

# Pope Sees 'America the Beautiful'

### From sea to shining sea

He didn't make it, of course, but he landed hard by Plymouth Rock, and departed not far from Jamestown — landmarks of the beginnings of America the Beautiful.

He visited The Metropolis, and then the Cradle of Liberty — the City of 'Brotherly Love' — and then the Midlands, where he could look out over the rolling plains, still green from summer. And then, the Second City, Carl Sandburg's City of the big shoulders — stormy, husky, brawling. Where the fog comes on little cat feet.

The rain falls on rich and poor alike. It drizzled, it teemed on Pope John Paul II, all over Boston, all over New York, all over the thousands and thousands unto millions of people who stood under umbrellas or got soaked to the skin waiting to catch a glimpse of this international figure, to hear his words. Wet they were, their spirits undampened.

He brought a reasoned plea for peace — a demand for justice, and so, peace. For Catholics, he straightened out some matters of Church.

He "wowed" the crowds wherever he went, and taught young New Yorkers and everyone who can read or listen how to "wow!" in Polish.

At Logan Airport Monday afternoon, he kissed the ground. First lady Rosalynn Carter told him, "We welcome you to our country with love. We Americans of every faith have come to love you in a very special way."

"I come to you, America, with sentiments of friendship, reverence and peace," the pope replied. "I come as one who already knows you and loves you, as one who wishes you to fulfill your noble destiny of service to the world."

And then he quoted,

"America, America, God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shing sea."

"I greet you, America the Beautiful," the pope called out to the crowd on Boston Common, where he said Mass. "I want to tell everyone that the pope is your friend."

About 40,000 people stood on the muddy Common.

New Yorkers thronged the streets on Tuesday, when the pope went to the United Nations on the East River, to St. Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan, north to Harlem and the South Bronx, and then to Yankee Stadium, where he celebrated Mass. He spoke repeatedly of war and peace, of poverty and riches, of the obligation of the well-to-do toward less fortunate persons and populations.

"We must find a simple way of living," he declared in his Yankee Stadium homily. "For it is not right that the standard of living of the rich countries should seek to maintain itself by draining off a great part of the reserves of energy and raw materials that are meant to serve the whole of humanity."

"Christ demands openness to our brothers and sisters in need," he said. "Riches and freedom create a special obligation."

Next day, in Battery Park at the tip of Manhattan, across the water from the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the gateway to freedom for millions of immigrants, he spoke of these symbols, of the "freedom that the young republic offered in compassion."

"May the ideal of liberty, of freedom, remain a moving force for young nations and for your nation and for all the nations in the world today," he said.

"It greatly honors your country and its citizens that on this foundation of liberty you have built a nation where the dignity of every human person is to be respected," the pope continued, "where a religious sense and a strong family structure are fostered, where duty and honest work are held in high esteem, where generosity and hospitality are no idle words, and where the right to religious liberty is deeply rooted in your history."

It was at a special Mass for clergy and religious Thursday in Philadelphia that the pope dwelt on the everlasting quality of priestly vows and on the exclusion of women from the priesthood.

"We do not return the gift once given," he said of the priest's vocation. "It cannot be that God who gave the impulse to say 'yes' now wishes to hear 'no.'"

Of women's aspirations toward ordination, he said, "The Church's traditional decision to call men to the priesthood and not to all women is not a statement about human rights, nor an exclusion of women from holiness and mission in the Church. Rather, this decision expresses the conviction of the Church about this particular dimension of the gift of priesthood by which God has chosen to shepherd His flock."

He spoke of these matters in Chicago, and of moral issues — that have become controversial in the United States: abortion, contraception, euthanasia, homosexual practice. But his reaffirmation of traditional Church teachings was made known through a press release from a closed meeting of the nation's bishops.

In addition to the clergy's Mass Thursday in Philadelphia's Civic Center, the pope celebrated a Mass in Logan Circle, on the first sunny day of his trip. He discoursed again on freedom, but from a different angle than the socio-economic, political point of view. Having taken note of The Declaration of Independence and the Liberty Bell, and having restated the Christian obligation of service to others, he put freedom in a context of sexual morality. He warned against lax and permissive tendencies regarding Church doctrine and said that such tendencies reflected "recourse to the concept of freedom to justify a behavior that is no longer consonant with the true moral order and the teaching of the Church."

"Moral norms," he continued, "do not militate against the freedom of a person or of the couple. On the contrary, they exist precisely for that freedom, since they are given to insure the right use of freedom. Whoever refuses to accept these norms and to act accordingly, whoever seeks to liberate himself or herself from the norms is not truly free."

On Thursday afternoon, en route to Chicago, Pope John Paul II stopped in the Des Moines area and in the midst of corn fields ad-

ressed what was judged to be the largest crowd ever gathered in Iowa — more than 300,000 persons.

He said three attitudes of Jesus were particularly appropriate for rural people and he urged they adopt them for themselves.

The first attitude, he said, should be "gratitude to the Heavenly Father," noting that while the farmer prepares the soil, plants the seed and cultivates the crop, "God makes it grow: He alone is the source of life."

