

World & Nation

Papal visit could hurt South Africa

By John Thavis

Vatican City (NC) — A trip to South Africa by Pope John Paul II would be seen by many as legitimizing the white-minority government, and could polarize the country's Catholics, said a top-ranking South African bishop.

By visiting several countries bordering on or surrounded by South Africa as planned next fall, the pope will be "making a very eloquent point against apartheid," Bishop Wilfred Napier, president of the southern African bishops' conference, said in an October 23 interview.

The pope is scheduled to travel in late September to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana, all black-ruled countries. Catholics in South Africa want to hear a "message of hope to the oppressed" from the pope, Bishop Napier said, but "it will have to be done from across the border."

While the bishops' conference has not asked the pope to boycott South Africa, it is aware of strong feelings among Catholics with respect to several issues, the bishop said.

Bishop Napier noted a "pretty effective boycott" of South Africa by other Western leaders, and said a papal visit would inevitably be seen as giving legitimacy to a government that "does not govern for the common good."



SOME BALONEY — Sandwiches will not be hard to come by at Boys Town, Neb., with the arrival of a 200-foot, 1,450-pound roll of bologna donated by the Oscar Meyer Foods Corp. It took 100 students to carry the sausage from a truck to the Boys Town dining hall, where it was sliced and distributed to each of the 67 family homes on the campus. Oscar Meyer hopes to establish a new record for the world's largest bologna and has entered it in the Guinness Book of World Records. The bologna is expected to make 23,200 sandwiches.

Jews must find fulfillment in Catholic truth, cardinal says

By Agostino Bono

Rome (NC) — Catholic dialogue with Jews must reflect the "theological line" that Judaism finds its fulfillment in Christianity, said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's monitor of theological orthodoxy. The cardinal, commenting in a magazine interview, said Jews do not agree with this position, but the aim of dialogue is to arrive at truth rather than to exchange opinions.

The cardinal cited the controversial example of Edith Stein, a Jew who converted to Catholicism and became a Carmelite nun. She was killed in a Nazi concentration camp during World War II and her beatification by Pope John Paul II as a Catholic martyr has been criticized by Jews. "Finding faith in Christ, she entered into the full inheritance of Abraham," said Cardinal Ratzinger, in the October 24 *Il Sabato*. "She turned in her Jewish heritage to have a new and diverse heritage. But in entering into unity with Christ she entered into the very heart of Judaism," he added.

Cardinal Ratzinger heads the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

A congregation official confirmed the interview and said the cardinal reviewed the text of his quotes prior to publication. The doctrinal congregation is not directly involved in Catholic-Jewish dialogue, but is responsible for monitoring the Catholic theological content. The Vatican agency directly responsible for dialogue is the Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism, headed by Cardinal Johannes Willebrands.

Regarding dialogue with Jews, "the pope has offered respect, but also a theological line," said Cardinal Ratzinger. "This always implies our union with the faith of Abraham, but also the reality of Jesus Christ, in which the faith of Abraham finds its fulfillment," he added.

Judaism does not accept Christ as the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, and many Jewish leaders in the past have said that Catholic stress on Christ as Messiah smacks of attempted conversion. Judaism does not evangelize and Jewish leaders are sensitive to conversion efforts aimed at Jews. Dialogue with Catholics is also a con-

troversial issue among Jews. Orthodox Jewish groups refuse to participate in formal dialogue.

The pope's May 1 beatification of Edith Stein also has sparked Jewish assertions that she was killed because she was Jewish, not

In the interview, Cardinal Ratzinger also said that the Vatican has no plans in the foreseeable future to issue another document on bioethics, but is encouraging meetings among theologians, philosophers and scientists to discuss the ethical implications of

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because she was a Catholic nun. As Carmelite Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross she was arrested in the Netherlands with other Jewish converts to Catholicism during World War II after the Dutch bishops spoke out against Nazi policies. She was executed in Auschwitz in 1942.

modern science. "Until now, science has been considered an autonomous island," in which "no limits can be placed," he said.

The doctrinal congregation's 1987 procreation document opposing in vitro fertilization was an effort to establish ethical guidelines for science, he said.



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