



Pope John Paul II prays at his parents' grave in the Rakowicki Cemetery in Krakow, Poland, Aug. 13.

## Pope visits homeland, prays at parents' graves

By Agostino Bono  
Catholic News Service

CZESTOCHOWA, Poland — Pope John Paul II last week combined a trip down memory lane with a plea to European youths to stitch their continent together.

The pope's fifth visit to his Polish homeland since his 1978 papal election allowed the 71-year-old leader of Catholicism to pray over the graves of his parents, chat with his hometown buddies and remember Jewish neighbors he knew who died during the Holocaust.

It was also an opportunity to tell participants at World Youth Day to "become builders of a new world: a different world founded on truth, justice, solidarity and love."

Other activities during the Aug. 13-16 Polish leg of the pope's trip to Poland and Hungary included:

- Dedicating a U.S.-funded ambulatory center at a Krakow pediatrics hospital and citing this as an example of East-West cooperation.

- Telling theologians that the sufferings of East European Catholics under communism resulted in "a special form of the theology of liberation."

The pope's trip began with a visit to his parents' graves in Krakow's Rakowicki Cemetery shortly after his Aug. 13 arrival.

It brought back memories of the pope's father, Karol Wojtyla, after whom the pope was named. The elder Wojtyla raised the future pope single-handedly after the pope's mother died before the young Wojtyla was 9 years old.

"Sometimes, when I wake up at night,

the image of my father appears before my eyes," the pope said after kneeling for 10 minutes at the graves.

"He taught me the mystery of the infinite majesty of God," the pope added.

On Aug. 14, the pope paid a nostalgic visit to Wadowice, where he was born on May 20, 1920, and lived the first 18 years of his life.

The pope recalled old times with high school chums, seminary classmates and distant relatives. He also visited his boyhood parish church, celebrated an outdoor Mass and blessed the building that contains the second-story apartment where he was born.

But it was also a time for sad memories as the pope recalled how the Nazi occupation devastated Wadowice's once thriving Jewish community.

"In the school of Wadowice there were Jewish believers who are no longer with us. There is no longer a synagogue near the school," he said in impromptu comments after the Mass.

The main event of the pope's visit was celebration of the Catholic-sponsored World Youth Day, Aug. 15. This was the sixth youth day and the first time it was held in Eastern Europe. The site was the shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland's most important pilgrimage center.

Delegations came from Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America, North America, Africa and Asia. For the first time the Soviet government allowed youths to leave the Soviet Union to participate in the Catholic youth rally.

Youth day organizers estimated that about 70,000 Soviet youths attended.

## Wichita bishop criticized for not halting protesters

WICHITA, Kan. (CNS) — A federal judge has criticized Wichita Bishop Eugene J. Gerber for not directing priests, nuns and other diocesan Catholics to stop participating in Operation Rescue abortion protests.

But the bishop said decisions about joining in civil disobedience against abortion are up to the individual's conscience. Bishop Gerber said he would not order Catholics to violate their consciences.

U.S. District Judge Patrick Kelly, a Catholic, made the comment about Bishop Gerber in court Aug. 13 after sentencing 34-year-old Jay Cody Gibson of Neosho, Mo., to a year in prison for his "blatant defiance" of Kelly's order against blocking access to a Wichita abortion clinic.

Sister Mary Frances Morris, a pastoral associate at St. Jude's Parish in Wichita, had been among the defense witnesses on Gibson's behalf.

"What we have here is the essence of what occurs when lawlessness is unchecked," Kelly said. "I hear nothing from this bishop saying, 'Stop this madness.' Of all the people in this city who ought to respond, it's him."

Bishop Gerber, who was not present in the courtroom, has repeatedly called for activists to exhibit peaceful and prayerful in the demonstrations that began July 15. He has joined in several prayer services outside the abortion clinics, but has not participated in blocking entrances.

The bishop told Associated Press that "civil disobedience is not part of the church's effort to restore the right of life to unborn children."

"But I must stop at the threshold of the actual decision," he said. "I must stop at the threshold of the conscience."

Bishop Gerber was not available to Catholic News Service for comment Aug. 14, but a spokesman confirmed the AP quotes.

"Basically he repeated the same thing he's been saying since the rescue began here — that he is in solidarity with the intent of Operation Rescue, that it's not a church organization and he does not control it, and that the question of tactics can be debated interminably," said Father Ronald Gilmore, diocesan vicar general and moderator of the diocesan curia.

In court Aug. 12, Kelly dismissed contempt-of-court charges against two Catholic priests and eight others accused of blocking access to a Wichita abortion clinic. But Kelly sentenced 32-year-old Richard A. Czekaj of Santa Barbara, Calif., to four months in jail after he refused to promise that he would not block entrances to the clinics in the future.

Beginning with those arrested Aug. 9, Kelly ordered that any person arrested for the second time in the Operation Rescue protests was to be brought before him on contempt of court.

Another 15 protesters had been scheduled to come before Kelly Aug. 13, but he ordered them to first appear before a federal magistrate to determine if there was a case against them.

Nearly 2,100 people have been arrested at three Wichita abortion clinics since the Operation Rescue demonstrations began July 15.

## Bush vetoes D.C. budget over abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In what has become an annual routine, President George Bush vetoed the budget for the District of Columbia Aug. 17 because it would have used city funds to pay for abortions for the poor.

Unlike the budgets for states, the district's budget must be approved by Congress and the president. For 1992, the district budget includes \$695.8 million in federal funding.

The move marked the third time Bush has vetoed the district's budget because of wording that would have allowed the city to pay for abortions. Such wording has not been included in approved district budgets

since 1988. Under the proposed 1991 budget, use of federal funds for abortions would still be forbidden.

At his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Me., the same weekend, Bush refused to meet with leaders of the anti-abortion protest group Operation Rescue.

Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry and group spokesman the Rev. Patrick J. Mahoney went to Bush's home to seek the president's support.

"If I did meet with them, I'd say, 'Hey, please abide with the law. Don't violate a judge's order,'" Bush said. Earlier, the president had said he disapproved of the tactics used by protesters.

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