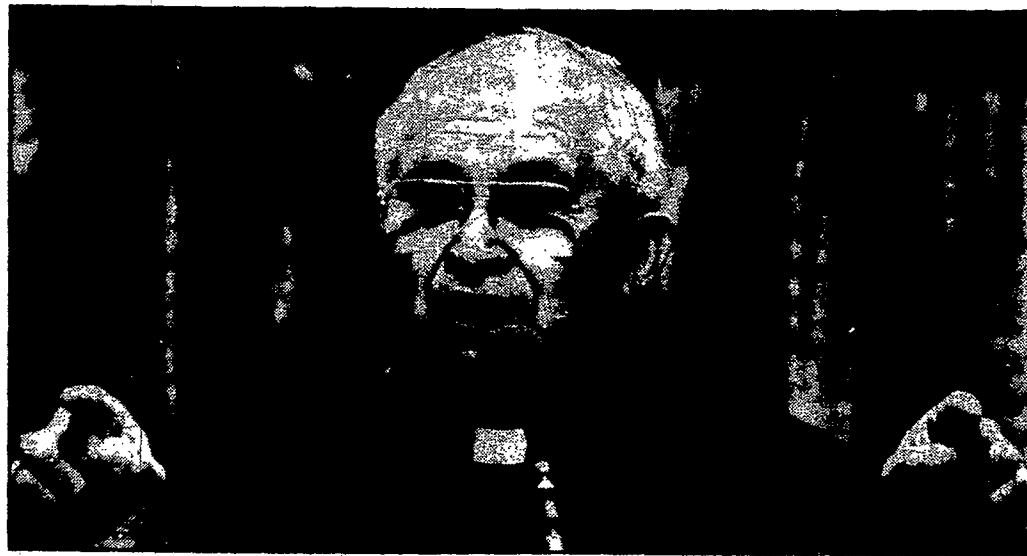
ROCHESTER — While meeting at the 23rd national conference on Catholic youth ministry Nov. 28-Dec. 1, youth ministers from the United States, Canada, Nigeria and Guam passed a resolution asking President George Bush to continue peaceful efforts to end the Persian Gulf conflict.

In a plenary session Nov. 29, youth ministers resolved to "encourage our president and Congress to continue the present dialogue on the Persian Gulf Crisis," noting that, "As persons mandated to teach youth 'fresh sentiments of peace,' we urge you to make every effort to avoid the horrors of war."

More than 1,100 youth ministers representing 147 Catholic dioceses gathered at Rochester's Riverside Convention Center for the four-day conference sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based National Federation on Catholic Youth Ministry. This year's gathering marked the first time the biennial conference was held in Rochester.

Entitled "The Gospel Challenge: Ministry of Risk," this year's conference highlighted ways in which youth ministers are called to do more than just echo Gospel messages, according to Regina Guyther, conference manager.

In addition to providing educational



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Archbishop Patrick F. Flores of San Antonio, Texas, delivers the closing keynote address, "The Gospel Challenge: To Be Church," during the 23rd national conference on Catholic youth ministry Nov. 28-Dec. 1 in Rochester.

workshops for participants, the conference gave youth ministers the chance to share ideas on the growing trends in ministering to youths today.

"The conference lets people learn what is happening in youth ministry. It gives them a chance to share and renew," Guyther said.

Father George H. Clements of Chicago opened the general session on Nov. 28 with a talk entitled, "The Gospel Challenge:

Ministry at Risk."

The 58-year-old priest, best known for his adoption of four black children, is pastor of Holy Angels Church in Chicago and the founder of "One Church, One Child," a program dedicated to finding black adoptive parents for black children.

Father Clements told members of the audience that if they were not willing to take risks, they had no business attending the

Continued on page 18

Bishop fires parish rep for schools

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has fired the representative from St. Pius the Tenth Parish to the Southwest Quadrant Governing Board because of the representative's stated opposition to the ongoing process of Catholic school reorganization.

