

Pope Paul Back in Vatican

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"Pope Paul VI really became the Holy Father for thousands upon thousands of Australian boys and girls who jammed the vast arena in the sweltering heat just before noon on Dec. 2."

In the second special Mass the Pope had celebrated within 14 hours he seemed in high spirits. He celebrated the Mass in English and spoke at length to the children and to another vast radio and television audience.

In another outstanding liturgical event, His Holiness joined with Anglican and Protestant leaders in praying for Christian unity in an historic service in the Sydney City Hall.

The hall was packed to capacity and thousands overflowed into the street. This event also was on national television.

Some militant Protestant groups opposed to the World Council of Churches paraded anti-Pope banners in the streets

but garnered little public interest.

The simple service was arranged by the Australian Council of Churches and the Catholic Church.

The Rt. Rev. David Garnsey, Anglican bishop of Gissland and president of the council, said:

"This service is an historic event. Nothing like it has happened before in Australia or even in the wider world."

He said the Pope's visit and the ecumenical service had stirred the imagination and fired the hopes of all who were there.

Others who took part in the service included the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Doctor Frank Woods, who is acting Anglican Primate of Australia; the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Norman Cardinal Gilroy, and leaders of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and other ACC member Churches.

Pope Paul said:

"We who gather here share a faith in the same God and His Son Jesus Christ. We come together in His name and has He not promised that He will be in our midst?"

Pope Paul led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer. The entire congregation stood and applauded as he left at the end of the clerical procession.

In other important events of the pontiff's Pacific and Australia tour:

- He consecrated the first native-born Papuan as a bishop. Bishop Louis Vangeke was consecrated in a rite at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney and will serve at Papua, New Guinea. The bishop is the son of a renowned tribal sorcerer.

- In a stopover at Pago Pago, Samoa, the pontiff accepted a message from President Nixon which noted the new emphasis his journey had given the cause of peace.



Pope Paul kisses a baby held by his soldier-father during a visit to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney. During his visit the Pope gave the children a truckload of toys that children from all over the world had sent to Vatican. (RNS Photo).



Canterbury in Africa

An African bends to kiss the ring of Archbishop Michael Ramsey during the Anglican primate's 3-week tour of South Africa. In a news conference, Dr. Ramsey launched a forceful attack on South Africa's apartheid policies warning that "time is short if violent revolution is to be avoided." (RNS Photo).

Reaffirm 'Life over Death,' Law Professor Advocates

Boston — (RNS) — Prof. Victor G. Rosenblum of the Northwestern University Law School appealed here for a reaffirmation of "life over death" in judicial decisions on abortions.

He was the keynote speaker for the Fifth International Symposium on Life, Abortion and Family Planning, a conference which coincided with the annual meeting here of the American Medical Association.

Cosponsors of the symposium were the National Commission on Human Life, Reproduction and Rhythm, and The Human Life Foundation.

Prof. Rosenblum spoke on "Life, Law and Process: Aspects of Coercion in Liberation."

He questioned whether some

recent decisions on abortion "are not insensitive to human need or as non-perceptive of realities of pressure and coercion" as the rulings in such famed cases as the Dred Scott decision in 1857 and others.

He noted that U.S. legal history "is not without indicators that some strands of the law strayed from that noble conviction" of the common law's recognition of man's dignity and freedom and a respect for the sanctity of human life.

Prof. Rosenblum said, "We must ask ourselves whether there is not a resurgence of its smug and inhuman tone in the contention voiced by some today that a fetus in the womb is merely property to be disposed of at the wishes of its owner, who is the possessor of the body that houses it."

Abortion Law Changes Forecast

Garden City, N.Y. — (RNS) — Changes in the New York State abortion law which went into effect July 1, were predicted here at the Fall meeting of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Rockville Centre diocese.

John E. Kingston (R-Westbury), the State Assembly majority leader, told the guild that several legislators were re-evaluating the recent abortion bill in the light of experiences. Serious consideration will be given, he said, to lowering the present 24-week period in which abortions are permitted and in limiting all abortions in the state to hospitals or specially equipped centers.

Courier-Journal

Divorce Legalized in Italy

Rome — (RNS) — A bill legalizing divorce in Italy for the first time since 1815 was passed by the Chamber of Deputies.

It will be signed into law by President Giuseppe Saragat and published in the Official Gazette — a formality that rarely takes more than two weeks to complete.

The controversial bill was passed by the Senate on Oct. 9. The Senate had amended a bill the lower house voted a year ago.

After weeks of delay, culminating in a five-day non-stop session and a formal vote of confidence to break a right-wing filibuster, the Chamber of Deputies passed the first di-

orce legislation to be approved since Napoleon ruled Italy. The vote was 319 to 286.

The passage of the bill came over strong objections of the Catholic Church and the dominant Christian Democratic Party.

The neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement and the Monarchists also opposed the legislation.

The Vatican has contended that the bill violated the 1929 Concordat between Italy and the Vatican.

The Concordat gave civil effect to Roman Catholic marriages. Until now, an annulment by the Church was the only way to dissolve a valid marriage in Italy.

The new law will allow divorce in the following instances:

- Where a legal separation has existed from five to seven years.
- If a spouse is sentenced to 15 years or more in jail.
- If one is convicted of incest or attempts to murder family members.
- If one is ruled insane in a criminal case and therefore unfit for family life.
- If one party is a foreign citizen and the marriage is dissolved abroad.
- If a marriage is not consummated.

Times Have Changed!

Tito to Visit Pontiff

Rome — (RNS) — In another era, this report would have been regarded as an April Fool's Day joke, an item on something that could never happen.

But it will happen — and here at the Vatican.

Marshal Tito, the Communist strongman of Yugoslavia, will call at the Vatican on Dec. 12 to confer with Pope Paul VI.

Only recently Vatican City and the Tito government resumed diplomatic relations after an 18-year break. Relations are being carried out at the highest level, with the Yugoslav in Rome and the papal representative in Belgrade holding full ambassadorial rank.

In 1952, Tito and the Church broke off relations when Pope Pius XII announced he would raise the famed Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac of Zagreb to

the College of Cardinals. The prelate had been condemned by the Communist regime as a "war criminal."

In 1966, however, the Vatican and Yugoslavia signed a protocol—not a "concordat"—in which the government recognized the Vatican's spiritual jurisdiction over the Church in Yugoslavia and guaranteed the right of contact with Rome for the country's bishops.

In return, the Vatican guaranteed that the activity of clergy in the exercise of priestly functions would take place only within the religious and ecclesiastical spheres, and that any abuse of these functions for political ends would be illegal.

Students Launch

POW Appeal

Jamaica, N.Y.—Students from St. John's University have launched a nationwide appeal to collegians to sign petitions to the North Vietnamese government, asking for information about American prisoners.

A St. John's delegation took the proposal to the American Student Government Conference in Las Vegas Nov. 23. With a target date of Christmas, the St. John's students are hoping to obtain the signatures of students from every campus in America so that they may personally take and present them to the North Vietnamese government.



ASSEMBLYMAN KINGSTON

Wednesday, December 9, 1970

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