

In Chicago



The pope said a Mass at the Polish Church of the Five Martyrs in Chicago.



Pope John Paul II addressed the U.S. bishops meeting in Chicago.

Cabbie Gift For Pontiff

Chicago — Father Henry Kriegel, editor of the Lakeshore Visitor of Erie, Pa., tells an anecdote which reveals the extent to which Pope John Paul II won over this American heartland city.

Pope?"
"Well, yes, sort of," the priest-editor replied.

"Then the fare's on me," the cabbie said. "Consider it a gift to the Pope."

Taking a taxi to the Palmer House where press headquarters was located, Father Kriegel was asked by the driver, "You work for the

And the experience was repeated with a different cab driver the next day.

In Washington

Washington — Again sounding his call for American return to simpler ways of living, Pope John Paul II, celebrating Mass before 200,000 here in the nation's capital, tied in the theme of abortion.

In his homily, the pontiff said that it is a less serious matter to deny children certain creature comforts than it is to "deprive them of the presence of brothers and sisters who could help them grow in humanity."

In a ringing denunciation of abortion, Pope John Paul declared: "When the sacredness of life is attacked we will stand up, and proclaim that no one has the authority to destroy unborn life."

"When a child is described

as a burden," he said, "or is looked upon only as a means to satisfy an emotional need, we will stand up and insist that every child is a unique and unrepeatable gift of God."

"The Church defends the right to life."

As the pontiff made that last statement the crowd interrupted his homily with a standing ovation.

The pope also reaffirmed the Church's teaching on divorce, saying that the Church "will stand up and affirm the indissolubility of the marriage bond."

Earlier in his Washington stop, the pontiff met with president Jimmy Carter, who welcomed him to the White House with a phrase

in Polish: "Niech bedzie Bog pochwalony — which, for those of you who do not speak Polish, means: May God be praised."

The two conferred for about an hour at the White House, after which, the pontiff sounded a call for disarmament.

"I know and appreciate this country's efforts for arms limitation, especially of nuclear weapons," he said.

"With all my heart, I hope that there will be no relaxing of its efforts both to reduce the risk of a fatal and disastrous worldwide conflagration and to secure a prudent and progressive reduction of the destructive capacity of military arsenals."

On Sunday morning the pontiff met with more than 600 Orthodox and Protestant churchmen for a prayer service.

He told the assembly that he hoped the "fraternal relationship with other churches and ecclesiastical communities" would continue to grow and deepen.

In his address he said that while much has been accomplished in the name of Christian unity, "there is still much to be done."

"Even the very desire for the complete unity of faith is itself a gift of the Holy Spirit, for which we offer humble praise to God."

The pontiff also placed the burden of working for Christian unity on "every individual Christian."

In the course of his remarks the pontiff also signaled the Church's position on inter-Communion. He said that unity in Faith must be achieved before we can



The pope and the president. Photo courtesy of the Democrat and Chronicle.

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lovingly celebrate the Eucharist together in truth."

Immediately prior to the prayer service, the pontiff was greeted by a group of 300 handicapped people who presented him with a flower and a pipe.

In that group was Rochesterian Ann Kurz, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kurz.

Even earlier that morning the pontiff addressed 5,000 women "religious" at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On that occasion, Sister M. Theresa Kane challenged the traditional discipline of the Church which admits only men to its sacerdotal ranks.

"As I share this privileged moment with you, Your Holiness," she said, "I urge you to be mindful of the intense suffering and pain which is part of the life of many women in these United States.

"I call upon you to listen with compassion and to hear the call of women who comprise half of humankind."

She then asked the pontiff to provide "the possibility of women as persons being included in all ministries of our Church."

In turn, describing "his own admiration and love for

the Blessed Virgin Mary, the pope reminded the women religious that Mary "is not mentioned as being at the Last Supper," a reference to the scriptural account of the first priestly ordinations.

In his farewell message, shortly before the papal plane departed Washington for Rome, the pontiff, as he had done on his arrival in Boston, cited words precious to the American people:

"Today, therefore, my final prayer is this: that God will bless America so that she may increasingly become, and truly be, and long remain, 'one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'"