



Karol Cardinal Wojtyla, only two years a cardinal, made his first visit to Orchard Lake in 1969. Pictured here, he stands among the seminarians, clergy and students of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary and St. Mary's College. The cardinal made many close friends in his two visits to the educational center.

## Seminarians bubble with tales of their papal 'friend'

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

"Priests, nuns and fishermen love to tell stories," a Roman Catholic priest at a Detroit parish once began a sermon.

The priests and students of nation's only Polish seminary in Orchard Lake got their chance to tell lots of stories Monday. Their friend was elected pope.

The election of Karol Cardinal Wojtyla to the Throne of St. Peter, the 26th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and the first Polish Pope in the church's history, stunned the Polish enclave in West Bloomfield Township and sparked both wild and prayerful celebration.

The Orchard Lake Schools—SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's College and St. Mary's Preparatory—are recognized as a leading center of Polish culture and heritage. Pope John Paul II, who visited the campus twice, called SS. Cyril & Methodius "the most beautiful seminary in the world," said Fr. Walter Ziemia.

Then Cardinal Wojtyla first visited

Magr. Zdzislaw Peszkowski said the man who was to become Pope John Paul II commandeered a canoe to row around Orchard Lake during his 1976 visit.

the Orchard Lake schools in 1969. In 1976, he and 19 Polish bishops returned for a two-day Polonia Conference.

DURING THE Cardinal's visits many priests and students got the chance to meet and talk to one of the most influential church leaders in Eastern Europe. Earlier this week, as chapel and school bells pealed and the Polish national anthem blared from the dorms in the background, they recalled their memories of the man who is now the leader of the world's 700 million Catholics.

Fr. Ziemia, who accompanied the Cardinal on his visits across the United States in 1976, had many mem-



ories of the 58-year-old former archbishop of Krakow.

"It was September 1976," he told more than 200 people who gathered in St. Mary's Chapel for a mass of celebration. "He had just finished offering mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

"A broad-beamed smile swept over his face and he jumped into the air and clicked his heels.

"I'm finally going home," Fr. Ziemia quoted the cardinal. "It reminded me of a prep freshman at the end of the year."

FR. ZIEMBA recalled another memory of John Paul II. Fr. Ziemia said he was visiting Poland and was staying at Cardinal Wojtyla's residence in Krakow. It was Mother's Day and about 10:30 p.m.

"I told him that I had not yet offered mass and he told me I could use one of the chapels. As I walked out carrying the chalice I was stunned.

"Here at 10:30 at night was the Cardinal ready to hear, co-offer, pray this mass.

"Afterwards I thanked him," Fr. Ziemia "and he turned to me and said 'I didn't do it for you. I did it for your mother.'"

FR. LEONARD CHROBOT, president of St. Mary's College, recalled that he, John Paul II and several stu-

"One of the kids turned to him and called him 'Father.' The boy was reprimanded because he should have called him 'Cardinal.' Cardinal Wojtyla turned to the boy, winked, smiled and whispered, 'You can call me 'Father.'"

— St. Mary's College President Fr. Leonard Chrobot

dents were walking around the campus one day during the 1976 visit.

"One of kids turned to him and called him 'Father.' The boy was reprimanded because he should have called him 'Cardinal.' Cardinal Wojtyla turned to the boy, winked, smiled and whispered 'You can call me 'Father.'"

The priests at Orchard Lake recount story after story about the new pope. Everyone there remembers that Cardinal Wojtyla commandeered a canoe to row around Orchard Lake.

Magr. Zdzislaw Peszkowski said the Cardinal insisted the day's schedule be rearranged so there would be time to go canoeing.

"I went with him," Magr. Peszkowski said. "The water was good, but the lake was very unpleasant."

"He was very strong, very fresh even after four hours," Magr. Peszkowski said.

Canoeing, however, is not the new pope's only form of recreation. His other hobbies, said Fr. Frank Koper, rector of St. Mary's, are skiing and volleyball.

JOHN PAULII appears to be as strong in spirit and leadership as he is in body.

Seminarian Chester Krysa, who spent the past year as the only American at Wojtyla's Krakow seminary, said he the cardinal was "very, very much loved by his people."

"He stood up for the rights of the church and the people," Krysa said. In his 13 years as cardinal, the new pope crusaded for religious freedom in an officially atheist Communist country.

## ... 'Overwhelming joy' fills campus

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

The reaction to the first puff of white smoke over the Sistine Chapel and Petric Cardinal Felici's announcement, "Habemus papam" (We have a pope) spread across the St. Mary's College in West Bloomfield Township campus like a mid-summer cloudburst.

There was screaming, cheering and hugging as church bells chimed and the Polish National anthem rang out over the predominantly Polish campus. Karol Cardinal Wojtyla, a fellow Pole, had been elected pope.

"There was just overwhelming joy all around this place," said Chester Krysa, a SS. Cyril & Methodius seminarian who knows the new pope.

"When Cardinal Felici came out on the balcony, he announced the name in a way an American wouldn't know if it were an Italian or Pole," said Dan Fredericks, a St. Mary's College senior.

