

Pope's meeting with Jews shows conflicts remain despite progress

By Agostino Bono

Miami (NC) — Despite progress in Catholic-Jewish relations, a Sept. 11 meeting between Pope John Paul II and U.S. Jewish leaders showed that deep differences remain between the faiths on such issues as the Holocaust and recognition of Israel.

The Orthodox rabbi who was originally designated as the Jewish spokesman declined to participate in the meeting, saying that his rabbinical organization felt the pope was not "sufficiently forthcoming" on major matters.

But at the meeting there was also praise for progress in mutual understanding during more than 20 years of official Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

Pope John Paul spoke of "strong, unequivocal efforts" by Popes Pius XI and XII "against anti-Semitism and Nazism," praising the pontiffs and other Catholic leaders for helping Jews flee Nazi persecution.

He said "history will reveal ever more clearly how deeply Pius XII felt the tragedy of the Jewish people."

Jews and others have accused Pope Pius XII, who was pontiff from 1939 to 1958, of keeping silent during the Holocaust and of not doing enough to help prevent the killing of 6 million Jews.

Jewish participants at the meeting also said "Christian teachings" bear heavy responsibility for centuries of European anti-Semitism which resulted in the Nazi extermination campaign.

The pope supported examining the anti-Semitic roots of the Holocaust, but did not link that history to Christian teachings or practices.

Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, honorary president of the Synagogue Council of America, who was asked to substitute as the chief Jewish spokesman, called for full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel as a "constructive contribution by the Vatican" to peace in the Middle East.

Pope John Paul skirted the diplomatic issue, saying he supported Israel as a Jewish homeland with rights to "security and due tranquility."

But he said further that "the right to a homeland also applies to the Palestinian

people" and that is indispensable to reaching peace in the Middle East.

Rabbi Waxman took the spokesman's job at the request of Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, who had been slated for the role, but who regretfully declined, saying his organization "felt the pope had not been sufficiently forthcoming" during a Sept. 1 meeting at the Vatican called to resolve problems threatening the Miami event.

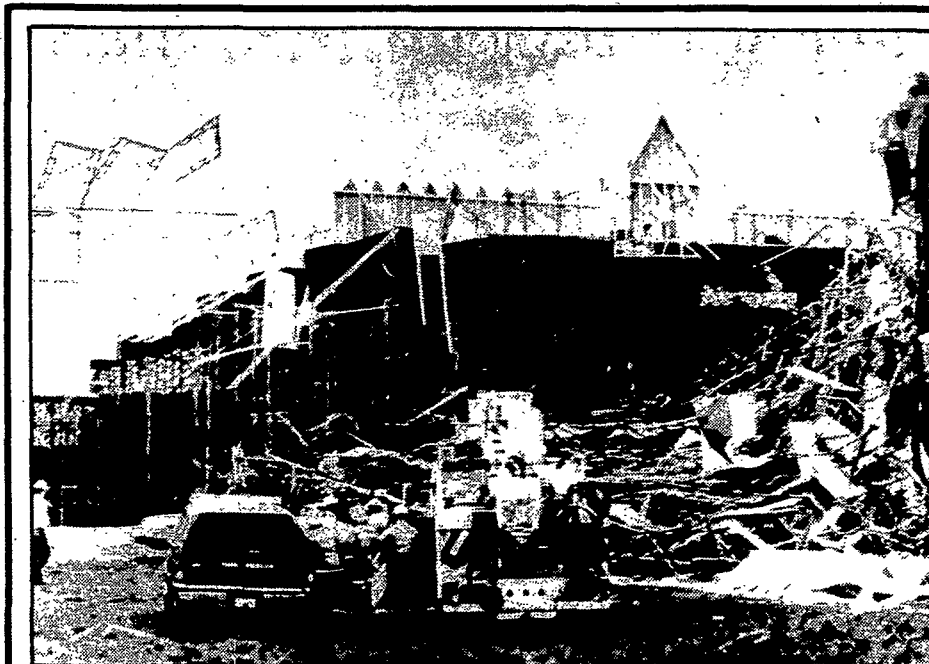
At the Miami meeting, the pope and the Jewish representatives emphasized positive developments in official Catholic-Jewish dialogue since the Second Vatican Council.

He and Rabbi Waxman noted projects for eliminating anti-Semitism in Catholic educational programs. The pope asked every Catholic diocese to implement Vatican guidelines "regarding the correct way to preach and teach about Jews and Judaism."

They also praised a Vatican decision taken less than two weeks previously at the Vatican meeting to produce an official church document, with the aid of Jewish experts, on the Holocaust and its anti-Semitic roots.

The pope also reiterated his strong condemnation of the Holocaust, which he called "that ruthless and inhuman attempt to exterminate the Jewish people in Europe."

"Teach future generations about the Holocaust so that never again will such a horror be possible. Never again," said the pope.



Winds destroy San Antonio altar

Crews examine twisted metal, which is all that remains of the papal Mass site at Westover Hills in San Antonio, Texas. High winds crushed the backdrop of an altar moments after the last banner was hung and a huge 600-pound cross secured. No injuries were reported, and the stage was not damaged. Church officials estimated the damage at \$100,000, but the celebration went as scheduled. It was the second freak storm in less than four days to hit San Antonio. Offers of support and equipment followed news of the destruction.

"While we do not understand how this could happen, it was an act of nature that we could not do anything about. The entire community has used this moment to pull together," said Father Garcia, chairman of the site preparation committee.

ABORTION'S SOLUTION IS SIMPLE . . .



ASHLEY — Three months of age. Her mom, although a teenage unwed mother, made the choice for life.

IT'S JUST NOT EASY!

Fourteen years and twenty million dead babies later, America is still groping for the solution to "the abortion problem."

The solution is deceptively simple. Continue educating the American public; continue working with our state and federal representatives to stop the taxpayer funding of anti-life organizations; and pass the Paramount Human Life Amendment which will restore the right to life of all God's children.

But it won't happen unless we make it happen.

We must pray and work and give of our time and our money today, tomorrow and every day until we have stopped the babyslaughter once and for all.

You have a choice: You can join the American Life League today and work with others dedicated to the Life Principles, the Paramount Human Life Amendment and the total protection of ALL of God's children.

Or: You can turn the page and TRY to forget that this baby was lucky. Twenty million of her brothers and sisters were scraped, burned or sucked to shreds in a horribly brutal and painful death.

Love Life! Choose Life! Join A.L.L. today!

AMERICAN LIFE LEAGUE, P.O. Box 1350, Stafford, VA 22554

(703) 659-4171 — WATCH FOR OUR INSERT ON OCT 1, 1987



patricias'
fabric house

Save
25%

FALL SALE

- Wool
- Challis
- Velour
- Corduroy
- Coatings-Mohair

The Most Beautiful
Collection We've Ever Had

Sale ends Sept. 26, 1987



Quilting & Tailoring Classes
Starting Soon

631 Pittsford-Victor Rd.
Rt. 96 Bushnell's Basin
behind Hitching Post Plaza
Open Mon.-Thurs., 10-9,
Fri. & Sat. 10-5