

STUDENTS REPORT
ON
PAPAL VISIT

Stephen E. Martin, a Freshman, reports ...

During Pope John Paul II's trip to the United States two weeks ago, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Pope's outdoor Mass in New Orleans. His kindness and compassion towards all people drew me to his presence. It must be said with all truthfulness that I was not disappointed with my 900 mile journey. I was extremely pleased over what he had to say during his nine day tour.

In general, I accept the doctrines of the Church because it is my firm belief that God established Peter and his successors as the leader of the Christian Church on Earth and that it is our duty as faithful Catholics to accept God's will for his Church. By virtue of the papacy, his holiness has a broad and complete view of the Church and is better able to determine what is best for her.

Contrary to popular opinion the Pope is not out of touch with the world. He has lived under the Nazi and Communist governments in Poland; he has seen the slums in Mexico, the poverty of India and the opulence and moral decay of the western countries. He travels to many different nations to give people hope for the future and to support them in their daily sufferings. He has come to the United States twice within eight years to give encouragement in living our Catholic lives.

Matt Abel, a sophomore, reports...

On Monday, September 14, I had the opportunity to attend a Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

We were advised to arrive several hours earlier than the 6:30 PM starting time for the mass. The line into the Sun Devil Stadium at Arizona State was incredible, stretching around the campus for nearly two miles.

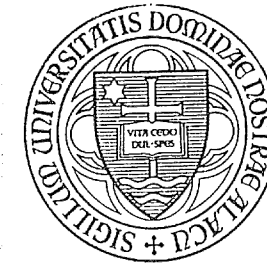
The Pope arrived at 6:30 sharp in his popemobile. The crowd (many were Latin American descent) went crazy, chanting and cheering. I was awe-struck. He drove around the stadium and stopped at the altar. The mass was somewhat different from the normal Sunday Mass. A huge choir sang for most of the Mass.

After Communion, the Pope concluded the Mass. As a spectacular ending, fireworks were shot off a nearby mountain. Although this sounds like a commercial touch, it actually took the crowd's attention from the Pope, allowing him to leave the stadium quite unobserved.

The music, the large number of people, and of course, P.J.P. 2 made up an incredibly moving experience that left me with a natural high that lasted several days.

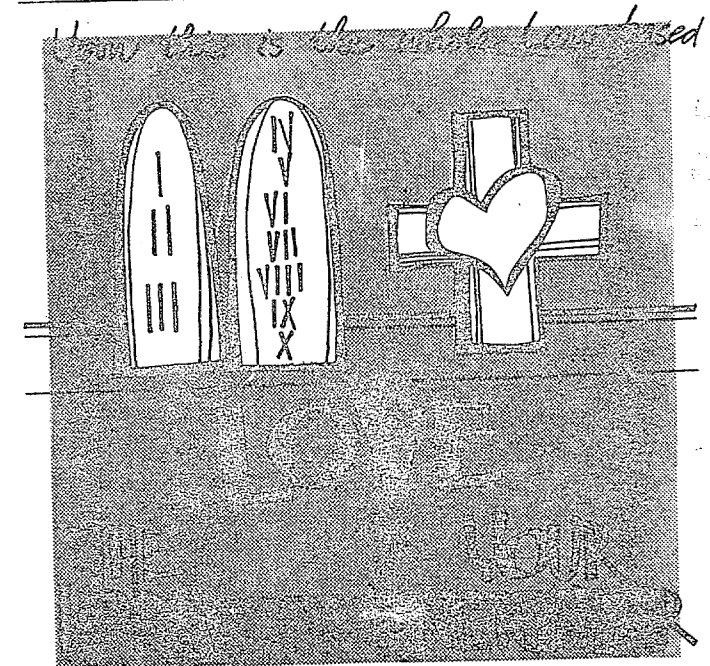
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GOD IS LOVE



Vol. IV Issue 6
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Notre Dame Religious Bulletin



YOU MUST LOVE
THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.

YOU MUST LOVE
YOUR NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF.

SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE!

ON THESE 2

HANG THE WHOLE LAW

"Master which is the greatest commandment of the Law?" When the Pharisees put this question to Jesus, He had no trouble quickly responding that we are obliged to love God with everything we've got and we must love our neighbor as ourselves. Every Christian knows Jesus' answer very well. Some times these commandments are referred to as belonging to the New Testament; but the Old Testament often tells us to love our God and our neighbor with all we got. Yet we can hear ourselves saying that "All this sounds very nice but isn't it too idealistic or something for 'religious people'?" How exasperated Jesus must be with us. He intended his Big 2 C's for each of us.

Am I afraid to find out what life would be like for me if I really went all out for my God and my neighbor embracing those who seem the least of people and in the most need. Do I too easily conclude that the least deserve what they get or don't get. To do anything wholeheartedly will produce surprising results. To love anybody with my whole heart, with my whole soul and my whole mind will produce only more people to love and unanticipated demands for more love. It will never end.

Exodus strongly states God's case when it quotes the Lord God commanding us to embrace strangers, to support widows, tend to those in need, be good to waifs. The command addresses those near and those all over the globe. No one is left out of these two commandments.

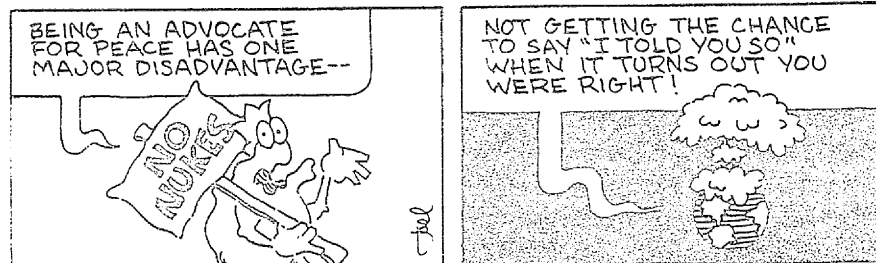
So what? Love is only a sweet word until put into action. I must be mindful, soulful, and heartfelt with the Big 2 as I move throughout my life by actively seeking out those neighbors most in need starting with those closest and moving out to those further and further out. The more I meet their needs, the more my needs are met. A sure measure of my Christian life is my conscious response to to the Big 2 C's.

Recommendation: Each morning plan to respond to the Big 2 in some practical action/prayer and each evening check on what happened. If responding to the Big 2 was one's only daily morning & evening prayer, that would be enough to change our world. God would be really happy. Why not clip and tape the Big 2 to your mirror or other convenient place as a daily reminder?

Why not start right now by coming up with somebody to whom you could reach out in some simple way and thereby reach your God.



Pontius' Puddle



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(Badin Hall) 239-5242

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ARE YOU THINKING

ABOUT BECOMING

CATHOLIC?

You are welcome to come to our R.C.I.A.
MEETINGS (initiation) at 4 - 5:15 P.M.
Sundays at Badin Hall (next to bookstore),
Campus Ministry. Please call Sr. Pat. if
you have any questions at 239-5242.

Our next meetings are November 1, 3, &
15. Come and See.

CONFIRMATION MEETING

The next meeting for those to be confirmed is on Tuesday November 10, 7-8 P.M. in the Campus Ministry Conference Room in Badin Hall.