All in the Family

No Time For Jokes

One of the first things that occurred to this writer upon hearing that we had a



Sarah Child

It didn't, of course. Polish jokes will be with us as long as there are small. brains around to repeat ad nauseum the latest imbecilic punchline.

Such attempts at humor at the expense of an entire culture distress me a lot less than they once did, however.

When a nation can count as one of its own a man who is not only spiritual leader of 700 million people but who also speaks nine languages as if they were his own, manages to convey love, compassion and humility in a single phrase and whose moral strength is matched only by his political clout, then that nation does not much need the defense of friends against drivel.

Some other thoughts on the selection:

If we rejoiced with the Poles for the elevation of this man to such heights,

for ourselves. As Americans who have looked to Italians all our lives for our spiritual leadership in Rome, the choice of a non-Italian

serves to remind us in the best possible way that we as Catholics are members of a universal faith, not as it has sometimes seemed. tied to a Church whose limits are defined by the Adriatic on one side and the Mediterranean on the other.

we must rejoice even more

And how do Italians feel about the new bishop of Rome?

I'm not sure. But I can tell you how one Italian-American responded. My father, something of a chauvinist when it comes to his ancestral home, had taken to John Paul I as all of us had, reading

everything he could about him and praying for him daily.

"I don't know why. I don't know why," he would say. "There's just something about him."

During a recent visit I broached the subject of John Paul's successor. How did he feel about this non-Italian with the hardto-pronounce name filling the shoes of Albino Luciani? I waited for some polite words since my father is of the old school which sees the mildest criticism of any religious person akin to blasphemy.

There were no polite words. His mouth softened, his eyes filled. "Ah, this one, this one," he crooned. "Even better."

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A Banner Year At Stella Maris

By JOHN DASH

It's been a banner year for Camp Stella Maris, according to Ray Tette's report to his board of directors.

The camp, Tette said, has had the highest enrollment in years. Not only that, Stella Maris has been accredited by the American Camping Association. "That's a real plus for us — it shows we're running a quality camp," the executive director of the Conesus Lake facility said last week.

In addition, Tette himself has been accredited by the national group for the training he has undertaken as head of the camp.

Enrollment, Tette said in an interview, is up 11.6 per cent over last year, and more than 26 per cent over

The camp has extended its camper season from six to eight weeks, and is expanding its programs of serving groups other than

Tette pointed proudly to the 135 parents and children hosted by the Office of Family Life for one week last August, in its ministry to the separated and divorced.

He also noted that the camp is running winter weekends for the first time.

And on top of it all, Tette's hoping that the Stella Maris budget this year will balance.

For the last couple of years, Tette has been conducting evaluations of the camp's services with an eye to improving them. He reports that in every category, including the food services, the facility is drawing more and more favorable response.

Tette is grateful for the help and encouragement he has received across the diocese during the two years he has been the chief executive of the camp. He noted that 12 parishes this year underwrote the cost



RAYMOND TETTE Other firsts for the year,

of sending 28 children to camp. The Social Services Tette pointed out, inof both Monroe and cluded: conducting the first Livingston counties helped Counsellor-in-Training P-59 children, who otherwise rogram (CIT) for 24 young would not have had the persons; developing a coopportunity, attend the educational camp counsellor staff; and camp. In addition, 72 upgrading the camp children from Rochester's central city were given full counsellor training

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Photo by Terrance J. Brennan



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