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Pope Returns To Vatican, Huge Crowd

Vatican City — An exceptionally large crowd of some 80,000 gave Pope John Paul II a warm welcome back to the Vatican on Sunday, Oct. 19.

The 61-year-old pontiff had returned the day before from a two-month period of rest at his summer home south of Rome at Castelgandolfo. At noon Sunday, he delivered his customary Angelus message from the window of his private study overlooking St. Peter's Square.

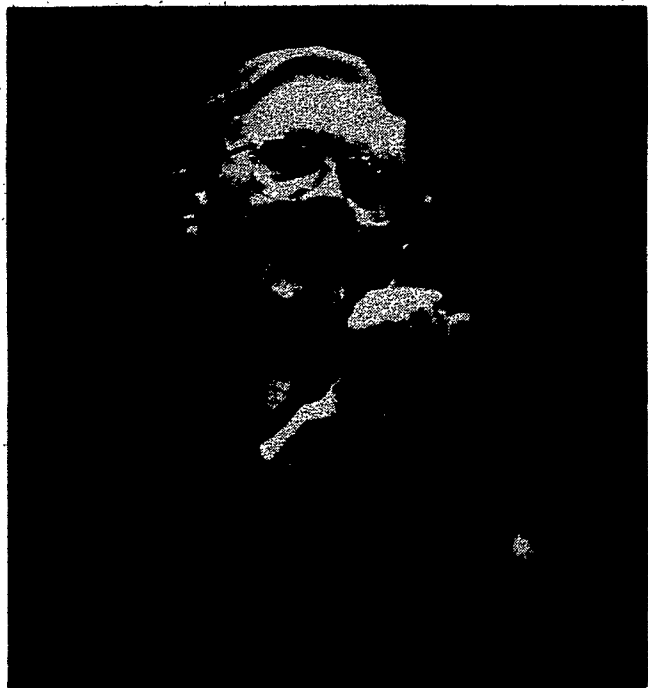
The pope has spent less than three weeks total time in Vatican City since the attempt on his life last May 13, when, at a general audience in the square, Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca shot and wounded him gravely. The pontiff spent most of the ensuing five months at Rome's Gemelli Hospital recovering from emergency surgery and

infection before recuperating at Castelgandolfo.

Last Saturday, he was treated to a special concert in the Pope Paul VI auditorium. He listened to the concert seated on a white velvet throne in the center aisle near the front of the auditorium. The invitation-only audience included members of the Roman Curia and the diplomatic corps. It also was attended by Polish primate Archbishop Jozef Glemp.

In his Angelus message, the pontiff noted that Oct. 18 was being observed as World Missionary Day. "The missionary mandate which the Church has fulfilled for centuries, since the days of the apostles, remains in effect," he said.

In the afternoon, the pope paid a visit to the German Hungarian Pontifical College, his first visit outside the Vatican in Rome in five months.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Assembly Draws 200

More than 200 diocesan attended the Northwest Regional Assembly last Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23-24, at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Greece. The opening of the two-day meeting was highlighted on Friday night by keynote speaker Msgr. William Shannon, above, and a prayer service led by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, right, with Father Charles Latus, the bishop's secretary. Upper right, Sister Margaret Mary Wintish, representing St. Michael's Church, holds candle during vespers. The program continued the following morning with numerous workshops offered, followed by lunch and a closing Mass.



Reagan Reiterates Tuition Support

Anaheim, Calif. (RNS) — President Reagan reiterated his "strong commitment" to tuition tax credits in a telegram to Catholic education administrators meeting here.

"I remain as strongly committed to tuition tax credits now as when I spoke to you last year in Cincinnati," he told the Chief Administrators of Catholic Education. On that occasion, the president endorsed tuition tax credits in an address which won strong Catholic support.

The president acknowledged that he had delayed the timetable for legislation to 1982, the second half of the 97th Congress.

