

# On Colombia tour, pope preaches message of peace, economic justice

By NC News Service

Pope John Paul II crisscrossed western Colombia July 1-7, preaching a message of peace and justice in a country plagued by guerrilla warfare, indebtedness and illegal drug trafficking.

Although the pope spoke to massive crowds — police estimated one crowd in Bogota at 1.2 million people — he also made personal visits. He surprised a Colombian fisherman and his family July 4 when he walked into their one-room home in Tumaco, and he visited friends and relatives of the victims of last November's mudslide from the Nevado del Ruiz volcano.

During his visit, Pope John Paul also condemned Nicaragua's expulsion of a bishop and consecrated Colombia to the Virgin Mary.

Upon his arrival in Bogota July 1 and later in Medellin, the pope asked developed countries to work with Third World nations for international social and economic justice in overcoming huge foreign debts.

"The poor people cannot pay intolerably high costs by sacrificing the right to development, of which they are deprived while other people enjoy opulence," he said in a speech to Colombian President Belisario Betancur and other government officials in Bogota.

Speaking to more than a million people in the slums of Bogota July 3, Pope John Paul called on government authorities "to create jobs which permit the unemployed to find dignified work with just remuneration."

"No one should forget that the goods God has given mankind have a universal destination, and because of this cannot be the exclusive province of a few, be they individuals, groups or nations," he said.

Two days later, the pope focused that statement on relations between the rich and poor nations.

"I want to launch a new call for social justice, a call to the developed nations from the heart of this city of Medellin," the pope said July 5.

Medellin was the site of the Second General Conference of Latin American

bishops in 1968. The meeting produced what has been called the "Magna Charta" of today's socially committed church.

On several occasions during his pontificate, Pope John Paul has voiced concern that social action in developing nations is being influenced by Marxism, with its theory of class struggle as the means to right an unjust social order.

Before the pope arrived in Colombia, he rejected requests for meetings with two guerrilla groups. But at an outdoor Mass for 800,000 people in Bogota July 2, the pope asked the guerrillas to "put an end to the destruction and deaths of so many innocent people."

"From this city of Bogota, I launch a vibrant appeal to those who follow the road of the guerrillas, so that they orient their energies — perhaps inspired by ideals of justice — toward constructive and reconciling actions which truly contribute to the progress of the country," Pope John Paul said.

During a meeting in Bogota's El Campin Stadium later that day, the pope told youths to resist the temptation to resort to armed struggle in the face of unemployment and social injustice. He also advised them against alienating themselves from society with "drugs, alcohol, sex and other lamentable vices."

During a visit to the Shrine of St. Peter Claver in Cartagena, Colombia, on July 6, the pope compared drugs to black slavery. Peter Claver was a 17th-century Catholic missionary and physician who provided spiritual counseling and medical treatment to slaves brought into the city's seaport.

The same day, the pope visited the town of Armero, almost totally destroyed in a mudslide after a volcanic eruption last November. More than 20,000 people died in the mudslide. White crosses mark the transformation of the city into a cemetery.

Pope John Paul asked God to "ease the pain of so many families, dry the tears of so many brothers and protect the ... many orphans."

Father Paul J. Cuddy

## On the Right Side



### A village apostolate

When Father Kanka of Trumansburg, 12 miles north of Ithaca, phoned about my supplying for him July 7 to 12, he said, "We are having a children's vacation school for two weeks, so I am giving the rectory to the sisters. It is handy to the church and hall. Paul and Eileen Van DeMark are at the lake and you will use their home, which is not far from the church."

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of Philadelphia have conducted the vacation school for many years. Many of the IHM Sisters volunteer for this work during the summer vacation, as part of their apostolate as religious teaching sisters. They have retained the traditional concept of religious vows and of community. They are impressive in their attractive blue and white religious habits. Our diocesan Sisters of Mercy used to conduct the school in Trumansburg and other parishes. When they were no longer able to come, Father Al Ryan, who was then pastor of Trumansburg, enlisted the aid of the Philadelphia IHMs. There are 2,000 members in their community.

Religious summer schools for children have long been an enthusiasm of mine. I remember how effective they were when I was in Clyde. The Sisters of Mercy ran the school, assisted by lay women and high school boys and girls. The best testimonial came from Rose Forjone Leisenring, formerly of Clyde, now of Sodus. A couple of years ago she phoned me. "How can we get some sisters for a summer vacation school?" she inquired. "I learned more during those two weeks than all during the year at CCD." Rose is now director of religious education in Sodus, under the guidance of Father John Dillon, the pastor.

When I was an assistant to Father William Byrne in Ithaca more than 40 years ago, one of my CCD students was Paul Van DeMark, a courteous and intelligent 14-year-old. Today he is a

distinguished professor of microbiology at Cornell University, and an active member of the Trumansburg parish. And here I was, some 40 years later, all alone in his 17-room house, which his wife Eileen, solicitous as a mother hen, had prepared for me to be sure I would be comfortable.

There has been a disappointing departure from teaching by priests, brothers and sisters in Catholic schools. Other apostolates appear more satisfying, less exasperating than teaching. But I wonder if the departure for other ministries has been better for the people and for the church. Mother Teresa was told by a young Christian Brother in India that he intended to leave teaching to dedicate himself to the care of the poor. Mother T. told him tartly, as she can and will do when necessary, "Brother, you must not. More than anything else the poor need education. You must serve them as a teacher."

