

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

16 Pages

July 30, 1975

15 Cents

## Pope Not Saying No To U.S. Visit in '76

Vatican City [RNS] — The important thing is that Pope Paul didn't say "no" to Cardinal John Krol's invitation to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, Pa., in August next year.

The Pope will think it over. He will determine whether it is possible.

Authority for this statement is a Philadelphia priest, Father John P. Foley, editor of the archdiocesan newsweekly, the Catholic Standard and Times. He accompanied Cardinal Krol and some 400 Philadelphians on a Holy Year visit to the Vatican. His dispatch to his paper said in part:

"The Pope said (during a sweltering evening audience), 'I send my special wishes and my blessing for all people who will cooperate with you for the success (of the Congress).'"

"Shortly after the beginning of the 8:30 audience in a modern hall off St. Peter's Square, Cardinal Krol handed a letter to the Pope and said, 'I have a written invitation.'"

"The Pope laughed, as if to say, 'I'll bet I know what you want.'"

"The cardinal continued: 'We not only want you to think and pray about us; we want you to visit us; at the Eucharistic Congress.'"

"'God bless you,' the Pope said in English. Then, speaking in the Italian with which he is more

comfortable, the pontiff continued:

"Thank you very much. This (possibility of coming to Philadelphia) no one knows, but you certainly have the promise of my spiritual participation."

"Then, the Pope, referring to the limitations of age (he will be 78 at the time of the Eucharistic Congress), said: 'I'm not becoming old. I am old.'"

"The Pope, expressing his best wishes for the success of the Eucharistic Congress, emphasized the importance of the year-long period of spiritual preparation, especially for the priests."

"Earlier in St. Peter's Square, the frail-looking pontiff, whose voice occasionally sounded hoarse during the 70-minute audience, appeared rejuvenated when groups among the 50,000 pilgrims cheered and clapped as their names were called."

"The Pope smiled and waved at a wildly cheering Irish youth group and at a unit of soldiers who waved the Swiss flag, and he nodded as applause met his greeting to the 400-member pilgrimage from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia — the largest single pilgrimage from the United States to visit Rome during the Holy Year."

Pope Paul, Father Foley cabled his newspaper, "drove around the square to and from the gray-draped platform on the steps of St. Peter's in a Jeep-like open Toyota, waving to the crowd and giving his blessing."



Peace and Quiet

Wearing sound mufflers, Pope Paul VI sits in a helicopter as he prepares to leave the Vatican for his annual "working vacation" at Castelgandolfo in the Alban Hills, some 15 miles south-east of Rome. At left is an unidentified aide. The pontiff plans to commute by helicopter to the Vatican to conduct weekly general audiences for Holy Year pilgrims. (RNS)

## Eucharistic Year Declared for Diocese

1976, the year of the Bicentennial Celebration, will be a year of renewal for Catholics throughout the country; Here, it has been declared a Eucharistic Year in preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Philadelphia during the first week of August, 1976. Bishop John E. McCafferty made the announcement at a meeting of the Diocesan Bicentennial Committee last week.

The Philadelphia Congress will mark the 41st such international liturgical event since 1881. It is hoped that Pope Paul VI will attend, and Bishop McCafferty, appointed the diocesan coordinator for the Congress by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, reported

that possibly as many as six to eight million people will come to deepen and enrich their understanding of the Eucharist.

The theme for the occasion, suggested by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, is "The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family."

Preparations for the Eucharistic Congress include six months of spiritual renewal in every parish throughout the land. In this diocese, kits for school use and materials for parish celebrations will be distributed through existing departments. Renewal groups, priests' and sisters' councils, and the diocesan pastoral council will be asked to give special devotion to the Eucharist.

## SSJs Elect Sr. Jamesine

Sister Jamesine Riley, SSJ, has been elected superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. She will take office Aug. 31, succeeding Mother Agnes Cecilia Troy.

The following were elected as the Central Team — a new designation — to help Sister Jamesine administer the affairs of the 700-member community: Sisters Barbara Ann Foos, Elizabeth Anne LeValley, Louise Weber, Loretta Poole, Mary David

McCall, Mary Ellen Craegen and Rosalma Hayes.

The elections Friday closed a chapter meeting that began June 29. The meeting was concerned chiefly with new structures of government, Sister Mary John Van Atta reported. The new administration was elected by the 46 delegates that members of the community had chosen for the chapter.

Sister Jamesine has been

serving full time for the past six years in the order's central government and has been living at St. Ann's Home as coordinator of the sisters working there.

The installation ceremony scheduled for Aug. 31 will take place at a Mass in the Motherhouse chapel celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. A coffee hour for the community will follow. The new officers will be introduced to civic and religious leaders at a reception in the Fall.

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Before electing new community leaders, the Sisters of St. Joseph take part in a morning Mass in the Motherhouse chapel. Concelebrating with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan are Msgr. William Shannon, Fathers Michael Conboy and Joseph Reinhart.