

Pope Ends African Visit

Pope John Paul II is back home following a strenuous, eight-day journey to Africa which included two untoward incidents which marred an otherwise joyous and inspirational trip.

The pope's trip was coordinated by the Vatican Secretariat for Non-Christians which is headed by Archbishop Jean Jadot, former apostolic delegate to the United States.

The first unfortunate incident took place in northern Nigeria where a meeting billed as a major ecumenical event was called off at the last minute by Moslem leaders. A Nigerian bishop later said that the Moslems had been unable to decide on representatives to the meeting. Apparently, there is some friction between strict Moslems in northern Nigeria and others in black Africa's most populous and wealthiest nation.

Later in the trip, the Holy Father stood by on a platform in Gabon as the Marxist president of neighboring Benin, Mathieu Kerekou, delivered an ideological talk. At its end, the Benin president shouted, "Ready for the revolution — the struggle continues!"

"However, earlier, when the Pope had visited Kerekou's own country, the president declared a public holiday and 50,000 turned out for a Mass which filled every corner of the stadium. At the final blessing, Kerekou rose and blessed himself. Two members of his cabinet received Communion.

Kerekou also had the Hall of the People decorated for a warm reception for the papal party and had a huge portrait of the Holy Father hung next to his own.

Perhaps the warmest stop on the visit was to Equatorial Guinea, an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country. The nation just emerged from the rule of tyrant Nguema Biyoto Masie, who persecuted Catholics, drove out missionaries, jailed priests and in 1978 outlawed the Church.

The sight and cheers of thousands of flag-waving faithful assured the Holy Father that the faith had survived the dictator.

"I express my joy at the constancy with which you gave proof of your devotion to Christ," the pope said in a homily at a Mass in Bata.



As 100,000 high-spirited worshippers cheered, Pope John Paul II circles the National Stadium in Lagos, Nigeria, on the first of his eight days in Africa. (RNS)



Nigerian police on horseback lead the cortege of Pope John Paul II through crowds of Moslems and Catholics in predominantly Moslem Kaduna on Feb. 14. (RNS)



Standing before a bamboo altar in Kaduna, Nigeria, Pope John Paul II ordains 100 priests during a ceremony Feb. 14 before a crowd estimated at 500,000. (RNS)

Budget Cut Impact Topic of Meetings

Elmira — The Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry has scheduled a series of programs which will focus on the impact of the federal budget cuts.

The workshops will include information on assessing the impact of President Ronald Reagan's economic program on people, reflection on the teachings of Scripture and the Church, and actions and

strategy to respond to the effects.

"An essential element of our Catholic tradition of moral teaching is the belief that the dignity of all persons is protected by certain basic rights. Among these are food, housing, health care, employment, education and necessary social services," Father Neil Miller has written about the program. "These

basic necessities are matters of right, not of privilege or choice."

"During the past year," he noted, "we have observed a major change in government philosophy toward its responsibility to meet the basic needs of people. The president has called on the churches and the voluntary sector to respond. As responsible Christian citizens, we should be informed on this issue of economic justice."

The meetings will be:

At 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 4, at St. Patrick's School library, Owego.

At 3 p.m., Sunday, March 7, at the Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca.

At 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 8, at the Social Ministry Office, High Street, Elmira.

At 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, at St. Patrick's School, Corning.

And at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 11, at St. Mary's School, Bath.

The sessions will be about two hours long. More information is available from Father Miller at 734-9784.

Spiritual Journey Slated at Cenacle

Father Ervin Nemesszeghy, SJ, a Toronto-based Jesuit

Cathedral Guild Meets

The Rosary Guild of Sacred Heart Cathedral will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m., March 8, beginning with a recitation of the rosary in the church. Following benediction, a seder will be enacted in the rectory hall. Father Joseph D'Aurizio will be the featured guest. Tickets for the event are \$5.75, and are purchased by calling Ann Potter, 865-5774, or Peggy Best, 647-9758, before March 3.

who serves as provincial for a number of Hungary-born men in his order, will lead a "Spiritual Journey" at the Cenacle Renewal Center, Palm Sunday weekend, April 2-4.

The program will include presentations, private prayer, fellowship and small group discussion as well as celebration of the Eucharist. The theme is the discovery of God in all things.

Reservations are made by contacting the Cenacle ministry office, 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607; (716) 271-8755.

Rund's

ON THE RIDGE

OUR FISH IS FRESH

RED SNAPPER FILET

BOSTON SCROD

OCEAN RED PERCH

LAKE WHITEFISH

BOSTON BLUEFISH

SWORDFISH

LEMON SOLE

All year long we search the seas for the freshest fish available, whether its from the south of Florida or the North Atlantic, we choose and prepare your favorites at their fresh caught peak of flavor. Sometimes uncertain luck of fishermen or change in season prevents us from offering all choices all year, so call or stop in to see which of your fish favorites is available. Then reserve a table for a fresh fish dinner to remember.

Ridgemont Plaza Ridge Rd. West
For Reservations Call 227-2510