

Funeral Today for Pope John Paul

From Courier-Journal Services

The outdoor funeral Mass for Pope John Paul scheduled today in St. Peter's Square will be repeated in essence if not in style in hundreds of thousands of parish churches for the second time in less than two months across the world as some 800 million Catholics mourn the death of their pontiff.

The "smiling Pope" died at approximately 11 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 28, of a heart attack, according to the Vatican Press Office. His reign lasted 33 days, the shortest since Leo XI's 26 days in 1605. Pope John Paul was 65.

The world's cardinals, except for those stationed in Rome, immediately began preparations to return for the funeral Mass and for the conclave to elect the new pope scheduled to begin on Oct. 14. A stunned world has become somewhat used to the procedure, having just witnessed it all with the death of Pope Paul VI just two months ago.

Auxiliary Bishop John McCafferty celebrated a special memorial Mass for the Pope last Friday in Sacred Heart Cathedral and parishes throughout the diocese were expected to have Masses to give all the opportunity to attend.



The body of Pope John Paul lies in state on Sept. 29, in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, convalescing from pneumonia, issued a brief statement: "I was shocked. I liked all he had done and said. He showed us great hope and pastoral sense."

"Just yesterday I read several of his talks in the most recent Vatican Observer. He

spoke of hope and hilarity. He spoke of the family.

"He showed such great warmth. We are all deeply saddened at his death."

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey conducted a press conference Friday at the Pastoral Center in which he noted that "the most visible sign of the man's openness was in his warm smile."

As Pope John Paul's body lay in state in Vatican City, more than 200,000 passed by the bier first in Clementine Hall and perhaps even more later in St. Peter's Basilica.

The size and saddened aspect of the huge throngs confirmed the impression that the pontiff had endeared himself in a special way to Rome and the world despite the brevity of his administration.

His body was to be placed in a tomb beneath St. Peter's near the resting places of his two immediate successors, John XXIII and Paul VI, the popes for whom he had chosen his double name.

While people in all walks of life expressed shock at news of the death, perhaps a nun from Lebanon best summed up the sentiment. She said she could feel no sadness "only the sense of a mystery which I cannot understand."

President Jimmy Carter said, "The warmth of his personality, and his understanding of the lives of ordinary people, were evident to all. We are all made poorer by his death."

His wife, who had attended the funeral of Paul VI, added, "There was an immediate affection for the pope all over the world because of his warmth, his openness and his obvious love."

From the moment of his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica — smiling and waving to the huge crowd below — Pope John Paul won warm acceptance.

Religious leaders around the world, not only Roman

Catholic, but Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim, hailed the election of a new Pope, who, from the start, insisted on being considered a supreme "pastor" rather than a pontiff.

In keeping with his desire to stress his role as pastor and servant of the People of

God," he refused to follow the tradition of being "crowned" or "enthroned" as Pope.

Instead, inaugurating his term of office on Sept. 3, he concelebrated with cardinals a solemn, open-air Mass on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica "to mark the start of his ministry as supreme Pastor."

Most significantly, he omitted having the triple-decked, jeweled, beehive shaped tiara placed on his head, a crown signifying the papal claim to universal spiritual and temporal dominion. Instead he had a pallium, the white woolen stole symbolizing episcopal spiritual power, placed around his neck. The pallium also is received by archbishops; it is not reserved to the pope.

