

# 'A Pilgrim of Peace'

By RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

Pope Paul VI, insisting at the start of his pontificate that he wished to be a "pilgrim Pope," became the first supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church ever to fly in a helicopter or in an airplane.

He was also the first Pope to travel outside Italy since Pope Pius VII was forced to do so by Napoleon in 1812.

Paul made 10 pilgrimages outside the Italian mainland and several within the confines of the country.

His first journey abroad (Jan. 4-6, 1964) - on a chartered DC-8 - took him to the Holy Land, to "that blessed land," he explained, "where St. Peter set forth and to which none of his successors has returned."

In Jerusalem, he met twice with the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I - the first meeting between a Pope and the spiritual head of Eastern Orthodoxy in more than 500 years.

In 1964, he also made two pilgrimages within Italy. On Aug. 12, he traveled by helicopter (for the first time) to Orvieto, 75 miles north of Rome to preside at a celebration commemorating the 700th anniversary of the institution of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

On Oct. 26, he went to Monte Cassino to reconsecrate the rebuilt 6th Century Benedictine Abbey, which had been destroyed by Allied bombardment in World War II. He had planned to make the 85-mile journey by helicopter, but driving rain and thunder storms forced him to travel by car.

Paul's second trip abroad was to Bombay, India (Dec. 2-5, 1964). There he participated in the 38th International Eucharistic Congress.

His visit to India was seen as a tribute to a non-aligned nation and to a deeply religious people, and at the same time as something of a symbolic statement about the importance of the Third World, confirmed by his later visits to Latin America and Africa.

His third journey abroad, to the United Nation's Headquarters in New York City on Oct. 4, 1965, also had great symbolic importance: a dramatization of the dedication of the papacy to the work of peace.

(Pope Paul, as Msgr. Giovanni Battista Montini, first visited the United States in 1951, and again in 1960, when he was Cardinal of Milan.)

Appearing as "a pilgrim of peace," before the U.N. General Assembly, Paul made an eloquent plea for peace, urging, "No more war! War never again!"

In the evening, he celebrated an outdoor Mass in Yankee Stadium before one of the largest crowds ever assembled in the sports arena.

On Christmas Eve, 1966, Paul journeyed by car 180 miles



With Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

north of Rome to Florence to celebrate Midnight Mass in the city's basilica, as an expression of his sympathy and concern for the people of the area, which had recently been devastated by a flood of catastrophic proportions.

Paul's fourth trip abroad (May 13, 1967) was a one-day flying visit to pray at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal, again, as he said, "as a pilgrim of peace."

On July 25, 1967, Paul flew to Turkey to meet for the third time - with the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras I and to visit the ancient city of Ephesus, the site of the Ecumenical Council of 431, which ratified the Virgin Mary's title, Mother of God (Theotokos).

As the first Pope ever to visit Latin America, Paul made a pilgrimage, Aug. 22-24, 1968, to Bogota, Colombia, where he took part in the 39th International Eucharist Congress.

While in Colombia, he also addressed the opening session in Bogota of the Second General Assembly of the Latin American Bishops' Conference (CELAM). The assembly, which continued in Medellin, Colombia, later provided the Magna Carta for liberation theology, calling for sweeping socio-economic changes in Latin America.

On June 10, 1969, Paul made an historic visit to the headquarters of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, one of the Protestant Reformation's originating cities.

In an address to some 600 WCC officials and staff, Paul prayed that cooperation between Catholicism and the Anglican, Protestant, and Orthodox Churches of the WCC would continue to move forward in areas of theology and on issues of peace and development.

Pope Paul also spoke at the Geneva headquarters of the International Labor Organization (ILO), addressing some 1,700 ILO delegates and invited guests at ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations' agency.

Making a second pilgrimage abroad in 1969 - and becoming the first Pope ever to visit Africa - Paul flew to Kamala, the capital of Uganda, on July 31, for a three-day stay. There he honored the 19th Century Catholic martyrs of Uganda, whom he had canonized in 1964. He also took part in the concluding session of the first plenary assembly of representatives of all the regional Catholic Bishops Conferences in Africa.

Paul's ninth trip outside the Italian mainland, April 24, 1970, was a one-day visit to the island of Sardinia, off the Italian coast. The purpose of the visit, he said, was to express his special love and concern for the poverty-stricken people of the island and to join with them in celebrations honoring

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## Pope Paul's words were never delivered but they live in the hearts of ALL

"On this Sunday we cannot forget those who suffer from the particular condition in which they find themselves, or who cannot join those who enjoy their well-earned rest. We mean the unemployed who cannot meet the rising needs of their beloveds with a job adequate with their training and capacity; the hungry whose number increases daily in awful proportions; and all those in general who can hardly find a satisfactory position in economic and social life."

### Pope Paul VI

Excerpts from the pope's last speech prepared for presentation Sunday, August 6, 1978 but never delivered.

**RGE**

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