

# The Pope on the Road ...

## 103 Canonized In 'Happiest Day' For Korean Church

Seoul, South Korea (NC) — On what he called "the happiest day, the greatest feast, in the whole history of the church in Korea," Pope John Paul II on May 6 created 103 new saints in the first canonization to take place outside of Rome in modern church history.

The new saints, called the Korean martyrs, were canonized in a colorful and quietly dignified Mass attended by 800,000 people in Seoul's Youido Plaza. The plaza sits on an island surrounded by the Han river, whose waters a century ago ran with the blood of those same martyrs and 10,000 others.

The canonization ceremony was the capstone of a five-day papal visit marking the 200th anniversary of Catholicism in Korea.

During his homily, in which he alternated between English and Korean, the pope told stories from the lives of some of the newly canonized martyrs, 92 of whom were lay people from nearly every walk of life — 47 women and 45 men.

The pontiff mentioned a 17-year-old girl, Agatha Yi, who along with her younger brother was falsely told that her parents had betrayed their faith. Replied Agatha, "Whether my parents betrayed or not is their affair. As for us, we cannot betray the Lord of heaven whom we have always served."

The pontiff said that Agatha, her parents and her brother were all then executed and were all being canonized together.

Ten of those canonized were French missionaries. Also included was Father Andreas Kim, Korea's first native priest who was beheaded in 1846, one year after his ordination and seven years after his father had died for his faith. A street in Seoul today is named after Father Kim.

The feast of the new martyrs will be celebrated by the universal church on Sept. 20.

The new saints died during persecutions in the mid-1800s, and more than 100 of the martyrs' descendants filled the front rows at the canonization ceremony.

Father Minku Youn, a 32-year-old Korean priest who was the postulator for the canonization cause, told NC News that the decision was made to have the ceremony outside of Rome so that non-Catholics in Korea would learn about the martyrs and because many of their descendants could not have afforded to go to Rome for the event.

Before the Mass, the pope knelt reverently in front of the relics of the saints which had been carried in a procession and laid in a place of honor at the foot of the altar.

At the end of Mass, the pope expressed his sadness over "those dear to us who could not come to share in the joy: those brethren in the North of this land, and those also in China through which Korea came to know Christ."

## 'Just Wages' Urged For Workers

Pusan, South Korea (NC) — Speaking in a nation where salaries of industrial workers are among the world's lowest, Pope John Paul II called for just wages May 5.

Addressing 200,000 industrial workers, farmers and fishermen at Pusan, a southern port city, the pontiff told them that they should "work together in fraternal love to show that a more just sharing of the world's goods means access to these goods especially through a just wage."

Recalling that, as a carpenter, "Jesus clearly belonged to the 'working world,'" the pope said that the worker is more important than the product of his or her work.

"Even the biggest city, the most complicated computer, the greatest nation," the pontiff observed, "is only something made by man and is meant to serve man, to benefit man."

The reality though, noted the pope, is that "man is often treated as a mere instrument of production, like a material tool that should cost as little as possible while producing the maximum."

The state of the worker in South Korea has often been a point of contention between Catholic leaders and the government. An unsigned article before the papal trip in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano said that of South Korea's working population of 14 million, only 1 million are represented by a labor union.

The paper also said that "the federation of Korean unions does nothing, really, than transmit the will of the employers and the decisions made on high."

The South Korean government, in an attempt to compete on the world market, has tried to keep wages low and to limit negotiating rights of workers.

In South Korea 20 percent of the workers earn less than \$30 a week. The average worker works 53 hours a week and receives five days off a year.

## New Language For Pope: Pidgin

Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea (NC) — More than 150,000 people, most of them in bare feet, stood on a golf course soaked by three days of rain and heard Pope John



## The Way of the Cross

Catholics from Enga Province in Papua, New Guinea, carry a huge wooden cross through Port Moresby on May 4, en route to Mount Hagen in the

Paul II say that though they came from different tribes, their Catholicism united them.

The scene was Mount Hagen, a mile-high city of 13,000 surrounded by loftier mountain peaks.

