

Diocesan leaders say war would be 'unjust'

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — An offensive war against Iraq could not be considered a just war, according to a joint statement from Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the Priests' Council of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Episcopal Bishop William G. Burrill and the Episcopal Clergy Association of Rochester.

Bishop Clark read the statement Monday, Dec. 10, during a press conference in the Pastoral Center of the Catholic diocese. While the statement condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, it also noted that "a peaceful settlement must be reached, because the horrors that war in the Persian Gulf would produce are too terrible even to contemplate.

"War," the joint statement continued, "cannot be one of the options chosen to achieve a Middle East settlement."

The two Rochester bishops said they and their respective clergy associations felt "obligated to convey to the Administration of our Government and its Congress our conviction that in the current situation an offensive war in the Middle East would not meet the criteria of a just war."

The statement also encouraged the use of non-violent means to end the crisis by all "all parties involved, especially the United Nations ...," and urged that parishes and neighborhoods continue to support and pray for hostages and military personnel in the region and their families at home.

Section 5 of the statement affirmed the right of both conscientious objection to war in general, and selective objection to any war an individual considers unjust.

The statement ended by emphasizing the potential destructiveness of a war with Iraq. "(B)ecause of the highly sophisticated and terribly destructive weapons that would be used and because of the enormously high number of civilian casualties that would result, both among the military and civilians, we believe that one of the greatest tasks that God imposes on us today is to work for the total abolition of war," it said.

In the question-and-answer portion of the press conference, Bishop Burrill noted that U.S. government and military leaders have stated a desire for a "quick and decisive" victory in a war with Iraq. Such a victory would undoubtedly mean the loss of innocent civilian lives, he said, thus violating the just war theory's sanction against the killing of non-combatants.

Bishop Clark expounded on Bishop Burrill's point by arguing that the just war theory's emphasis on exhausting all possible means of peacefully resolution has not been the emphasis of the allies in the Persian Gulf region, who have given Iraq until Jan. 15 to leave Kuwait.

When asked to respond to the argument that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein only listens to someone willing to use force, Bishop Clark responded: "That

Continued on page 18



AP/Wide World Photos
Air Force Staff Sergeant Charles May (left) and Airman 1st Class Robert Mehren, both members of the 437th Service Squadron, await deployment Nov. 29, several hours after arriving at a Saudi Arabian air base.

St. Pius school supporters sound off on reorganization

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Sean Connellan summed up the mood of St. Pius the Tenth parishioners about Catholic school reorganization in the Southwest Quadrant by asserting — to a round of applause — that "the message back to Bishop Clark, with all respect and dignity, is, 'This dog won't hunt!'"

Just what the "dog" will do was to be the subject of a Dec. 8 meeting of the parish's Southwest Quadrant Task Force. Task force members said that during the meeting they would consider strategy for any kind of attempt to change the reorganization plan's effects on the parish.

The Dec. 8 meeting was closed to the press. Samuel Ognibene, a parish trustee and a member of the task force, said that the task force would not share details of its strategy with the reporters.

During a public meeting in the St. Pius school gym Friday, Dec. 7, Connellan and

the task force addressed almost 250 school parents and supporters who want St. Pius the Tenth School to remain intact as a K-8 facility. The quadrant task force arranged the meeting following Bishop Matthew H. Clark's dismissal two weeks ago of Connellan as St. Pius' representative from the Southwest Quadrant Governing Board.

The bishop fired Connellan after Connellan and 10 other members of the task force sent the bishop a letter outlining their unwillingness to support the ongoing process of Catholic school reorganization and asking the bishop to meet with the task force to discuss members' grievances.

The letter criticized the reorganization plan as being "untested" and as having a negative effect on the parish, particularly in its financial operations.

For example, the letter said: "We owe last year's Thanks Giving Appeal \$8,800 (in delinquent pledges) Only 71 percent of this year's Appeal Goal has been pledged to date. We expect that news of the reor-

ganization plan will have an even more devastating impact on this poor response."

In a subsequent letter to Father Gerald T. Connor, pastor, Bishop Clark remarked that it was "clear from the Task Force letter that Sean Connellan cannot in good faith support my plan." The bishop also asked that Father Connor name a replacement for Connellan.

Naming a replacement seemed to be the last thing on the minds of most of those who attended the Dec. 7 meeting. Connellan and other members of the quadrant task force — which no longer "officially" represents the parish, according to Father Connor — were repeatedly cheered and applauded by the audience as they criticized the diocese for implementing school reorganization in the Southwest Quadrant.

In brief, the diocesan reorganization plan places all Catholic schools in each of Monroe County's quadrants under the auspices of a quadrant governing board,

which will oversee the school's collective finances and governing. Each quadrant — except, to date, the northwest — has or will undergo grade reconfiguration and centralization of its junior high programs.


In the southwest, Bishop Clark recently approved a plan establishing a junior high program at St. Theodore's in the fall of next year, and eliminating the seventh and eighth grades at St. Pius and all but one other quadrant school next year. St. Monica's is the only school that will wait until 1992 before eliminating its seventh and eighth grades.

The loss of St. Pius' junior-high program was one of the task force's primary concerns at the Dec. 7 meeting. Task force members pointed to a survey they commissioned of school parents, saying the survey showed that the school would lose between 40 to 60 percent of its currently enrolled students when the junior-high program is eliminated.

Continued on page 19

INTRODUCING TIPPERAY IRISH CRYSTAL

In the Townland of Bally Noran in South Tipperary a group of Master Craftsmen in the Ancient Art of Hand Glass Blowing and Cutting came together to form this collection of beautiful unique crystal, of which Lindsey's is proud to add to our fine crystal selection on an exclusive basis. For the Irish At Heart, we also carry a large selection of Waterford, Belleek and Galway Crystal.



A NEW IRISH CRYSTAL LEGEND

Smart Brides Register at Lindsey's

- Area's Largest Selection of China Crystal & Silver
- Lowest Sale Prices Year Round
- Personalized Service
- Bridal Registry - FREE Gift

Holiday Hours PITTSFORD
10-5:30 Mon.-Sat.
10-8:00 Tues. & Thurs.
12-4:00 Sunday

Holiday Hours GREECE
10-5:30 Mon. and Sat.
10-9:00 Tue.-Fri.

Lindsey's

631 Pittsford-Victor Rd.
Pittsford, NY 14534
(716) 248-8952

2496 Ridge Rd. W.
Rochester, NY 14626
(716) 723-0400

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM EUREKA

Eureka Rally™ Power Team
Lightweight/Full-Featured

SALE ENDS JAN. 1, 1990

- 3.5 Peak H.P. Motor
- Motorized Powerhead
- Automatic Carpet Height Adjustment
- Vibra-Groomer II®
- Brilliant Headlight
- Powerview
- Low Profile To Clean Under Furniture
- Tool Pak®

\$189.00 (with \$100 OFF)

The BOSS™ Upright
The Lowest Priced ESP®
Ever From Eureka

- 6.5 Amp ESP® Motor
- Cuts Cleaning Time In Half
- 6.5 Amp ESP® Extra Suction Power® Motor
- 6 Position Carpet Height Adjustment
- Chrome steel beater bar brush roll deep cleans & grooms

\$89.00 (with \$70 OFF)

Mighty Mite® Canister
4.0 Peak H.P. Motor

- Floor & Wall Brush
- Powerful Yet Compact, Lightweight, Portable
- 6 Piece Deluxe Above-The-Floor Cleaning Tools

\$109.00 (with \$50 OFF)

SEW & VAC REPAIR
724 WINTON RD. N. — 482-6111