

Editorials

Africa on the Pope

Difficult indeed it is to keep up with the peripatetic Pope John-Paul II. But in the hope that his visit to Africa is not already out of date, here are some excerpts from the African press concerning his tour, as reported in World Press Review.

The magazine, in its "African Beat," declares that "it is difficult to recall when a visitor to Africa received as tumultuous a reception as did Pope John Paul II."

In Kenya, the magazine reports, the independent Daily Nation of Nairobi relished the Pope's accolades to the late Jomo Kenyatta, the founder of independent Kenya, for "creating a spirit of brotherhood." The paper praised the pope for "humanizing the most powerful spiritual office on earth."

The state-owned "L'Union" of Libreville, Gabon, asked whether the pope's visit was a religious one, a political meeting, or a carnival, answering that "it was a little of each."

The leftist Paris-based "Afrique-Asie," which is widely read in radical and French-speaking African states, argued that the pope's mission was "not only religious... but also political" — an attempt to adapt the Church to modern African currents.

In Zimbabwe, the magazine reports, the independent National Observer of Salisbury wrote, "The Pope stirred up the fires of an old African controversy when he preached on the values of monogamy." The paper criticized the pope's views as "those of a Westerner" challenging the African tradition of polygamy.

Summer Musing

Two of our most famous cardinals made news recently, although in diverse ways.

Cardinal Sergio Pignedoli, the beloved "Uncle Sergio" to countless admirers and "pen pals" throughout the world, died. At the death of Paul VI, Cardinal Pignedoli was considered by many to be the frontrunner going into the conclave that eventually picked John Paul I.

It is intriguing to speculate how different the Church would be today if Cardinal Pignedoli, considered to have been on the liberal side, had become the pontiff. And, now with his own demise, would his brother cardinals still choose Cardinal Wojtyla as the new pope?

The other cardinal in reference is George Basil Hume of England, who also figured highly in speculation among the possible popes.

Speaking in Cleveland, this highly respected churchman echoed the sentiments of Paul VI and

John Paul II when he warned that the Church in the West is in danger of being trapped in the pleasure-seeking of its culture. He cited the controversy over the Catholic Church's ban against artificial birth control as one indication of the hedonistic tendencies in society, according to Religious News Service.

"The church exists for more than just discussing sex," he declared.

Cardinal Hume, a Benedictine monk who, at 57, might still some day become pope, said he believes that many Catholics and many reporters who interview him are much too concerned about issues such as priestly celibacy, whether women can become priests and the Church's ban on artificial birth control.

"I am seldom questioned about God, the meaning of life, and what will happen to us after we die," he said.

Other reasonable churchmen have voiced similar themes recently, concerning their views that many seem overconcerned over temporal matters and are ignoring contemplation of the eternal rewards won for us by Jesus Christ; that in the heated argumentation we often forget to bask in the eternal love of God.

True, such messages may be intended to defuse volatile issues, to make bothersome debates disappear, to, frankly speaking, make it easier for Church leaders.

But on the other hand, there is truth in what Cardinal Hume and others are saying. Think about it.

and Opinions

Auriesville Rosary Rally

Editor:

The National Rosary Rally is scheduled at the Auriesville Shrine, Sunday, July 20. The Rosary Procession is scheduled at 2 p.m. and a concelebrated Mass at 4 p.m.

Pope Pius XXII called Auriesville "nature's own reliquary." The hallowed ground of the holy place has been sanctified by the blood and self-sacrificing love of the martyrs St. Isaac Jogues, St. René Goupil and St. John Lalande. Auriesville also was the birthplace of Kateri Tekakwitha.

The Blue Army's beautiful statue, the National Pilgrim Virgin of Our Lady of Fatima, will be brought to Auriesville for the rally.

There is a modern cafeteria, picnicking and camping are allowed the grounds, there are nearby motels. With a large number expected, picnic lunches and folding chairs are advised.

The Rosary Rally will honor Our Lady of Mount Carmel as the Queen of Purity and Model of Motherhood. Rosary intentions will be for the renewal of family life, reparation for abortion and church unity. A beatification prayer for Padre Pio also will be said.

The Auriesville Shrine is on the State Thruway, midway between Albany and Utica. From the west, use Exit 28, Fultonville. The shrine is halfway between Exits 27 and 28 on Route 55.

Marian Buchheit
5436 County Line Road
Webster, N.Y. 14580

Help Appreciated

Editor:

This is a letter of praise and thank you to Father Richard Kinsky, and the entire

General Education Department of the Diocese.

This happened to be a very trying school year for our daughter and also for our whole family. When we went to Father Kinsky with our problems, he was most kind and understanding. He helped us through a bad time. We in the Diocese of Rochester are lucky to have him in our education department.

Also, special thanks to Sister Anne Michelle McGill for her kindness.