The people had come from the entire western highlands region, many of them traveling for days to see the pope.

One group began its pilgrimage on foot 225 miles away April 1, carrying a 35-foot wooden cross which stood next to the thatched-roofed altar as the pontiff concelebrated Mass with most of Papua New Guinea's 22 Catholic bishops. Archbishop George Bernarding of Mount Hagen, a Divine Word missionary, is a native of Pittsburgh.

Also concelebrating was Cardinal Timothy Manning of Los Angeles, an archdiocese with 10 lay missionaries working in the South Pacific island nation.

Surrounding the altar during the Mass was an honor guard in tribal dress. The men had their faces painted red and black and wore high ornamental headdresses with the feathers of the bird of paradise. Many of them carried spears and poison-tipped arrows used in hunting.

The government had initially outlawed spears and arrows for the pontiff's visit, but later relented so that the tribal dress could be completely authentic.

The women in the honor guard wore grass skirts and were bare-breasted, their necks ringed with brightly decorated necklaces.

The pope celebrated the Mass in pidgin, a phonetic language with traces of German and English, the languages of the nations which colonized the region. Pidgin is the common tongue which unites Papua New Guinea's 700 tribes, each speaking a dialect.

For "Let us pray," the pope said, "Yumi pre."

The Gospel is the "Gutnius."

Tribes in the western highlands region still go to war with some regularity and originally there was concern that the situation might keep the pope from visiting.

But the Mount Hagen region is also 35 percent Catholic, a situation which developed after 1934, when U.S. Divine Word missionaries arrived.

The pope emphasized the common bond the tribes have in Catholicism.

"I pray that...divine love will be ever more revealed in you and among you; that it will lead you safely into the future; that it will enable you to walk through this life here on earth — and what a beautiful earth you do have around you — never losing sight of eternal life and eternal communion with God," the pope said.

At the Offertory native crafts were presented, following a procession of tribal chiefs who swayed to the beat of Kundu drums.

The U.S. influence brought by the missionaries was noticeable. The crowd chanted, "Hip, hip, hooray" and sang, "For he's a jolly good fellow" as the pope rode onto the golf course in an open car and wove his way through the people later.

## 'Vitality of Faith' Praised in Solomons

Solomon Islands (NC) — Pope John Paul II paid a visit May 9 to Guadalcanal, site of a pivotal South Pacific battle during World War II, and praised the "vitality of the faith" on the Solomon Islands.

Central Highlands where Pope John Paul II was to visit May 8. The group began its 250-mile walk April 1 at the village of Kandep. (NC Photo)



A warrior dancer performs for Pope John Paul II and Archbishop Daniel Stuyvenberg of Honiara on the pope's arrival at Henderson Airport in the Solomon Islands. The pontiff made a one-day stop here as part of his Pacific tour. (NC Photo)

The pope was given a spectacular welcome on Guadalcanal, the largest of the Solomon Islands, in a colorful ceremony which featured a display of native dances and crafts.

During 1942 and 1943 heavy fighting on Guadalcanal brought an important victory to U.S. forces and stopped the Japanese advance in the South Pacific.

The pope told the several thousand people who ringed a local athletic field to welcome him that he was pleased with the strength of their faith.

The Solomons, a 900-mile string of islands stretching off the eastern coast of Papua New Guinea, were known in the 18th and 19th centuries as one of the most dangerous places in the Pacific, where bands of headhunters roamed regularly and cannibals were common.

Through the efforts of Catholic, Anglican and Protestant missionaries, 98 percent of the residents now are Christian. Catholics form 20 percent of the total population.

The pope expressed admiration "for the harmony and good will which you have been able to achieve in this one nation."

He also urged Catholics to "stand firm in the message of the Gospel" received from the missionaries.

The first Catholic bishop who came to the Solomons arrived from France in 1845 and was killed by natives. The average life span of missionaries arriving in the 19th century was about five years.

In welcoming the pope, Governor General Sir Baddeley Devesi announced that his nation's cabinet had voted the previous week to establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican.