

# CATHOLICISM: BRIDGING GAPS

## Pope and Cuba: a strange, new mix

**DAMIAN DeBELLO**  
staff writer

Maybe Dean Martin's death last Christmas, and Sammy Davis Jr.'s six years ago, are something that can be overlooked. Maybe Frank Sinatra will go softly into the desert. Maybe the destruction of the Sands hotel in Las Vegas, the once home-base for 'the Rat Pack,' last week means nothing. Maybe Dean Martin's statement on the night of Kennedy's election, "Let me tell you some of the good things the Mafia has done," at the 'Sands,' is something to overlook. Maybe Kennedy's assassination will remain a mystery. Much has changed since those days. But, one thing remains, the U.S. embargo Kennedy put on Cuba in 1962.

These aforementioned changes, while they may leave some disillusioned, do not pose a threat to safety and order. Change, for some is a threat. A threat to safety, order, and lives.

Pope John Paul II is concerned with the threat change will bring in Cuba. There is a threat that change could mean a violent revolution. He is concerned about creating a safe political environment so when there is a switch from communism to democracy there will be minimal danger.

Castro, although a dictator, follows Marxist doctrines. Therefore, religion is outlawed, as Marx thought it to be the 'opiate for the masses.'

The Pope, who has seen the horrors of communism in his native land of Poland, has worked to end communism through peaceful means, the word of God.

The Popes "unconditional" invitation to Cuba by Castro is a historic event which marks a change. The Pope

will visit Cuba sometime next year on his way to South America. There has not been a papal visit to the communist island off the coast of Florida since 1959, despite the large number of Catholics who inhabit it.

Castro and Pope John Paul II met for the first time

embargo placed on a small island, remote in geography and devoid of democratic thought, by one of the largest industrial nations, is going to have a serious effect on that small country. Cuba had previously received aid from Russia, which led to the Cuban Missile Crisis and thus the U.S.

embargo. The communist nation thought to once support Cuba, is no longer the same nation, and no longer provides relief.

Cuba is suffering. The fall of communism in the larger countries depleted numerous resources which provided Cuba with stability. It was a domino effect. Without those countries for trade and commerce, and with the U.S. embargo, Cuba is stuck with nothing left to save itself. Castro numbs his country's suffering with the opiate for masses.

The Pope's support is not to say that he is in favor of communism; he is in no way. But he is in favor of ending human suffering, which results from communism and the embargos. His visit will signify a major step in alleviating this suffering. He plans to empower the Catholic church in Cuba. Castro plans to use the papal visit and the Pope's political power to end the embargos.

The Pope will visit Cuba sometime next year on his way to tour South America. Despite poor health, he is in good spirits and anticipating a positive change for those who have been oppressed by the Cuban communist dictatorship.

It is widely felt by many that the good relations between Castro and the Pope will provide a positive outcome for the individuals suffering in Cuba.



weeks ago at the World Food Summit sponsored by the U.N.. Castro, in a moving speech which won him a round of applause, denounced embargos, which have crippled his country's economics, and have left people malnourished.

In 1962, a trade embargo was placed on Cuban goods by the U.S. This meant that there was to be no importation of Cuban goods to the U.S., nor exportation of U.S. goods to Cuba. In the scope of international trade, an

## Mother Teresa: savior of Calcutta

**KEIR BICKERSTAFFE**  
editor-in-chief

Millions of prayers were heard around the world November 22.

These prayers came from all corners of the globe, from all ethnicities, from all religious denominations.

It was that day that Mother Teresa, one of the most highly respected women of this century, suffered a heart attack. While she lay in a hospital bed, people around the world wished the best for this woman—one who has devoted her entire life to others.

At the age of 18, Mother Teresa, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, moved to Dublin, Ireland from her native Yugoslavia to enter a convent. After a year in Ireland, she moved

to India, eventually teaching geography to girls in Calcutta.

Calcutta had a great effect on Mother Teresa. The streets she walked everyday were littered with those less fortunate. Beggars and lepers pleaded with passersby, and unwanted infants were left to die in garbage bins.

It was this environment that led Mother Teresa to start her Missionaries of Charity in 1948. Run primarily by herself for the first year, the Missionaries of Charity now has 3,000 nuns in 25 countries working for its cause—feeding and teaching underprivileged youths.

These efforts have been recognized by people around the world, religious leaders as well as secular ones. Pope Paul VI awarded Mother Teresa the Pope John XXIII Peace

Prize in 1971, and she was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts in 1979. All these awards she accepted on behalf of the poor, donating any money she won to fund her centers.

In a world that now equates religion with scandal, it is indeed reaffirming to find some-

one like Mother Teresa, who has sworn her whole life to the betterment of others.

On December 11, nearly three weeks after her admittance, Mother Teresa asked to leave the hospital and return home. To be sure, people from all over the world, Catholic and not, pray for her continued improving health.

### ***In the holiday spirit?***

Before you go home for Christmas, open your presents, and sip hot chocolate, help someone less fortunate out.

WGHP T.V., with the help of Loews home improvement and Bill Flynn from 99.5, holds a program each year entitled Gifts for Cynthia's kids. If you would like to help: go out, buy a present, and drop it off at any Loews until this Sunday. Or, bring your presents by the Fox 8 studios in High Point up until Wed the 18th. For more info. write: [HTTP://Gryphon-media.com/Cynthiaskids](http://Gryphon-media.com/Cynthiaskids)