

## Insights in Liturgy

By David E. Nowak

### Spirituality Of Preface

"Preface of Advent I" When he humbled himself to come among us as a man, he fulfilled the plan you formed long ago and opened for us the way to salvation. Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory. (p1)

"Just look around," they

tell us, "look at all the misery!" Each day is filled with crushing problems. Each tragedy threatens to overwhelm us with a sense of life's futility.

Can we believe that the idea of Advent hope is anything more than a cruel joke? Is the promise of a new day merely a vain wish prompted by an evil deceiver? Do we Christians "have an answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope you profess?" (1 Peter 3:15)

Authentic hope is not idle daydreaming. It is not wondering what it would be like if...I inherited a million

dollars, or was acclaimed President. It does not rely upon what is unlikely or extraordinary.

Nor does real hope depend upon our best solutions. Such hope would only be a self-centered projection of our own best interests. Depending upon what we alone expect, it would fail us in the face of the unexpected. Soon, we would be unable to hope at all.

No, real hope, Advent hope, is something else, something even closer to us than our fantasies and programs. It does not begin by wishing things were different. It never offers an escape from what must be done today. Our hope

Christian hope, is grounded in what is already here.

Whatever we find already present, however dimly lit, is our first clue to what may be expected of the future. In this way, Advent promises only that if we discover what we have here and now, then we may have a reason to hope for the best in the future.

Thus, Advent hope is our humble, watchful prayer for the coming of the Lord based upon our experience of his presence even now, in our midst, Emmanuel. We become Advent people as we discover that we are already alive in God and look forward to being plunged more and more deeply into the mystery who is our life.

## On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

### John Paul Resembles St. Leo

What do you think of the Pope's visit to the States?

A superlatively pastoral visit. It was a shot in the arm to Catholics to hear a

confident Shepherd and teacher who spoke kindly, firmly and unequivocally on doctrines and problems which have

Father Cuddy been contested by a defiant coterie of priests and Sisters, to the bewilderment of the faithful.

But not all agreed with the Pope.

What else is new? National Catholic Reporter (Oct. 19) gave us a "Special Papal Trip Analysis" which summed up the Pope's opposition both in teaching and in discipline.

There is a strong parallel between the life of St. Leo the Great, who was pope from 440 to 461, and Pope John Paul II. When Leo became pope, the Church was in confusion. He did these things to restore stability, confidence and orthodoxy:

He controlled heresy in the Western Church, demanding explicit profession of the Catholic Faith from the Pelagian bishops, priests and laity

before admitting them to Communion. (John Paul is clear in his expectation of our bishops, priests and laity.)

In 452, Attila and his Huns swept through Italy, burning, looting, murdering village after village. They were encamped outside Rome, ready to strike. At the behest of the beleaguered Romans, Leo went out and persuaded Attila to spare Rome. (John Paul has been bargaining successfully, for decades with the Communist regimes.)

Leo intervened in the doctrinal controversy about the nature of Christ that raged in the Eastern Church. The bishops at Chalcedon assented: "Peter has spoken through Leo." (John Paul is firmly directing the Church to "hold to traditions handed down."

We can't wait any longer!

# CAMBODIA

Two Million Face Starvation... Famine... Disease "One of the worst human tragedies of modern times"



Religious News Service Photo  
At a refugee camp in Thailand a Cambodian boy comforts his little sister. Many are too sick to eat, they need medicines desperately.

President Carter urges: "Give generously to meet this suffering" Help us to help them... Today

"Serving Man... For God... Through Medicine" Catholic Medical Mission Board 10 WEST 17th STREET - NEW YORK, N. Y. 10011

Rev. Joseph Walter, S.J., director Here is my gift of \$ Kindly make donations payable to CMMB

Please send me a free leaflet describing your work Name Address City State Zip

Missions in 85 Countries helped by our 52 year program Cambodia. Gifts are tax deductible 61-12

# Congratulations

On Your 125th Anniversary

to

Sisters of Saint Joseph

For their many years of supportive mission ministry with us in the south.

Fathers and Brothers of Edmundite Southern Mission