

Holy Father meets Shultz, pleads for world peace

By John Thavis

Vatican City (NC) - Pope John Paul II celebrated Easter with an impromptu appeal for peace, justice and religious liberty, after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and encouraging the secretary's latest mission to the Middle East.

The pope's busy weekend combined international diplomacy and traditional Easter services. He led a torch-lit Way of the Cross in Rome's Colosseum, baptized converts in during an Easter Vigil ceremony and celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica a Mass marking the Resurrection. In between ceremonies, the pope heard the confessions of 11 people and sang folk songs with members of the Opus Dei organization. On Easter Sunday, April 3, the pope spontaneously announced: "Pray for peace in the world, for justice! Pray for the diverse rights of man, especially for freedom of religion, for solidarity among peoples throughout the world — in the First, Second, Third and Fourth worlds!"

The pope's half-hour meeting with Shultz on April 2 focused on East-West detente, the grave situation in the Middle East and events in Central America, a Vatican press office statement said. The private audience underscored the two men's "common concern" for international peace, the Vatican said.

"The Holy Father insisted on the just rights of the Palestinian people and on the moral. duty to seek a solution that also takes into account the just rights of Israel? the statement said.

The pope "showed great interest in the efforts being developed in the search, obligato-. ry for all sides, for a process that opens the way to solutions acceptable to all," the statement said

ing for an international peace conference without direct participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization, is unpopular with Israel and the Palestinians.

After blessing the huge crowd from the central outdoor balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the pope pronounced Easter greetings in 51 languages, including six native to the Soviet Union. In English, he said: "A blessed Easter in the joy of Jesus Christ, the risen Lord and Savior of the world!"

The message was broadcast to 46 countries, with a potential audience of 1 billion people, a Vatican spokesman said.

The Easter Mass, held inside St. Peter's be

On Good Friday, April 1, the pope entered St. Peter's Basilica through a side door and heard confession for an hour and a half. The pope, a strong supporter of individual confession, began the Good Friday practice several years ago.

During the nighttime Way of the Cross, also telecast abroad, the pope carried a wooden cross to each of the 14 stations marking Christ's passion. He listened to meditations on the passion --- prepared by a Swiss theologian. Father Hans Urs von Balthasar - that noted the presence of Mary, St. Veronica and other women along Christ's path, citing them as evidence of the Church's "feminine" nature.

Shultz, speaking at a press conference after the meeting, said the pope had blessed his diplomatic mission, which was to take him to Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. More than 100 Palestinians have been killed in an uprising that began last December in Israeli-occupied territories. Shultz's plan, callcause of rain, was also attended by Shultz and his wife, Helen, a Catholic. Afterward, the pope met again briefly with the secretary. During the Mass, the pope listened as a choir performed a paschal hymn in the ancient Slavonic language. The Easter verses, once recited for a ninth-century pope, were sung this year to mark the millennium of Christianity in what is now the Soviet Union.

At the end of the service, the pope said that Mary had suffered "unspeakable pain" in following her son to the foot of the cross. Their ioint suffering united them in a unique way, he said. In the current Marian Year, the pope has frequently examined Church events from Mary's perspective.

The pope celebrated the Mass of the Last Continued on Page 16

Index

Around the Diocese.	Page 2
Calendar	Page 7
Classifieds	
Columnists	
Echo	Page 10
Editorial & Opinion.	
Features	Page 16
Local News	Page 3
Sports	Pages 8-9
World & Nation	Pages 4-6
	11 H H H H H H H H H H H

Diocese holds strategy meeting civ-church

By Richard A. Kiley Diocesan officials held a closed door meeting Monday night, April 4, to discuss with parish trustees of Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Parish what scenarios might come about as a result of a public hearing scheduled for April 18.

Diocesan officials declined to comment on the specifics concerning the three-hour meeting, which took place at St. Francis Xavier Church. Diocesan attorney Stephen Kruk, however, said that diocesan officials and parish trustees did discuss several options they might pursue if the city's preservation board grants landmark status to the church.

"We did discuss what scenarios would occur if we don't prevail at the administrative meeting (on April 18)," Kruk

said.

One possible move may be to pursue legal proceedings against the Landmark Society of Western New York, which last week assisted a former parishioner of the church in filing for landmark status.

While the application is being considered, the diocese cannot demolish or make any other changes to the edifice without the approval of the city preservation board. The board has up to 21 days after hearings conclude in which to issue its decision.

Even if the city preservation board and planning commission approve the application for landmark status, the diocese can still refuse the designation, Kruk said. For the diocesan decision to be overturned, a three-fourths vote of both nine-member

bodies would be required, he said.

According to Kruk, under a state court proceeding entitled Article 78, the diocese could appeal the boards' rulings to the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

Last week, Kruk said that legal action against the Landmark Society would be considered "only as a last resort."

In a telephone interview April 5. Kruk reiterated this position. "It's something we'll think about if all cise fails," he said.

Kruk hinted last week that the diocese may also try to show that the situation constitutes a conflict of interest on the part of preservation board members, six of whom are also landmark society members and three of whom are on the society's board of trustees.