

# Pope calls for unity, morality in new Poland

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

KOSZALIN, Poland — Making his first papal visit to post-communist Poland, Pope John Paul II asked his fellow Poles to restore morality and truth wherever nearly five decades of communism had shattered them.

On the second day of his visit he also tried to diffuse some longstanding tensions between Poles and ethnic Ukrainians in the southeastern part of the country.

Arriving June 1 for his fourth papal trip to Poland, Pope John Paul expressed joy in the changes that have taken place in his homeland. He began his second day with a meeting with members of the military — something he said he had waited for “with a sad heart.”

Under communist rule, official church contact with the military was forbidden.

“May this first meeting between a Polish pope and the Polish army remain a symbol of a ‘new beginning’ in the life of society and of the nation whose son I am,” he said June 2 at the Koszalin military airport.

Landing in the Baltic Coast city the day before, he said, “we waited so many years for the time” when the nation’s voice “could sound out in full truth.” Poland’s new democracy is “the historical fulfillment of what had cost so many lives and so much effort,” he said.

While many necessary changes are still underway, “my deep desire is to preach peace,” which “decreases hopelessness, restores harmony and stimulates love.”

President Lech Walesa, in his welcoming address at the Koszalin airport, credited the pope with many of the changes.

“A free homeland is the fruit of the seed that you, too, have sown,” he said. The president and former Solidarity leader said that without the pope, the trade union would not have existed, the communists would not have lost control of the government in 1989, and there would have been “no victory of freedom.”

Pope John Paul’s teaching and support



AP/Wide World Photos  
On his first visit to post-Communist Poland, Pope John Paul II administers Communion to a sister during a June 2 Mass in the Polish city of Rzeszow.

are still needed as Poland builds democracy, Walesa said. The process “must reach into the inner life of the person.”

Poles are “finding life particularly difficult,” he said. The side effects of a ruined communist economy and conversion to a free-market system are frozen wages, huge price hikes, unemployment and a decline in industrial production.

Celebrating Mass that evening with some 150,000 rain-drenched Poles, the pope said the Ten Commandments provide a moral foundation for human life.

“This moral foundation comes from God,” he said. “If man destroys this foundation, he harms himself (and) disturbs the harmony of life and human co-existence in every dimension.”

At his June 2 meeting with the military, the pope thanked soldiers and militia members who resisted atheist indoctrination and behavior that violated morality or harmed

the nation.

“I acknowledge and give thanks to all those who did not benefit from various privileges in those hard times, as well as those who missed the opportunity for more rapid advancement in rank in order to remain true to Christian values,” he said.

The new democratic government reorganized the military in 1990. As part of the reorganization, the number of Polish generals was cut from 267 to 86. Military service remains mandatory for young men, and the armed forces number about 300,000.

In January Pope John Paul named Bishop Slawoj Glodz to head the renewed military ordinariate, marking the first time since 1939 that such an appointment was possible in Poland.

The pope, whose father was a Polish official in the Austro-Hungarian army, told the troops that Poland has a “knightly-

soldierly tradition” of conscientious, moral service to the nation.

Speaking from an altar platform decorated with green and tan camouflage netting and white banners, he said the communists had tried to destroy the noble aims of military service.

“The return of the military chaplaincy removes the wall which served to separate the military from the rest of society,” the pope said.

Traveling to Rzeszow in southeastern Poland June 2, he beatified Bishop Jozef Sebastian Pelczar, who led the Latin-rite Diocese of Przemysl during the years immediately before World War I through 1925.

The pope used the beatification Mass as a call to holiness and a meditation on the Second Commandment: “Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”

“If you are a Christian, may this name of yours not signify taking the name of the Lord in vain,” he said, urging followers of the faith to be true to their identity.

The pope’s evening activities focused on overcoming longstanding tensions between Poles and Ukrainians living on both sides of the Polish-Ukrainian border. At a meeting with Ukrainian Catholics he announced that they would be given the Latin-rite Church of the Sacred Heart, and he proclaimed the church to be the cathedral of the Ukrainian Diocese of Przemysl.

The papal announcement seemed to mark the end of a dispute between Latin-rite and Ukrainian-rite Catholics over ownership of another church — St. Teresa Church, which had been the Ukrainian Cathedral of St. John the Baptist until 1946. The pope’s meeting with Ukrainian Catholics was originally scheduled to take place in the disputed church.

Pope John Paul said that “any attempt to revive the historical nationalisms and aversions would be against Christian identity and a glaring anachronism, unworthy of two great nations.” Some 10,000 Ukrainians crossed into Poland to see the pope.

## Two Americans among 22 newly appointed cardinals

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Pope John Paul II’s May 29 appointment of 22 new cardinals — including two Americans — contained only one big surprise: his announcement that a Chinese bishop had been his secret nominee for the past 12 years.

