Pope Says Christian Unity Is Will of Christ

Crowds Cheer Pontiff

(Continued from Page 1)

down the ramp and advanced to meet King Hussein II of Jordan and a group of Eastern Rite patriarchs.

As the 28-year-old ruler amiingly shook hands with the Pontiff, a 21-gun salute sounded in the background and thousands of Moslem residents of the Jordan capital cheered and waved. Members of the Jordanian royal family stood at attention as a military band played anthems. A group of schoolgirls all dressed in white presented the Pope with a bouquet of gladioli, tulips and roses.

Speaking in English, King Hussein said: "On behalf of the Arab people and all peoples who believe in God, we offer you our deepest welcome to Jordan and the Holy Land."

Replying, Pope Paul stressed that "our visit is a spiritual one, a humble pilgrimage to the sacred places made holy by the Birth, the Passion and the Death of Jesus Christ, and by His glorious Resurrection and Ascension."

"Your Majesty, we know," the Pope added, "ardently desires peace and prosperity for your people, and for all the nations and the world, and we, Peter's successor, remember his reference to the Psalms in his first Epistle: 'He who would love life and see good days . . . let him turn away from evil and do good, let him seek after peace and pursue it. May God grant our prayer and that of all men of goodwill, that, living together in harmony and accord, they may help one another in love and justice and attain to universal peace in true brotherhood."

Hampered by dense, cheering crowds, the papal motorcade moved slowly out on the winding road through the Moab mountains, gradually picking up speed until it reached the Amir Abdullah Bridge over the River Jordan, where the Pope dismounted and descended on foot to the river bank, already lined with thousands of persons. Standing on a narrow promontory, the Pope lifted his hands to bless, first the water and then the crowd. The crowd responded with cries of "El Baba, El Baba" (The Pope, the Pope).

The surging crowd momentarily blocked the Pope's path as he climbed back into his car, nearly throwing him off balance. Police stepped in, however, to force the crowd back, and the motorcade resumed its way to Jerusalem, which lies 54 miles from Amman.

