

Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras

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is a warm, friendly, white-bearded six-footer, an American citizen who lived 18 years in New York City as Orthodox archbishop of North and South America.

He organized last September's Pan-Orthodox meeting on the Greek island of Rhodes where all Orthodox churches agreed on probing for unity with Rome.

The last such effort was made in 1439 when Pope Eugene IV and Patriarch Joseph II met in northern Italy. Unity was agreed on but never carried out in practice.

Orthodox Christians, like Catholics, believe in God in three persons, Christ as Saviour, a church with unbroken bonds dating back to the apostles, seven sacraments, a strict moral code and rigorous penitential practices.

The Orthodox ritual for Mass, called the Divine Liturgy, is the most elaborate in Christendom lasting from at least an hour up to three hours depending on the occasion.

It takes place behind an icon screen, a wall of brilliant pictures which stands approximately where the Communion rail of Catholic churches.

Orthodox Christians are required to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during Holy Week, but many members receive much more frequently. They also usually go to Confession prior to Communion.

Home devotions are also characteristic of Orthodox life and are credited with preserving the faith in Communist countries during the Stalin era of bitter persecution. Most every home has a corner shrine with icons (flat pictures) of our Lord, our Lady and patron saints. A vigil light flickers before the icons.

Every Orthodox family in the United States is expected to contribute a fixed tax to the parish church on the basis that all men are equal before God and all must support the work of God. Added contributions are made in collections, often two or more, at every service. American Orthodox have a reputation for generous support of their churches.

POPE JOHN spent a major portion of his priesthood as a Vatican diplomat in Balkan nations where Orthodox Christians far outnumber Catholics or Protestants. He formed strong friendships with many Orthodox clergymen and lay people and the long-standing division of Christendom stirred him to convene the ecumenical Council to work towards religious unity.

Pope Paul has repeatedly stated unity is the goal of his pontificate.

After nine hundred years, healing the breach will obviously not be easy.

Yves Congar, noted Dominican priest, an adviser at the Vatican Council and who recently conferred with Pope Paul, has written that both Orthodox and Catholics must recognize "the full diversity" for which there is ample room in the Church as established by Christ.

The meeting this weekend of Pope and Patriarch indicates there is recognition at the summit of Catholicism and Orthodoxy that the breach ought not to endure another nine hundred years.

—Faber Henry Atwell

'Dollar Bills' Aid Sisters

New York — (RNS) — A businessmen's group here is aiding Roman Catholic nuns who operate a home for retarded children at Getville, N.Y.

