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Hasta la Vista to Spain, Poland, Here I Come



A Face in the Crowd



Pope mingles with crowd of reporters in Madrid. (RNS Photo)

By NC News Service

The crowds in Spain during the 10-day visit of Pope John Paul II sometimes cheered so loudly that it was not clear whether the pope's message was getting through.

"The Spanish are a wonderful people but it seems that they would rather have a conversation than listen," the pope said at Alba de Tormes early in the trip when the shouts and chants of the crowd interrupted his speech several times.

The pope arrived in Spain Oct. 31 and left Nov. 9. In 48 speeches, the 62-year-old pontiff discussed themes including abortion, unemployment, divorce, vocations, terrorism, the arms race and religious education, which have great relevance to a Spain undergoing social, political and religious changes.

The pope was still in Spain when it was announced by a Vatican spokesman and the Polish government news agency PAP that he would be visiting Poland June 18.

Father Romeo Panciroli, Vatican press spokesman, said, "This is a date which has been previously agreed upon (between the Polish bishops and the Holy See)."

The pope expressed pleasure at the prospect of returning to his homeland. In Valencia, Spain, a young Polish woman

pushed through the crowd to tell him she was delighted at the news.

"I, too, am glad, my daughter," he answered in Polish.

In the Polish capital of Warsaw, PAP also reported the scheduled visit and said the June 18 date was fixed at a meeting between Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, Polish martial law leader, and Archbishop Jozef Glemp of Warsaw and Griezno, primate of Poland.

The meeting took place two days before underground Solidarity leaders planned demonstrations in support of the union. Archbishop Glemp has publicly opposed such demonstrations, saying that more can be obtained through peaceful means than by "desperate acts."

While in Spain, the pope declined direct comment on the nation's new political direction, chosen at the polls Oct. 28, three days before the pope's arrival, and embodied in the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, headed by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

At a reception in the royal palace in Madrid, the pontiff had equally cordial greetings for Gonzalez and for Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo, the outgoing prime minister who failed to retain his own seat in the elections.

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Diocesan Clergy Health Board Established by Bishop Clark

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, in a recent letter to clergy of the diocese, announced the establishment of the Diocesan Clergy Health Board.

Its purpose, as stated in its charter, is "To provide the clergy of the Diocese of Rochester with assistance in dealing with sources of stress in their lives."

Late last year, the Priests Council approved a Policy on Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency. However, Bishop Clark's concern for the welfare of priests and deacons led to a broader charter than originally envisioned.

As a result, physical and emotional health were added to the charter, along with alcohol and chemical dependency. It is the board's

purpose to provide education and preventative help, as well as treatment referral.

The health board serves in an advisory capacity to the bishop. Organizationally, it reports directly to the diocesan personnel director, Father Charles Latus, and it works in concert with the Ministry to Priests, directed by Father James Schwartz.

The Ministry to Priests can serve as a support structure for individuals who are attempting to get help.

Preventative care will take the form of seminars, training sessions, consultations and mailings of educational materials.

Referrals for treatment may be for outpatient or inpatient care, counseling, or referral to

a specialist. It is the board's responsibility to establish and maintain communications with a network of health care providers so as to facilitate referrals. In all instances, strict confidentiality will be maintained regarding users of the program, the intention to remove any concern on the part of clergy in need of assistance.

The board's services can be used in several ways. For example, a priest or deacon might call a board member and request help for a specific problem. This would be a self-referral and no one but the individual and the board member would be involved or made aware of the problem.

A second type of referral would be a case where the bishop, for whatever reason, might ask a priest or deacon to contact a health board member for the purpose of addressing a perceived source of stress in the person's life. In this case, the individual would be referred for diagnosis and subsequent treatment, if indicated.

This same process would apply if a pastor referred an associate. This would be called a referral by a superior. Confidentiality would be maintained. However, the individual would be asked to sign a release of confidential information so that the person and only that person referring him could be made aware of progress.

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Photo by Terrence J. Brennan

Plenty to Celebrate

St. Stanislaus Church celebrated the 600th anniversary of Our Lady of Czestochowa Sunday with a Mass in both Polish and English. The date was chosen to coincide with the feast of the church's patron, St. Stanislaus Kostka, Nov. 13. Coincidentally, it was announced during the week that the pope will visit Poland and that Solidarity leader, Lech Walesa, was released from prison. That's the pastor, Father Joseph Jankowski, before before a replica of the famous madonna.

THE WORLD
AFTER BREZHNEV

Little Change
Is Expected

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