

Church Reforms Mark Pope's First Five Years

Pope Paul VI has completed five years in the papacy, a period which has placed the Catholic Church in a current sweeping it up in the most startling ferment in centuries.

The pope, who assumed the papal throne June 21, 1963, is in a turmoil since he wishes to renew the church but yet is afraid the changes may get out of hand.

On the one hand, the pope has carried out reforms in the Roman curia (administration) and the papal court, has

led a movement of cooperation with Protestant and Orthodox bodies, has implemented ecclesiastical council innovations and has carried the papacy to the world as the most-traveled Roman pontiff in history.

On the other hand, he has had to contend with Catholic thinkers in Holland whose ideas seem to some to border on heresy, theologians and priests in Europe and Latin America who advocate violent overthrow of dictatorial regimes, and a resolute segment of Catholic population that demands changes in the church's traditional stand on birth control, priestly celibacy and other such subjects.

HE HAS SEEN the stature of the papacy rise to new heights and at the same time he has seen many nominal Catholics turning away from the church, financial contributions declining and fewer and fewer men and women—relative to world population—willing to go into the priesthood or religious orders.

How does the pope, who will be 71 in September, view these trends?

To many, he seems a warrior and a pessimist. They see in many of his pronouncements a cry of despair, and the pope himself said only recently he feels "deep concern and sometimes real bitterness" over some modern trends in religion.

"All the world is cutting itself off from a sense of God," he said.

His close aids strongly deny he is pessimistic.

"He just has a broader vision than most of us and sees the problems more acutely," said one. "Some people seem to feel the late Pope John's call for a renewal in the church gave them a license to dismantle the whole structure. The pope knows he is called as Christ's representative to defend the church. He isn't authorized to dismantle what has been built up over the centuries."

IN A FORCEFUL statement last April 25, the pope made it clear that he was for church renewal—but not to the extent of tampering with long-established doctrine.

"Renewal, yes, arbitrary change, no," he said.

Some observers accuse Pope Paul of being more conservative than the late Pope John XXIII, but Paul's contribution to the renewal process—particularly in the government of the church—has been striking.

He has gone far beyond John in shaking up the conservative Roman curia, seeking to inject it with new ideas and a truly international flavor and in removing some showy trills of the papal court. Few people who have not had direct contact with the vatican can appreciate what a significant and difficult undertaking this has been.

In fact, it has earned Paul his share of enemies inside the Vatican.

There have been repeated whisperings in the Vatican to the effect that the pope is sick—fatally sick, some say. Those who are closest to him say it

is not so. The pope's recent decision to fly to Bogota, Colombia, in August seems the clearest evidence available that he is not ill, although his recovery from prostate surgery last November has been slower than expected.

The 11,660-mile Bogota round trip will be the longest ever made by a pope and the sixth of Paul's reign. Previous trips to the Holy Land, India, the United Nations in New York, Portugal and Turkey have enabled more people to see him

and hear his message than any pontiff in history.

POPE PAUL also has carried the church to the world in other ways—principally in speaking out strongly for peace in Vietnam and the Middle East, for racial justice in the United States and for action to alleviate the misery of the millions living in poor nations.

He also has continued Pope John's efforts to promote better relations between the church and the communist world and

somewhat erratically, John's effort to disengage the church from direct involvement in Italian politics.

Despite all this, he has never succeeded in stirring the world-wide outpouring of love and affection that John aroused.

Those closest to Paul seem impressed most of all by his gentleness of manner, his almost-overweening concern for others and his occasional wit. But somehow in public this does not come across.

constitution, he is one of the hardest-working popes anyone at the Vatican can remember. Before his operation, the light in his study often burned until 1:30 in the morning, but he now is usually in bed by midnight, and rises between 6 and 7 a.m.

POPE JOHN used to like to stroll through the Vatican's splendid gardens, but Paul is too busy and rarely goes there. For relaxation and reflection, he takes walks in a small garden he has had built atop the

Vatican palace.

The present age is, he says, irreligious. It was in part because of this that John began trying to update the church, so men would turn back to it.

Merely beginning this was difficult, but Paul has the immensely more complex job of guiding it and of seeing that the forces for change unleashed in the church do not end by destroying its very nature.

On questions such as birth control the pressures on the pope are enormous. If he re-

laxes the church's historic ban on artificial birth control, he faces the risks inherent in saying the church has been wrong on the subject for centuries.

If he does not, he risks the charge he is turning the church's face away from the modern world.

Many observers regard this as Pope Paul's greatest dilemma as he goes over into his sixth year. Whatever his decision, it could well be the one by which history will judge his reign.

Admiral Defends Vietnam

BANGKOK -- The overall commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific and Asia, stepping down after four years, said American military power should remain in Southeast Asia regardless of the outcome in Vietnam.

But Adm. Ulysses S. Grant Sharp Jr. said he thinks that in the future countries asking American help against Communist attack must be willing to provide the majority of the ground troops, if they have the manpower.

Except for staying out of large scale involvement with land forces, the 62-year-old admiral, whose headquarters is in Honolulu, defended continued American military presence in Southeast Asia to arrest the southward intrusion of communism into Laos, Cambodia (where American aid presently is unwanted), Thailand and Malaysia.

SHARP, although himself a "black shoe" sailor who has commanded surface warships but never aircraft carriers, said air power was the element the United States could best provide Allies in any future wars against Communist aggression.

He said a lesson learned in Vietnam was that helicopters were essential to troop mobility, and logistical supply by larger aircraft was "a tremendous asset."

The army helicopter fleet—"We have a lot but we need even more," he said—makes one American division equal to three in past conflicts because they can be flown rapidly to trouble spots without need for air strips. With well equipped and aggressive Allied ground forces, the same would be true, he declared.

Sharp, here to say farewell to Thailand's king and fellow Thai officers in regional military alliances, also praised the underpublicized role of the short-field air transport in Vietnam. He referred to the C-123 and C-130 and the former army Caribou now flown by the Air Force. With roads almost totally denied by the enemy to Allied truck movement, hundreds of these planes every day move ammunition, food and water to the infantryman, and evacuate the wounded.

NOTED FOR his diplomatic as well as warrior skill, Sharp declined to discuss the Vietnam conflict, saying he didn't want to risk upsetting the Paris peace talks. He only gingerly ventured into geopolitics concerning the Pacific rim countries.

Cleaning Suede

Spots on suede that won't come off by brushing can often be removed by rubbing with an emery board and then steam-ironing.



JOEL DURAND of 9123 Idaho, Livonia, is presented an award for his first-prize painting from Circuit Court Judge Nathan Kaufman at the City County Building. Durand's painting entitled "And From the Seed" was chosen from among 500 paintings submitted by artists from the Detroit-Windsor area for the International Freedom Festival.

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