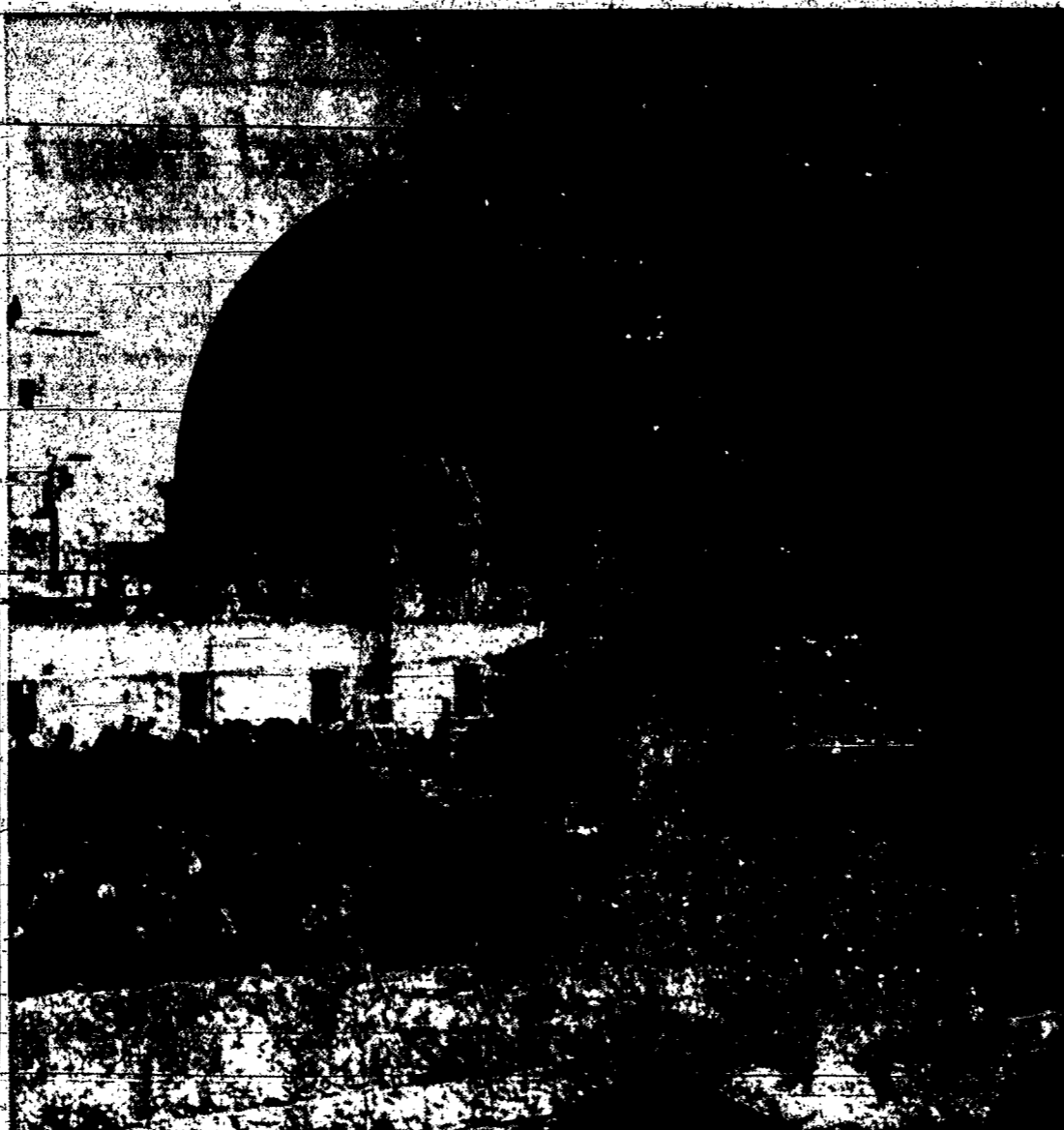
According to an article in Petroleum Today, publication of the American Petroleum Institute, St. Rita's Home for Children, operated by the Felician Sisters, has been receiving aid from the businessmen since 1958.

Organized into a group known as Dollar Bills, the men, many of whom associated with the oil industry, sell 1,500 membership cards annually at \$1 piece. Proceeds are turned over to needy youth causes, including St. Rita's.

