

COURIER-JOURNAL

Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester

Wednesday, February 6, 1985

16 Pages 35 Cents

Busy Pope: Latin American Tour Concludes

Pope John Paul II was scheduled to arrive home at the Vatican early this morning, Wednesday, from his extraordinary Latin American journey. In the past two days, the pope was to have visited communities throughout Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.

Pope John Paul II challenged Latin Americans to improve their spiritual and socio-economic lives during the first part of an 11-day trip to four nations.

Traveling to Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru Jan. 26-Feb. 3, the pope warned Religious to adhere to church teachings and told lay persons to unite to solve their problems.

He defended workers' rights and Indian rights and beatified two women Re-

ligious, using the ceremonies to encourage a deeper faith.

Wherever he went, Pope John Paul received enthusiastic welcomes from the people of Latin America, which has almost half of the world's Catholics. However, many of them do not practice their faith.

At the end of Jan. 26, his first day in Venezuela, the pope urged that country's bishops to develop "new and effective pastoral initiatives"

Continued on Page 2

'Vatican II Synod Not Step Backward'

By NC News Service

Pope John Paul II said he is not stepping back from reforms sparked by the Second Vatican Council in his surprise announcement of an extraordinary world Synod of Bishops this fall to discuss application of the historic 1962-65 council.

And while many church leaders were still trying to assess the impact the special bishops' synod could have on the church, Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago called the synod a "moment for renewal."

Pope John Paul made the unexpected announcement Jan. 25 at the end of a Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls in Rome concluding the annual

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It was at the same place exactly 26 years earlier, on Jan. 25, 1959, that Pope John XXIII announced plans for Vatican II.

The synod, scheduled for Nov. 25 to Dec. 8, would end 20 years after the Dec. 8, 1965, close of the council.

The pope, meeting with journalists the day after his announcement, said the two-week synod is an effort to "maintain the path of the church as oriented" by Vatican II. He added that he expected Christian unity to be a key topic of the meeting.

His comments came on the papal flight opening his 11-day visit to South America and the Caribbean.

Continued on Page 4



Pope tips his cap on arrival in Venezuela. (NC Photo)

Bishop Publishes Letter from Vatican

Bishop Matthew H. Clark in 1984 submitted a five-year summary of the ministry of the Church of Rochester to the apostolic delegate, Archbishop Pio Laghi. The report was reviewed by the Congregation for Bishops as well as by the pope. The bishop received the following letter, dated Dec. 14, 1984, from Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops at the Vatican.

Rome, December 14, 1984

Prot. N. 339/83

Dear Bishop Clark:

The quinquennial report which you submitted last year and which was studied soon afterwards is, for a variety of unforeseen circumstances, only being replied to now. Please excuse the delay.

Your report indicates a number of pastoral initiatives that have been made in the diocese during the last 5 years; the administrative structures are well organized. Further you have issued pastoral letters and instructions on various issues of the day. Particularly, the "Crossroads to Life" Program during the Lent-Easter of 1983 was a good way to

involve the entire diocese in an experience of conversion and renewal in the context of the liturgical year.

The liturgical renewal has been carried out in an organic manner. Directives have been established for catechesis and celebration of the Sacraments, particularly the Sacraments of Initiation. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is in use and you participate in the Rite of Election. There have been efforts at improving liturgical music. I am also glad to hear that conferences have been held on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In many areas of the United States, the number of those who approach this sacrament have greatly diminished in recent years. One can only repeat the words of the Pope John Paul II last year to the American bishops at Rome for their ad limina visit: "Yes, dear brothers, let us emphasize over and over again the immense value of a personal encounter with the God of mercy through individual confession." (April 15, 1983)

A great number of initiatives have been made to secure the health and ongoing formation of the clergy. Their work is valued by the faithful. Further, you have ordained the

first group of permanent deacons; though it is too early to evaluate all the elements of their formation and present work, it is my hope that their pastoral service will enrich your local Church. In this light too, the diocese has also elaborated a structured program for lay ministry. Religious men and women are to be thanked for their contribution.

A grave concern for all the local Churches, even as your report outlines, is the need for the fostering of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. You have appointed a full time priest to this work; many initiative have been activated. It is not too strong to say that the ecclesial renewal that the Second Vatican Council envisaged will never adequately take place without a sufficient number of worthy priests for the local Churches.

Your diocese has shown itself sensitive to the needs of the poor, the refugees, to the hopes and aspirations of the Black and Spanish-speaking communities, and to family ministry. This last area of involvement is particularly dear to the Holy Father. There are many forces that militate against family life today; this is all the more reason for the Church to bring support, encouragement, and where necessary, help to the family in its daily pilgrimage to the Lord. May the local programs in Rochester be successful and fruitful.

The Holy Father listened to your report attentively. He wants to accompany and encourage you in your responsibilities. With affection for the entire local Church of Rochester, he extends to you, to your Auxiliary, Bishop Hickey, to Bishop Hogan, and to all the priests, religious and faithful his Apostolic Blessing.

With renewed assurances of my sentiments of high esteem and best wishes, I remain.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bernardin Cardinal Gantin
Prefect

SACRA CONGREGATIO PRO EPISCOPUS

President Praises Catholic Schools

Washington (NC) -- President Reagan offered his congratulations to the president of the National Catholic Educational Association for the celebration Feb. 3-9 of National Catholic Schools Week.

"By providing a quality secular education firmly rooted in education for the spirit, Catholic schools represent all that is best about our system," Reagan said in a Jan. 10 letter to Msgr. John F. Meyers, NCEA president.

The president also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to education and his support "for policies that will uphold the fundamental right of all parents to educate their children in ways that best meet those children's needs."

"Because of the great sacrifices American Catholics made to sustain the traditions of their faith, immigrants, the poor, and the disenfranchised found in Catholic schools a source of hope for the future," said Reagan.

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Sharing the Vision -- Teaching Values."

A special report on Catholic Schools Week, centerfold.