

# Children use papal visit as tool to learn more about their faith

DALLAS (AP) — If he had a chance to meet Pope John Paul II, third-grader Eric Anderly said he'd invite him over for tacos and steak. Another young Texan says he'd ask the pope to pray for the loss of a legged Dallas Cowboys.

Jason McBride, a seventh-grader, said he would tell John Paul to take all the money collected for his visit to the United States and give it to the poor. Fifth-grader Lisa Harrington wrote, "I would ask him why women can't be priests, because in the Bible it says all men are judged equally the same."

hat, flying over the Alamo, picking bluebonnets and even riding a horse. One student said he has a poster of the pope tacked on his bedroom wall next to Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry. "They look alike — just switch their hats, and you can't tell them apart," said Ian Meyers, a seventh-grader.

map of Italy and designing a model of the Vatican. "We're using the pope's visit to Texas as a focal point of learning," Roegge said. "His visit is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. "And this is a wonderful opportunity to expose children to different religions and make them think about morals and philosophy and responsibilities."

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Catholic schools have been intensely studying the pope and their officer repair. Many are well-attuned to the issues facing the church. Fifth-grader Jovonia Johnson, 10, said she would ask the pope to change his rules and let Catholic priests get married.

But Terri Bryant, a third-grader at Holy Trinity who joined other students in writing to Pope John Paul II this week, perhaps summed up how most of her classmates feel about the pontiff's visit. "I welcome you into our kingdom of Texas," Terri wrote in her letter to the pope. Crayon drawings on bulletin boards in some area Catholic schools depict the pontiff wearing a cowboy

"If I could talk to the pope, I would ask him to pray for the Cowboys," he said. At Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Grand Prairie, the students are collecting canned goods for the poor in honor of the papal visit. At St. Philip's Episcopal School in Dallas, the children in Jaan Roegge's second-grade class are studying a

Second-grader Matt Boutte, 7, asked the pope in his letter, "What language do you pray to God in?" And Jessica Allan, a student at St. Mark's in Plano, wrote in her letter to the pope, "Did you ever have a girlfriend when you were in fifth grade?" "Sometime I'll visit Rome when I'm older, but right now I think I should finish fifth grade."

# Committee chairman struggles with budget marked for papal visit

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Rev. Larry Stuebben has a bill a mile long, but he is confident Texas Catholics will raise the additional \$600,000 they need before Pope John Paul II sets foot on Texas soil Sunday.

Bus transportation for Mass worshippers will cost about \$750,000; liability insurance, \$100,000; media facilities, \$200,000, and medical stations and supplies, \$60,000. Security costs, including fences and other supplies, are higher than expected. One million souvenir programs, printed at church and private sector expense, will be distributed free at the Mass site.

Stuebben, chairman of the Texas Papal Visit Committee, said church officials are closely approaching the \$2.5 million mark in expenditures for the papal visit, but have yet to raise all the funds. "We are within the budget," Stuebben said. "It is now getting close enough to the \$2.5 million and I'm signing big orders for checks every day."

Stuebben said the Mass would not have been possible without the donation of the land from two developers. Others have volunteered their time and skills. Also, city, county, state and federal officials, mostly law enforcement agencies, will provide manpower and facilities at their own expense, which could total another \$1 million, city and church officials have said.

Expenditures are high, but would be higher if the church had not received help from corporations and volunteers. The cost to the church for the 144-acre Mass site will be more than \$1.1 million, but another \$1 million in land and services was donated, Stuebben said.

As for Catholics, Stuebben said church officials will be glad to count pennies from congregation members. "It's getting close enough to the time that we really need the \$2.5 million to pay the bills," Stuebben said.

# Use of leeches in modern medicine gains approval of doctors, patients

Physicians use tiny animals to improve blood circulation

WACO (AP) — When cabinet-maker Gloria Allen ran her right hand afoul of a power saw, Waco surgeon Dr. Bill Berryhill treated her with some of the newest — and oldest — medical practices.

within 10 minutes it was pink again," Berryhill says. The leech took care of the accumulated blood and also secreted an enzyme that kept new blood from clotting. The first leech stayed on

doctors. They do everything we want them to do." The leeches come into play in cases such as Allen's, when blood flows into an area that has no veins to carry it back out. Surgeons often

fully recently following a mastectomy and breast reconstruction when blood accumulation became a problem in the reconstructed area. "They're just another weapon in our arsenal," Wright said. "It's like stepping back 200 years."

A microsurgeon, Berryhill used advanced techniques to reattach Allen's severed index finger and repair the other three fingers on her right hand. He routinely reattaches fingers and hands severed in accidents.

"What these little small animals can do is far beyond our medical capabilities as doctors. They do everything we want them to do."