Throughout his pontificate, Pope John Paul has named 101 cardinals — including 75 percent of all cardinals eligible to vote for a new pope — during five rounds of appointments.

When he named names this time, Pope John Paul II revealed that Bishop Ignatius Kung Pin-mei of Shanghai had been a cardinal “in pectore” since 1979. The 89-year-old cardinal-designate will be formally installed with the 22 new nominees at a consistory scheduled for June 28.

The two new American cardinals are Archbishop Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles and Archbishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia.

The pope said his appointments “reflect in an eloquent way the universal character of the church.” The new cardinals include prelates from Zaire, the Philippines, Argentina, Ireland, Australia and the Dominican Republic, among other countries.

This time, however, the pope’s selections were weighted toward the Vatican Curia and Europe. They included 14 Europeans, seven of them Italian.

Cardinal-designate Kung was in prison on charges of spreading Roman Catholicism within China when the pope secretly named him a cardinal in 1979.

He was paroled to house-arrest status in 1985. Shortly after his sentence was commuted in 1988, Cardinal-designate Kung came to the United States for medical

treatment and has lived near relatives in Connecticut ever since.

Other prelates who had toiled in communist Eastern Europe also were named to the College of Cardinals. Romanian Archbishop Alexandru Todea and Czechoslovakian Bishop Jan Chryzostom Korec had spent many years in prison under state persecution of the church in Eastern Europe.

Two of the pope’s newest appointees are 80 or older, and therefore ineligible to

elect a new pope. They are Jesuit Father Paolo Dezza, 89, named by the pope as interim head of the Jesuits during a period of rocky relations between the Holy See and the order in the 1980s, and Archbishop Guido del Mestri, 80, a Yugoslavian-born former papal nuncio. They will receive the cardinal’s red hat mainly as a sign of papal gratitude and esteem.

With the elevation of Cardinal-designate Mahony and Cardinal-designate Bevilac-

qua, a lawyer as well as a cleric, to the College of Cardinals, the United States now has 10 cardinals.

As of June 28, the United States will have six active cardinals, two retired cardinals, and two working in Vatican posts.

In addition, Cardinal Myroslav I. Lubachivsky, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church worldwide, is a naturalized U.S. citizen who recently returned to the Ukraine after decades out of the nation.

## Italian paper claims CIA knew of plot to kill pope

MILAN, Italy (CNS) — The Italian newspaper *Il Giorno* reported June 3 that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency had advance knowledge of the 1981 plot to assassinate Pope John Paul II, but convinced the would-be assassin to only wound the pope, not kill him.

Milan’s *Il Giorno* reported that the CIA wanted the attempt to be carried out because it would embarrass the Soviet Union in the long run.

In Washington, CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield told Catholic News Service “the whole story is nonsense” and “those allegations are absolutely baseless.”

Mansfield said the press previously has speculated on a CIA connection to the assassination attempt, but he said the *Il Giorno* story “may be the first time the specific allegation” of prior knowledge has been made.

*Il Giorno* indirectly attributed its version of the murder plot to Konstantin Karadzov, who in 1981 was director of the Bulgarian secret service.

In its June 3 edition, *Il Giorno* said it

received an audio tape recording of a close associate of Karadzov recounting Karadzov’s version of the plot.

Karadzov is serving an eight-year sentence in Bulgaria after his conviction on corruption charges. *Il Giorno* said he decided to tell his story for fear that the KGB, the Soviet secret police, would kill him while he was in jail.

According to *Il Giorno*, the KGB asked Bulgaria to organize the assassination because the Soviet Union was too closely watched by Western intelligence services.

The story charged that Bulgaria recruited Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turk, to carry out the assassination. Karadzov traveled to Rome a week before the attempt took place to deliver 3 million German marks (U.S. \$1.76 million) to an intermediary to be given as payment to Agca, the newspaper said.

However, Agca was given only 2 million German marks and went to the CIA to tell the U.S. agency of the plot, the newspaper reported.

Seeing an opportunity to create problems for the KGB, the CIA decided to let the at-

tempt take place, but convinced Agca to only wound the pope, *Il Giorno* reported.

On May 13, 1981, the pope was critically injured by gunshots in St. Peter’s Square. Agca was caught at the scene with the pistol that fired the shots and is currently serving a life sentence in Italy.

In 1986 Italy held a “Bulgarian connection” trial in which prosecutors tried to prove — based on Agca’s testimony — that three Bulgarians and three Turks conspired with him to kill the pope at the behest of the KGB.

The defendants were released because of insufficient evidence, an Italian juridical formula meaning the court was not completely convinced of their innocence but could not prove their guilt.

In a mid-May interview with another Italian newspaper, Agca repeated his belief that Bulgaria and the KGB were responsible for the assassination attempt.

The new post-communist Bulgarian government has said it will cooperate with investigations into claims that the old secret service was connected to the attempt.