

Pope says bishops, magisterium important to education

By Stephenie Overman
New Orleans (NC) — Bishops must be participants in Catholic universities, and the work of theologians must be tested by the Church's teaching authority, Pope John Paul II told officials of Catholic higher education Sept. 12 in New Orleans.

Pope John Paul addressed "the intimate relationship between the Catholic university and the teaching office of the Church" at the end of the third day of his Sept. 10-19 visit to the United States.

Rain dampened but did not end the outdoor ceremony at Xavier University, the only predominantly black Catholic university in the United States.

The pope's address came at a time when educators at some of the 235 U.S. Catholic colleges and universities have been objecting to proposed guidelines by the Vatican that would give greater administrative control of Catholic universities to the Church hierarchy.

The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, sponsor of the Sept. 12 papal event, last year prepared a synthesis in which 110 presidents of Catholic colleges said the norms would violate standards of academic freedom and would result in the loss of accreditation of Catholic colleges.

In his address, Pope John Paul said bishops should be seen "not as external agents but as participants in the life of the Catholic university in its privileged role as protagonist in the encounter between faith and science and between revealed truth and culture."

Bishops need the assistance of Catholic theologians, "who perform an inestimable service to the Church," the pope said.

"But theologians also need the charisma entrusted by Christ to the bishops and, in the first place, to the bishop of Rome," Pope John Paul said as the audience applauded.

"The fruits of their work, in order to enrich the life stream of the ecclesial community, must ultimately be tested and

validated by the magisterium (Church teaching authority)," the pope said.

"In effect, therefore, the ecclesial context of Catholic theology gives it a special character and value, even when theology exists in an academic setting."

Theology is "much more than an academic discipline," the pope told the group. "Its data are the data of God's revelation entrusted to the Church. The deeper understanding of the mystery of Christ, the understanding which theological reflection seeks, is ultimately a gift of the Holy Spirit given for the common good of the whole Church."

Modern culture is marked by a pluralism of attitudes, the pope said. "This situation rightly requires mutual understanding; it

means that society and groups within society must respect those who have a different outlook from their own."

But pluralism does not exist for its own sake, he said. "It is directed to the fullness of truth."

In the academic context, "the respect for persons, which pluralism rightly envisions, does not justify the view that ultimate questions about human life and destiny have no final answers or that all beliefs are of equal value, provided that none is asserted as absolutely true and normative. Truth is not served in this way."

In welcoming the pope, Francis J. Kerins, chairman of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities and president of Carroll College, Helena, Mont., said

Catholic colleges "play an essential role in a society that has always found a special strength in its pluralism."

He added that of all higher education in the country "the best utilization of the talents of women in positions of leadership has been in Catholic colleges, sponsored by congregations of religious women."

Catholic people recognize the unique worth of higher education and support it, often at great sacrifice, Kerins said.

"Beyond this, the American society cherishes the value of Catholic colleges and universities. Government financial assistance to students attending our institutions and to their families is substantial and vital to our continued service," he said.

Pope acknowledges Church failings with Native Americans

By Agostino Bono
Phoenix, Ariz. (NC) — The Church blundered in its initial contacts with Native Americans and contributed to their oppression by European colonizers, said Pope John Paul II.

"The cultural oppression, the injustices, the disruption of your life and of your traditional societies must be acknowledged," he said.

But the Church also has historically defended Native American dignity and regards Native American culture as enriching the Catholic Church, he said at a Sept. 14 meeting at which he watched a rendering of the "Our Father" in Indian sign language.

"It is clear that stereotyping, prejudice, bigotry and racism demean the human dignity which comes from the hand of the Creator," the pope said.

The pope also participated in a smoke blessing, a traditional ceremony in which a feather passed repeatedly through smoke was used, and invited Native Americans to consider entering the priesthood and religious life.

The events occurred when the pope visited 16,000 people participating in a Native American conference.

"Your encounter with the Gospel has not only enriched you; it has enriched the Church," the pope said.

"This has not taken place without its difficulties and, occasionally, its blunders," he added.

The European colonial period during which Christianity was introduced into the Americas "was a harsh and painful reality for your peoples," the pope said.

But it also produced "many missionaries who strenuously defended the rights of the original inhabitants of this land," he added.

In 1537 "Pope Paul III proclaimed the dignity and rights of the native peoples of the Americas by insisting that they not be deprived of their freedom or the possession of their property," he said.

The pope also praised Franciscan Father Junipero Serra, a Spanish missionary, for his "frequent clashes with civil authorities over the treatment of Indians."

The pope planned to pray at Father Serra's grave in Carmel, Calif., during his U.S. trip. Prior to the trip, several Native American groups said they would demonstrate during the gravesite visit because they regard Father Serra as a symbol of Spanish colonial oppression.

Native Americans were urged by the pope to preserve their culture and customs.

"Each people preserves and expresses its own identity and enriches others with its gifts of culture, tradition, customs, stories, songs, dance art and skills," he said.

