

Much maligned pope gets a fair hearing in new book

Paul VI, The First Modern Pope, by Peter Hebblethwaite; Paulist Press (New York/Mahwah, N.J., 1993); 752 pages; \$29.95.

By Bishop Dennis W. Hickey

The most memorable event in my life occurred at 1:10 p.m. in Vatican City on Wednesday, April 3, 1975. My classmate, Father James Slattery, and I were on the holy year pilgrimage. After the ritual general audience the Holy Father spoke individually to each bishop in attendance.

Paul VI took my hands between his, looked me straight in the eye and said: "Thank you for what you are doing for the church." Only God knows my labors' quantity or quality, but I was deeply impressed by the man's sincerity, his warmth, his obvious spirituality — and yes, his humility. Every cleric can sense flattery, but I felt that he meant every word he uttered. I floated out of the Audience Hall.

Paul VI — The First Modern Pope beautifully captures the spirit of this much misunderstood, maligned person. It is a long book — perhaps too long for some readers — but it exposes not only this pope's public career but

even more profitably leads the reader to his soul's very depth.

Many biographies only scratch the surface. The willingness to probe the depth of Paul's interior life — his prayers, his meditations, his spiritual writings — make this work unique. If you enjoy reading about the intrigue of the Roman Curia, your curiosity will be satisfied. But you will be edified by Paul's ability to rise above and maintain a balanced spiritual tone in a somewhat political atmosphere.

In addition to reading many scholarly works, he also authored them. Yet, he was more than an academician. He saw every soul's beauty and uniqueness. Listen to Hebblethwaite relate this tale of Monsignor Montini when he had not yet ascended to his papal throne: "Montini set off on Christmas Day along the Tiber to Trastevere to visit an old friend — a priest who had abandoned his ministry. He was living in great poverty; according to the Concordat lapsed priests could not be employed as teachers or in any government post. 'I thought you'd be alone today,' said Msgr. Montini, the man closest to the Pope (John XXIII), 'so I thought I'd visit you.'"

They shared a frugal meal. It was reminiscent of the closing chapter of George Bernanos' novel, *Le Journal d'un cure de Campagne*. Here is a clue to the sensitivity of the late pope who reacted benignly to requests for dispensations from priestly obligations.

If you are interested in a holy man's spiritual journey, this book is for you. If you would like to know more about the church's history the past 30 years — especially what happened during Vatican II — this is your book. Paul VI was a key figure in the church and was subsequently responsible for implementing the council fathers' work.

He raised to new heights the concept of collegiality; he insisted on a broadened role for lay people; and he opened the door for greater participation in the liturgy. The seeds sown in the council documents were brought to fruition in Paul's subsequent "Instructions."

Paul VI has been pilloried for *Humanae Vitae*, ("of human life"), his 1968 encyclical on married love and procreation. It reaffirmed church teaching that artificial contraception is morally wrong. I challenge anyone who has strong feelings on this subject to reread

the document and reflect on it in light of Hebblethwaite's work. Paul was a prophet — everything predicted in *Humanae Vitae* has come to haunt the detractors.

Paul was an intellectual with the concomitant burden of knowing too much about any given subject. He, like Adlai Stevenson, could see both sides of any question and at times had to struggle to determine on which side to come down. Because of his honest effort to make an informed decision, he at times seemed to be moody, earning the appellation of the Hamlet pope. The church is better served by one who takes time to study and reflect than by one inclined to make snap decisions.

Hebblethwaite has done an excellent job in presenting an in-depth study of a great pope whose tenure is just beginning to be appreciated. The book is too long and could lend itself to a condensed version.

In any event it is a welcome piece of writing and brings into focus an outstanding successor of Peter. It has my hearty endorsement and could certainly enrich one's vacation reading this summer.

'Super Mario Bros.' is nothing more than badly made marketing ploy

Movie suffers from lack of humor, idiotic plot

A popular Nintendo video game flashes onto the big screen as a live-action but dead-on-arrival version of "Super Mario Bros." (Hollywood).

Bob Hoskins and John Leguizamo play the title characters, Brooklyn plumbers who come to the rescue of Daisy (Samantha Mathis), an college student they follow into a parallel universe where she is revealed to be a

princess in peril.

This reptilian netherworld, Dinohattan, lorded over by dinosaur descendant King Koopa (Dennis Hopper), needs Daisy's meteorite necklace to conquer the Earth.

Directors Rocky Morton and Anabel Jankel fill the screen with loud and frenzied action — hamhanded chases that quickly grow tiresome.

As the plot becomes increasingly idiotic, only an occasional jazzy special effect interrupts the mirthless

mayhem.

The characters and situations are clearly derived from a patchwork quilt of other movies, giving "Super Mario Bros." the overall effect not of a zippy action-adventure movie, but merely of a marketing plan in action, especially in light of its lame ending obviously intended to provoke a sequel.

While never living up to its comic intentions, the movie has a few smile-generating non-humans: a sweet baby dino and giant, pinheaded goombas

who goofily lay down their weapons to sway to the strains of the theme from "Dr. Zhivago."

It is doubtful this distinctly unsuper "Super Mario Bros." will have crossover appeal, since the awkward antics of these plumbers are plumb dumb.

