

# Summertime in Castelgandolfo

## Or How to Get the Most from a Papal Audience

By FATHER LEO J. MC FADDEN

Rome—(NC)—Romans advise their tourist friends to bring three things along to a papal general audience: their admission ticket, a rosary to be blessed for Aunt May back in Winona, and their sense of humor.

They are also telling them to forego the general audience on Wednesday for the Sunday noontime blessing in the courtyard of the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo. Not only that, many Romans themselves make the half-hour drive up to the shaded lanes of the Alban Hills for the Sunday blessing.

With family in tow, they daily afterwards over a late lunch overlooking Lake Albano or push along to one of the nearby "castle towns" for cameroni (pastas) and iced Frascati (wine) before descending to the sizzling sidewalks of downtown Rome.

The first advantage of the Sunday session is that it affords an unlimited view of the Pope, sometimes comparable to standing at mid-court of a basketball floor and looking above the backboard. At the Wednesday audience, you are crammed into a hot hall with 10,000 other people, compared to about 2,500 in the courtyard, and run the risk of being pinioned between a wooden railing and the 14 elbows of nuns who arrive after you do. That is where you need your sense of humor.

On Sunday, a canvas canopy shades the courtyard, save for a three-foot ribbon of brightness along its length. In that corridor of

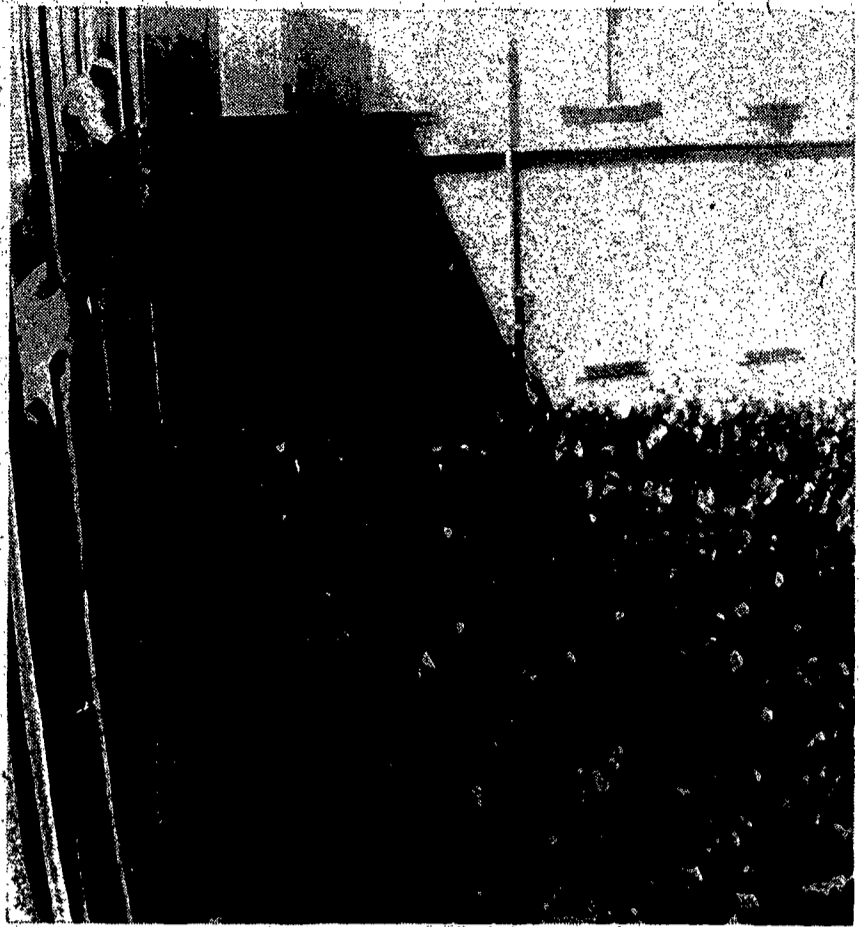
sunlight any man can truly be an island, as his fellow tourists seek the shade.

Precisely at noon, dutifully alerted by the large clock over the main window, the crowd begins a measured applause, a polite way of saying in Italian it is time to get the show on the road. Pope Paul VI must be standing just around the corner, for with precision and agility he is suddenly there, smiling, acknowledging applause and the cheers with that bobbing wave of the arms, hands flat out, a gesture so reminiscent of Pius XII.

For a short five minutes the Pope discourses on some little subject of instant reflection, then recites the Angelus in Latin and gives his blessing. Again the applause and again the wave of arms, this time with the Pope leaning way over the balcony to be seen by those directly below. In five European languages he addresses various groups, but seems to get the loudest ovation from the Spanish-speaking.

Perhaps it is the example of the Spanish or perhaps it is because it is time to say goodbye, but just before the Pope leaves, enthusiasm runs rampant through the crowd. Even the quietest of tourists joins a crowd that is now unrestrained and happy, a whistling, stomping, shouting, clapping, laughing crowd. As the Pope waves from above, the crowd waves back with tripods, hats, passports, fans, flowers, flags and babies.

As quickly as he came, the Pope is gone and the week's most comfortable dialogue is over.



Pope speaks at Castelgandolfo. (RNS)

## Rethink Your Views, Pope Tells Atheists

Castelgandolfo — (RNS) — Resuming the theme of meditation on the mystery of God, Pope Paul VI warned against the modern temptations to deny God and the value of religion.

At the same time, he urged unbelievers to rethink their position, and see that God is not "a phantom that ignorant men have created for themselves."

In the preceding two weeks, at his customary Wednesday general audiences, the Pope championed the capacity of the human mind to know God "through reason" and, with grace, "through Faith," and emphasized the value of occupying oneself with the problem of God.

