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Pontiff: Anti-Semitism opposes Christian ideals

STRASBOURG, France (AP)—Pope John Paul II on Sunday condemned anti-Semitism as being opposed to the principles of Christianity during a pilgrimage to northeastern France.

John Paul made his statement to the Jewish community in this historic city on the second day of a four-day visit to the region. His journey to France is his 40th foreign trip since becoming pope in 1978.

The speech occurred at a time of tension in France over anti-Semitism and racism. Ultra-conservative Catholics count heavily among the followers of right-wing politician Jean-Marie Le Pen, who campaigns on an anti-immigrant platform and has been accused of making anti-Semitic remarks.

Also Sunday, the pope saluted Moslems and called on Protestants to be patient with efforts to unify the Roman Catholic church and other Christian churches.

John Paul took a cruise on the Rhine River to talk to shipworkers, said Mass for the diocese of Strasbourg and helped celebrate the city's 2,000th anniversary, addressing thousands of citizens in French and in their Alsatian dialect.

The Jewish community of Strasbourg sent a letter to the Vatican several months ago protesting continuing instances of Catholics blaming the Jewish people for the killing of Christ and asked the pope to recognize the state of Israel.

Jean Kahn, president of the Strasbourg Jewish Community, said.

In a meeting at the residence of Strasbourg's archbishop, the pope told the Jewish representatives the two religions honored the same God and had a common heritage and values.

"It is, therefore, in deep fidelity to the vocation to which the God of peace and justice calls us — and with us, all the European peoples — that I repeat once again with you the strongest condemnation of all anti-Semitism and of all racism, which are opposed to the principles of Christianity and for which there exists no justification in the cultures that would be tempted by them," the Polish-born pope said.

"For the same reasons, we must discard any religious prejudice that history has shown us as inspired by anti-Jewish stereotypes."

The pope spoke to about 30 men in skullcaps who listened solemnly to his speech, then presented him with a book titled "Jews in France" and a painting of the Strasbourg synagogue built to replace one destroyed by German soldiers who occupied the city during World War II.

The pope in turn presented the Jewish delegation with papal medals.

Some arch-conservative French Catholics, particularly those inspired by bre-

kaway Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, have rejected the teachings of the 1962-65 Second Vatican Council that state the Jewish people are not responsible for the death of Christ. Lefebvre was excommunicated last summer for elevating several followers to bishops in defiance of church authority.

The Jewish community of Strasbourg, now with 15,000 members, was subjected to massacres and expulsions in the 14th century and persecution during World War II. Germans who occupied the city in 1940 destroyed the synagogue and 800 Jews were shot or deported.

The pope praised the Jews' witness to their faith, which he said "went as far as martyrdom, that survived the long shadows of incomprehension, of the horrible abyss of the Shoah (Holocaust)."

He did not discuss Israel. Vatican officials have cited Israel's unsettled borders and the status of Jerusalem as obstacles to the Catholic Church's recognition of the Jewish state. The Vatican also says Palestinians are entitled to a homeland.

Earlier, the 68-year-old pope heard a challenge from the leader of Strasbourg's Protestant community, Michel Hoefffel, who said churches were moving too slowly toward unity, causing true suffering among the faithful, especially couples of mixed marriage who wanted to receive the Eucharist together.

Woman has sextuplets in Rome

ROME (AP) — A 26-year-old woman gave birth to sextuplets at a Rome hospital, but one baby died Sunday and one was in guarded condition, doctors said.

The other four infants were reported doing well.

The four boys and two girls were born Saturday in Gemelli Hospital in Lucia Soma, who was reported in good condition.

Dr. Costantino Romagnoli said the 1-pound, 7-ounce boy who died suffered from underdeveloped lungs and had been kept alive with a respirator.

He said another boy was in a guarded condition.

The babies, who were born prematurely after seven months, must survive at least 96 hours before they are considered out of danger, Romagnoli said.

The mother, who had taken fertility drugs, had been pregnant with seven babies, but one died in the womb four weeks ago, according to Lorenzo Sommella, vice director of health services at Gemelli Hospital.

The father, