

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## 'I Am an Orphan . . . and John Paul Is Like a Father'

Rome (RNS) — The Italian woman dressed in black from head to toe stood weeping in the lobby of Rome's Gemelli Hospital. She had traveled from the southernmost tip of Italy to Rome to hear firsthand news of the condition of Pope John Paul II.

The pontiff had been rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery following the attempt on his life.

"I came here just for the pope, because I love him so much," said 55-year-old Ida Borello. "I have come to breathe the air in which he suffers."

"I am an orphan," she added. "And for me John

Paul is like a father."

Mrs. Borello, the wife of a retired railroad worker from Reggio, Calabria, took a train to Rome alone when she first heard the news of the attack on the pope on May 13 in St. Peter's Square.

She had stayed in the hospital lobby during visiting hours for two days running, returning each night to a small, inexpensive room in a Rome hotel.

"I have to leave tonight," she said. "I can't afford to stay any longer."

Mrs. Borello said she had come to Rome to return a favor that Pope John Paul had done for her last year.

Her 30-year-old daughter died Dec. 4, and she had written a letter to the pope telling him of her misery.

"He answered me," Mrs. Borello said. "He wrote me a letter, telling me to pray, and he sent me this." She took a small white rosary out of her purse.

"Pope John Paul sent me this rosary when my daughter died," she said, weeping. "And this is why I have come. I came from Calabria just for him."

Mrs. Borello held a bouquet of small red roses in her hand. She had brought them to the hospital for the pope — for his 61st birthday, May 18.



### Tradition

John and Anne Schoen, right, of Brookview Drive, Irondequoit, show off newborn daughter, Karen Louise, wearing a christening dress made more than 100 years ago by Anne's great-grandmother, the mother of the late Bishop Walter Foery, above, of Syracuse. With the recent baptism of the newest Foery family member, the count now stands at four generations that have worn the gown, a total of some 17 christenings, including the late bishop's back in 1890.



## Forgiveness

### 'I Pray for the Brother Who Shot Me' — John Paul

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II, in his first public message since he was shot, said he prayed for and had forgiven the man accused of the assassination attempt.

The pope's words, recorded by Vatican Radio, were broadcast over loudspeakers into St. Peter's Square on May 17, where the shooting occurred four days earlier. The pope is in Rome's Gemelli Hospital.

The papal message was transmitted to the 15,000 persons who had gathered to pray and listen at noon, the hour the pope normally appears at his window each Sunday to speak and give his weekly blessing.

The pope said:

"Praise be Jesus Christ. Dearest brothers and sisters who are united with me these days, especially at the hour of Regina Coeli, I thank you with deep feeling for your

prayers and I bless you all."

He said he felt "particularly close" to the two American women, Anne Ordre, 58, and Rose Hall, 21, who also were wounded in the assassination attempt.

They were listed in satisfactory condition at the Santo Spirito Hospital near the Vatican. Both heard the pope's remarks and were reported to be deeply moved.

The pope then referred to Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who is accused of firing the shots that wounded the pope and the two women.

"I pray for the brother who shot me and I have sincerely forgiven him," the pope said, adding, "United with Christ, as priest and victim, I offer my sufferings for the church and the world. To you, Mary, I repeat, 'Totus tuus ego sum.'"

The Latin phrase used by the pope expressing his motto, means, "I am totally yours."



Pope John Paul II during a Sunday audience earlier this year.

Pope John Paul then expressed the Regina Coeli prayer, a prayer recited in place of the Angelus prayer during the Easter season.

Earlier on Sunday morning, for the first time since he underwent more than five hours of emergency surgery for repair of intestines badly damaged by the 9 mm bullet that passed through the abdomen, the pope celebrated Mass.

On May 18, the Vatican announced that the pope had been moved from the hospital's intensive care unit to a private room.

## Anthony Mugavero Ordination Slated

Newark — Rev. Mr. Anthony Mugavero will be ordained a priest of the diocese at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 29, in St. Michael's Church here. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be the ordaining prelate.

Father Mugavero will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, May 31. At 7:30 p.m. on the evening prior to his ordination a prayer service will be held for the ordinand at St. Michael's. The public

## Two Pastors Named To Caledonia, Leicester

Two pastorates have been filled, the Diocesan Pastoral Office has announced.

Father Ronald E. Gaesser will become pastor of St. Columba's in Caledonia and of its mission church, St. Patrick's in Mumford. He has been pastor of St. Joseph's in Cayuga.

Father Edward B. Zenkel, who has been chaplain at the State Agricultural and Industrial School at Industry since 1968, will be the new pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas in Leicester and of its mission church of St. Lucy's in Retsof.

Father Gaesser attended Our Lady of Good Counsel grammar school and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. On June 3, he will be celebrating his 20th anniversary in the priesthood.

He was assistant pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and of St. Mary's, Auburn, before becoming Newman chaplain at Auburn Com-



FATHER GAESSER

munity College and Eisenhower College. In 1972, he assumed the pastorate at St. Joseph's in Cayuga.

Father Zenkel grew up in Holy Apostles parish where he attended grammar school before going to St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

He was ordained in 1962 and his first assignment was as assistant pastor at Guardian



FATHER ZENKEL

Angels in Henrietta. In 1967, he became assistant pastor of St. James in Waverly where he served until his appointment to Industry 13 years ago.

During his tenure at Industry, Father Zenkel assisted at churches in Avon, Honeoye Falls and Livonia.

Both appointments will be effective June 30.



A portion of the crowd in St. Peter's Square listening to the pope's recorded message. (RNS)



FATHER MUGAVERO