Speaking at his general audience of Aug. 5, the pontiff took up the theme again and told his listeners they should be on guard against intellectual temptations to exclude every affirmation that goes beyond "the merely rational or purely temporal."

One such temptation, the Pope said, is the inclination to consider God and religion as "outworn concepts," and as "belonging to other times," when men were less "adult" than they are now.

Such an attitude, he went on, leads to atheism, and a form of atheism that is so attractive to many people today, especially the young, because it falsely represents itself "as a sign of

scientific, technical, social and cultural progress."

The Pope warned the faithful not to allow themselves to be led by "fashionable ways of thinking," or to fall into the "traps of other persons' ideas and opinions."

The pontiff then exhorted "all those who, for various motives of their own, refuse to believe in God, to think again.

"Surely," he said, "they will soon find that they are wrong; that God is not a phantom that ignorant men have created for themselves. They will find that recognition of God does not in any way oppose the dignity of man, and that heavenly hopes do not diminish the importance of earthly tasks."

## The Bishop Speaks



By BISHOP JOSEPH L. HOGAN

The recent news-stories about the release of Maryknoll Bishop James Walsh after many years of arrest in Communist China were gratifying proof of God's mercy to a dry-martyr of the modern Church.

I hope you will be interested in some touching details about this wonderful event as reported to me by the superior general of the Maryknoll Fathers:

Dear Bishop Hogan,

Greetings to you and my personal best wishes. I do not feel that I am being presumptuous in thinking that you would welcome some further news about a brother member of the hierarchy, Bishop James E. Walsh.

I arrived in Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital in Hong Kong within 72 hours after the Bishop had been released late Friday afternoon, July 10. I had not seen Bishop Walsh in 23 years. I was surprised, therefore, considering his ordeal, to find him in outward appearances almost unchanged. He is still the frail wisp of a man that he was when I last saw him.

His physical condition, all things being considered, is rather good. His doctors assure me that all his vital signs are very satisfactory for a man verging on 78 years. He is, however, very weak and tires very quickly.

He told me that he had felt very energetic up until the beginning of this year, when he began to feel tired constantly. He is very sharp and alert mentally and his memory is phenomenal.

He is, to put it mildly, a bit bewildered by what he is beginning to suspect is a very changed world from the one he left many years ago. The most apt analogy is that of the story of Rip Van Winkle. However, the Bishop seems well fitted by character and personality to absorb the changes as he gradually becomes aware of them.

The few days I spent with the Bishop did me much more good than any retreat I have ever made. His faith is deeper and stronger than ever, and his devotion and true piety are very evident and clear. There is not the slightest tinge of bitterness in him. He suffered and offered his sufferings during all those years patiently and silently for the good of the Church that he knew.

The Bishop started me by saying: "Father, the most important thing to keep in mind is charity." His simplicity is like a breath of fresh air in this complicated era with its heavy stress on the individual.

The Bishop tends to interpret his treatment over the past 15 years through the prism of his charity. However, I was able to gather enough in conversations with him to know that the treatment by any standards was severe. Particularly difficult was the first year and a half in a detention prison after being arrested.

The constant, daily, all day long type of interrogation, going over the same points again and again left him beaten, exhausted and bewildered. Yet even that, somehow or other, he interprets kindly.

Bishop Walsh will have to remain in the hospital for some weeks yet as he gradually regains his strength. He is under excellent care in the hospital and his doctor feels that he will make good progress over the next several weeks. If all goes well and as planned, Bishop Walsh will be able to leave Hong Kong some time after the middle of August.

Thanking you for your affection and concern for the missionary work of the Church and for your assistance to Maryknoll, I am

Respectfully in Christ

Rev. John J. McCormack, M.M.  
Superior General

## House Unit Criticizes Smut Report

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the validity of the commission's conclusions—or more correctly, to create doubt in the public mind concerning the commission's conclusions, a subcommittee spokesman indicated to Religious News Service.

Father Morton A. Hill, S.J., a member of the commission, acidly condemned the report as a "legalization of pornography" in the U.S. He said he would submit a minority report and has already called for an investigation of his own commission.

"Available research shows," according to the report, "that the heightened availability of erotica over the past decade has not been accompanied by a paralleled rise in the incidence of juvenile or adult sexual offenses.

"Rather, rates of sexual crimes generally have decreased, even though rates of most non-sexual offenses increased during this period.

"Research does not demonstrate an independent causal connection between exposure to pornography and delinquent behavior. Studies suggest that exposure to pornography may be part of a deviant life style and reflects, rather than affects, the character, attitudes and conduct of delinquent youth."

## 7 Carmelite Priests To Aid Diocese Work

(Continued from Page 1A)

Maio to studies at the University of Rochester.

The Pastoral Office announced that the seven Carmelites will live in St. William House on Buffalo Road, the former dormitory and faculty residence for St. Andrew's Seminary and King's Prep.

The Carmelite Fathers closed the high school in Auburn in June after 15 years of service. It had 690 students and a faculty of 17 Carmelite priests and Brothers, 15 Sisters of St. Joseph and 5 lay teachers.

Father Mooney explained at the time that while a \$30,000

deficit in the school this year was a crucial factor in the decision to withdraw from Auburn, declining pupil enrollment in the parochial elementary schools of the city indicated that enrollment troubles for the high school would grow worse and greater deficits would pile up.

The Carmelite Fathers are trying to sell the school and its 59 acres of property, Father Mooney stated. They have assured Bishop Hogan that "an equitable distribution of the monies derived from the transaction" will result in an endowment to the parishes of Auburn for religious education.

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