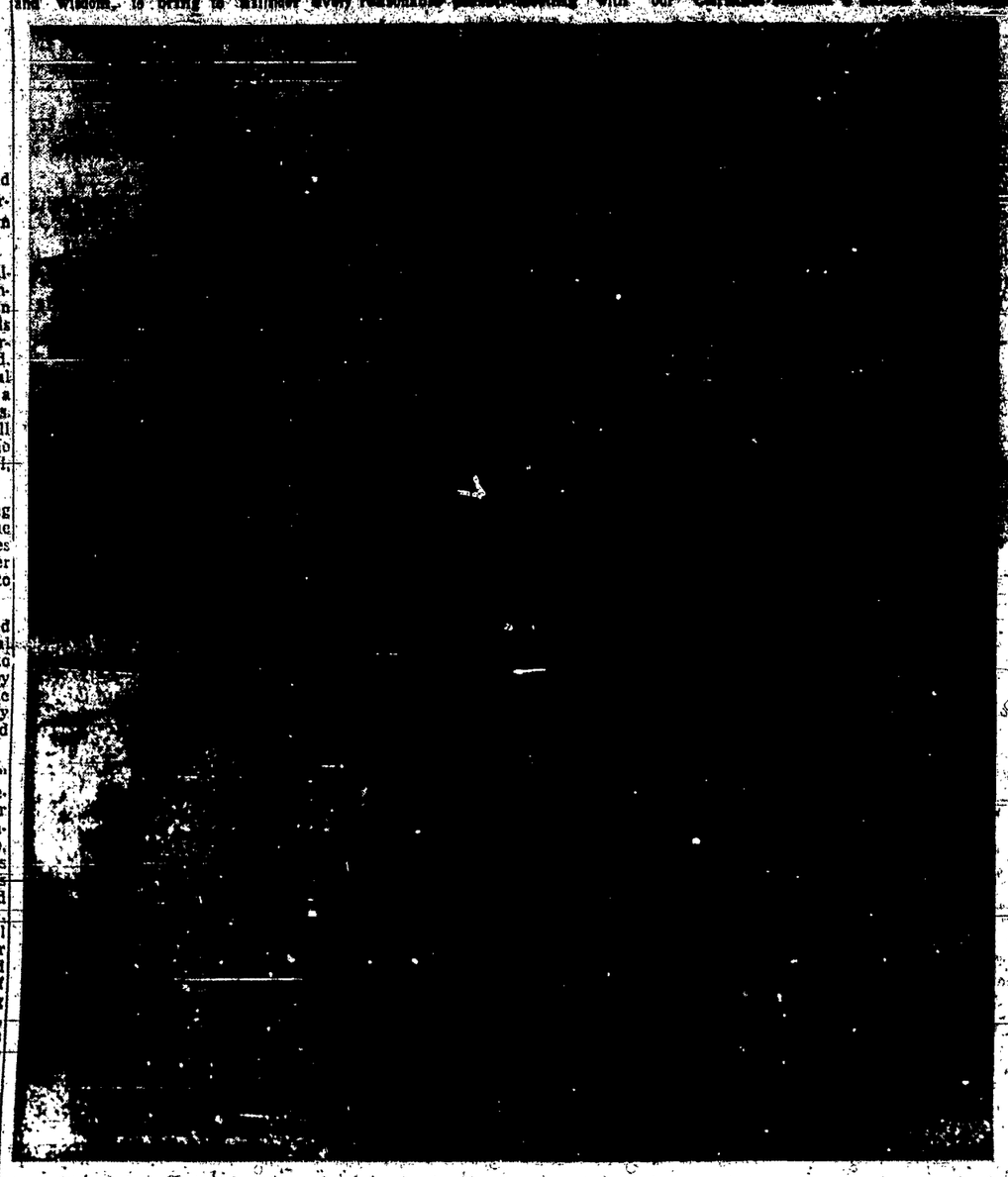
Mobbed in Jerusalem

Six miles outside the Holy City, the Pope stopped at the Church of St. Lazarus at Bethany, where he was welcomed by the Franciscan custodians of the church and rested briefly before resuming his journey slowly down the ridge of the Mount of Olives toward the Damascus Gate.

The Pope was to have made his way on foot through the Gate into the Jordan-held Old City along a route lined with Persian carpets and palm leaves and decorated with a portrait of the Pope and another of King Hussein. But the throng which had awaited his arrival since early morning could not be restrained from breaking through the security cordon and surrounding the papal car, after pushing through lines of white satin-robed Knights of Malta and Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and swarming around armored jeeps filled with Bedouin troops. After having been trapped inside his car for 15 minutes, the Pope finally emerged, pale but composed, only to have to be rushed toward the narrow gate with police, troops and members of his entourage forced to act as bodyguards.

Throughout the wild scene, which saw the Pope pushed momentarily against the wall before escaping into the city, choirs sang hymns of welcome that were drowned out by the screaming of the crowd, the shouts of the police and shattering of glass from broken windows.

Because of the uproar, a speech the Pope was to have made at the gate had to be cut to God in the spirit of prayer."



A smiling Pope was in danger as he was photographed here in a walk along the Via Dolorosa in Old Jerusalem. Thousands upon thousands of people enveloped Jordan's security police in their attempt to see the pontiff. Officers of Jordan's Arab Legion close in to protect the Pope from the pressure of the great crowd.

omitted, in it he was to have said that "we thank Almighty God for having led us to this place and to this hour." Even when the Pope had entered the city and the Gate was slammed shut, the crowd outside became more violent and unruly.

The result was that the Pope was pushed along the route of the 12 Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa and prevented from praying at each Station as he had planned. The Pontiff was also obliged to abandon his plan to carry a large Cross in commemoration of Christ's journey to Calvary. The nightmare situation among the narrow streets persisted until the Pope finally reached the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the final Station.

