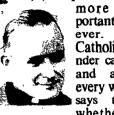
## The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

### I'll Take The Pope's Charisma

What is more important: what a pope says or who'he

In the wake of John Paul's electric tour of the United States, this question seems



important than Some ever. Catholics ponder carefully and analyze every word he says to see whether he was taking a

liberal or a conservative position. Others simply enjoy his charm, charisma, love of people, his joy and goodness. Which will it be? As one Chicago attorney remarked, "He is charismatic, but a traditionalist."

Since he has become pope, I have read every talk of his that has appeared in the English language edition of Secryatore Romano. I have read every word of his talks in the United States. And I don't see all that much traditionalism. Having read all of his poems translated into English, his philosophy book, "The Acting Person," and his play (in Italian), I don't see all that traditional a person either.

T wish that some of the talks in the United States were more distinguished, but think the pope was hampered by a very bad speech writer or text drafter.

Father William Jamison, CSR, who served at Notre

Dame Retreat House in

Rochester and Canandaigua, died Oct. 27, 1979, at the

infirmary his order operates in

Saratoga Springs. He was buried there yesterday.

Priests at the Saratoga

rectory — St. Clement's

House — said that Father

Jamison had been with them

for about three months. He

Deaths

I don't think he is going to permit the ordination of women in the near future and I profoundly regret that. I'm afraid he is not going to dispense men from celibacy, and I regret that too. But I am not willing to judge his whole papacy by those two

In reviewing my book, "The Making of the Popes 1978," Father Richard McBrien called me theologically naive for suggesting that who a pope is and what he does may be far more important than the powers he claims. I am not a theologian but a sociologist. I was not writing a book of theology.' Indeed, I do not see how you can write a book of theology about a papal election. My observation was sociological, and I don't think it is naive at all. Like many other clerical reviewers of "The Making of the Popes 1978,' Father McBrien felt perfectly free to play fast-andloose with the truth. The observation in context was attributed to a very distinguished observer of the Roman scene and was not, in fact, mine.

(Father McBrien and I have had our problems before. He purports to be a liberal feminist, yet he once intervened with a departmental chairman to attack the appointment of my sister to a theology department on the grounds that she was my sister. He should have looked around the room to see if the woman he was denouncing was there. She was, and need I say she was not particularly amused.

was sent to the infirmary from

Tobyhanna, Pa., after having

had a heart attack, a stroke

and an automobile accident.

He was 72 years old last June

Father Jamison, a native of

Brooklyn, worked in Puerto

Rico, in West End, N.J., and

Tobyhanna, as well as in this

diocese. He was at Notre

Dame Retreat House when it

McBrien may claim, as recently has, that justice for women is the No. 1-problem of the church. But he is, if fact, sexist because he wanted to exclude from the claims of justice one woma for something which is completely beyond he control. Whatever else my sibling may have done, she didn't choose me for a brother. So much for liberal folk heroes.)

The pope was a revered and important religious figure long before there was any question of him being a "super bishop" over all the other bishops and the rest of the church because such exercise of power was geographically impossible.

A pope's influence was religious and moral, sym bolic and charismatic, rather than institutional and structural. But for the ordinary Catholic and his dail life, a man of strengh and vision, a man of hope with the common touch, a mag who smiles and laughs an loves people is a much bette: "sacrament" of the meaning of Christianity than ar, aloof, timid, withdrawn pope who takes all the approved liberal doctrinal

I would much prefer a "hopeful, holy man who smiles" who dispenses priests from celibacy and permits women to be ordained. But if we can't have both, then I will settle for the man of hope, the man of laughter, the man who sings, the man who generates warmth and enthusiasm.

It is naive to assume the ordinary, non-Commonway al-reading Christian lait give a hoot anymore about what the pope said on birted control or divorce or such matters. The overwhelmin

statistical evidence shows they have made up their minds on these-issues and still cheer enthusiastically for the Polish pope anyway. Does anyone, even Father McBrien, seriously believe that the married people who stood in the crowds and cheered so enthusiastically for John Paul went home afterwards and threw out their contraceptives?

So, I'll settle for the charisma, and reserve judgment on traditionalism. My judgment on John Paul at the end of the first year of his papacy is profound admiration for a man who has been so patient, so cautious, so restrained as he strives to learn a new job and get the feel for what needs to be done. The press has tried to push him into a certain pardigm to make him easier to write about. Take a good look at that jaw, my friends. No one is going to push him around.

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## Sr. Margaret Gertrude, SSJ

Fr. Jamison, Redemptorist

The Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Margaret Gertrude O'Connor, SSJ, was celebrated Oct. 16 in the Motherhouse Chapel by Father Anthony Calimeri, who also gave the homily, and Father Joseph Reinhart.

Sister Margaret Gertrude, who was 86 years old, had entered the convent from Java Center in 1924 and had Mught in the primary grades of parochial schools for 44 years. She worked at St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, St. Michael's, Penn Yan; Corpus Christi; Holy Apostles and Sacred Heart, Rochester; St. Alphonsus; Conception, Ithaca, St. Anthony's, Elmira, and St. Jerome's, East Rochester, an assignment of three years from which she retired in

1972 Survivors are assier. Ann O'Connor of lava Center, - She is survived by 112 nice introduction

was located on Alexander Sr. Mechtilde Becker, SSJ

Sister Mechtilde Becker, a Sister of St. Joseph for 65 years, died Oct. 17, 1979, at the age of 91. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 19 in the Motherhouse Chapel by Fathers Peter Bayer and Joseph Reinhart.

Sister Mechtilde, from Holy Redeemer Parish joined the St. Joseph congregation in 1914 and taught in the schools of the diocese for 44 years, until ill health forced her retirement in 1959. She was at Sacred Heart, Perkinsville, for 21 years, then at St. Mary's, Dansville, for 21 years. She taught also at St. Mary's, Canandaigua, and St. Hyacinth, Auburn.

Survivors include a sister, Helen, and two brothers, Paul, of Atlanta, Ga., and-Arthur.

Street, took part in the

building of the new house in

Canandaigua and served there

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