What would I do as a supply priest for the week? Since it did not include Sunday, I had no opportunity to sell prayer books, beads and tapes. However, Father Kanka set up the daily Mass schedule, a few Communion calls and Tompkins Memorial Hospital visitation, and suggested, "Just be pastoral."

It was an easy week. Pat Bowers, the efficient secretary, took the phone calls part of the time. I did at other times, with the usual answer, "No, Father Kanka will be back Saturday."

Thank God I was not involved in marriage preparations, counseling the uneasy, assuaging hurt feelings. Trumansburg is a tranquil parish with a minimum of problems and many happy activities. The pastor loves the people. The people love the pastor.

I left a note to Father Kanka. "Don't let the chancery office know about this paradisaic village, or you will have some upstart trying to oust you," it read. "If I were in the running for a parish I might try to oust you myself!"

More on Trumansburg and Tompkins County next week.

## Obituaries

### Sister Rose Xavier, former villa administrator

Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Rose Xavier Davis, SSJ, was in the Motherhouse Chapel on Wednesday, July 9, at 4:30 p.m. Sister Rose Xavier, who was 78, died Monday, July 7, 1986.

Principal celebrant for the Mass was Father Joseph Sheehan, OCD, chaplain of St. Joseph's Villa. Monsignor William Shannon and Father Frederick Bush concelebrated.

Sister Rose Xavier had served at St. Joseph's Villa for 22 years. She was administrator and superior from 1962 to 1968 and administrative assistant from 1970 until her retirement in 1984. For the past two years she continued to live and work at the villa.

Sister was a native of Rochester and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish in 1927. She received her baccalaureate degree from Nazareth College. Prior to her service at St. Joseph's

Villa, Sister Rose Xavier taught in the elementary schools of the Diocese of Rochester. She taught at St. Monica's for 19 years; was principal of St. Augustine's from 1948 to 1954; of St. John the Evangelist (Greece) from 1954 to 1960; and at Holy Rosary from 1968 to 1970. She had also taught for a short period at Sacred Heart Cathedral before moving to St. Joseph's Villa.

Eleven years ago, St. Joseph's Villa initiated the Sister Rose Xavier Service Award as its highest award for service at the villa.

Sister Rose Xavier is survived by one brother, William Davis of Rochester; two sisters, Mrs. Ann Burgess and Sister Mary Leon, currently at St. Theodore's Parish; one brother-in-law, Arthur McEvoy; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

### Adam Worboys, 10, succumbs to heart disease

Adam Worboys, a 10-year-old Rochester boy, died Friday, July 25, of cardiac arrest after being taken by ambulance to Strong Memorial Hospital from Camp SSJ on East Avenue in Rochester. The boy had suffered from heart diseases since birth, his father said.

Worboys, of 265 Beresford Road, was admitted to Strong at 1:49 p.m. Friday. He had been participating in activities at the camp, which is run by the Sisters of St.

Joseph at the order's Motherhouse. The boy was treated for cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead at 2:33 p.m., according to Robert Loeb, assistant director of public relations at Strong.

Worboys, the son of John and Joyce Worboys of St. John the Evangelist Parish on Humboldt Street, had been a fifth-grade student at Public School 28. The family participated in the parish's Family Religious Education program, according to Father Kevin P. Murphy, co-pastor.

## Irish bishop urges support for marriages following negative vote on divorce legalization

By Patrick Nolan

**Dublin, Ireland (NC)** — A decision by Irish voters to keep divorce illegal means the Church must have an "increased understanding of marriage problems and a willingness to respond to them," said Bishop Joseph Cassidy of Clonfert, Ireland.

In a June 26 referendum, about 60 percent of the voters rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed divorce when a marriage had been broken at least five years.

Divorce has been illegal in Ireland since the Irish people approved the constitution establishing an independent country 49 years ago.

"On behalf of the Catholic Church, I can promise continued expansion and improvement of our services to marriage, especially those in difficulty," Bishop Cassidy said June 27. "While the Catholic Church already commits substantial human and financial resources to the support of marriage and the family, we must intensify our efforts in the years ahead."

Some Irish politicians had warned that rejecting the divorce proposal would make the

Irish border with Northern Ireland look like a Berlin Wall, "separating the troubled North from what will be seen as a partitionist, inward-looking and smug state dominated by the views of one church."

About 93 percent of the Republic of Ireland is Catholic. Northern Ireland is predominantly Protestant, and divorce is legal.

In April, Irish bishops warned Prime Minister Garrett FitzGerald that legalizing divorce would be a blow to society.

FitzGerald also met with Anglican, Protestant and Jewish representatives, who reportedly told him divorce should be allowed when there is no chance of reconciliation.

### St. Francis of Assisi cancels July Eucharistic Holy Hour

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 77 Whitney St., Rochester, will not present its monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour on Saturday, July 26.

The holy hour is usually scheduled for the fourth Saturday of each month. The next holy hour will be on Saturday, August 23.

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All Are Welcome



Fr. Cuddy, author of the weekly Courier-Journal column "On the Right Side" will provide inspirational guidance and friendly helpful leadership.

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