"Due to the difficult budget pressures we will face in the months to come and given the severe problems facing the nation's economy, any commitment to work with Congress to construct a tuition tax bill will necessarily mean that we initiate our efforts later in the 97th Congress," he said. He added that those tax credits would have to be phased in gradually to minimize their budget impact.

Father John Hanley, president of the group, said that the administrators were pleased with the president's

promise of leadership as well as support. He expressed hope that the next time the group met it would be able to thank Reagan and Congress for legislation which will have been enacted.

The Reagan telegram endorsed the basic Catholic education principle that it is the responsibility for the family to educate children. Formal education, said the Reagan telegram, is an extension of the family which can only succeed by building on basic attitudes developed in the home.

Government's role in education is to assist parents and, he said, to insure for all parents the freedom to select the formal education they deem most beneficial and schools which reflect their own moral and cultural values.

The president promised that the administration will keep its pledge to work with Congress to fashion tax relief for families that must pay private school tuitions.

Bishop to Make Appeal

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate the Mass for Shut-Ins at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints, over WHEC-TV, Channel 10. The bishop will be assisted by Father Charles J. Latus

Pontiff Makes Jesuit Changes

Vatican City (RNS) — In a surprise action, Pope John Paul II has appointed two Italian priests to govern the Society of Jesus in place of the order's ailing superior general, Father Pedro Arrupe, and to prepare for a general congregation to elect his successor.

In so doing, the pope displaced Father Vincent O'Keefe, the American whom Father Arrupe had chosen as temporary vicar general to run the order, the largest in the Catholic Church.

The Jesuit headquarters in a communique confirmed that as of Oct. 31, Father Paolo Dezza will govern the order until the new general takes office.

The pope named Father Joseph Pittau, provincial of

and Anthony R. Palermo, a co-chairperson for the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal, which will be the theme of the Mass. Joanne Hartmann will furnish the music.

the Jesuits in Japan, to assist Father Dezza, who is 79 and partially blind. The pope met Father Pittau on his visit to Japan last February.

Father Arrupe, a Spaniard who will be 74 on Nov. 14, remains superior general and retains the authority of his office, according to the communique. But on account of his illness, he will be replaced by Father Dezza in the ordinary government of the order.

The pope's decision came in the form of a letter dated Oct. 5 that was delivered the following day to Father Arrupe in the infirmary of the Jesuit headquarters by Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican secretary of state.

Pope John Paul's direct intervention took many Vatican observers by surprise, since the Jesuits have always elected their own leaders.

On Aug. 27, Father Arrupe suffered a severe stroke which impeded his speech and left him temporarily unable to walk.

As the pope mentioned in

his letter, Father Arrupe had asked him last year for permission to resign. The pope had delayed the resignation, he wrote, because he felt "a more thorough preparation of the society" was needed before the congregation was held.

The pope said he had "decided to entrust this task to a delegate who will represent me more closely in the society, look after the preparation of the general congregation, to be called in due time, and also in my name and by my appointment, superintend the government of the society until the election of a new superior general."

Several observers saw the pope's surprise decision as a move to install at the head of the Jesuit order someone less liberal than Father Arrupe has been thought to be.

Father Dezza is considered a conservative and closer to the Vatican than the superior general. The new delegate was personal confessor to both Pope Paul VI and to Pope John Paul I, who had been his student at the Gregorian University where Father

Dezza was a philosophy professor and later rector.

He was also a theological advisor at Vatican Council II. He now serves as a consultant to three Vatican congregations and lives at the Jesuit headquarters.

Father Pittau is 52 and has been stationed in Japan since receiving a doctorate in sociology from Harvard University in 1962. He was president of Sophia University in Tokyo before being named to head the Japanese Province last year.

A Jesuit source described him as a moderate and a close friend of Father Arrupe under whom he served when the latter was the Japanese provincial prior to his election as superior.

The pope's desire to name someone with whom he was personally acquainted, and Father O'Keefe's reputation as a liberal whose views closely coincide with those of Father Arrupe were cited by the Jesuit source as reasons why the pope may have bypassed the American in choosing his representatives.