

Philadelphians Cheer First Papal Visit

11, 1979

Pope John Paul II was welcomed for the first time in sunshine in the United States when he arrived in Philadelphia Oct. 3.

John Cardinal Krol greeted the Pope on the pope's airplane, Shepherd I, and walked arm in arm with the pope down the steps from it.

Also greeting the Pope were Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh, Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo and his wife Carmela, and 3,000 archdiocesan school students who cheered and sang, "Long live the pope."

The students also said, "hello" to the Pope, by spelling out a greeting from a card section in bleachers at the airport. The signs held aloft by Archdiocesan pupils said, "Philadelphia welcomes Pope John Paul II with love." When the cards were reversed by the students, the Pope could see the same message in Polish.

Gov. Thornburgh welcomed Pope John Paul by recalling that Pennsylvania was established by William Penn nearly 300 years ago as a place based on brotherly love where religious refugees could live in peace.

"Through the warmth of your personality, the moral force of your character and the understanding within your heart, you have breathed new life in the dream of our founder," Thornburgh told the Pope.

Mayor Rizzo knelt and kissed the ring of the Pope. Then he welcomed the pontiff "with all our love and affection."

"The Pope told Rizzo, "Philadelphia means brotherly love."

There were no other formal speeches at the airport. A motorcade took the pontiff to the Cathedral-Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul.

At the Cathedral, Pope John Paul II said he brought a message of love upon arriving Oct. 3 at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in the city of

brotherly love.

Saying he felt "truly among friends" in the gold-leaf trimmed cathedral, the pope told the 1,500 dignitaries and cathedral parishioners in attendance that the brownstone church building recalled the memory of St. John Neumann, the fourth bishop of Philadelphia who was canonized two years ago.

The Pope used the cathedral setting to call Philadelphia a "symbol of freedom and fraternal relations."

He added: "My greeting is also a prayer. May the common dedication and the united efforts of all your citizens — Catholics, Protestants and Jews alike — succeed in making your inner city and suburbs places where people are no strangers to each other, where every man, woman and child

feels respected; where nobody feels abandoned, rejected or alone."

Pope John Paul was welcomed to the cathedral by Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia in the name of the dioceses of Pennsylvania and neighboring New Jersey.

Cardinal Krol praised the loyalty and devotion of local Catholics and called the Pope's visit "an honor and a privilege."



(Photo by Robert S. Halvey)

POPE JOHN PAUL'S open car motorcade up S. Broad St. began at John F. Kennedy Stadium, continued to City Hall, and down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway to the Cathedral. Police

estimated more than a million Philadelphians cheered the Pope along the way.

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