"Then it hit. Wojtyla. I screamed so loud my throat hurt for a half hour," Fredericks said.

"It's a good feeling knowing that one of our own people was selected. It's like having someone from your own family become pope," Krysa said.

AMONG THE PRIESTS at the Orchard Lake educational complex, many of whom knew Cardinal Wojtyla,



FR. STANLEY MILEWSKI

there was surprise and an overwhelming feeling that the College of Cardinals had selected the best person.

"He's good for the church," said Fr. Anthony Kosnik. "He's the pope for this time and age."

"He has all the qualities of Pope John Paul I. And he has the theological background and the experience in a Communist country that (Albino Cardinal) Luciani didn't have," Fr. Kosnik said.

"I WASN'T surprised," said Fr. Stanley Milewski, chancellor of the college and seminary. "I always thought he was papabili (a possible successor to the pope). I kidded him about it. Yes, he knew he was papabili."

"But because he was Polish," Fr. Milewski said, "the press never gave him a chance."

"You guys can wreck a guy," he joked with reporters.

While it is inevitable that Pope John Paul II will be compared to his successor, who captured the hearts of Catholics across the world with his infectious smile and easy-going manner, Fr. Milewski predicted Cardinal Wojtyla would also become a popular leader.

"He has a quiet smile, not that Italian exuberance," Fr. Milewski said. "It's a beautiful, gentle smile."

OTHERS WERE more surprised than Fr. Milewski.

"I was just shocked," said Fr. Frank Koper, St. Mary's College rector. "I met the man. I dined with him. I just found it hard to believe I knew the man who is now pope," he said.

FOR OTHERS at St. Mary's, the papal election marked a more hectic than usual day.

Vicki Murphy, the switchboard operator muttered, "I never should have come into work today," as she tried to

handle the deluge of calls flooding the switchboard.

"It's as bad," she said, "as the time they had all the beatism poisonings up in Pontiac." At the time she was working the switchboard at Pontiac St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital where many of the poisoning victims were taken for treatment.

One priest recalled that the future pontiff jumped in the air and clicked his heels when his fatiguing 1976 U.S. visit was nearly at an end.

## Felicians crossed pope's path

By MARGARET MILLER

There's a quiet joy behind the beautiful doors of the Felician Mother House in Livonia as Pope John Paul II assumes the leadership of the Roman Catholic Church.

Mother Mary Clareline, superior of the nuns there, is a member of an order who has known the new pope well. She lived in the Felician Generalate in Rome for several years. The new pontiff, then Archbishop Karol Wojtyla, prelate of Krakow, came to visit often.

The order also includes those like Sister Mary Felicity who have met the new pope during one of his visits to the United States. Other Felicians share the warmth of kinship with John Paul II through common Polish heritage.

"We knew him as a friend in Rome, because that's what he was," said Mother Clareline. "He would come often to our house in Rome. We would kiss his ring, invite him to share a meal with us."

EVEN BEFORE Mother Clareline heard the new pope had chosen the name of his immediate papal predecessor, she likened him to John Paul I.

"He really fits the pattern of Pope John Paul I," she said. "He is friendly and most caring. He will be a strong man in his new role."

"We know he is considerate, and I know he will be holy, because I know his deep devotion to the church and the Blessed Virgin."

Mother Clareline first met the new pontiff when she was in Rome from 1965 to 1970. She met him again later after he had been elevated to cardinal.

Was she surprised at the choice? "I thought I would just fall over," Mother Clareline said. "But we are exceptionally thrilled that he is so honored."

"Even if I never shake his hand as he is pope, I will remember the many meetings when he was archbishop and cardinal. I will be proud that I know him."

ONE OF THE first things that Mother Mary Clareline did after learning about the cardinal's choice was get on the telephone with her old friend, Sister Mary Laudine, now directing a Felician camp at Holland.

Sister Laudine is a former provincial superior in Livonia, heading the Mother House from 1959 to 1965. She

too spent several years in the Felician Generalate in Rome, and was there when Karol Wojtyla was elevated to cardinal.

"His good friend, a doctor, asked the sisters in our house if we could help outfit him in his cardinal vestments," she recalled.

"We took his measurements and got him everything from shoes to biretta. As far as I know, he was still wearing those vestments when he was elected to be pope."

The Felician sisters in Rome also provided a mountain-climbing outfit for the physical fitness-minded cardinal, Sister Laudine remembered.

"His friend, the doctor, told us 'He cares for his health; he goes to the mountains, but he does not wear the right clothes or climbing,'" she related. "So we outfitted him for that, too."

This Felician also described the new pope as "a brilliant man, one who knows at least seven languages, and that means to converse."

MOTHER CLARELINE and Sister Laudine both confessed to fleeting thoughts about the cardinal from Krakow becoming pope.

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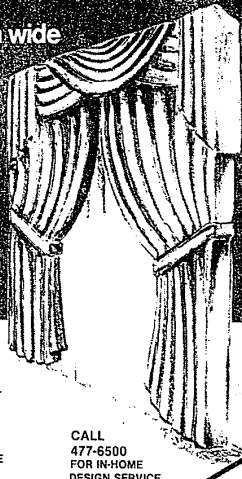
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