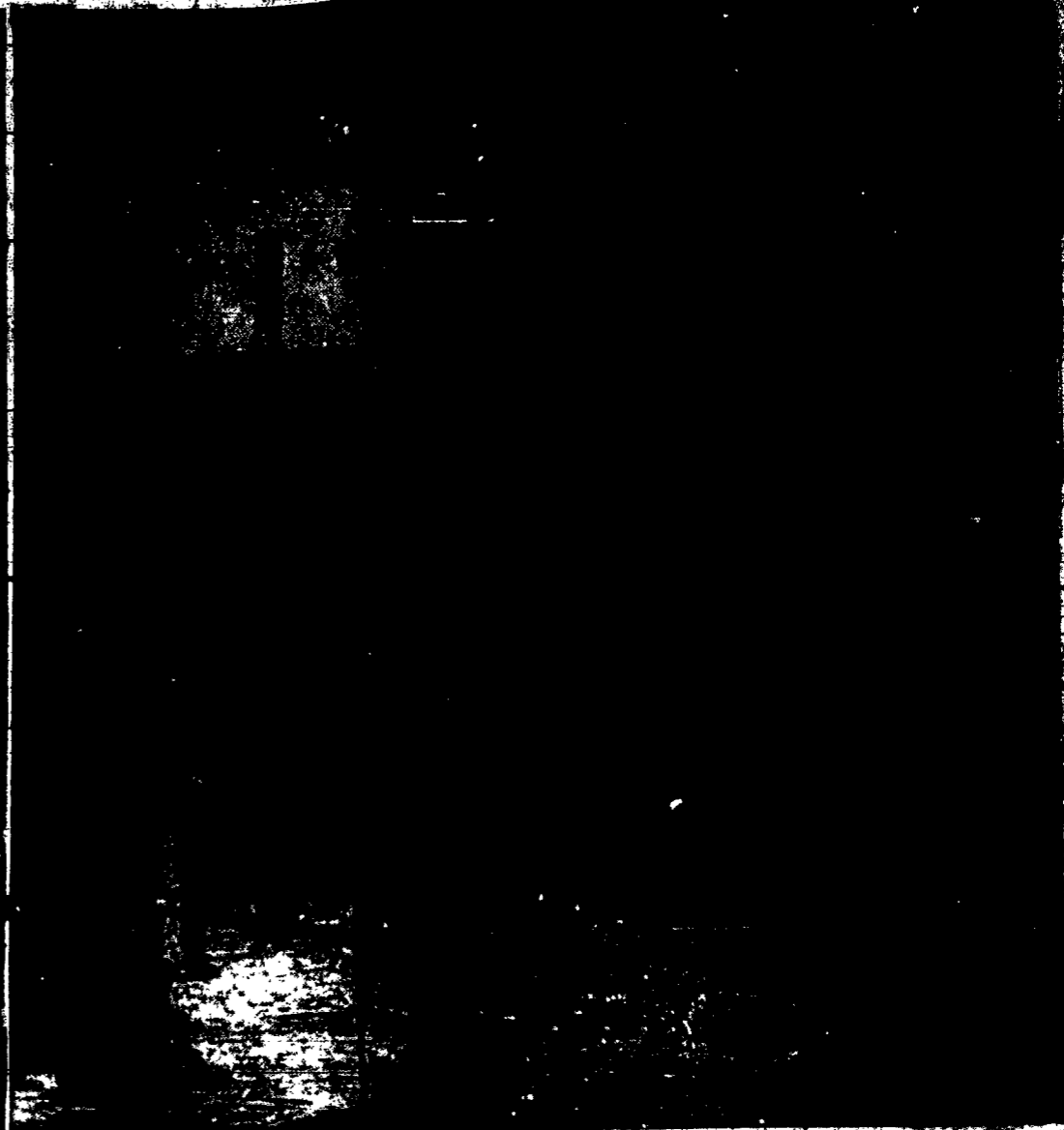
There are 50 children at the home, ranging from infants to 12 years old, and there are almost as many staff members, half of them nuns. According to Sister Raphael Marie, the home's administrator, "We are nurse, mother, and teacher. To be all three, we must staff the home accordingly."

Lawrence Fleischman, president of Dollar Bills, said his group decided to aid St. Rita's because "we liked the feel of the place."

"There is a word that sums up the atmosphere at the home," he said. "It is love."



The ancient Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, where Pope Paul will offer Epiphany feast day Mass Monday morning. The dome is over the tomb where Christ was buried. The church also includes the hill of Golgotha, site of the crucifixion.



Nazareth, where the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary she would be the Mother of God and where the Holy Family lived during the hidden years of the Saviour's life. A new church will soon replace the one in photo which stands above the grotto of the Annunciation.

Jerusalem, Pilgrim's Goal

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black swath of no-man's land, an area of wrecked buildings, barbed wire entanglements and ominous guns facing each other — it is as if the ancient serpent had stretched itself through the heart of the city, a sleeping monster ready to bring new ruin and misery.

In daylight, the city simmers in brilliant sunshine, its narrow streets filled with the noise and bustle of oriental bazaars, donkeys loaded with so much freight their little bodies almost disappear. Massive walls still guard many sections of the city and you gain entrance through gates our Lord, His Blessed Mother, and the Apostles once used.

Israel's still-under-construction Hebrew University is a complex of modern style buildings, a vast sports arena and in a closely-guarded, air-conditioned vault are the famed Dead Sea scrolls which serve as a literary link spanning twenty centuries.

It is not just to see a museum nor powderkeg that Pope Paul will make his journey, however.

His destination is a rock and a grave.

Here occurred the ultimate drama of the Saviour — the events of the first Good Friday and the first Easter Sunday.

And here is posed the ultimate test of every Christian's faith: whether he lives in Rome or Rochester, Ibiza or Istanbul — whether he's Catholic or Orthodox or Protestant: "Who for two subsequent centuries a

is this Christ? What really happened in Jerusalem that week, and long ago?"

If the gospel records are true, then here is the one thing on earth and in time which can take hold of a man and lift him into another world and out to eternity.

