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WE HAVE A POPE!

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In the same St. Peter's Square in Vatican City where funeral services were conducted for Pope Paul VI just two weeks earlier, Cardinal Albino Luciani, the patriarch of Venice, last Saturday was introduced to a huge crowd there and hundreds of millions around the world as Pope John Paul I.

A virtual unknown to most of the world, Cardinal Luciani did not figure prominently in any of the pre-conclave guesswork.

But when Cardinal Pericle Felici stood on the balcony at St. Peter's Basilica to announce, "Habemus Papam (we have a Pope)" and the new pontiff greeted the 200,000 cheering faithful gathered below with open arms and broad smile it seemed a case of love at first sight.

After the usual confusion created by the antiquated system of smoke signals to announce the election of a new pope, it became evident to the crowd in St. Peter's Square and around the world that the conclave had acted within one day to name the new pope when the doors to the balcony opened. At 7:32 p.m., almost to the hour of Pope Paul's funeral two weeks earlier, the new pope gave his first blessing to the city and the world. Thus ended the period of the empty seat which had begun with Paul's death on Sunday, Aug. 6.

Pope John Paul's Church career has been limited to the pastoral and he has spent almost his entire Church life within about 75 miles of his birthplace at Forno di Canale, a village in the Dolomite Mountains where he was born Oct. 17, 1912.

His father was a socialist

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and worked as a glassblower in the Venetian island of Murano. It is said that he was not too happy at his son's choice of vocation but that his mother, described by the new pope as "strong and devout," supported the young man's decision.

He became a priest on July 7, 1935 at the comparatively young age of 22 and then studied at the Gregorian University in Rome. Upon graduation he returned to pastoral work in his home area where he became professor of dogmatic theology and vice rector of the Belluno Seminary in 1937.

In 1958, Pope John XXIII named him bishop of Vittorio Veneto, a diocese near Belluno. Pope Paul VI named him patriarch of Venice in 1969 and appointed him a cardinal in 1973.

Pope John Paul's parents died some years back but he has a brother, Edoardo Berto Luciani, who still lives in their hometown, and a married

To 2

Sunday Talks Provide Hints Of Directions

When he addressed some 400,000 cheering persons in his first Sunday address in St. Peter's Square, Pope John Paul I gave some initial indications as to the tenor of his reign.

"We intend to continue to develop the heritage of the Second Vatican Council, whose wise norms must still be led to completion taking care that a drive that may be generous but unwise should not alter its contents and meaning, and at the same time that timid and footdragging forces may not delay its magnificent impulse of renovation and life."

As in his first appearance the day before, the new pontiff delighted the crowd with his kindly smile, his apparent friendliness, his humor often displayed in homely anecdotes and chuckles, and his ease. Some quickly dubbed him "the happy Pope" and immediate comparisons with Pope John XXIII were made.

If his demeanor reminded many of John, in honor of whom the new pontiff chose one of his names, then his message may have been reminiscent

To 2



Pope John Paul I at his first public appearance after he was elected on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Viva il Papa — John Paul I

The long history of our Church is filled with the wonders of the Holy Spirit. I firmly believe that He who breathes where He wills can bring us to a reality unexpected despite our most carefully calculated human predictions. It has happened before and it will happen again.

So it was this past Saturday, Aug. 26, that the world received the news of the election of one seldom mentioned as papabile as the choice of the College of Cardinals, as the 263rd pope and the immediate successor of Pope Paul VI. What the cardinals were saying, as did the apostles in the first Council of Jerusalem, "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and ours too (Acts 15:28), that the Cardinal Archbishop of Venice, Albino Luciani, is the legitimate successor of the Apostle Peter, the Bishop of Rome and of the Universal Church."

The news came to my notice while I was on the campus of Keuka College attending our annual Liturgical Institute and preparing for the Eucharistic liturgy which was to begin an hour later. The text of the Eucharistic Prayer was quickly altered to include the name John Paul, for whom we will be praying each day.

During the vacancy since the death of Pope Paul VI, I have often been asked about the qualifications I would hope for in a new pope. I have stressed pastoral

experience, prayerfulness and identification with the needs of the poor. I believe Pope John Paul I fulfills these hopes and expectations admirably.

I love the name he has chosen. To me it is a strong, visible sign of his identity with John XXIII and Paul VI who initiated and completed the agenda of Vatican II. To me it says, "I intend to accept the challenges of their leadership and bring their work to a greater degree of fulfillment."

Please join me each day in this prayerful support for our new Vicar of Christ:

"O God, Shepherd and Ruler of all the faithful, look down favorably upon your servant John Paul whom you have been pleased to appoint pastor over your Church. Grant, we beseech you, that he may benefit both by word and example those over whom he is set, and so attain eternal life together with the flock committed to his care."

Joseph L. Hogan