

## Door injures pope's finger

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass with the new cardinals wearing a small bandage on his right little finger.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters the pope hurt his finger just before the Nov. 27 Mass began. Getting out of the car to enter St. Peter's Basilica for the liturgy, the pope's finger was closed in the car door.

Pope John Paul's personal physician disinfected the finger and put a bandage on it before the pontiff put on the liturgical vestments and celebrated the Mass.

The blood-stained bandage was changed after the Mass and before the pope led the midday Angelus prayer from his apartment window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

Navarro-Valls said the bone was not broken and the pope did not require stitches.

The pope was still wearing the bandage Nov. 28 when he greeted the new cardinals, their family members and friends in special audiences.

## Just brushing up

Holy Family Church, the second oldest church in Chicago, was slated to be torn down in 1990, but public outcry convinced officials to free up funds to restore the Victorian gothic landmark.



AP/Wide World Photos  
An artist Nov. 22 uses his paintbrush to do touch up work on the 'Last Supper,' a piece of art located at the renowned Chicago church.

gogue, the Mormon Tabernacle and Gen. George Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge, among others."

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights protested abandonment of the Madonna and Child stamp.

In a statement issued Nov. 21 from its New York City headquarters, William Donohue, league president, had called on "all Americans of good will to join with us in requesting the Postal Service to rescind its decision."

Donohue said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service Nov.

28 that his organization had written to all senators and representatives with oversight responsibility for the Postal Service to protest both the decision and the manner in which it was made.

"We welcome the decision," he said, but added he is "by no means satisfied it couldn't happen again." He said the initial decision to abandon the Madonna and Child stamp had "an odor of political correctness to it," and said there had been "no public pressure whatever" to discontinue the Madonna and Child stamp tradition.

## Conference

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not to marginalize itself, it must help motivate and uphold the family," he said.

Cardinal Arinze, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, was also one of several speakers at the conference.

"Religion must extol the virtues that build up the family — love in the true sense of the word, mutual respect, prayer, chastity, fidelity of husband and wife to each other, respect for life at all stages of development from conception to natural death," said Cardinal Arinze. "Religion must not surrender on any of these points because truth does not depend on opinion polls."

A letter sent to the conference by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, said the pope commended the efforts of the Apostolate "to promote family prayer as an essential means of deepening union with Christ."

At a Nov. 18 Mass, Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua read the letter, which said the pope encourages the apostolate's commitment to sound Catholic catechesis. "He is certain that these seeds of spiritual renewal will yield an abundant harvest in the life of local parishes ...," the letter said.

In his remarks during the conference, Cardinal Bevilacqua said that despite "evidence of a spiritual and moral decline" in the country, there are signs that more people are becoming disillusioned with the "trend of self-centered individualism of selfish consequences."

Signs of hope seen in the popularity of Gregorian chant and interest in angels are encouraging, he said. "And who can forget the dynamic impact of a year ago last August when over 200,000 Catholic young adult men and women gathered in Denver just to be with the Holy Father and report with him and through him their love for Jesus Christ and the church?"

## Stamp

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nounced, Clinton issued a statement praising the action.

"The Postal Service has historically embraced the cultural and religious diversity of America," he said, "honoring with its stamps religious symbols and religious figures including Francis of Assisi, Martin Luther, Brigham Young, Mahatma Gandhi, the Torah, Truro Syna-

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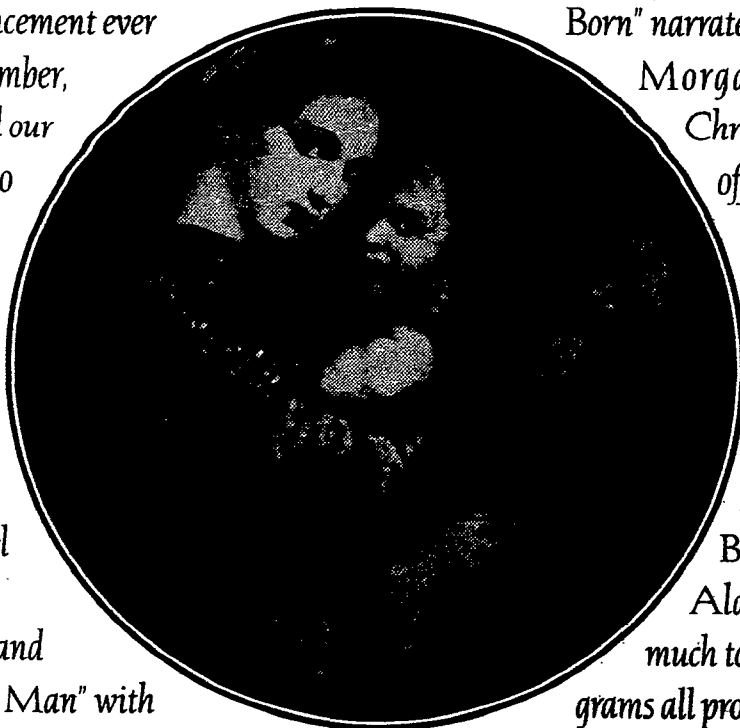


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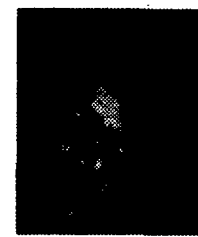
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