

The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

John Paul I Was Simple, Powerful

The headline in the Italian magazine said, "Thirty Days of Hope." "He was a priest," said the taxicab driver to me, "a real priest." These two lines sum up not only the September papacy of John Paul; they sum up what religion is all about, the purpose of Catholicism and, heaven save us, what priests ought to be. There are all sorts of folks who are willing to apply the lesson of John Paul to the papacy and don't see that it applies to all of us—priests especially, but all Catholics.

The only reason for having religion is that it provides us with hope. Religion is the relatively modest conviction that the universe is not absurd, that God is not mad, that there

is some purpose in our lives beyond life itself and that somehow or the other we are able to transcend tragedy, absurdity and death. Religious institutions and religious personnel have finally only one job, to preach of hope; those who claim to be committed to religion have only one commitment, the commitment to hope. You can believe myriad doctrines and engage in countless religious activities, but if one does not have hope, one will not communicate hope to others; then one is simply not religious.

The surprising thing about the impact of Pope John Paul on the world is that it was surprising. If we took religion at all seriously and understood the desperate need for hope, we would take it for granted that when finally a religious leader emerged with smiling and transparent hopefulness, he would within a few weeks, even a few days, own the world.

Those of us who spoke of the public image of the papacy before the first conclave were ridiculed by

the press, dismissed by the cardinals (especially the American cardinals) as meddling in things that were none of our affair (as though cardinals have a monopoly of concern about the outcome of a papal election). Then, when Pope John Paul turned out to be a smiling, hopeful pope and was greeted with the world's acclaim, not even an American cardinal could question that our point was proved. The papacy's strength comes not from infallible definition, not from obsolete Renaissance protocol, not from solemn warnings, not from clever diplomacy, not from signing endless documents, not from hand-wringing cries of anguish but from holiness, humility and hopefulness. Had there ever been any doubt.

It is not merely what the papacy is all about, it is what Christianity is about and especially what the priesthood is about. The demand for a "hopeful holy man who smiles" is a valid demand for a sociologist to make of a pope; it is also a demand for every Christian to make of his clergymen, and it is a valid demand for the non-Christian world to make of all of us Christians. As believers in the most hopeful of the

world's religions, we ought to be the most hopeful human beings.

John Paul's catechetical style was simplicity itself. In the audience in which I heard him talk he spoke of love, a simple, uncomplicated reflection on the old act of love we learned in grammar school. Everyone in the audience was charmed, awed, impressed, and went out feeling a little happier, a little better, a little more hopeful for having heard the simple and powerful homily from a simple and powerful man.

Priests, both the ordained priests and the priestly people consecrated by baptism, felt then that we too must be holy, that we too are part of the public image of the church. We will complain about all the years when we did not have a pope like John Paul; and we might ask ourselves about our own failures to be hopeful, holy Christians who smile.

Each of us should approach our own ministry the way the new pope, John Paul II, is approaching his. When asked by a reporter whether he would be a symbol of hope to the world the way his predecessor was, he smiled and said, "I hope so."

NFP Sessions Scheduled

The Natural Family Planning Office has announced two informational sessions:
At 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 8, at St. Joseph's

Hospital in Elmira.
At 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14, at St. Lawrence in Greece.
Both sessions are open to the public at no charge.

Charismatics

Father Jerome Robinson, OP, director of the diocesan office of Black Ministries, will celebrate a charismatic Mass at Holy Spirit Church,

Penfield, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14. The Mass is sponsored by the Holy Spirit Prayer group, which meets regularly at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and welcomes all comers.

SAM DELL FORD

A-1 USED at LOW PRICE!!!

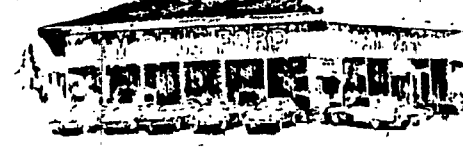
13 Mo. 13,000 Mi. Warranty Available

- 1973 Pinto, 3 dr., 4-cyl., 4 speed \$ 975
- 1974 Fiat, 2 dr., 4 speed, green 1395
- 1974 Galaxie 500, 4 dr., white 1395
- 1974 Pinto, 4-cyl. auto., 3 dr. 1995
- 1975 Chev. Nova, H/B, 6-cyl. auto, P/S 2750
- 1975 Chev. Monza, 8-cyl. auto., P/S, A/C 2495
- 1975 Opel Manta, 4 speed, red 2495
- 1976 Olds Regency 98, tan, fully equipped 4450
- 1976 Pinto, 2 dr., 4-cyl. auto., blue 2250
- 1976 Pinto, 2 dr., 4-cyl., blue 2250
- 1976 Cordoba, V8, auto., P/S, A/C, green 3995
- 1977 T-Bird, V8, auto., P/S, A/C, white 5595
- 1978 Granada, 4 dr., 6-cyl. auto., P/S, red 3995
- 1978 Thunderbird, V8, auto., P/S, A/C 5995

