

RELIGION

Pope Stresses Devotion to Church

By PAUL GEITNER
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SIEDLCE, Poland - Pope John Paul II stressed loyalty to the church today and cautioned young people against falling victim to "travesties of religion, or to manipulations of the truth."

At a Mass attended by thousands of Roman Catholics and Eastern rite Catholics from Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, the pontiff urged people to follow the example of 13 martyrs slain in Pratulín in 1874 for resisting conversion to Orthodox Christianity.

"These simple people, fathers of families, chose at the critical moment to suffer death rather than yield to pressure in a way untrue to their conscience," John Paul said. "How sweet it is to die for the faith. These were their last words."

Such devotion was needed today, he said, citing "problems and violent changes" facing humanity.

"In such a world, many people, especially the young, feel lost and wounded," the pontiff said. "Some fall victim to sects and travesties of religion, or to manipulations of the truth. Others succumb to different forms of slavery. Attitudes of selfishness, injustice and insensitivity to the needs of others become more widespread."

After a day of rest Wednesday, the pope's voice sounded strong and clear today, the sixth day of his trip. Visibly frail with a tremor in his left hand, the 79-year-old John Paul has handled this long trip home with no noticeable problems.

As 400,000 faithful looked on in a meadow in this eastern city, 55 miles from Belarus' border, the gospel was read and sung in both the

Roman Catholic and Eastern rite traditions.

Eastern rite Catholics follow an Orthodox-style liturgy but are loyal to the pope instead of Orthodox Christian patriarchs. Banners and flags in the crowd were from Belarus, the Ukraine and Siberia and the Urals region in eastern Russia.

Christian unity and religious pluralism are major themes of John Paul's 13-day pilgrimage, which began Saturday. The pope heads Friday to Warsaw's Umschlagplatz monument to pray for Jews killed during the Holocaust.

For the first time during his pilgrimage, John Paul mentioned the Jewish victims of the Nazis at the end of today's Mass.

"I cannot fail to mention the martyrdom of the Jewish nation ... in Siedlce," he said of the extermination of the city's 12,000 Jews during World War II.

The pope also greeted faithful from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine in their native tongues, drawing loud cheers each time.

Orthodox Christian Churches and the Roman Catholic Church have been separated since the Great Schism in 1054 in a dispute over papal authority and interpretation of their creed.

John Paul is head of the Roman Catholic Church, while Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the archbishop of Constantinople, is the spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians.

In recent years, efforts at reconciliation have been hindered by Russian complaints that the Roman Catholic Church was trying to proselytize what the Russians considered to be Orthodox lands of the former Soviet Union.

Mortgage Burning Celebration

Maranatha Church of God has a strong history and roots that stretch deep into the heart of Portland. Its legacy is a rich tapestry of events both happy and sad; fruitful and challenging.

Dozens of families have raised their children at Maranatha and these children have grown up and in turn now do the same.

It is a church that's always been known to have one of the largest Black congregations in Oregon, yet still opens its arms to welcome people of every race. Today, members travel from as far as Estacada, Hillsboro and Camas, Wash., to attend the church.



Dr. Otis F. & Johnnie Mae Brown, Founding Pastors of Maranatha COGIC (Aug. 1944)

Maranatha, which according to the Word means "the Lord cometh," grew out of a succession of churches Dr. Otis F. Brown and his wife Dr. Johnnie Mae Brown pastored. The couple now shares the status of pastor emeritus at Maranatha.

Broth. Wallace became the pastor in 1957, the church was renamed Metropolitan Church of God to reflect its diversity and the congregation moved to Maranatha's current site at 4222 NE 12th in 1964.

The new building was called Irving Park Church of God. But Bro. Wallace said the Lord told him to rename the church from Metropolitan to Maranatha, and so Maranatha was born.

During Bro. Wallace's tenure, the church blossomed.

When Bro. Wallace resigned from Maranatha in 1972, the Rev. John Parker and Rev. Luther Banks co-pastored for a short time to keep the church operating smoothly.

