

Paul VI: Epiphanic Pope

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ment on the 4th of October, 1965, when the Vicar of Christ addressed 117 nations at the United Nations?

Did he not see his Epiphanic role fulfilled when he addressed the Council of Conciliar Fathers or Bishops of the world the day after his return from the United Nations: "In the Name of Christ we have preached to men-peace?"

That he had the deep consciousness of this eschatological sign of the New Testament is evident from his words: "We have the consciousness to live in a privileged moment where there is accomplished a vow which we have carried in our hearts for years: to preach the Gospel to all nations."

Paul Uses Sound Waves and Jets

How the Providence of God works! The advance of science and the proclamation of the Word go hand in hand. As Roman civilization built roads over which the Gospel was first preached, so our technological age has built wings of steel and waves of sound to carry that same Gospel to the ends of the earth. All our other Pontiffs from Peter to this age, set a foot on the many steps of the long stairway of the Church on Mission. Paul VI did not put his foot on a step; he mounted a platform.

What other name but Paul could describe the Pontiff who burned with an apostolic mission to preach obedience of faith to all nations in honor of His Name" (Rom. 1/5)?

The Mission-age of the Church to the Gentiles, or pagans is "finished" — not "finishing" in the sense that there will be no more evangelization, but "finished" in the way Our Lord said His Passion was "finished".

I cannot stress too sharply that the end of the Time of the Nations does not mean the end of the Missions, or the Propagation of the Faith. Rather, Mission will now be intensified. The three steps of the missionary activity of the Church are:

1. The Mission to the Jews by the preaching of Christ (John 4/22). "Do not turn your steps to pagan territory . . . go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel (Mat. 10/5).
2. The Mission to the Gentiles, to pagans, to "foreign missions": "The Good News of the Kingdom will be proclaimed to the whole world as a witness to all nations" (Mat. 24/14).
3. The Mission to the World. By the "world" here is not meant either Jew or Gentile, but what was envisaged at the Vatican Council in the Decree of the Church in the World. The great leap forward will be not just to the moon, but to every state, culture, civilization; to the problems of racial and social

justice, to international peace and the "healing of nations" (Rev. 22/2); to unbelievers whether they be affluent above the Thirtieth Parallel, or poor beneath the same Parallel.

The Mission of the Church is not to isolate itself from the world, for the God of Creation is God the Redeemer; rather, it is to affirm and accept the world as the object of Divine Love. "The field is the world" (Mat. 13/38), and the Church practices the "Servanthood" of Christ when it ministers to the total life of the "metropolis", as well as to the urgent needs of God's creatures who battle vultures to get food from city dumps.

Thanks to the laity unified by the Eucharist, the new Mission of the Church is to a secular world. Not that the secular is opposed to the Divine, anymore than H₂O is opposed to Holy Water. Rather there is a "jump" now as there was when the Gospel went from the Jews to the Gentiles. The jump at present is watching for the call of God as it comes to us in the events of history, bidding us cross not only national boundaries, but also sociological frontiers.

Christ walked on waters and stilled the winds and the seas as a sign of His Lordship over creatures. He could just as well have flown to the moon, as well as "ascending into the heavens". He fed the 5000 by the mastery of nature, and He healed the paralyzed bodies of man, for wherever there was hurt, there was the Savior; wherever there was hunger, there was the Savior; wherever there was sin, there was the Savior. His Mission was boundless.

Christ has now brought Pope Paul VI to the edge of the new Mission of the Church, not unlike that which Peter had when he had the vision of the whole world on a sheet: "What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane" (Acts 10/15).

Pope Paul VI has brought the Church to the end of one mission: "until the age of the pagans is completely over" (Luke 21/24). He now ushers the Church into the broader mission of keeping the people of this earth from blowing themselves to bits by combining the dominium terrae et regni Christi — technology and Christ. But no man in history has ever fulfilled a mission, or inaugurated a new one without suffering. In the next article, we will see the price Paul has to pay.

Editorial

was a teacher at St. John the Evangelist School, Greece, died July 22, 1969, after a long illness. She had taught in Rochester parish schools and in Auburn and Ithaca, after her graduation from Nazareth College in 1938. She was a native of Albion and entered the convent in 1933 from St. Paul's parish, Elmore Falls.

Survivors include her twin, Sister Rosalia, S.S.J., of Holy Trinity, Webster, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Benner, and two other sisters, Mrs. Frank Schaefer and Miss Anne Marie Benner, all of Rochester.

Miss Dorothy Rice, a brother, James E. Rice, Sr.; two sisters, Mrs. John L. Keegan and Miss Clara Rice; four grandchildren, one great-grandchild and several nieces and nephews.

W. T. Kelly

Newark — William T. Kelly, a past grand knight of Newark Council, Knights of Columbus, died July 16, 1969. The funeral was held July 19 at St. Michael's.

Mr. Kelly had retired this year, at 64, after 28 years with the C. W. Stuart Company. He was a former chairman of the Central New York Chapter, K. of C.

Survivors include his widow, Mary Rose, and two daughters, Mrs. Donald Lucas and Miss Mary Ann Kelley, a brother, Edmund, and a sister, Mrs. Lynn Forshay, both of Palmyra.

Oscar Rice

A funeral Mass for Oscar W. Rice was offered July 23 in St. Monica's Church by Father Robert L. Collins.

Mr. Rice, of 71 Roslyn Street, died July 20, 1969. He was a member of the Nocturnal Adoration and Holy Name Societies. Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Robert Stoffel and

salvation and service
RIGHT REVEREND EDWARD T. O'MEARA
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Woman For All Seasons

On Sunday, June 22, Pope Paul VI crowned the life work of one of the most remarkable women of modern times. He canonized Julie Billiart.

Who was she? What was so remarkable about this woman? Julie Billiart was born at Cuvilly, in the north of France, on July 12, 1751. At the age of 23 she suffered a form of paralysis which left her unable to walk for 22 years. But her illness, far from immobilizing her spirit, stirred up her apostolic fervor.

She became increasingly aware of the poverty and misery around her, as well as an absence of Christian values in many countries of the world. She used to gather children around her bed to teach them the catechism, and she longed to be able to evangelize the world for Christ.

In 1804, Julie founded the Sisters of Notre Dame, a community devoted to educational work especially among poor children. That same year she was completely cured of her illness! God seemed to be blessing her patience and devotion in time of trial.

Like St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Julie Billiart never went to the mission field herself. But her apostolic zeal and concern for the world's poor only increased as she grew older. It was this missionary spirit which led her spiritual daughters to undertake this work not long after her death.

Their first missionary foundation was in 1840 in Cincinnati, which was then dependent on The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In 1894 they became the second Congregation of Sisters to go to Africa. And in 1924 their apostolic work spread to Asia.

This is indeed a fine heritage to the memory of Julie Billiart, as well as a noble example to the Christians of this century. Undaunted by illness, discouraged by failure, unimpaired by tremendous sacrifice, she nevertheless implanted the seeds of apostolic fervor in those around her.

Her example ought to instill within each one of us renewed zeal for all men, concern for their well-being, and courage to sacrifice on their behalf.

Julie Billiart was a missionary even though she never left her native land. You, too, can be a missionary by your prayer and sacrifice for all mankind. Send your gift today!

THE MISSIONS NEED YOUR HELP IN THE SUMMER TOO!

SALVATION AND SERVICE are the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Right Reverend Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, Dept. C, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or directly to your local Diocesan Director.

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Deaths

Sr. M. Assumpta

A requiem Mass for Sister Marie Assumpta Benner was offered last Friday at the St. Joseph Motherhouse in Pittsford.

Sister Marie Assumpta, who

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