Volume is our Goal

Price is why we Sell

The Apple of Our Eye is On Our Lot **SAM DELL**

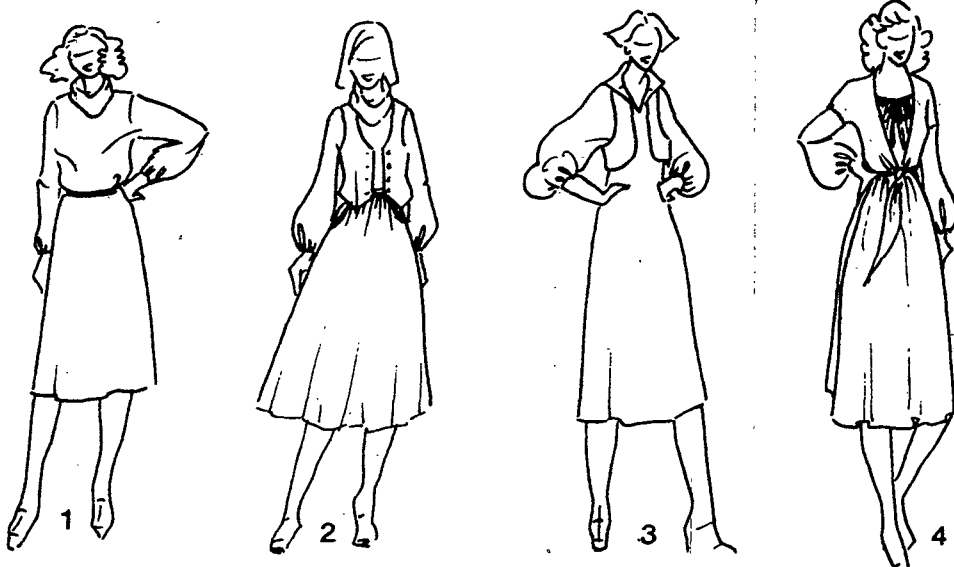


435 W. COMMERCIAL ST., E. ROCHESTER
586-8900 OPEN 9 TO 9, MON-FRI., SAT. 'TIL 6

WORKING WOMEN SEW YOUR OWN

"WARDROBE for SUCCESS"

Every woman wants to look pretty. And she can, with a wardrobe that works for her. Whether she's employed at home or outside — for fun or profit — she wants clothes she looks great in. No matter what Paris and New York say, the important thing to most of us are clothes we can put together several different ways and come up with a winner each time.



Four Easy Lessons

You can create this gorgeous mix and match wardrobe in half the time of ordinary sewing, thanks to the fabulously lazy Ann Person Method.

For class information CALL NOW!

Stretch & Sew

America's Fabric and Sewing Center

EAST SIDE: 1694 PENFIELD RD. • 385-3111
WEST SIDE: 4419 DEWEY AVE. • 865-3010

ADVENT 1978 BEGINS DECEMBER 3

For a world steeped in materialistic values, Holy Mother the Church periodically offers special antidotes to remind the people of God of more lasting and priceless treasures.

Such a period is Advent during which we are invited to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ on Christmas Day and, similarly, to anticipate that ultimate coming of Christ on the last day.

May we all approach this holy season with renewed fervor and a firm resolve, inspired by the beautiful motto, "To restore all things in Christ."

For our part, TRANT'S has endeavored to accumulate many items useful in assisting families and individuals in making Advent 1978 a most memorable one.



- We list but a few of the many things available.
- "Advent: A Calendar of Devotions" \$.20
(A thought and prayer for each day of Advent - 1978)
 - "We Light the Candles" Devotions related to family use of the Advent Wreath 1.00
 - "Family Advent Customs"30
 - "Advent in Your Home" A booklet for parents50
 - "The Jesse Tree" Stories & symbols of Advent 2.00
 - "Celebrating Advent" 1.75
 - "Family Nights" A time for families to be together, to pray, to share, & to play 1.45
 - "The Days before Christmas" How your family can prepare for the coming of Jesus 2.95
 - "Advent" Symbols, story, songs & celebrations of Advent75
 - "Programs for Advent & Christmas" Programs, plays, pageants & other Christmas ideas 2.95
 - Advent Calendars - many sizes, types & prices75 & up
 - Advent Wreath Kits - Rim & artificial greens 7.50
 - Advent Wreath Kits - Rim, greens & candles 11.50
 - Advent wreath candles - 4 in a box 2.50
 - Advent wreath Candles - 8 in a box 6.50

SPECIAL NOTE: In approximately three weeks we will have holy cards of Pope John Paul II, some with the English prayer and some with the prayer in POLISH. At the same time we will have laminated plaques and framed pictures of our new reigning Pontiff.

Church Supplies and Religious Articles

TRANT'S INC.

98 CLINTON AVE. N. ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14604
Phone 454-1818