

Electronic Media

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employees, including a producer, made clear that they were loyal Catholics who felt they were truly doing God's work in their "electronic ministry."

The morning of the broadcast, the young chauffeur transferred to the studio the three guests for the day: a Catholic lawyer who would speak about legal controls on pornography, a born-again Christian Gospel singer and myself.

The studio complex itself is one of the most beautiful and modern in existence. It holds four television studios, two of them as long as football fields and twice as wide. Taping facilities, control rooms and audio studios surround a chapel and prayer center where personal and telephone counseling is available around the clock. The exterior of

the entire complex — part of CBN University — is faced with brick and resembles a modern Williamsburg.

After a brief period... a walk-on to the set, where a studio audience of several hundred southern fundamentalists cheered the entrance of an Irish Catholic Monsignor who had just accompanied the pope. Pat Robertson beamed and expressed his amazement at the effect the pope's visit had had in the United States and his wonderment at the coverage it had received.

Taped segments from the papal visit were shown — and taped reactions from prominent Protestants evangelists were aired, all of them expressing approval of the papal presence and message. Reactions from interviews throughout the nation were aired in professionally produced segments that would have done credit to any major network.

The interview by Pat Robertson was both respectful and enthusiastic — reflecting an obviously sincere admiration for the pope and a realization that much of the audience of the "700 Club" is made up of Catholics who contribute

generously to the program's continuance. CBN officials noted that Catholics form the second largest segment of viewers — after Southern Baptists!

In an hour it was over — and it ended with Robertson and the studio audience bowing their heads in prayer for the pope.

It was beamed to hundreds of stations and cable systems throughout the United States and Canada to an audience of millions.

What was the response?

A Midwestern bishop wrote that he had enjoyed and profited from the program.

A Southern priest wrote that, since coverage of the papal visit had been limited in the South, the "700 Club" had provided a real service in interfaith understanding.

CBN itself reported widespread favorable reaction.

Fr. Hoffman Appointed to St. Bridget's

Father Douglas Hoffman, diocesan director of Pastoral Ministry, was named last week interim pastor of St. Bridget's Church, replacing Father Dozia Wilson who resigned the post March 8.

Father Hoffman will continue in his diocesan post while living in the church rectory until a permanent pastor is assigned.

Father Hoffman will also assist Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey in consulting with the congregation about the parish's needs and recommendations for a new pastor.

Pope Plans Visit to Turin

Rome (RNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit Turin April 13, thus becoming the first pope ever to visit Italy's violence-wracked, car-making center.

Announcing the visit, Turin's Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero noted that though the trip will be "religious in character," it "cannot help but resound on the human level as well."

Nicknamed the "Detroit of Italy," Turin is the home of the Fiat automobile plants. Extremist elements of the highly politicized working class in this tough factory town have been carrying on a campaign of kidnappings, knee-cap shootings and murder since the middle 1970s.

Guidelines

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter a month from the same individual.

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