The pope spoke after hearing Alfretta M. Antone, a Pima and vice president of the Salt River Tribe, complained of the abuse suffered by Native Americans under colonial rule.

She also asked that the U.S. government give Indians the opportunity to determine their own political destiny and that they "share in the social benefits of the Americas."

Native Americans Catholics number 285,000, about 19 percent of the Native American population.

Pope points to

Continued from Page 1

Vatican officials, who sometimes viewed dissent as a result of doctrinal leniency by bishops. Those tensions were on the unwritten agenda for a closed-door meeting between the pope and more than 350 U.S. bishops in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

But even before he arrived, the pope dismissed the notion of an American Church schism by telling journalists who raised the question during the flight from Rome: "Don't exaggerate."

The task facing Pope John Paul was to show the nation's 53 million Catholics how the particular strengths of American Catholicism must be rooted in a strong faith anchored in Church teachings if they were to have a lasting effect.

At each stop on the itinerary, the pope

emphasized various subthemes. In Miami, in addition to the pope's meeting with priests, his agenda focused on Catholic-Jewish relations.

Conflict with Jews

His meeting with 200 Jewish leaders was almost scuttled after he granted an audience to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, accused by Jewish organizations of involvement with Nazi war crimes.

A series of meetings between U.S. Jewish leaders, Vatican officials and the pope prior to the U.S. trip headed off a boycott. Yet it was clear that major problems remained.

Pope John Paul defended the popes who ruled during the rise of Nazism and World War II as critics of its ideology and as people who opposed its persecution of Jews.

And although he supported security for Israel, the pope stopped far short of offering diplomatic relations and added that "the right to a homeland also applies to the Palestinian people."

In Columbia, the pope met for more than an hour with 26 leaders of other Christian Churches and discussed ways to work together.

In New Orleans the pope embraced leaders of the nation's 1.3 million black Catholics and told them: "Your black heritage enriches the Church."

In meetings with Catholic educators the pope praised the involvement of laity in teaching and administrative positions as

"full partners" in the Church's education ministry. He also praised the Catholic system's education of poor and minority students and children from broken homes, "even at the cost of great sacrifice."

Adherence to magisterium

But he told university educators that theological research should not stray from Church teachings.

The role of theology is to deepen Catholic understanding of "the heritage of faith preserved, transmitted and made explicit by the Church's teaching office," he said.

In a Mass homily, he challenged the view that Church opposition to divorce lacks compassion.

The opposite is true, he said.

Divorce "often develops into a bitter dispute about property and, more tragically, about children," he said.

"What must be seen is the ineffectiveness of divorce, and its ready availability in modern society, to bring mercy and forgiveness and healing to so many couples and their children."

From New Orleans he flew to San Antonio for a visit designed to be a forum for addressing the rapidly growing population of U.S. Hispanic Catholics.

He praised the contribution of Hispanic culture to the Church, but also told Hispanics not to waver in their belief and if they have strayed from the Church to return.

Friday Night
FISH FRY
\$4.95

Rund's

ON THE RIDGE
Restaurant & Party House

Friday Night
FISH FRY
\$4.95

Prime Rib and
Twin Lobster Tails

\$11.95

Includes potato & vegetable, rolls & butter
Served anytime after 4:00

• Prime Rib and Shrimp Scampi
• Prime Rib and
Fresh Sea Scallops

\$9.95

Chef's Choice
Surf & Turf
Buffet
ONLY

\$7.95

With several hot
and cold items.
Served 7 days a
week 4 PM 'til 9 PM

Sunset
Specials

Served Daily 3:30-6:00
Featuring:
Prime Rib
Filet Mignon
Shrimp Scampi
Fresh Sea Scallops
Crab Stuffed Haddock
Includes potato & vegetable

ONLY \$5.50

Friday Night
FISH FRY
\$4.95

Rund's

ON THE RIDGE

In Ridgeway Plaza — 2833 Ridge Rd. West, Greenvale, NY

227-2510

Friday Night
FISH FRY
\$4.95

★ TRAINS ★ WEEKEND SPECIALS ★ COMMERCIALS ★ GROUPS



A "TASTE" OF IRELAND

Personally Escorted by Jean & Jim
November 12-16, 19-22, 1987
\$620.00 p.p. dbl. includes

- Airfare from Rochester to Shannon (Piedmont & Aer Lingus)
- 3 Nites in Dublin
- 1 Nite in Ennis
- Tour of Dublin
- Cliffs of Moher, etc.
- Medieval Banquet
- Dinner at Abbey's Tavern.
- 2 Full Irish Breakfasts
- Time for golf or visiting relatives
- Plenty of Free Time for Duty-Free Christmas Shopping

LIMITED AVAILABILITY; CALL IMMEDIATELY FOR RESERVATIONS

CRUISES ★ ALL INCLUSIVE ★ CRUISES ★ ALL INCLUSIVE ★ CRUISES



889-9098
3220 Chili Avenue



Jean Brown
Travel
Inc.

HOTELS ★ CAR RENTALS ★ SENIOR CITIZEN FARES ★ RESORTS ★