At times the Pope had been so completely engulfed by the crowd that only his skull cap was visible and one Franciscan priest was heard to cry out: "They'll kill him, they'll kill him." Repeatedly the Jordanian troops were forced to use rifle butts to force the crowd back.

At one point, the Pope slipped into the tiny chapel at the site of Golgotha, and reminded there for 25 minutes while police struggled to clear a way for him. When he reached the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, he stumbled several times from the shoves of the crowd. Throughout the ordeal, the Pontiff maintained a calm bearing, although the drawn and tense expression on his face betrayed his exhaustion.

Pope Paul offered the first Mass of his pilgrimage inside the great church which stands on the site of Christ's tomb. As the Mass progressed tears appeared in the Pope's eyes and his voice became hoarse with emotion.

At the end of the Mass—attended by many officials and clergy, the latter including bearded priests of the Coptic, Armenian and Greek Orthodox Rites—the Pope led the congregation in prayer for ten minutes. Speaking in French, he said: "Now let us awaken our minds and with clear understanding under the illuminating presence of Christ, let us reach the supreme hour by which united thanksgiving and honor of a united Church."

Speaking of unity talks, the Pope said "we are ready to [illegible] under every reasonable [illegible] with our Christian brothers still separated from us, but who [illegible] at the door of our house, request it of us with special insistence."

During the service, another near disaster occurred as fire broke out high on a scaffolding erected for the restoration of the church. For several minutes tongues of flame flicked out from two connected cables supplying power for television lights and cameras. All electric lights were extinguished by the fire and the only illumination came from the ten candles on the altar. Finally a soldier using a stick pried the two cables apart and the fire went out. Ignoring the incident, the Pope concluded the Mass without interruption.

Orthodox Clergy

After the Mass, the Pope went to the Apostolic Delegation at the foot of the Mount of Olives, where he had his first real rest since his arrival at Amman six hours before, and which was his home while in Jerusalem.

Here he had two historic and distinguished callers: Greek Orthodox Patriarch Benedictos of Jerusalem, and Armenian Patriarch Yeghishe Derderian of Jerusalem. This was the first time in 500 years that a Roman Pontiff had met with patriarchs of the Eastern Church. The meeting was a prelude to the encounter to take place the next day between the Pope and Athenagoras I, the Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul, who ranks as "first among equals" of all the Orthodox patriarchs.

Patriarch Benedictos, who spent 30 minutes with the Pope, was quoted by a spokesman as having told the Pontiff that his pilgrimage was "for the good of all Churches" and that it was "a landmark in the history of the Holy Land."

POPE PAUL was reported to have said he fully recognized the "profound significance" of his meeting with Patriarch Benedictos, and to have hailed the latter's role in helping to "eliminate points of friction" barring Christian unity. At his meeting with Patriarch Derderian, he was said to have praised the "friendly ties" that had developed between Armenian Monophysites and Catholic prelates at the Second Vatican Council. He was quoted as adding that all Christian leaders should "forget what is past and push on to what lies ahead."

Gethsemane

At night, torchlights illuminated from the Mount of Olives when the Pope knelt before the Rock of the Agony for services in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Pope then entered the Church of All Nations in the Garden, where about 1,000 worshippers joined in services which featured the blessing of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in Latin, Greek, Arabic, Armenian, Russian and Coptic.

At last, the utmost security precautions surrounding the Pope's visit to Jordan were relaxed as he made his way to Jerusalem's Mandelbaum Gate, where he was to cross into Israel. The Pope's motorcade was greeted by a 21-gun salute as it entered Israeli territory. Then, as the Pope stepped out of his car, he was greeted by Israeli President Zalman Shazar and Premier Levi Eshkol.

The Pope then climbed into the black sedan in which he was driven to the Apostolic Delegation. Before the services, a torchlight procession of Christian pilgrims had walked up to the church from the Valley of Kidron singing hymns. Thus ended the Pope's first day in the Holy Land.

