

Pope to Visit Venice

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI will make a one-day trip to Venice and the north Italian city of Udine on Sept. 16, the Vatican announced.

The announcement about the papal visit to the famed canal city came as a surprise even to Church officials there.

When word of the visit spread throughout Venice, church bells pealed for several minutes.

"After a brief stop in Venice," the Vatican announcement said, "the Holy Father will reach Udine in the afternoon and celebrate Mass there at 5 p.m. He will conclude his pious pilgrimage on the evening of the same day."

The announcement stressed that the pontiff would not stay over to participate in the formal closing ceremonies of the Eucharistic Congress on Sept. 17.

Meanwhile, in Venice, Archbishop Albino Luciani, the Patriarch of Venice, expressed delight at the Pope's decision.

In a statement, the patriarch said that the decision came as a "surprise" to Venice Church officials. He added that the visit will be "all the more pleasing, because it was so little expected."

The Pope, said Archbishop Luciani, "will come here on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 16, will pray at the tomb of St. Mark

(the Evangelist) in St. Mark's Cathedral, will talk to the faithful, meet briefly with city officials . . . and in the afternoon resume his trip to Udine."

Vatican sources said the one-day trip to Venice and Udine will be the only trip the Pope will make this year.

The Pope's travels abroad, outside Italy, include the following: the Holy Land (1964), India (1964), the U.N. Headquarters in New York City (1965), Fatima, Portugal (1967), Istanbul, Turkey, (1968), Bogota, Colombia (1968), the World Council of Churches Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland (1969), Uganda, Africa (1969), and the Far East (1970).

'Moral Certainties' Rx For 'Worm of Uncertainty'

Castelgandolfo (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has called on modern man to rediscover "moral certainties" as a way of overcoming "the danger of ethical relativism."

Speaking at his customary Wednesday general audience here at his Summer residence, the pontiff said that modern man was dominated, on the one hand, by "the worm of uncertainty," and, on the other, by an "infatuation with revolutionary change."

"Modern man, with all his conquests," he said, "is pervaded by doubts regarding the moral law, which should orient and direct his life. He declares he is free and claims an autonomy — a freeing of himself from certain traditional and environmental ties."

"But at the same time," the Pope went on, "he lets himself be moulded interiorly and man-

ipulated exteriorly by environmental factors that influence him in a dominating and irresponsible way."

Pope Paul said the end result of this process was the birth of an infatuation with revolutionary change, a concern "to abolish everything that has gone before," and an espousal of the principle that "everyone should do as he pleases" — all the while being unaware that this is "the surest road" to political dictatorship.

Insisting that the moral law is a "constant," which at times admits of variations in application to particular circumstances, the Pope stressed the necessity of "a return to an inspiring moral certainty."

"We must overcome the great danger of ethical relativism, which is unfaithful to salutary Christian principles," he said.

Pope Presides at Funeral

Rome (RNS) — Pope Paul VI served as chief concelebrant of a solemn requiem Mass, Aug. 31, for Cardinal Agnelo Dell'Acqua, the pontiff's vicar general for the Diocese of Rome.

The 68-year-old cardinal, a longtime friend and collaborator of Pope Paul, died of a heart attack, Aug. 27, during a pilgrimage at the Marian shrine in Lourdes, France.

The pontifical Mass was celebrated in the patriarchal Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral church of Rome, the presence of over 20 cardinals, some 60 bishops, members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, representatives of the Italian government, and a large number of Rome clergy and faithful.

Arbp. Sheen Hits 'Drivel' In Sermons

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — "People are not listening to us because we are often preaching sociological drivel instead of Christ crucified," declared the nation's most renowned Roman Catholic preacher here. "We have a cross-less Christ and a Christ-less Cross."

This indictment by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, retired Bishop of Rochester, N.Y., and famed television preacher, was leveled at about 685 participants—mostly priests — during the National Congress on the Word of God here.

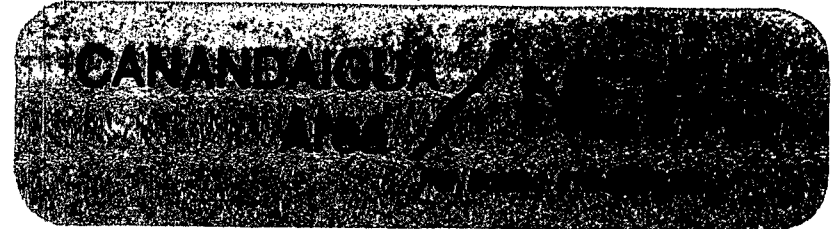
It came during one of two major addresses at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception opening of the two-day gathering.

A "cross-less Christ," he explained, "is the emasculated, weak defense of an economic and social Gospel, a Christ that never speaks of repentance."

The prelate said that China and Russia, where "order, discipline and commitment to a common purpose" can be found, is an example of the "Christ-less cross."

In the other major address to participants, Father Barnabas Ahern, C.P., professor of Sacred Scripture at the Gregorian University, Rome, "examined the theme 'The Faith Experience of the Preacher'" and devoted his remarks to a development of faith from Old Testament to New Testament times.

Father Ahern described the Gospels as "one faith encounter after another," adding that "people found themselves being drawn to Christ."



Parish Council Success

By PAT BOLAND

Victor — St. Patrick's Church here has the distinction of being the only parish in the Canandaigua area with a parish council. The idea of a council was first proposed to the people of the church in 1968 by Father Albert Shamon, who was pastor at that time.

The aim of the council that emerged from that proposition could be described as three-fold; coordinate, involve, use. They wished to coordinate all of the various parish groups into a more effective whole; to involve as many members of the parish as possible in all phases of activity; to use the talents of the lay people for a more effective organization.

The council is composed of seven committees — Worship, Lay Apostolate, Christian Formation, Building and Maintenance, Finance, Social, and Communications. Parishioners are invited to join any committee and annually two members are elected by ballot to serve on each committee. Everyone in the parish 18 or over is eligible to vote. Meetings are held monthly and are open to all.

Has the council been a success? Yes, according to Harry Barry, president. He says that more people than ever are involved in Victor.

He points to the Voice, a newspaper printed monthly by the Communication Committee. This paper, he feels, keeps the people informed. The Building and Maintenance Committee involved parishioners in the upkeep of all parish buildings, including the cemetery. Parents have a voice in the CCD program by joining the Christian Formation Committee.

Father T. Paul Murley, pastor, is another reason for the success of the council, according to Barry. For a council to be effective, the pastor must be cooperative, and he should refer parish matters to the council. Father Murley rates E for excellence on both counts, says Barry.

Father Murley finds the council most helpful, believes that it involves a greater majority of the people, and is of particular use in a parish where there is only one priest. It appears that the council at St. Patrick's has fulfilled the expectations of those who started it four years ago.

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