Then in 1976 the Rev. John Garlington became Maranatha's new pastor and moved to Portland from Buffalo N.Y., with his wife Yvonne,

three sons and two daughters.

During the decade he served in this position, Pastor Garlington was heavily involved in the community on boards, with social services agencies, non-profit organizations and in educational causes. He helped establish more administrative staff positions at Maranatha. He brokered strong ties with political leaders throughout Portland and several buildings of community significance now bear his name. Pastor Garlington also was one of the founders of the North Portland Bible College.

The Spirit of the Lord was moving and more people joined Maranatha. It was then that Pastor Garlington made the decision with the church Board of Director's approval to build a bigger sanctuary adjacent to current site. The new sanctuary took about two years to build and cost about \$600,000.

In January 1986, Pastor and Sister Garlington were killed in a car crash while in Florida. They were on their way to an evening speaking engagement.

For many back in Portland, the news was shocking. Pastor Garlington was scheduled to be installed as the next president of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon upon his return to Portland.

While Maranatha searched for a new pastor, Bro. Joshua Phillips filled in and handled the pastoral duties for a short time.

It was at this time Bro. and Sis. Otis Brown moved back to Portland in late 1993 to retire and rejoined Maranatha in February 1997.

Dr. Bethel and his wife, Sis. Daphne Bethel, and two children, Monica and Allen, moved to Portland from Boston, Mass., where he had pastored Shawmut Community Church of God.

At this installation ceremony,

which had the theme "Divine Unity," those in attendance read Maranatha's congregational call which today embodies the spirit of the church.

Part of it reads: "As a congregation we are called to a spiritual ministry and witness in this community, in this city, and as God enables us to all the world. We are called by God to serve Him with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. We are called to a cooperative ministry, united under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and bound together by His sacrificial love." - By TONYA MENEFF-PARKER



Left to right: Elder Al Jones, Rev. Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Pastor, Rev. Luther Banks, Elder Samuel Bryant Orchestrate the "burning of the mortgage" at Maranatha Church.

Full Gospel Pentecostal Church Convention '99

PORTLAND, OREGON

June 20 - 27

Maranatha Church
4222 NE 12th Avenue

For more information contact Full Gospel Pentecostal Church Headquarters
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Rancho Rajneesh Goes Christian

NEAR ANTELOPE, OREGON — The Rajneeshees pulled out of their ranch near Antelope 14 years ago. This weekend Christian youth move in. Rajneeshpuram has been transformed into a Summer camp

run by the Christian ministry "Young Life." They've added a pool and a pond... and will have go-cart racing, hiking and mountain biking. The first camp-goers arrive Sunday. The compound was the world headquar-

ters of the Rajneeshee movement in the early 1980's... until their spiritual leader Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh fled in 1985 in the wake of voter fraud, a mass poisoning and murder conspiracies.



1999 Summer Session at North Portland Bible College runs from August 3 through September 2 (5 weeks - 2 nights a week) Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Study the life-enriching book of Ephesians with Rev. Victor Reynolds.

This course fulfills one of the requirements in the A.C.M. Program.

For registration and information, call or visit: North Portland Bible College 4905 N. Vancouver Portland, Oregon (503) 288-2919

Inter-Faith Evening Out
S.E.I. Auditorium
3920 N. Kerby
Sat., June 19, 1999



With The Name of God. The Beneficent

Come join us for an evening of Fashion, Faith and Fun. Enjoy socializing in an atmosphere of InterFaith Elegance We'll have a Fashion workshop, music, poetry and we will be presenting community service awards.

Time: 7-10pm
Donation: \$10.00

Proceeds will benefit the Masjid Al-Hijrah School, daycare and apartment complex. This event is sponsored by the Muslim Comm. Center and other Faith groups. Tickets may be purchased at: Reflections Coffee & Books

446 N.E. Killingsworth
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For further information, Please call 281-7691 or 284-9783 Reserve Your Seats Now!!