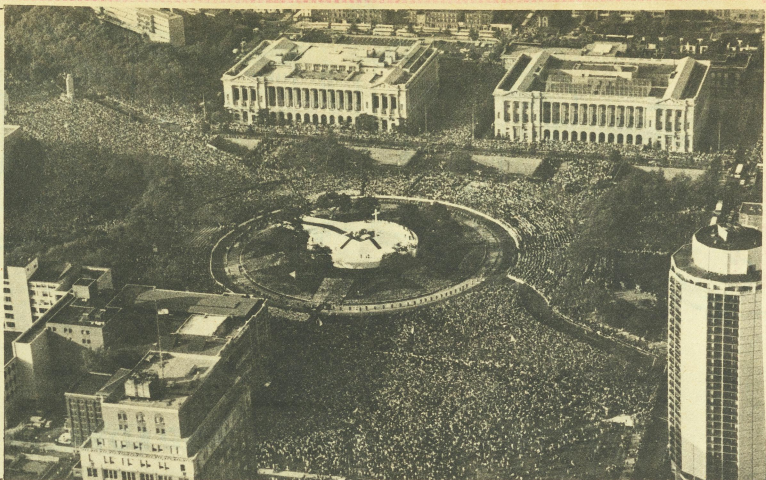


Logan Circle

A CROWD estimated at more than a million people gathered around Logan Circle on Oct. 3 for the Papal Mass. The outdoor congregation heard the Pope speak on the responsibilities of Freedom in the modern world.



Freedom Pope's Theme at Logan Circle Mass

Pope John Paul II chose the birthplace of freedom for the United States, Philadelphia, to caution against the abuses of freedom on topics such as human sexuality, human rights, the family, religious freedom, and priestly celibacy.

The Oct. 3 Mass in Philadelphia's Logan Circle drew well over a million persons as the crowds lined the city's Benjamin Franklin Parkway for more than one-half mile, ballooning around the altar built atop Logan Fountain.

The circular location gave the huge gathering a chance to join in the celebration on all sides, and the Holy Father took advantage, turning around 360 degrees to elevate the consecrated Host and the chalice of Precious Blood.

In a challenging homily, however, the Pope addressed topics of highly contemporary interest.

With the statue of the man who gave "is part of this heritage," the Pope said.

from the top of nearby City Hall, the Pope noted that the human and civil values contained in the Declaration of Independence have "strong connections with basic religious and Christian values." A sense of religion itself "is part of this heritage," the pope said.

"As citizens, you must strive to preserve these human values . . . As Christians, you must strengthen these human values and complement them by confronting them with the Gospel message.

The Pope said human values are strengthened when power and authority respect fundamental human rights; when freedom is seen as a gift that enables self-giving and service; and when the family is protected, when its unity is preserved and when its role as the basic cell of society is recognized and honored.

Approximately one mile north the site where the Declaration of Independence was read 203 years earlier, Pope John Paul said man must not

abuse the freedom that declaration fostered but live his life according to what is "objectively true and morally good."

Freedom, he said, "can never tolerate an offense against the rights of others, and one of the fundamental rights of man is the right to worship . . . No freedom can exist when it goes against man in what he is, or against man in his relationship to others and to God." Freedom cannot be seen, the pope said, "as a pretext for moral anarchy."

To the crowd which contained thousands of families who had made a day-long trip from throughout the Middle Atlantic states to see and to be with the pontiff, Pope John Paul noted what he called "disturbing tendencies and so much laxity" regarding the traditional church teachings on marriage and human sexuality.

"Moral norms do not militate against the freedom of the person of the couple," the Pope said. "On

the contrary they exist precisely for that freedom, since they are given to ensure the right use of freedom.

"Whoever refuses to accept these norms and to act accordingly, whoever seeks to liberate himself or herself from these norms, is truly not free," the Pope said.

He added quickly that his thoughts also applied to the obligations of priestly celibacy, although he did not elaborate.

Philadelphia's Cardinal Krol, like the Pope himself of Polish descent, joined Pope John Paul and Bishop J. Carroll McCormick of Scranton on the elevated altar. Some 150 selected individuals from groups such as the handicapped, students, ethnic parishes and religious superiors received Holy Communion from the pope, as did Michael Flanagan, who as a boy was cured of cancer and played a large part in the 1977 canonization of Philadelphia bishop St. John Neumann.