

Pope Paul VI Will Walk Route of Christ's Last Journey

By ELIAH SIMON and RAY J. MALONEY
United Press International
Nineteen hundred years ago, a Roman citizen called Paul brought the word of Jesus to the nations of the west. Now another Paul, Pope Paul VI, is to walk and pray where Christendom was born and first nourished.

Paul VI will see more of the places in which Jesus lived and preached than did the first Paul, St. Paul of Tarsus. And where Jesus and the first Paul spoke to hundreds or thousands, the present Paul speaks to millions who look to him for the Savior's word.

The first Paul traveled extensively through Asia Minor and Greece. He knew Rome well, and even journeyed as far as

Spain. But of the land which gave birth to Christianity he knew little. His parents were originally from Galilee, a village called Giscala, but they moved to Tarsus in Asia Minor to escape the Roman invaders.

St. Paul returned later and studied Jewish lore in Jerusalem, which he was to visit often. The only other city associated with his name is Caesarea on the coast, where he spent two years in a Roman prison for preaching the faith of Jesus Christ.

Now the Roman Catholic vicar of Christ on earth is to see the Holy Land and its consecrated places, to pray where Christ was born, grew to manhood and was crucified.

Barrier Divides Land
A man-made barrier today harshly divides the holy places between Jewish Israel and Arab Jordan.

The Holy Land was partitioned in 1948 when the Arab-Israeli war stopped, though it never has been formally ended. But governments of both countries are making it possible for Pope Paul to cross back and forth so that he may see all the holiest places.

In Bethlehem, Pope Paul will descend into the grotto of the Church of the Nativity and bow his head before a silver star

sculpted into the marbled floor at the spot accepted as the place of Christ's birth. A Latin inscription lighted by 15 always-burning silver lamps says, "Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus natus est" — Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born.

His Holiness will walk the narrow winding alleys of old, walled Jerusalem along the route Christ took on his last journey on earth. Following the fourteen Stations of the Cross where Jesus rested on his way to Calvary, Paul VI will reach the most sacred shrine of Christendom, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. He will be the first

Pope to say Mass at the Holy Tomb of marble.

About five feet long, two feet wide and three feet high, the tomb is lighted by 43 hanging lamps. This sacred chapel is reached through another chapel where a marble-encased stone is set in the floor. It is said this is the stone an angel rolled away from the mouth of the sepulchre.

Goes To Nazareth
Pope Paul will go to Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus, resting in the hills of Galilee. Here the pontiff will see the new Church of the Annunciation, a Catholic institution built

on the foundations of a 12th-century Crusaders' church. It is on a slight rise overlooking the rambling town and marks the place, in the Gospel of St. Luke, where the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to a Son of God.

In Nazareth, too, Pope Paul will see the well from which Mary drew water, and the place where Joseph, her husband, had his carpentry shop.

Nearby Nazareth is Mt. Tabor, rising 1,700 feet above the Sea of Galilee and affording a lovely view of the Jordan River Valley and the Plain of Jezreel. Mt. Tabor is considered to be the site of the transfiguration of Christ. In 1924 a basilica was built there with two chapels, dedicated to Moses and Elijah. These, together with the sanctuary, carry out the wish of the first Pope, Peter, of making three tabernacles on the mountain — for Jesus, Moses and Elijah.

Follows Jesus' Route
Going eastward on the route followed by Jesus to Capernaum, where He went to preach and where the Bible relates He performed many cures, Pope Paul will come to Gennasaret, on the Sea of Galilee, from where he can look out over the water upon which the Bible says Jesus walked.

On the banks of the Sea of Galilee is Tiberias, the city named after Tiberius Caesar, which became the capital of the Crusaders under Tancred in 1099. Here stands a bronze statue of St. Peter, in front of a church honoring the leader acclaimed by Catholics as the first Pope and commemorating the miracle of the fish when so many entered the nets that they were torn, and boats sank underweight.

Fishermen with their nets still sail on the Sea of Galilee at Sukk, as Jesus saw them. It will be winter in the Holy Land when Pope Paul makes his pilgrimage, and in Jerusalem he will have the same view of the city that Jesus had from Gethsemane the day before His arrest by Roman soldiers.

In Bethlehem, too, the pontiff's eyes will dwell on much that Jesus also looked upon, despite the passage of centuries. Its surrounding hillsides still are silvered with the sheen of olive groves such as those in which Jesus walked and rested.



ACKNOWLEDGES CHEERS—Standing in open sedan, Pope Paul VI acknowledges cheers of enthusiastic crowd watching him leave the Piazza de Spagna after praying before Madonna on Feast of the Immaculate Conception recently.

The Pontiff marked his sixth month on the Papal throne Saturday as a far more popular figure than many would have supposed. (UPI)

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Good Record Noted By Forest Service

PORTLAND — While forest fires on national forest lands burned more than 7,000 acres in Oregon and Washington this year, U. S. Forest Service officials feel the record is good considering the high fire hazard from blowdown timber caused by the Columbus Day storm in 1962.

J. Herbert Stone, Portland, regional forester of the U. S. Forest Service, said that 1,823 fires this year burned 7,433 acres compared to 1,228 fires burning 3,672 acres last year. With tons of downed trees and debris littering timber lands in Oregon and Washington after the Oct. 12 storm, foresters were fearful that 1963 would be one of the worst fire years in history.

Three Factors Noted
The fact that it did not happen can be attributed to three factors, Stone pointed out.

"We had fine cooperation from the forest users. The weather was favorable. And fire suppression forces carried out their work quickly and effectively, resulting in an average loss of only 4.02 acres per fire on the National Forests."

Of the total fires in 1963 on National Forests in Oregon and

Washington, 565 were man-caused, while the rest were blamed on lightning. This is a far better record than the national average, which shows that 9 out of 10 fires are man-caused.

Cool, Wet Weather
Cool and wet weather of 1963 made it one of the best fire years, weatherwise, since 1948, according to Forest Service meteorologists. There were some critical periods, particularly east of the Cascades. The biggest fire of the year on the National Forests of the Pacific Northwest Region came late in the season, Oct. 21, when a fast-moving blaze swept 2,900 acres of range and timber land near Chelan on the Wenatchee National Forest.

Stone praised Northwest news media for their efforts in stimulating public awareness of the increased fire danger resulting from the blowdown hazard.

He cautioned that much of the debris from the Columbus Day, 1962, storm and subsequent salvage logging will still be on the ground in 1964, and a severe fire year is considered a better-than-even prospect.

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