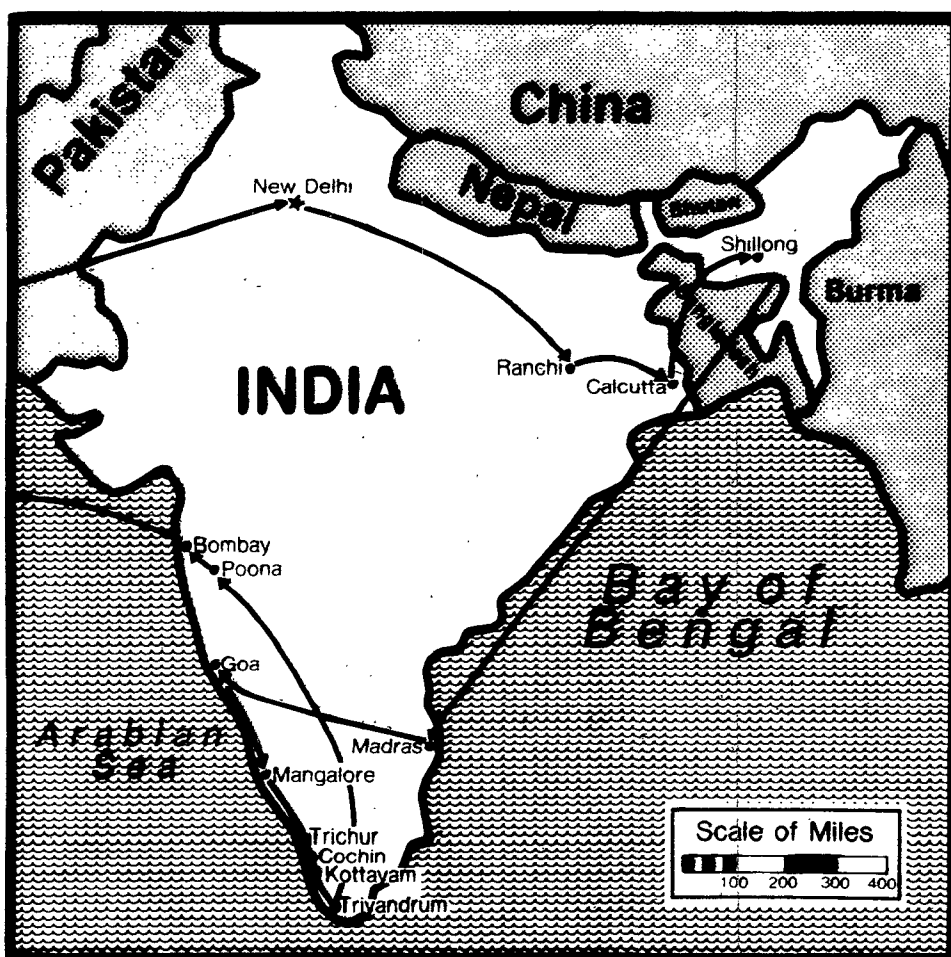


# Hindus take to New Delhi's streets to protest Pope John Paul II's visit



**New Delhi, India (NC)** — Thousands of Hindus took to the streets of New Delhi, India's capital, Jan. 31 to demonstrate against Pope John Paul II and Catholic missionaries on the eve of the pope's first visit to the Asian country.

The demonstrators, estimated by police to number 10,000, also called for a ban on conversions of Hindus. They shouted "Pope go home" and waved flags of saffron, the Hindu sacred color.

Marchers handed out copies of an open letter to the pope saying his visit would encourage those "who have launched a crusade against the superb unmatched culture and values of life of this country by proselytization." It also said "your followers are out to annihilate our independence, integrity, unity and culture. They work as agencies of Western imperialism."

The protest was organized by National Awakening, which includes members of 27 Hindu organizations.

An 11-member Hindu delegation met Indian President Zail Singh and handed him a petition demanding the expulsion of foreign priests and nuns and for laws banning conversions.

Pope John Paul's India trip was scheduled to begin Feb. 1 and last through Feb. 10. He

is scheduled to meet with Singh, who invited the pontiff to India, and government officials on his first day in the country.

Speakers at the demonstrations denounced what they called forced conversions and the separatist activities of Indian Christians.

Militant Hindus said they fear Pope John Paul plans mass conversions during his trip. Indian Catholics number 12.5 million, but they are still a tiny minority among the country's approximately 745 million people, who are mostly Hindu.

