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## Pope Critical of Liberation Theology

From Courier-Journal Services

**Puebla** — Although open to analysis and further clarification, Pope John Paul II's initial statements on his visit to Mexico and the conference of Latin American bishops here strongly appeared to be critical of Latin American priests and prelates who espouse greater social and political activism as a theology.

At his first talk at the stadium here Sunday, the Pope said that social justice must be sought spiritually, not politically. At a Mass opening the historic Latin America religious summit, CELAM, the pontiff spoke of "the simple joys of the poor, in the humble shacks of the peasants, the Indians, the immigrants."

When he mentioned "the joys of the poor" he was greeted with a hiss from the 200,000 on hand in the stadium. This was in contrast to the tumultuous cheers he had been receiving in welcome at the various stops of his tour.

Later in an address to the 197 bishops and 21 cardinals at

**"The idea of Christ as a political figure does not tally with the Church's catechesis."**

the conference, Pope John Paul reiterated his theme of opposition to radicalization of the Latin American Church.

He said that the Church is committed to helping the poor gain a better standard of living but that it should stay free of "competing systems."

"The idea of Christ as a political figure does not tally with the Church's catechesis," the Pope declared.

Moreover, the statements here reflected consistency with remarks he made the day previously in Mexico City when he urged all Roman Catholics of Latin America to follow traditional directions "without ever straying along twisted paths and dragging others with us." Delivered on this particular occasion when all were obviously anxious to learn the new pontiff's position on liberation theology his talks obviously were a call for the faithful not to confuse secular activism with religious activism.

While his position was bound to rest uncomfortably with many of the bishops at the meeting who are openly at odds with governments viewed as oppressive, by and large John Paul was received as a hero in this anti-clerical nation.

He has been greeted by cheering throngs at every stop, by hundreds of thousands on every procession or tour, such as to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and on his trip from Mexico City to this town some 75 miles to the southeast.

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Photo by Susan McKinney

### Testimonial

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who retired as head of the diocese last November, was feted at a testimonial dinner at the Mapledale Party House Sunday night. More than 700 were on hand to pay tribute to the bishop and his brothers and sisters. Standing from left are Father Michael, Phoebe, the bishop, Mary Rose and Daniel; seated are Gertrude Brooks and Daniel's wife Ruth. Other photos Page 6.

### The Process

## Final Hearings

### Northwest

The Selection of Bishops Committee moved into the Northwest Region last Wednesday night and heard from the Spanish community, the Regional Task Force on Women in the Church and two "outside" organizations. There was one parish representative on the roster.

The meeting at Sacred Heart Cathedral was one of the last two hearings.

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Armed with the results of the special survey and the hearings throughout the diocese, the Selection of Bishops Committee will now collate all the information and send a report to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, now the diocesan apostolic administrator.

"The committee wants to compare the evidence of the survey with the evidence of the hearings now," said Father James Marvin, chairman of the bishops selection committee.

"Some things arose in the hearings which were not included in the survey," he said, using suggestions of dividing the diocese as an example.

Bishop Hogan will finalize the report and send it by Feb. 9 to the apostolic delegate in Washington, Archbishop Jean Jadot. How long it will take to choose a person is indefinite.

## Stella Maris Protests Truck Decision

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

**Livonia**—The approval of a gravel hauling operation, by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors, on East Lake Road here has prompted loud protests from residents and organizations of the Genesee Lake area.

The project will allow the transport of gravel by large dump trucks over a nearly four-mile stretch of the narrow road that winds around the east side of the lake. It is estimated trucks will be using the route for up to 150 round trips per day.

owned by Richard Kennis on East Lake Road, will be used by the Lane Construction Company for construction of the Genesee Expressway.

Opponents to the gravel hauling, scheduled to begin this summer, contend that the large trucks would create a safety hazard to people living there and could cause property damage as well.

One opponent of the project is Ray Tette, executive director of Camp Stella Maris. The truck route goes directly past Stella Maris and that has

He said that the summer campers and other groups who use Stella Maris facilities must cross the road to reach the lakefront. He estimates that there are 14 crossings per day involving anywhere from 20 to 150 people at a time. The problem is made worse, he said, by the fact that Stella Maris is located between two "very sharp curves" creating a visibility problem for drivers and pedestrians as well.

"Fortunately, in our 52 year history we have never had an accident, a record we are proud of, a record we hope and pray will last another 52 years, and

"I can't see putting kids into that kind of danger," he said and has requested a meeting with the Board of Supervisors to discuss alternatives to the planned hauling.

The Board of Supervisors, in approving the project, did apply restrictions that Lane Construction must follow. They are limited to 50 loads per day from June 15 to Aug. 15 and 100 loads from Aug. 15 to Labor Day. Other periods may not exceed 150 daily loads.

No hauling will be allowed after dark without special permission and speed limits on East Lake

Road must be strictly observed. Tette, however, does not think that is enough.

Tette said that he has no objections to the sale of the gravel but feels that the hauling should not be done during the summer months when the camp is used the most. Last year a total of 950 campers stayed at Stella Maris and Tette indicated even more will use the facility this summer.

He suggested concentrating most of the hauling in September when the lake area, including the camp, is not being so heavily used.

In a statement to the Courier-Journal Tette said, "As I look ahead to this year and summer, I am deeply concerned and worried. I love my campers, staff and neighbors and cannot understand how such a lack of common sense can jeopardize their lives. I am not against anyone making a livelihood, but when it increases the chances of a serious accident involving the safety and lives of many people, I question whose livelihood is at stake."

"All that is needed is one mistake, one accident and

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