

'Our Disunity Obscures the Spirit'

Following is the text of an address given by Pope John Paul II in welcome to His Holiness Mar Ignatius Yacoub III, Syrian Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch.

With joy in the Lord I greet you and bid you welcome. It is a pleasure to receive the chief pastor and the distinguished representatives of a Church which sees its roots in the Apostolic community of Antioch, where the followers of the Risen Lord Jesus first received the glorious name of Christian.



Out of love of that same Risen Lord, our devotion to that apostolic faith and the Christian witness received from our Fathers is what makes our meeting today so full of meaning. Together we repeat the inspired words of Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Together we confess the mystery of the

Word of God, made man for our salvation, who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature, in whom it has pleased the Father to re-establish all things. This is the Lord we seek to serve, in fidelity and truth; this is the Lord whose Spirit impels us to search with ever greater zeal for the fullness of communion with each other.

By baptism we are one in the Lord Jesus Christ. The priesthood and the Eucharist which we share because of the apostolic succession bind us even closer together. The world in which we live and for which Christ gave himself as a ransom for many has need of a united Christian witness in order to be able to hear his word better and respond to his message of love and reconciliation.

Yes, this is a message, or rather an urgent appeal for reconciliation among those who bear his name. For centuries we have been estranged from each other; misunderstandings and mistrust have often marked our relationships. By God's grace we are seeking to overcome that past.

Nine years ago, Your Holiness and my revered predecessor Paul VI met in this very place to give clear testimony to a mutual dedication to this task of Christian reconciliation.

At that time you recognized that, even if over the centuries difficulties have arisen because of the different theological expressions which have been used to speak our faith in the Word of God made flesh and become really man, the faith we intend to proclaim is the same. In words that were both encouraging and prophetic you said together: "The period of mutual recrimination and condemnation has given place to a willingness to meet together in sincere efforts to lighten and eventually remove the burden of history which still weighs heavily upon Christians."

These words have not remained simple expressions of good intentions. In the framework of the Pro Oriente meetings between representatives of the Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, theologians from both our Churches have searched into and sought to resolve questions which still cause some

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difference among us and prevent full canonical and Eucharistic Communion. Some of the distinguished persons present today have taken an active part in those conversations. We are grateful to God and to all these devoted men for the real progress which has been made.

On the level of pastoral care for Christian emigrants there has been fruitful cooperation for disinterested service towards those who, in search of an improvement of the material conditions of their lives, feel the deep need of spiritual support in their new surroundings. I would also like to express my personal appreciation for the delegation Your Holiness sent on the occasion of my election as Bishop of Rome.

As we humbly acknowledge God's blessings on our endeavors, especially during the past nine years, we are confident that, if we remain open to the inspirations of the Spirit, God will continue to favor us with his blessing.

Your Holiness, we meet together just after my return from an intensive journey in Africa, a journey filled with many precious experiences. One thing is clear, though, I am more than ever convinced that the world in which we live hungers and thirsts for God, a longing that can be fulfilled only in Christ. As pastors of Churches sharing apostolic traditions, we are called upon in a special way to carry the apostolic mission of bringing Christ and his gifts of salvation and love to our generation. Our disunity is an obstacle to fulfilling this mission. Our disunity obscures the voice of the Spirit who is striving to speak to mankind through our voices.

But our meeting today is sign of our renewed desire to be more attuned to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. Encouraged by what the Lord has already accomplished in us and through us, we look forward in hope to the future, not minimizing the difficulties but putting our firm trust in him who said "Behold I am making all things new."

Court Upholds Stevens Ruling

Richmond, Va. (RNS) — A federal appeals court sustained a National Labor Relations Board ruling that J.P. Stevens Co. is guilty of unfair labor practices at its seven plants in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., where a union has been bargaining for a contract since 1974.

The United States Court of

Appeals for the Fourth Circuit here concurred with the board that the nation's second largest textiles firm was guilty of "undermining the collective bargaining process and denigrating the union's status as the collective bargaining agent."

A J.P. Stevens spokesman said the company had no comment on the ruling.



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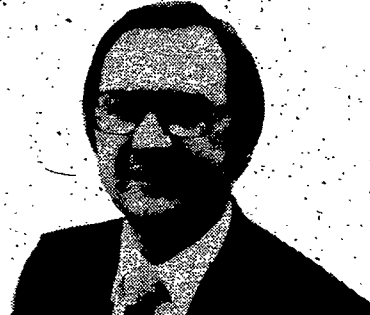
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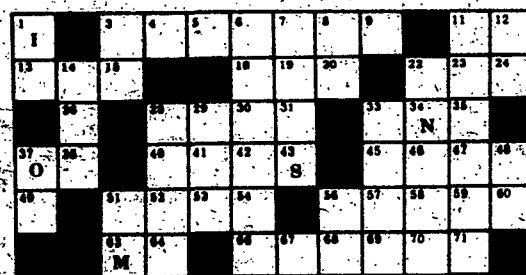
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Sunday Scripture Quiz

I. Gospel Reading:

Mt. 16:13-19 - The Lord saves the Church from the "jaws of death."

Below is a key passage from Sunday's Gospel reading. You can determine what this passage is by finding the answers to the questions below the puzzle and then putting the letters in their appropriate box. The first one is done for you.



Based on scripture readings for Sunday, June 29, 1980, C Cycle.

Following are key passages from Sunday's scripture readings. Fill in the missing words.

II. First Reading:

Acts 12:1-11 - An angel rescues Peter and frees him for ministry.

Phrase: _____ followed him

_____ but with _____ clear

realization that _____ was taking

_____ through the _____ help.

The whole thing _____ to him a

III. Second Reading:

2 Tim. 4:6-8, 17-18 - The Lord stood by Paul's side and gave him strength.

Phrase: That is how _____ was

_____ from the lion's _____ The

_____ will continue to _____ me.

from all _____ to do me _____ and

will bring me _____ to his heavenly

Answers on Page 11

1. First pope: **S I M O N**
43 1 63 37 34
2. House of God: **5 41 68 28 47 71**
3. We all face it: **60 9 26 11 67**
4. Man's name: **63 29 16 68 24**
5. Cause injury: **51 19 57 38 3**
6. Cause death: **31 62 6 54**

7. Have rabies: **69 7 56 42 35**
8. Twelve months: **18 4 23 45**
9. Pronoun: **13 48 20**
10. Disturbance: **8 49 14 40**
11. Tells time: **70 59 12 68 48**
12. Girl's name: **30 33 23 64**

Passage I words: Carry, kill, Louis, clock, Simon, death, you, rabid, riot, church, wound, year.
Passage II words: Peter, place, mirage, no, this, out, seemed, angel's.
Passage III words: Lord, jaws, harm, saved, I, safe, attempts, rescue, kingdom.