Due to some menace and cartoon-like violence, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

Dining Around the Diocese

AVON INN
55 East Main Street
Avon, NY 14414
(minutes off 390, exit 10)
716-226-8181

The Avon Inn welcomes all to experience the timeless elegance of this 170 year old Country Inn. Enjoy an overnight stay, delightful dinners, and cocktails in an atmosphere reminiscent of days gone by.

Serving lunches Tuesday-Friday and dinner Tuesday-Sunday, the Inn is the perfect place for business gatherings, entertaining, and romantic escapes. Fifteen comfortable guest-rooms, all with private baths await overnight visitors. Many guests choose to stay in our bridal suite with its whirlpool bathtub and king size bed. Guest-room rates range from \$55-75 per night and do include a continental breakfast.

We are now serving a sit-down breakfast on Sunday mornings from an a la carte menu featuring traditional Country Inn Favorites. Service hours are from 8am to 12 noon and reservations are recommended.

The Avon Inn is the perfect place for WEDDING RECEPTIONS, Showers, Rehearsal Dinners, and business meetings for groups up to 200.

Call for details on our upcoming Beer Tastings, Murder Mystery Dinners and Friday entertainment.

Make plans to visit the historic Avon Inn today.

BOSDYK'S
Restaurant & Lounge
430 Spencerport Rd.
(corner of Long Pond)
716-247-7690

Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner, we offer a relaxing, comfortable atmosphere and reasonable prices. Whether you choose from our complete menu, or from one of our

daily lunch or dinner specials, we're sure to please your palate. Serving Fish Frys 7 days-a-week. Our party room is available for gatherings of up to 60 people. We hope to see you here!

CINELLI'S
Country House Restaurant
6007 Lake Rd. (Rt. 18)
Sodus, New York 14551
(315) 483-9154

One of Wayne County's finest restaurants and Party Houses, Cinelli's Country House Restaurant is a really special place! Fine service, great view, wonderful food, and a marvelous menu are just the beginning.

A big, beautiful California-coast-style solarium dining room with real wood arches and glass commands an unparalleled panorama of orchards, farms, old woods, and Lake Ontario.

In addition to our extensive lunch and dinner menus, you may also choose from between 10 and 12 daily specials. Sunday Specials from our country oven include: Roast Leg of Montana Lamb and Fresh Roast Pork served with country dressing and pan gravies.

For your reception, banquet or dinner for two to be truly special, choose a really special place. There's no better choice than Cinelli's! Serving lunches Tues.-Friday, from 11:30am; dinners Tues.-Sat. from 5pm; Sunday 12:30-8pm. Closed Mondays. Reservations are recommended. "A big city menu at country prices."

CONESUS INN
2170 East Lake Road
(East side of Beautiful Conesus Lake)
(716) 346-6100

Open for another season of splendid dining, now is the perfect time to take a leisurely drive to the Conesus Inn. Located on Conesus Lake, the Conesus Inn serves dinners Tues-

day through Saturday from 5pm and Sundays beginning at 4pm. As always, you'll find the same spectacular Prime Rib, Alaskan King Crab Legs and Australian Lobster Tail that you've come to expect and enjoy from the Conesus Inn. The beautiful surroundings and atmosphere of the Conesus Inn make it an ideal spot for dinner. Whether it's an intimate evening for two or a large gathering of friends...the Conesus Inn has a perfect evening of dining waiting for you.

While you're here, remember to choose a fine wine from our extensive wine list. Visit the Conesus Inn soon... "For The Prime Of Your Life." Just ten minutes from exit 9 off 390. Call today for reservations.

MR. DOMINIC'S ON THE LAKE
4699 Lake Avenue
(716) 865-4630

If you're planning lunch or dinner out, take a drive to Mr. Dominic's at the Lake. Noted for their fine Italian cuisine, they offer delicious appetizers, wonderful soups, 11 veal dishes, vegetarian, chicken and fish specialties, and homemade pasta. Early bird dinner specials are served Sunday-Friday. Also offered is a 10% senior discount. Delivery is available for your luncheon group of ten or more. Lunch hours from 11a.m.-2p.m., Tuesday-Friday. Dinner hours Monday-Friday 4-9:30p.m., Saturday 5-10p.m., Sunday 3-9p.m.

PETALS
at the Marriott Thruway Hotel
5257 W. Henrietta Road
359-1800

Petals offers a rich wood and brass decor, serving traditional American cuisine. Popular for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Lunch, Mon. - Sat., 11:30a.m. - 2p.m. Dinner, Mon. - Sat., 5 - 11p.m. Sunday Breakfast Feast served 11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m.



THE VILLA CARLO
Genesee Valley Shopping Center
Genesee, NY
(716) 243-5330
55 Main St., Mt. Morris, NY
(Mt. Morris entrance)
(716) 658-2204

Before or after enjoying a day at Letchworth State Park, come and experience the casual dining pleasure of the Villa Carlo. Enjoy a cup of Cappuccino after a meal featuring all homemade soups, bread, pasta and desserts. Cooked to order for your dining satisfaction by our owner/chef. Full service bar. Reservations are appreciated. Open Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30am-9pm, Friday and Saturday, 11:30am-10pm, and Sundays, 12N-8pm. Closed Mondays.