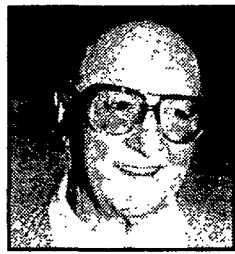


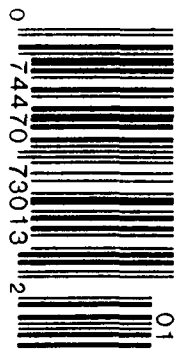
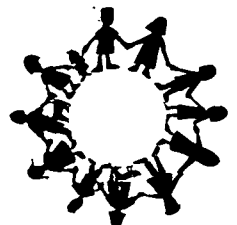
Area teens deal with serious illnesses - pages 6-7



Deacon cherishes Boys Town memories - page 9.



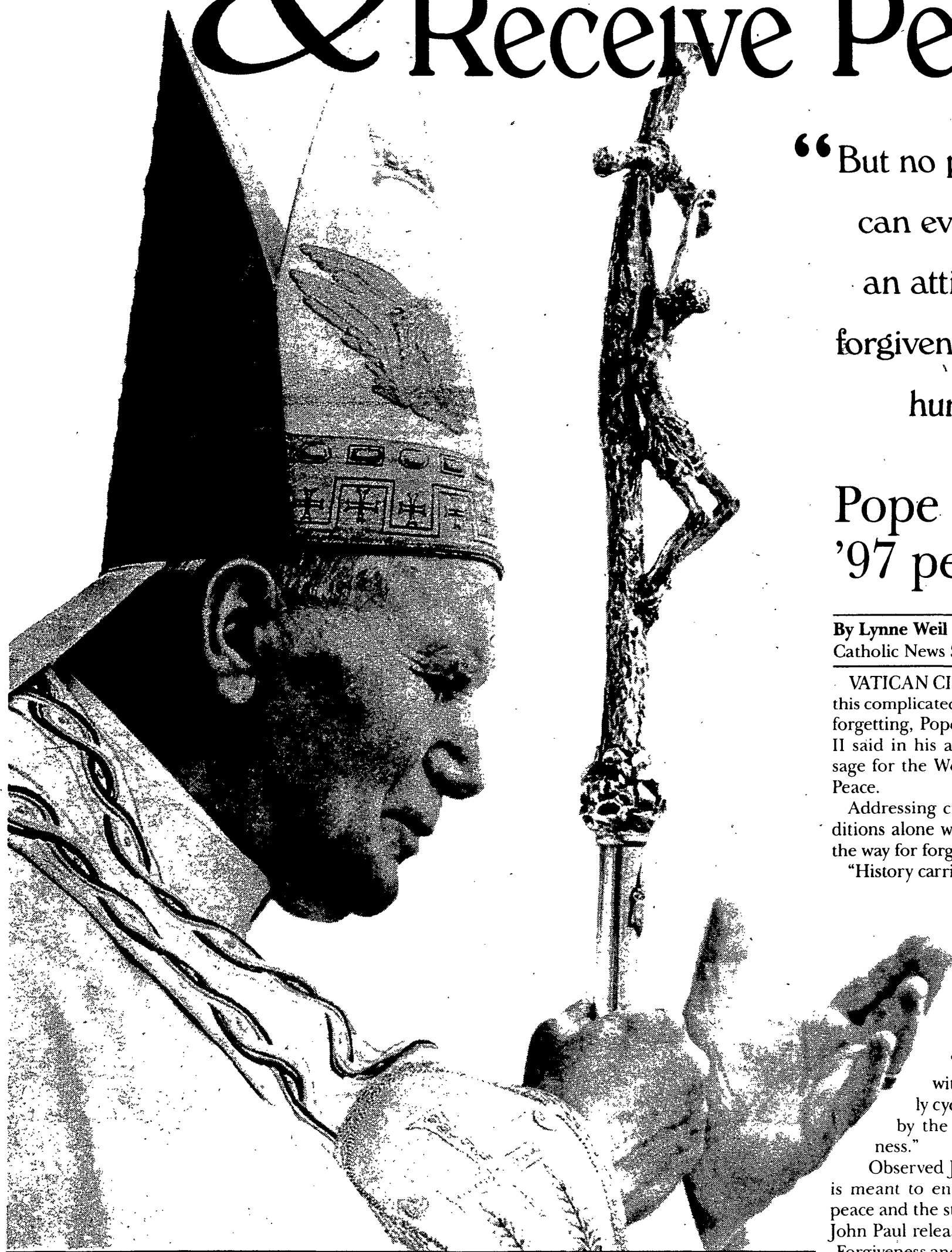
Samuel awakens to God's call - Kids' Chronicle, page 12.



# Catholic Courier

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## Offer Forgiveness & Receive Peace



“But no process of peace can ever begin unless an attitude of sincere forgiveness takes root in human hearts.”

### Pope encourages '97 peace efforts

By Lynne Weil  
Catholic News Service

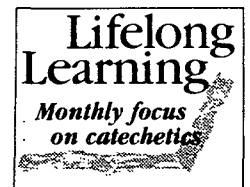
VATICAN CITY - Achieving global peace in this complicated age requires forgiving, but not forgetting, Pope John Paul II said in his annual message for the World Day of Peace.

Addressing current conditions alone will not pave the way for forgiveness, the pope added.

“History carries with it a heavy burden of violence and conflict which cannot easily be shed,” he said, adding that this historic burden can only be overcome with a “healing of memories.”

“This does not mean forgetting past events,” he noted. “It means re-examining them with a new attitude. ... The deadly cycle of revenge must be replaced by the new-found liberty of forgiveness.”

Observed Jan. 1, the World Day of Peace is meant to encourage people to reflect on peace and the steps needed to achieve it. Pope John Paul released the message, titled, “Offer Forgiveness and Receive Peace,” at the Vatican Dec. 17.



Pope John Paul II blesses pilgrims during his *urbi et orbi* (“to the city and the world”) message Dec. 25 at the Vatican.

CNS photo from Reuters

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