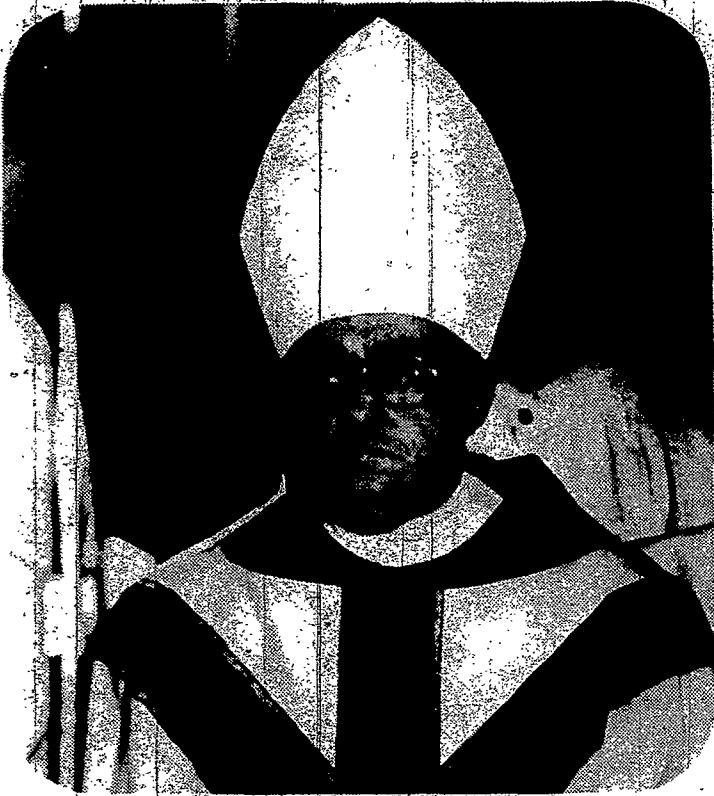
The simplicity of his pontificate was in keeping with the simplicity of his life. Albino Luciani was the product of one of the thousands of villages that dot the Italian countryside.

"I am a little man accustomed to little things and to silence," he said before his election as pope.

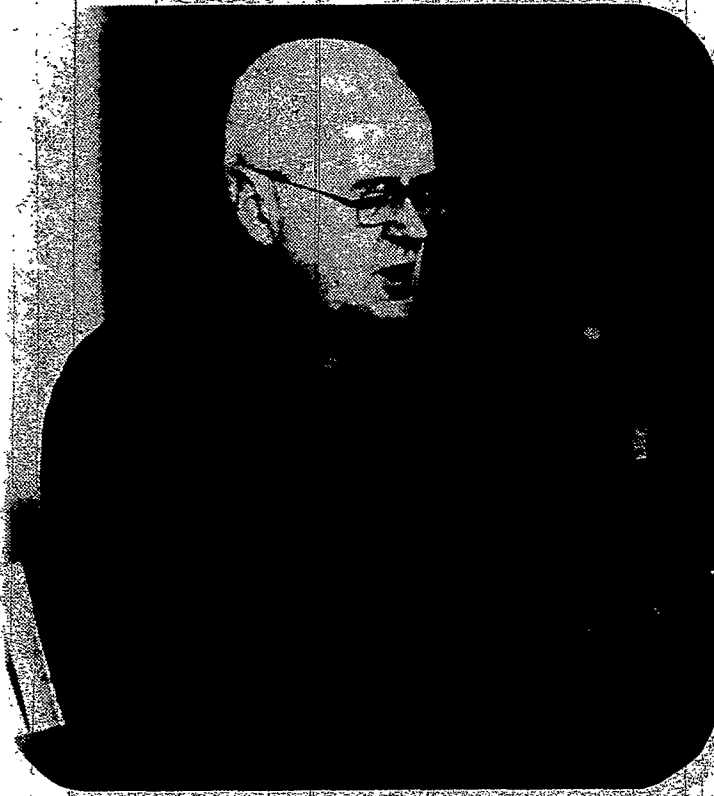
Pope John Paul made his reputation as a catechist, in the various dioceses in north Italy where he was called to serve. His study on catechetical methods is popular in Italy and has gone through seven editions. It is this somewhat unglamorous

To 5

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has asked each parish in the diocese to schedule a memorial Mass for Pope John Paul who died last Thursday, Sept. 28.



BISHOP McCAFFERTY



BISHOP HICKEY

In only 34 days Pope John Paul I entered the hearts of many with an enduring warmth and hope for all.

He will be missed.

McCurdy's