



POMEZIA, Italy — Pope Paul VI thanks Pomezia's citizens from the door of a mobile chapel they presented him (Aug. 29) when he offered Mass in their town.

Face Bathed in Tears Pontiff Visits Flood Victims

Continued from page 1A

suburb of Prima Porta, a stone's throw from the raging Tiber River.

The small laboring community was the most hard hit in Italy's weeklong onslaught of torrential rains and electrical storms which have left nearly 100 dead or missing.

As Pope Paul rode in an Army Jeep among victims digging out their 600 devastated homes, men in hip boots and covered with mud stared in blank silence with faces mirroring misery. Some women cried silently; others shook their fists at the hastily-assembled entourage of civic officials, police and journalists who followed in a motorcade.

"WHY DIDN'T you come when we needed you?" some women exclaimed.

"Where were you when the water almost took our children away?"

The missives did not seem to be directed at the Pope, but they told a story of anger so great that it struck at anything in sight. It was also a reminder to passing officials that something should be done to help this community which suffers yearly from the flooding Tiber.

Throughout the journey Pope Paul's face was drenched in sweat from the hot sun. At times, those nearby could see his face contort with grief, and tears stream down his cheeks.

Cries of "Viva Il Papa" and the shouting and clapping which usually attend a papal visit were conspicuously lacking, perhaps because of the fear that beneath the rubble someone might still lie buried.

THE POPE arrived at 9:45, just as the sun broke through the clouds and began to bake the mud into clay. Stopping briefly at the entrance to the city, he addressed a small group which had begun to gather.

"Beloved sons," he said, "I have come to see you with my own eyes. I do not hold in my hands remedies for the present crisis, but I want to share in the sorrow and anguish which such pain has brought you.

"I greet you all. We will try to increase our aid. We will do everything possible to help in this sorrowful hour. This morning I prayed for your heavenly comfort. I bring you the blessing of the Lord."

POPE PAUL then climbed into the seat of the jeep and began a two-hour tour of Prima Porta and its neighboring community of Labaro. He stopped many times along the way to comfort a crying family, or to bless men digging out buried rubble, or sorting out broken furniture and drenched clothing.

As he passed, some looked up from their brooms and shovels, others doffed their hats, but when the Pope stopped they silently pressed close to receive his blessing.

Labor Day

Continued from page 1A

munities that have been disenfranchised. One, he said, is the racial and linguistic minorities, and the other is the white collar worker.

Although white collar workers have won benefits "because the hard-won victories of the labor movement have filtered to them through the all-embracing power of the public conscience," they are still disenfranchised because "they are without representation in the councils of economic policy."

This is the advantage which today's unionism must seek to extend to workingmen outside the present framework of organized labor," Father McCarrick said. "We must strive to make it come about that all workers, whatever their roles in the economic system, may have — as the good Pope John wrote in Mater et Magistra — 'their say in and make their contribution to the efficient running and development of the enterprise.' Without organization, this will never come about."

Besides this challenge, he noted, there is another. "As if this crusade were not enough, is there not an even more pressing call on the great conscience of American labor today? To a movement which became great because it espoused great causes, need we more than mention this new day in the cause of civil rights?"

Father McCarrick added: "This

Fourth Session

Continued from page 1A

we need is to implement these decrees on the lower levels — the diocesan level, the parochial level, really in the grass-roots of the Church. If this isn't implemented, then we've just got documents."

Asked about the possibility for reform of the Roman Curia, Bishop Primeau said: "The Holy Father has spoken of it on several occasions, and I do know that in Rome the underground has, on occasion ... picked the date for ... the announcement of it. The last time that I was in Rome, they had decided that Pentecost Sunday (May 29, 1966) was the day on which the Pope would announce the revision of the curia."

The bishop said many bishops are worried about the implementation of "all the constitutions and decrees."

"There are those," he said "who hope that we will develop within the Church a three-fold government much like our own, in which we will have a legislative branch, an executive branch, and a judicial, or judicial branch.

"If this is true then the present curia would become the executive branch of the government, respon-

is today's challenge, for today's crusade. With the help of God, we shall not be complacent; with the help of God, we shall put out our hands together to the building of this great new world."

sible, of course, directly to the Pope and perhaps to a senate of bishops who would work with the Pope. The legislative branch would be the continuation of the commissions that we have now in the council.

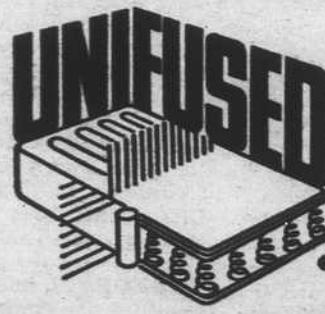
"Whether or not this will come to pass completely I don't know, but this I do know: that already we have commissions that are continuing the work of the council."

ILLITERACY RATE DOWN

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