Second, the pope said, "the land must be conserved with care since it is intended to be fruitful for generation upon generation." He told the farmers they are "stewards of some of the most important resources God has given to the world" and they should "conserve the land well, so that your children's children and generations after them will inherit an even richer land than was entrusted to you."

Finally, he reminded farmers that their gift from God was intended "for the good of all humanity" and that they have "the potential to provide food for the millions who have nothing to eat and thus help to rid the world of famine."

But he said while farmers everywhere provide bread for all humanity, "it is Christ alone who is the Bread of Life" and it is he who "alone satisfies the deepest hunger of humanity."

Offerings presented at the Mass reflected the bounty of the land and included low-grown corn, beans, grapes, cabbage, potatoes, apples, peppers, squash and wheat.

The site of the pope's Mass at Living History Farms outside Des Moines is expected one day to accommodate a church of all faiths, dedicated to the wise use and preservation of the land. Before going there, he stopped at a country church south of the city in the area known as the Irish Settlement.

He told the 205 St. Patrick parishioners, many of them descended from the Irish immigrants who founded the parish in 1852, that they should feel grateful to God for the blessings he gives them.

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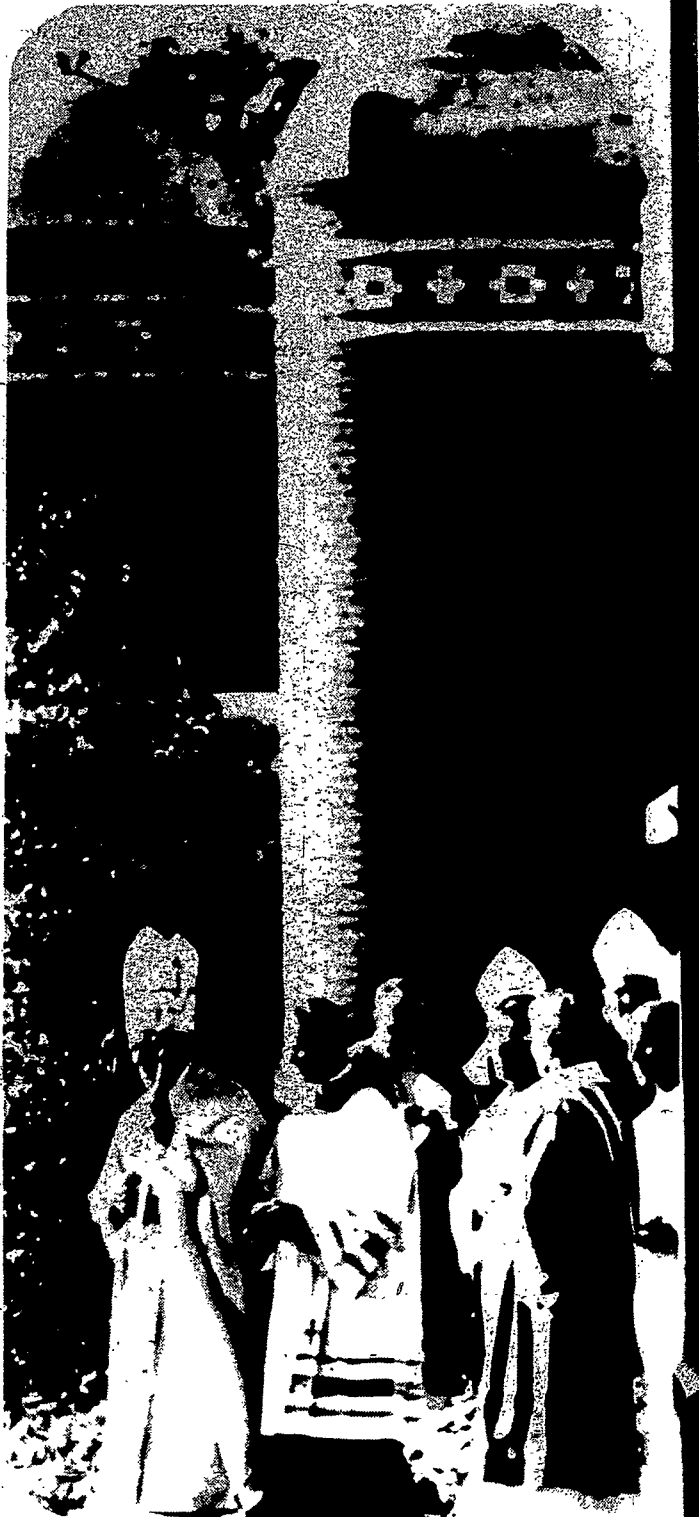
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Against a backdrop of silos, Pope John Paul II arrives to celebrate Mass at the Living History Farms Museum on Oct. 4. In his homily he praised farmers who "support the lives of millions who themselves do not work on the land, but who live because of what you produce." (RNS)

## COURIER-JOURNAL



Pope John Paul II

## Courier Special

The Courier-Journal this week features a special pullout section devoted to the major addresses given by Pope John Paul II during his tour of the U.S. Included in this section are talks at the United Nations, in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington.

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