Shrine in Israel

Pope Paul VI, on the second day of his Holy Land pilgrimage, visited the Holy Places of Israel in what he later described as "an unforgettable day of my life."

In a dawn-to-darkness journey, he visited the places where Christ grew from boyhood to manhood, where He preached and performed His miracles, and where, the Pope commented, "everything speaks, everything has a meaning."

In contrast to his first day in Jordan, the Pope was spared the ordeal of undisciplined Moslem crowds which had pushed and almost mishandled him in their enthusiasm.

The Israeli throngs were orderly and stayed behind police lines. Moreover, traffic was regulated so that the Pope could move around freely, without risk of being submerged in a seething mass of humanity.

Setting out from the residence of the Apostolic Delegation on the Mount of Olives in Jordan, the papal party drove 47 miles to the Israeli border near Jenin, passing through small villages where the Pope paused occasionally to bless crowds of Arabs gathered to salute him. Reaching the Israeli crossing point, the party proceeded to Megiddo, the Biblical Armageddon, where Israeli President Zalman Shazar and other government leaders were waiting to welcome the Pontiff.

A 72-man guard of honor and 17 flag bearers bearing the Vatican and Israeli colors stopped stiffly to attention as the Pope and his party entered the courtyard of an old stone archaeological museum to be greeted by President Shazar.

The President, speaking in Hebrew, told the Pope that "the countryside about us testifies as a living witness that prophecies are being fulfilled—those of the in-gathering of our people here from all the corners of the earth and the renewal of their independent life as in the days of old."

Referring to the atrocities committed against the Jewish people during World War II, he said that "surely the devastation of my people . . . is a bitter warning of the depths of bestiality and loss of the divine image to which ancient prejudices and racial hatreds can drive men down if a purifying spirit does not come into being while there is yet time to dam up these dangers forever."

Pope Paul, replying in French, said: "We pray above all else for the favor of man's reconciliation with God and for profound concord among all men and peoples." He evoked enthusiastic applause when he used the Hebrew word, "Shalom," meaning peace. He presented the President with two silver candlesticks, and received from him, in turn, a pilgrim's medal.

Nazareth

The convoy then proceeded to Nazareth, the town where Christ grew up, driving along a route heavily lined with Israeli security guards to the Church of the Annunciation, built on the traditional spot where the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the mother of Jesus.

Greeted by the Moslem mayor and other dignitaries as he approached the church, the Pope paused just before entering to bless a group of Arab children who had been picked by Chief Rabbi Yitzhak

(Continued on Page 8)

Two Hour Kennedy Memorial Mass On TV

Boston—(NC)—The Boston Symphony Orchestra will participate in a Solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass which Cardinal Cushing will offer Sunday, Jan. 19 in Holy Cross cathedral here in memory of President Kennedy. The two-hour program will be carried over the NBC-TV network beginning at 10 a.m., EST.

Three choruses of 180 members — the New England Conservatory Chorus, the Harvard-Radcliffe Choral Society and the Chorus Pro Musica — will participate.

German Bishops Repeat Mixed Marriage Warning

Rome—(NC)—Hope that Vatican Council II will promote Christian reunification still has a special place in German public discussion in the wake of the closing of the second session of the Council.

Bishop Helmut Wittler of Osnabrueck acknowledged there are many mixed marriages with-in the Lord's law and the Church's order. "However it is undeniable that mixed marriages are endangering Christian faith and religious life for parents and children," he said.

The bishop added: "However, it is also undeniable that mixed marriage is a misfortune to be avoided."

Joseph Cardinal Frings of Cologne said the ecumenical movement was given new impulses by the Council but that there also are dangers. He pointed out that the Catholic Church cannot renounce truth. It must in the future struggle for Catholic schools and must say that mixed marriage is "a misfortune to be avoided."

Bishop Wittler said that even though Vatican Council II will promote ecumenism, Catholics may be a still greater and also not a justifiable danger to faith."

He added that it will continue to be a duty to the faithful to observe the Catholic marriage ceremony and give their children a Catholic education.

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