

# CONTINUED...

## Pope

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...to Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem, to Nazareth, where Mary received the annunciation and where Jesus grew up; to Galilee, where Christ preached; and to Jerusalem, where he was crucified.

For the church, this is the historical homeland, and the pope did his best to encourage the dwindling Christian population to remain in the region where so many chapters of the Old and New Testaments were written.

He made a strong connection with the mostly Muslim Palestinian population when, preaching the justice of the Gospel, he endorsed their right to a political homeland and said their suffering as a displaced and desperate people had "gone on too long."

And, in a gesture that made one of the deepest impressions of the trip, he prayed at Judaism's holiest place, the Western Wall, the stone remnant of the temple that for many Israeli Jews symbolizes the religious homeland they once lost and have now regained.

Like the daily reality of the Holy Land, the pope's trip was a blend of the spiritual and the political. The jarring notes were heard on the few occasions when politics gained the upper hand.

From Israeli and Palestinian leaders came repeated claims that Jerusalem was each side's "eternal capital." The pope ignored these assertions, and after awhile they seemed petty and out of place.

Interreligious dialogue went off-key during a meeting presided over by the pope in Jerusalem. Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi Israel Meir Lau started it when he erroneously claimed the pope had accepted



Debbie Hill/CNS

Young people from Nazareth chant "John Paul II, we love you!" as the pope arrives for an outdoor Mass overlooking the Sea of Galilee March 24.

Israel's territorial claim over Jerusalem. A Muslim cleric responded with a righteous harangue against Israeli occupation and discrimination against Palestinians.

"It's a photograph of the reality here,"

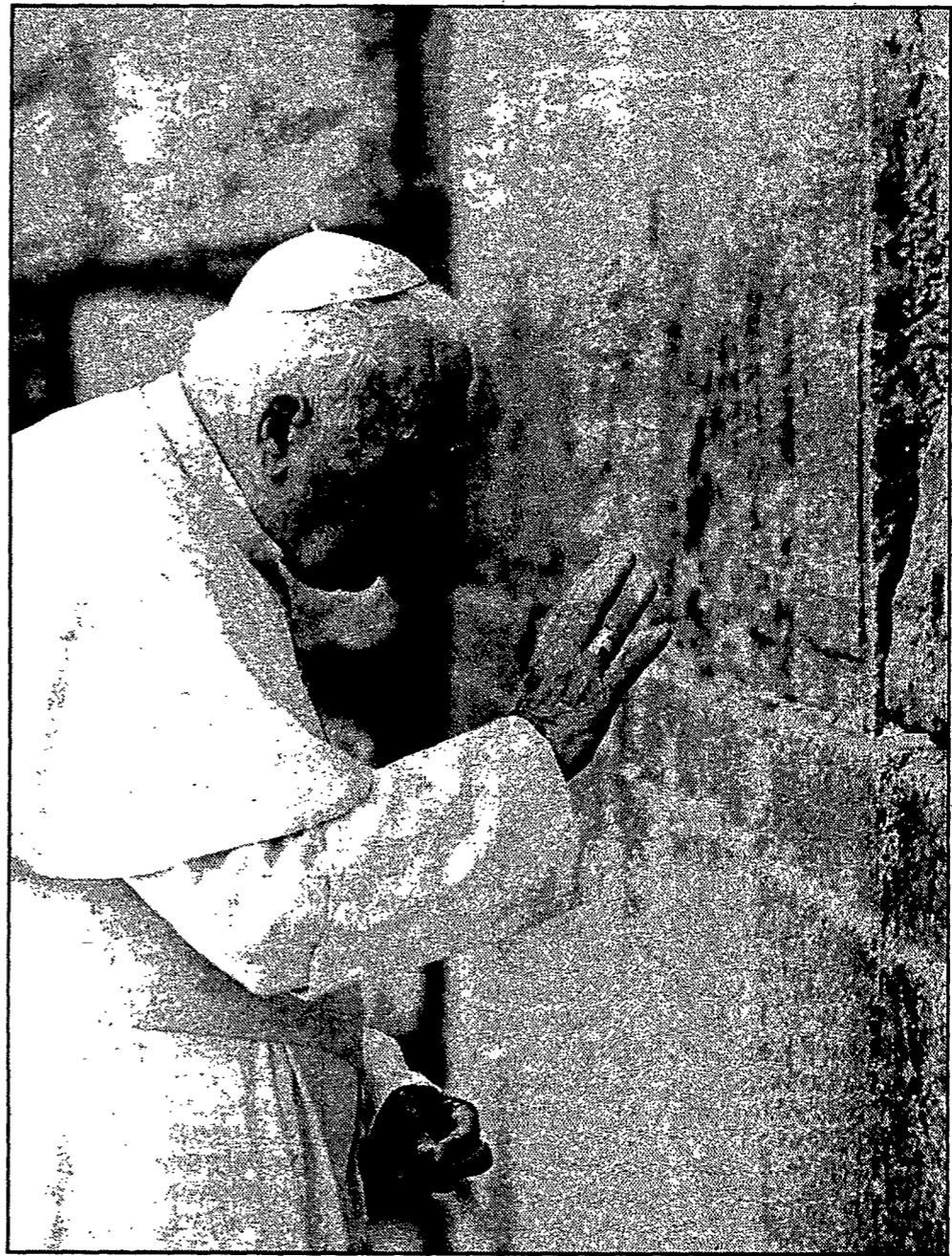
shrugged Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Better that the pope see it and hear it than "walk on the clouds," he added.



Reuters/CNS

Pope John Paul II peers at the Eternal Flame in the Hall of Remembrance at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

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Reuters/CNS

Pope John Paul II makes the sign of the cross after placing a prayer in a crevice of the Western Wall March 26 in Jerusalem. He was the first Catholic pontiff to visit Judaism's most sacred site.

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## The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

### A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Jesus, as You walked by the of Galilee where Peter and Andrew, James and John were busy with their daily lives, You saw the countless men, women and children they could bring to know and love You.

You said, "Come, follow Me," and immediately they left all they had - home, family and possessions - to go with You wherever You would lead them. Look with the same love today on many generous young men in Your Church. Invite them also to follow You and share Your sacred Priesthood. Show them the great numbers who still do not know You died to save them. Fill them with the Holy Spirit of Pentecost that they may cast aside this world's cares and treasures and generously spend their lives for You, seeking the treasure of immortal souls.

Mary, mother of the Church, obtain for us many and holy priests.

Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

## April, 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Look for the May MPRP Calendar in the April 27th Courier.						Revs. Bishop Matthew H. Clark
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pope John Paul II	Inactive Priests	Theodore J. Auble	Phillip J. Billotte	Timothy T. Brown	Dennis M. Bonsignore	Frederick W. Bush
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Michael J. Bausch	Alexander H. Bradshaw	Bernard L. Carges	James C. Enright	William J. Cosgrove	Donald J. Curtiss	Thomas M. Erdle
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Lance M. Gonyo	Donald J. Haycock	Lawrence A. Gross	John F. Gagnier	Stanley G. Kacprzak	Christopher E. Linsler	Richard M. Murphy
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Frank E. Lioi	William C. Michatek	John M. Mulligan	John L. O'Connor	John T. Reif	Vincent P. Panepinto	Vocations
30						
Seminarians						

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