The bishop dismissed Sean J. Connellan from his post after Connellan and 10 other members of the parish's quadrant task force sent the bishop a letter Nov. 25 outlining their unwillingness to support school reorganization and asking the bishop to meet with the task force to discuss members' grievances.

In part, the task force's letter criticized the financing and governance systems set up in the quadrant since the release in March, 1990, of a reorganization plan for the Southwest, Southeast and Northwest Quadrants in Monroe County.

"It is our considered opinion that this plan will do irreparable damage to our community and seriously weaken, rather than strengthen, Catholic education," the task force's letter stated.

Bishop Clark wrote St. Pius' pastor, Father Gerald T. Connor, on Nov. 28, stating: "It is clear from the Task Force letter that Sean Connellan cannot in good faith support my plan ... Please recommend a replacement for him on the Board." The bishop also offered to meet with the pastor.

According to Father George Norton, diocesan spokesman, no meeting has yet been scheduled between Bishop Clark and Father Connor, nor has a replacement been named to take Connellan's place on the Southwest Board.

— Rob Cullivan

EDITORS' NOTE — This story broke just as the Catholic Courier was going to press Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 4. A follow-up article is planned for next week's edition of the Courier.

Education council appoints chairman

ROCHESTER — Peter Spinelli, a former member of the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools and a former chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education, has been elected to chair the diocese's Christian Formation and Education Council.

Spinelli, an attorney with the law firm of Harris, Beach and Wilcox, was chosen by council members at their Saturday, Nov. 17 meeting.

The 14-member council was formed last summer to assist Bishop Matthew H. Clark in setting the direction for educational ministries throughout the diocese. The council replaced the now-defunct Board of Education, which functioned from 1983 to the end of the 1989-90 school year.

"Recommendations of the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools in Monroe County and the Commission on Clusters created new responsibilities for the Board of Education," said a diocesan statement from Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, director of the diocesan division of education. "We needed a new structure," her statement added.

Spinelli explained that the Formation and Education Council will oversee two other boards yet to be formed — the Catholic School Board, which will oversee diocesan schools, and the Catechetics Board, which will oversee parish implementation of the

Well-Integrated Catechetical Plan (WICP). Bishop Clark has charged each parish with developing a WICP to provide education and faith development for parishioners in all age groups.

Spinelli noted that the council's first order of business will be reviewing the budgets of Monroe County's Catholic school quadrants. In her statement, Sister Binsack also observed that the council will "develop a timeline for the quadrants to move beyond the governance of Catholic schools into all components of the (WICP)."

Spinelli noted that parish clusters outside Monroe County are ahead of parishes inside the county in implementing the WICP through their religious-education programs. For the past few years, the Monroe County parishes have been caught up in reorganizing their schools, he said, explaining why they are behind their fellow parishes outside the county.

Spinelli likened the diocese's recent concentration on the plight of Monroe County's Catholic schools to a parent's treatment of a "sick" child. "If you've got five or six kids, and one of them is sick, you take care of the one who is sick," he said.

The new chairman said that the Formation and Education Council has met twice, and plans to meet four to six times a year, with subcommittees and executive com-

mittee meeting more often.

In the diocesan statement, Sister Binsack said Spinelli "is competent, articulate and dedicated to Catholic education. He will be a good leader during the formation years of the council."

Besides Bishop Clark, Sister Binsack and Spinelli, the council consists of: Michael D. Bracy of Corning, vice-chairman; Anita Brayman of Geneseo; Irene Rivera De Royston, Gerard Farrell, Elizabeth Webster, Sister Clare Brown, SSJ, and Sister Joan McAteer, RSM, all of Rochester; Mary Caffrey of Webster; James F. Snyder of Elmira; Father Robert W. Hammond of Bath; Janet Homick of Auburn; Barbara Ivers of Freeville; and Father Edward Palumbos of Henrietta.

— Rob Cullivan

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