



Priest a Rugby Star

Father John Cootes legs it out during the Rugby League finals in Newcastle, Australia. Father Cootes, 29, a Catholic priest, led his team to the championship by scoring 9 points. He was chosen on the All-Australia team which will compete for the World Cup. He teaches at St. Pius X College, Newcastle. (RNS)

The Pope's Itinerary

ROME: Nov. 26, morning departure. Stop at Teheran, Iran in afternoon.

MANILA: Nov. 27, arrival in morning; Mass in cathedral for clergy and Religious. In afternoon, visited head of state and meet civil authorities and diplomatic corps.

Nov. 28, in morning, at University of Santo Tomas; meeting with university students of Philippines. Take part in meeting of Asian bishops. In afternoon, Mass at Luneta park, where Pope will ordain priests from various Asian countries. In evening, meeting with Vatican diplomats of Asia.

Nov. 29, in morning, Mass at old Quezon city section of Manila. Visit headquarters of Church-sponsored Radio Veritas, and attend conclusion of Asian bishops' meeting. Deliver message to Asia. In afternoon, an ecumenical meeting with non-Catholic religious leaders, visit a poor section of city, and then departure from Manila.

SAMOA ISLANDS: Nov. 29, arrival at Pago Pago, American Samoa, eastward across the international dateline, in morning. Continuation to independent Western Samoa, where Pope will celebrate Mass in a parish church. In afternoon, return to Pago Pago and departure for Sydney.

SYDNEY: Nov. 30; arrival at Sydney air port (back on west side of the dateline again) in afternoon. Mass at cathedral for clergy and Religious. Visit city hall.

Dec. 1, in morning, attend sessions of four bishops' conferences of Australia and Oceania. In afternoon, visit governor general of Australia, meet with the diplomatic corps and presidents of Catholic organizations. In evening, Mass at Randwick racecourse.

Dec. 2, in morning, visit charitable institutions, Mass for youth at Randwick racecourse. In afternoon, visit government house of state of New South Wales to meet the state authorities, meet representatives of press, visit representatives of various groups of immigrants and other persons. In evening,

ecumenical service at city hall.

Dec. 3, in morning, Mass at cathedral, including ordination of Auxiliary Bishop Louis Vangeke of Port Moresby, morning departure from Sydney.

JAKARTA: Dec. 3, arrival at airport in afternoon, visit to cathedral, meet with clergy and Religious there, visit president of republic. In afternoon, Mass in stadium.

Dec. 4, morning departure from Jakarta.

HONG KONG: Dec. 4, arrival at airport in afternoon, Mass in stadium and departure for Colombo, Ceylon.

COLOMBO: Dec. 4, arrival at airport in evening, meet governor general of Ceylon and prime minister, celebrate Mass near airport, then depart for Rome.

We're Facing 'Forces of Hell,' Bishop Declares

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — American society appears to be headed "back to the Dark Ages," a Roman Catholic bishop told delegates to the 56th annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Charities (NCCC) here.

Speaking at a Pontifical Mass, which opened the meeting, Bishop Raymond J. Gallagher of Lafayette, Ind., said he believes "we are dealing with more than human combat."

"It is clearly possible that we, in our day, are dealing with the forces of hell in a more critical way than in any recent history," said the bishop, honorary president of NCCC.

As examples of his concern, he cited "congressional action to penalize citizens for begetting children; national publications which ridicule and impugn the honor, dignity, and sanctity of motherhood; and the sociologist who repudiates the very core of his science by saying that the family — society's basic institution — is now passé."

Support Church, Pope Tells Nuns

Vatican City —(RNS)— in a fervent and moving appeal, Pope Paul VI urged a group of Catholic nuns, "like Christ," to "love the Church profoundly" and to love it "more and more."

He told 200 nuns at the second General Assembly of Delegates of Superiors General in Rome to "love it even more when it is attacked from the outside and contested from within by those who should be the most faithful."

"Support it in the storms which rock it. Help it to face up to the kinds of thought that assail it. Make it known and discovered by the men and women of our times, by the young and by those who suffer. Show them the real face of the Church, the face of a very loving mother."

"The world needs you," the Pope said. "The Church depends on you." Pope Paul also stressed the "excellence" of the religious life and reminded the nuns of the special aspects of that life are so needed in the world today.

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