Archbishop Simon Pimenta of Bombay, president of the Indian bishops' conference, has said recently that the pope "is not coming to convert people. It probably has not even crossed his mind."

The archdiocesan social justice organization has called on the pope to urge the Indian Church to become more involved in the country's social problems.

A spokesman at the papal nunciature in New Delhi said Jan. 31 that officials expected protests, "but nothing serious."

"There may be increased security," he said, "but the positive outcome of the visit is more important than the demonstrations."

Two bullet-proof limousines have been brought to India for the pope's use.

## Urban schools

Continued from Page 1

so that where we are strong, all rejoice, and where we are weak, all suffer."

"We're dealing with major questions and they are very painful, but by God we can do it in a beautiful way if we come out of our faith," he concluded.

One of the painful questions addressed by the plan is finance. Diocesan funding for elementary schools, which is already 11.5 percent of unrestricted diocesan money, will be increased, according to the plan. But such an increase will depend upon whether consistent fiscal practices are adopted by parishes with and without schools.

Among the practices the plan recommends are: working toward tuition that equals 50 percent of total school costs; standardizing methods of calculating tuition rates and work credits for parents; and provisions for

subsidizing schools with non-school parish revenue. Schools are not required to implement financial reforms until September, 1987, but are urged to begin working on them by next fall.

Although the task force on systemwide financial reforms will study such options as standardized tuition, no specific policies have yet been recommended.

Marketing and recruitment of personnel and students, workshops for urban educators and efforts to improve the response to Hispanics in the city are among the new services that will be offered to schools by the diocesan Department of General Education, beginning in 1986.

The plan concludes by stating that representatives of all parish schools in the City of Rochester are required to work on at least one of the task forces or committees named. Suburban schools will also have membership on these groups.

Father Mulligan invited representatives of schools facing transitions next year, including St. Boniface, St. Anthony, St. Augustine's, Good Counsel, Blessed Sacrament and St. Philip Neri, to a review of tuition formulas Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

## Latin scholar dies at 70

A great Irish wit and classical scholar, Father Paul F. Gibbons, died Saturday, February 1, at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell.

"He was very bright and he had a great sense of humor," recalled Father Ronald Antinarelli, an associate pastor at St. Ann's in Hornell, where Father Gibbons retired. "He also had the clearest memory of any human being I've ever known — recalling things that happened 30 or 40 years ago."

A native of Rochester, Father Gibbons was born in 1915, grew up in Holy Rosary Parish and studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Ordained June 6, 1942, he was first assigned to St. Monica's Parish as assistant pastor. He then moved to St. Ann's in 1945 and served there for four years before being appointed professor of Latin at St. Andrew's Seminary.

"He directly influenced 20 years worth of priests there," said Father Antinarelli, a former student. "He was the kind of guy you could confide in ... and he made Latin a lot more pleasant."

In 1969, Father Gibbons left St. Andrew's to serve as pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester. He moved to St. Michael's in Penn Yan as associate for a year, then to St. Casimir's in Elmira for two years. In 1978, he was reassigned to St. Ann's in Hornell where he remained after his retirement in 1984.

Although Father Gibbons suffered from cancer for the past three years, he never complained, according to Father Antinarelli. In fact, he grew quite close to the staff at St. James Mercy Hospital.



"They brought him balloons and teddy bears and funny hats and he joked around with them," Father Antinarelli recalled. "He said, 'Some day I'm going to write a book about the place.'"

Father Gibbons is survived by a sister, Mrs. Rosemary Madigan, and a brother, J. Robert Gibbons, both of Rochester, and nieces and nephews.

A Mass of the High Priest was offered for Father Gibbons on February 3 at St. Ann's in Hornell. A Mass of Christian burial was also celebrated at St. Ann's February 4.

### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



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### Good News for Schools

The State Department of Education has announced that no diocesan elementary school scored below the statewide reference point in the recently released Comprehensive Assessment Report (CAR).

The report summarizes the results of tests on all public school districts and non-public schools. Evaluation is based on enrollment, graduation results, attendance, dropout rates, student test data, and Regency tests.

"I am very proud of the efforts of all our principals and teachers whose dedication to quality education and whose hard work is reflected in these very positive results we have received," said Sister Edwardine Weaver, R.S.M., superintendent of diocesan schools.

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