

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

32 Pages

Wednesday, October 18, 1978

OUR 96th YEAR

20 Cents

Cardinal Karol Wojtyla Becomes Pope John Paul II



Our New Pope

This photograph of then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was taken from a television newscast on the day of his election by Courier photographer Terrance J. Brennan.

Bishop Hogan 'Surprised'

I am totally surprised and very delighted. I am reminded of what Cardinal Suenens once said: "The Holy Spirit is full of surprises. The pollsters were once again proven far from reality with their political predictions."

I think his election speaks volumes about the faith of the Polish people. It also indicates that the Church's relationship with the Communist world was an important consideration.

I believe Pope John Paul II will be a pleasant blend of pastor and administrator.

Bishop Hickey:

I was pleased to hear about the election of the new pope. I think that his election is one sign of the universality of the Church. I think it is particularly gratifying that someone from the Polish Church was chosen, particularly in view of the great suffering the Polish people have endured for their faith over the years. Taking the name of John Paul is a clear signal that he will follow in the footsteps of his immediate predecessors.

BY CARMEN J.
VIGLUCCI

When Cardinal Pericle Felici announced the name of the new pope to the world Monday afternoon, many were dumbfounded and stunned but not Father Chester Klocek, a friend of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, now Pope John Paul II.

Father Klocek met the future pontiff at Doylestown, Pa. in 1976 when both were attending the Eucharistic Congress in nearby Philadelphia.

"I was saying my breviary during the morning near the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa," Father Klocek related, "when a car pulled up and out stepped Cardinal Wojtyla. I recognized him from pictures and I introduced myself."

"I mentioned to him that a classmate of mine at St. Bernard's Seminary, Tom Larkin, who also was a friend of the cardinal from a time they studied in Rome."

"You mean W. Thomas Larkin," the cardinal said," Father Klocek chuckled. "Imagine him remembering the complete name, initial and all?"

Father Klocek visited the cardinal in Krakow in 1977, the local priest's 30th anniversary year. And the two have other connections — Cardinal Wojtyla preached the eulogy at the funeral of Father Klocek's cousin, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Marek of Wroclaw, whom the cardinal had also consecrated bishop.

Father Klocek said the new pope's name was listed in a Catholic University publication as a possible pontiff.

"I thought he was a possibility at the election of John Paul I," Father Klocek said, "but not this time. But the reporters were wrong for the second time."

What kind of man is the new pope? Father Klocek said "that if they were looking for a good copy of John Paul I then they have one. He is very congenial but at the same time can be firm. He is an easy conversationalist and people feel very comfortable with him."

The new pontiff speaks English very well, Father Klocek said, pointing out that he spoke at many American colleges and universities during his visit to this country in 1976.

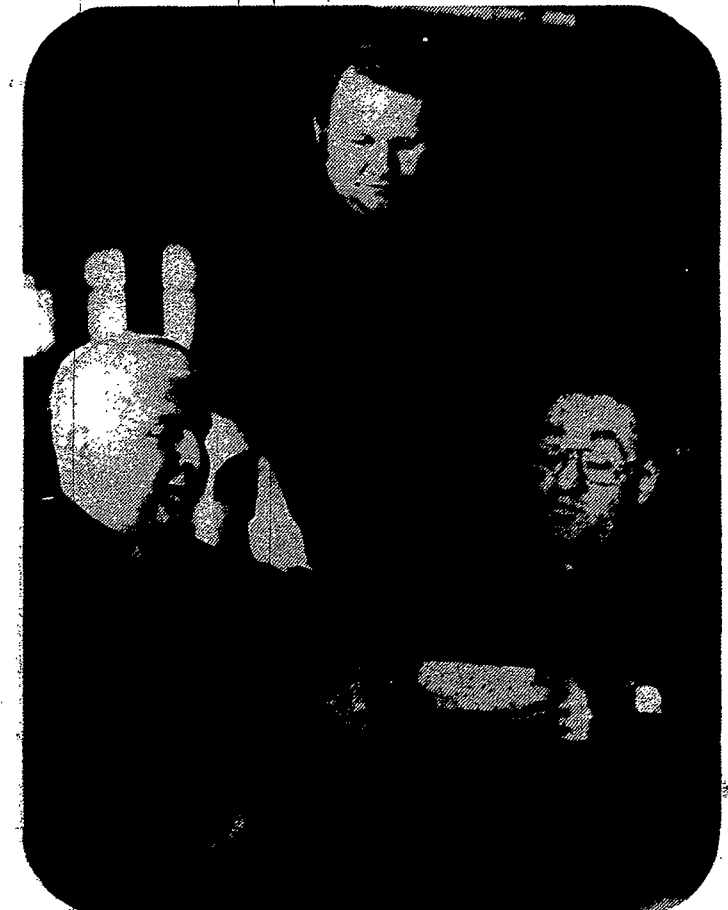
Father Klocek spoke to this reporter while visiting Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, who headed the diocesan Eucharistic Congress activities.

Bishop McCafferty said that when the announcement came Monday afternoon "it was thrilling. I had a moment of complete inability to

comprehend although I recognized the cardinal's name. Polish people have been persecuted for so many years and is not only a tribute but it provides hope for the oppressed people in all the world. That the leader of Christendom should come from behind the Iron Curtain is a remarkable testimonial to Divine Providence."



The then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla with Father Klocek at the Pauline Monastery in Doylestown, Pa. in 1976.



Father Klocek, Father Daniel Wheeland and Bishop McCafferty look over photo of the new pope.

Earlier story, Page 3