The leeches were grown in laboratories and kept in clean environments to lessen the chance of bacterial infection. Modern use of leeches was first reported a decade ago by a French doctor. Since then, leeches have been used widely to treat postoperative problems in microsurgery.

One firm said its leech farm in 1986 sold 10,000 leeches to doctors in the United States and Europe. Demand grows 300 percent a year. Wright says when he suggests using leeches, the first question usually is, "Are these leeches from the creek?"

A complication arose in Allen's index finger, however, when blood began accumulating, turning the finger black and threatening amputation. "The problem was that she had blood going in, but no blood going out," Berryhill says.

*-Dr. Bill Berryhill, Waco surgeon*

can reattach arteries, but not veins or capillaries. The leeches dispose of the excess blood until the severed veins have had time to heal. Allen said she had misgivings about the leeches but is glad Berryhill opted for them.

However, he's had patients come to accept the leeches, he says. Berryhill says nurses at first were squeamish about using leeches. But Wright says nurses he worked with were interested in how the leeches would work. "They were all excited about it at Providence," he says. "They thought it was wonderful. They wanted to watch and learn how to put it on."

For a remedy, Berryhill turned to an old treatment making new rounds: leeches. Berryhill had used leeches during a fellowship in California, and he remembered seeing an advertisement by a North Carolina laboratory that ordered the leeches, which were put on a plane for Waco.

Leeches were a staple of medical practice a few centuries ago, but most modern doctors disdain them. Like bleedings and incantations, they conjure images of medieval medicine that most doctors avoid. When the alternative is amputation, however, leeches can look good. "It's taken us a step backward into the future," Berryhill says. "What these little small animals can do is far beyond our medical capabilities as

"He told me he wouldn't be able to save it unless he tried that," she says. "I said to go ahead, but at first I thought they'd bite me and I didn't know if I could have stood any more pain. "If they can help someone else, it'll be good. One guy I talked to said, 'I wish they'd put them on me.' I was lucky." Leeches are gaining nationwide popularity in several medical disciplines. Waco plastic surgeon Dr. Robert Wright used them success-

fully recently following a mastectomy and breast reconstruction when blood accumulation became a problem in the reconstructed area. "They're just another weapon in our arsenal," Wright said. "It's like stepping back 200 years."

Eight hours later at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, Berryhill placed the first leech on Allen's finger. It didn't attach itself, so Berryhill switched to a reserve, which immediately did its duty with good results. "The finger was dark blue, but

the finger two hours, but Berryhill replaced it with a fresh one, keeping a leech on the finger for 24 hours, the minimum time required to grow new capillaries across such a wound. "By that time, the blood circulation had restored itself," he says.

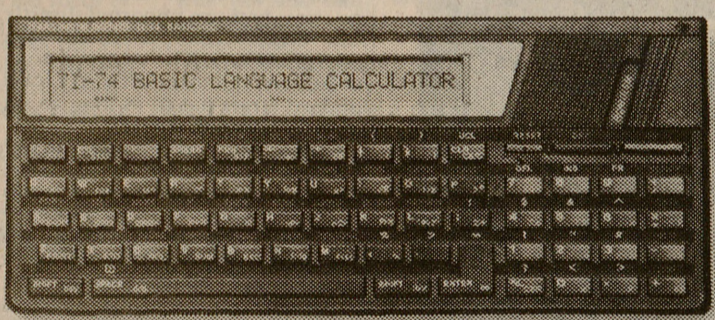
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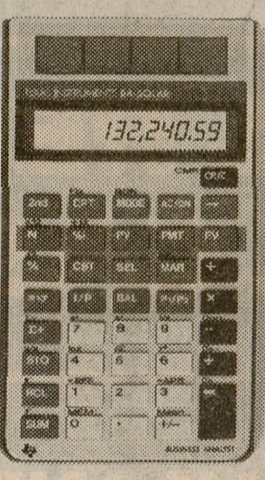
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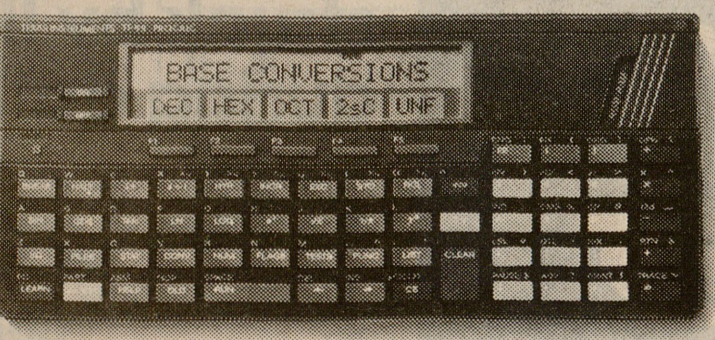


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