



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Rally

Above, Elliot Ricehill, a Winnebago Indian, speaks at a rally to support John Salter, right, who recently was dismissed as director of the local Office of Human Development. Salter, a Wabanaki Indian, is being supported in his demand for reinstatement by (above left, facing the camera) Alex Gaby, delegate of the Labor Council of the AFL-CIO and the Teamsters' Joint Council; John Skvorak, president of Metro-Act, and County Legislator John Erb, who organized the rally.



Pope's Challenge to K of C Recalled

New Orleans—Pope Paul's challenge to the world's largest Catholic fraternal society "to live Gospel values in your families and transmit them to your children" was recalled in greetings Aug. 15 to the annual convention of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council.

Messages from Cardinal Jean Villot, Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Jean Jadot, apostolic delegate in the U.S., were read to delegates at the opening session of the 96th annual assembly of the Knights' top legislative and policy body.

Addressed to Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant, both messages recalled the

Pope Prayed At Tomb

Vatican City (RNS)—The tomb of Pope Paul VI is near the sepulcher of St. Peter in the subterranean vault under the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica. It is in a chapel 19 feet long and 11 feet wide. Paul selected the site four years ago and commissioned Lello Scorzelli to decorate the chapel with mosaics of contemporary design representing the resurrection.

The chapel, where Pope Paul often prayed, is one of many off the softly lit corridor in the crypt. Nearby are the tombs of Pope John XXIII and his immediate predecessor, Pope Pius XII.

Pope's words to the board of directors at the Vatican last April. Cardinal Villot wrote that the Pope was confident his message would be "an object of continued reflection for the entire association."

Archbishop Jadot cited various contributions the Knights of Columbus had made to the Church, and asked them to concentrate this year on "the most important institution in our society, the family."

"The family is under siege" he declared. "Its fabric is crumbling, leaving in its wake broken people who display a loneliness, indifference, frustration and loss of direction that need not be."

"Suffering begets suffering," the prelate continued, "and the most precious of our

values evaporate when their foundation is withdrawn."

A message from President Carter said, in part, "For countless individuals and

families your work has been an important source of spiritual and moral sustenance, and for our society, a pillar of righteousness and strength."

Black Ministries Office Sets Prayer Service

Three black nuns, one of them from Africa, will conduct a special prayer service here Tuesday evening, Aug. 22, under the aegis of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries. The service is scheduled for 7:30 in St. Bridget's Church, 175 St.

Bridget's drive. The visitors are Sister Julia Griffin, vicar for social action in the Diocese of Savannah, Ga.; Sister Aena Konde of Zaire, who is completing public health research studies, and Sister Marie Bernadette LeDuff, a religion teacher

from New Orleans, La. The service is a response to "the felt need for ongoing programs which heighten distinctive aspects of the Church in renewal amongst Black people internationally," the Black Ministries announcement says.

Did Pope Predict His Death?

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI apparently had a premonition of his death, according to Archbishop Giuseppe Caprio, Deputy Vatican Secretary of State.

The archbishop, who was with the Pope when he died at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo on Aug. 6, spoke about the pontiff's final hours in a broadcast on Vatican Radio.

As the 80-year-old Pope was prepping to leave Vatican City on July 14 for Castel Gandolfo, said the archbishop, he remarked, "We are leaving, but we do not know if we will return or how we will return."

"Was it perhaps a premonition?" Archbishop Caprio asked. "In any case, his great worry was that old age and his physical condition kept him from carrying out his work. It was a preoccupation that harassed him and at times anguished him."

(On Aug. 1, Pope Paul remarked at a memorial service for a cardinal that his own death could not be far away.)

Archbishop Caprio said he was summoned to the Pope's bedroom shortly before the final moments. Cardinal Jean Villot, the Vatican Secretary of State, two doctors, the Pope's personal secretary, and the nuns who cooked for the Pope and took care of his quarters were present.

"One could see that the Holy Father was suffering," said Archbishop Caprio, "because his breathing was troubled.

Nonetheless, he followed the prayers being said around his bed. Not only that, but one could see the effort he was making with his lips to join the prayers.

"His eyes were closed but he was conscious, and I believe he was aware of events around him. At one point, the doctors hoped he would get over the crisis. His heart still responded very well. His temperature, though high, was not the maximum it would reach a few moments later, and his blood pressure was 170."

Archbishop Caprio said that Pope Paul died so serenely that those around him thought he was still alive.

"A few minutes later," the archbishop continued, "it was clear from the Holy Father's breathing that there was no more hope. As we continued to pray, the pontiff tried to follow the prayers. But his breathing became fainter and difficult. The physicians told us that his temperature was rising and the blood pressure had dropped rapidly.

"A few minutes later — it was 9:40 — the Holy Father expired peacefully, so peacefully that we around his bed wondered whether he was still alive, whether he was still breathing.

Ending his description of the Pope's final moments, Archbishop Caprio said:

"His body was still warm when I kissed his hand two or three minutes after he died. His face kept its natural color. But the electrocardiogram confirmed that the Holy Father had left the earth for paradise."

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