

RELIGION

Pope Pushes for Peace in Columbia

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CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy - Pope John Paul II worried Sunday over stalled efforts to end Colombia's civil war, saying the 35-year-old conflict was hurting the country and its people.

Government and rebel negotiators in Colombia have been unable to get peace talks under way, deadlocked by a preliminary dispute over whether international monitors should have any role. Talks on that issue failed Friday for the third time in less than a month.

The 79-year-old pope seemed strong after weeks of vacation, in the Italian Alps and now in the papal palace on the hills outside Rome. At times, he pounded his

palm on his plastic podium in time with the chants of the pilgrims below his window.

John Paul told the faithful during his weekly Sunday address he had been following the "sorrowful deeds" of recent weeks in Colombia: killings, kidnappings and destruction of homes and religious buildings.

"It's distressing ... to see the difficulties encountered in the advancement of the auspicious peace process, the only way possible for reconciliation among Colombians," John Paul said.

The Vatican supported Colombia's clerics and all people of good will in their efforts for peace in the country, John Paul said, and asked for the prayers of all.

"Viva Colombia!" one man in the crowd cried out at the end of his remarks.

Speaking on what for Italians is getaway weekend, the opening of the August vacations, John Paul devoted most of his remarks to the millions leaving the cities for the beaches and the mountains - and to busy families, in particular.

"Many times, it's hard to find a calm moment and an uninterrupted time to enjoy intimacy, for discussion, for talking over the problems and the projects of everyone!" John Paul said.

"So vacation should serve first of all to bridge these gaps, that is to say, for humanity, for peace, and for friendship," the pope said.

Ministry to Host First Annual Community Festival of Arts

East Hill Institute of Ministry will host a community-based event on August 21, 8:00 am - 9:00 p.m., in the vacant grassed lot on the corner of 5th and Miller streets in Gresham. Raising funds for students to pursue a degree in pastoral ministry is the guiding principal of the first annual Arts for Smarts festival. Activities include 50 arts and crafts booths representing artists throughout the day. The event will feature Portland own Tracy Klas and Band. Tracy

has been performing in Portland 10 years and has received numerous song writing and performances awards. She is a regular headline event at the Portland Rose Festival and has played many clubs and festivals throughout the Northwest.

Other entertainment includes: **Just for Kids** magic and puppet shows; **Second Fiddle** youth Blue Grass Band; **SCY** (Sandy Christian Youth) Marimba Band; **Geyer School of Dance** performers; gymnasts from **American Elite Gym-**

nastics; self defense demonstrations for youth and adults form **Kempo Karate**; an aerobics team from the **Cascade Athletic Club**; demonstrations by **The Reptile Man**; face painting by Jenny Burgess; and horse and buggy rides that will transport people from our festival site to the Gresham Saturday Market site.

Anyone interested in attending the event may call 661-4444, ext. 310 for more information.

OBITUARY

James A. Curtis

A funeral was held at 10 a.m., Friday, July 30, 1999, at Wilhelm Funeral Home for James A. Curtis, who died July 27, of a brain aneurysm at age 51.

Mr. Curtis was born in Portland, July 22, 1948. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1965. He had worked in the shipyards through the Laborers' Union Local 296 and most recently worked for Wacker Siltronic. He had been a member of Immanuel Free Methodist Church.

Survivors include his sons David and James, their mother Ann Thompson, all of Portland; his mother, Willie B. of Portland; brother, Monzella of Oakland, Calif.; sisters, Janice Hudson and Charlene Buckner, of Portland, Edna Willis of Dallas, Texas; and eight grandchildren.

Disposition is by cremation. The family suggests remembrances to D.A.R.E. Arrangements were handled by Omega Funeral & Cremation Service.



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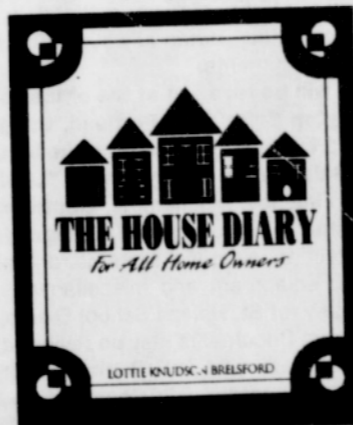
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