Then the footsteps we follow take on significance beyond any other paths laid out by anyone else.

Such faith drew Crusading armies from medieval Europe to recapture Jerusalem from its Moslem occupants. It is a faith which will draw men today from every nation, even the Pope from Rome, to find in those footsteps a direction indicated in no other city on earth.

Despite the ravages of time, war, earthquake, fire and neglect, the site made sacred by the life of Christ are still quite easy to identify. Not because the gospel writers provided us with a modern style road-map — their details are tantalizingly scanty, even puzzling. They were concerned with the message Christ gave to the world, not in the location where it was given.

The first Christians, however, and conversions came in thousands, were interested, as Christians are today, in the precise places where their faith is rooted.

It was exactly because of this interest that the Roman Emperor Hadrian, in order to keep the Christians from the Golgotha area, built a pagan temple there in the year 135 and for two subsequent centuries a

statue of his god Jupiter stood on the spot of crucifixion and an altar to the goddess Venus was put at the tomb where our Lord was buried.

The scholarly Eusebius who lived from the year 275 to 340 was an eyewitness to the pagan shrine and how a later emperor, Constantine, in the year 326 removed the pagan structures and brought to light the rock where the cross was erected and the tomb where the body was put to rest. Constantine then built the splendid basilica which survives in precarious condition today, rebuilt, it is true, in the seventh, eleventh and twelfth centuries, but still clearly marking what for Christians is the most hallowed spot on earth.

To build his monumental church, Constantine excavated the rock, leaving only a cube of stone where the cross had stood and the tomb where the Lord was buried.

Six Christian groups claim the great basilica as their own — Greek Orthodox, Armenians, Syrians, Copts, Abyssinians and Roman Catholics.

The tragedy of Christians divided into competing denominations is nowhere more obvious than here where Christ died that they might be one. As evidence that this hope did not also die on that first Good Friday, Pope Paul and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras will meet in this Holy City this weekend.

The other cities on the Pope's pilgrimage will be for him, as they were for the Saviour, stepping stones toward Jerusalem. Nazareth, with its grotto home where the Virgin Mary heard the Archangel Gabriel tell her she would be the Mother of God; Bethlehem, where an ancient church guards beneath its sanctuary, the cave where shepherds and wise men adored the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger; Capernaum, now only a few stones left where a great city once stood, the capital of our Lord's activity in Galilee; Mount Tabor, crossroads of the two testaments and where Christ was transfigured as prelude to going up to Jerusalem.

A thousand years after Christ made His final trip to Jerusalem, the remnants of a Crusading army entered the holy city as victors over the Moslems who held it for three centuries.

Raymond of Aguilers, one of the Crusaders, has described the hunger and heat and swords of the Turks which took a toll of 50,000 men in their trek from Europe to the Holy Land. He was one of the 12,000 who survived to see the victory for which so many others died.

"It was well worth all our previous labors and hardships to see the devotion of the pilgrims at the Holy Sepulchre," he said. "How they rejoiced and exulted and sang a new song to the Lord! For their hearts offered prayers of praise to God, victorious and triumphant, which cannot be told in words."

This weekend, another pilgrim, the Vicar of the Lord whose victory over death is the reason for this endless stream of humanity to Jerusalem, Pope Paul VI will offer prayers there for still another victory — unity among Christians, peace among all men.

Constantine's engineers cut away the rock at the site of our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection, as shown in sketch at right, to build the great Holy Sepulchre basilica. Numbers indicate 1, the tomb of our Lord, now encased in a marble chapel beneath the basilica's vast dome; 2 to 4, vestibule, mill stone and entrance way to tomb no longer extant; and 5, the cube of rock, all that's left of Golgotha.

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The Holy Sepulchre basilica, a hodge-podge of centuries-old structures, is shored up by steel and massive wood girders, a sorry spectacle for pilgrims who come to the site where Christ died and rose to eternal life.

This is Al Sisson — speaking for Lincoln Rochester. Everyone of us here at the bank wishes you and your family a HAPPY NEW YEAR! In the months to come, may much happiness and good cheer be with you. We at Lincoln Rochester would also like to thank you for the many opportunities we've had to serve you during the past year. Look ahead with us to the good days to come. And when it comes to banking, do as more people do, LOOK TO LINCOLN ROCHESTER!

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