To all the members of the General Education Department, thank you and God bless you for your prayers and concern.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Daniel (Joann) DeLaus
Mr. Daniel DeLaus
94 Cedarwood Rd.
Rochester, N. Y. 14617

Recommends Book

Editor:

A recently published book should be in every Catholic home, and indeed in every Christian home. It is "Margaret Sanger: Father of Modern Society," by Elalah Drogin. It is a brilliant and startling book that reveals the life and philosophy of the founder of Planned Parenthood and the plans to destroy the "unfit," "sub-human breeders" and "human waste" (the poor) of the world and "to create a race of thoroughbreds."

As Paul Hallett of the National Catholic Register has noted: "Anyone in the pro-life movement, or indeed anyone who feels the need to understand the modern world, should not be without this book."

And so let it be earnestly and prayerfully urged that everyone reading this letter will send three dollars (\$3) to Catholics United for Life, Box 390, Coarsegold, Calif., 93614, and ask for a copy of Miss Drogin's book.

Theresa M. Hussar
340 Jordan Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Ethnic Jokes Fine with Her

Editor:

It was interesting to read your editorial concerning the ethnic joke on radio station WHFM. Although I didn't hear the program in question, I can't help but wonder what was said that was so shocking.

I recently attended a retirement banquet for a New York State trooper and the principal speaker was an Irish Catholic priest whose entire repertoire consisted of Irish jokes. Everyone thought he was very funny, they all laughed and nobody was offended.

I wonder why it is that people are so quick to take offense when none was intended and dream up imaginary slights. Must all humor be screened? I remember when the senior citizens took umbrage at the skits Carol Burnett did on her TV show. I'm surprised the Southerners weren't up in arms about the Southern satire she would include in her programs.

I think it would be more apropos for you, as a Catholic newspaper, to campaign against the suggestive and offensive titles and lyrics of the so-called music played on radio stations: "I'm going to love you tonight," "Nobody does it better," "Oh what you're doin'," "After the lovin'," etc., etc., rather than monitoring every word an announcer speaks.

By the way, I'm Irish, and enjoy an Irish joke.

Betty S. Donaldson
176 Catalpa Drive
Horseheads, N.Y. 14845

Captive Nations

Editor:

Captive Nations Week, the third week in July, was established by congressional legislative mandate during the Eisenhower administration, July 17, 1959. It is said that President Eisenhower perceived the need for a per-

manent reminder of the nature of communism, particularly in the area of foreign policy.

At that time there were 22 Captive Nations listed in the resolution. That there are now a total of 63 countries controlled by the Kremlin should be a chilling reminder that the goal of world domination proclaimed 63 years ago is being achieved. The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation in a recent letter points out that 1980 may well be no exception, with Afghanistan under attack and several Central American countries targets of increasing pressure.

The foundation quotes from our inspired teaching directive: Pope Pius XI's brilliant encyclical on atheistic communism: Why has communism succeeded? "Too few have been able to grasp the nature of communism." Another "explanation is to be found in a propaganda so diabolical that the world has perhaps never witnessed its like before." "A third powerful factor in the diffusion of communism is the conspiracy of silence on the part of a large section of the non-Catholic press of the world."

This encyclical, Divini Redemptoris, remains today the Catholic Church's official teaching on communism. And it remains today the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation's textbook in our effort to stem the rushing tide of communism. This tide will only be stemmed by prayer and knowledge as outlined in Divini Redemptoris.

G.F. Newberry
160 Azalea Road
Rochester, N.Y.

Corresponding With Inmates

Editor:

Recently I received a letter from Richard Bottcher of Webster, Mass., asking if I could send him the names of inmates who might like to correspond.

I was surprised because Mr. Bottcher already corresponds with some 200 prisoners.

Like Mr. Bottcher, I enjoy



"YES, I THINK IT WOULD BE RATHER NICE TO LISTEN TO THE BLUES BROTHERS. WHAT RELIGIOUS ORDER ARE THEY IN?"

my correspondence with inmates. We talk about the hassles of doing time and what's wrong with our prisons; we exchange thoughts on our poems; we talk about ourselves and about life in general; we discuss politics, philosophy, all manner of things.

According to one prisoner, "When one is confined, writing becomes one of the most important freedoms available... while we have the ability to write, our minds soar free — outside the walls of prison — with every letter we send."

One of my pen pals wrote: "I've only a couple of requests to make if we are to correspond. First is I want no-

sympathy. Treat me as a person, not someone to be pitied. The other is honesty. I'm a very honest person and try to maintain that."

I've also had a few unpleasant experiences in which inmates have tried to get money out of me or to pressure me into getting involved in their challenges to their jury convictions as a condition of "friendship."

But for the most part I enjoy this activity. Anyone who wishes to get involved can write to Prison Pen Pals, Box 1217, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202.

Joel Freedman
329 N. Main St.
Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424

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.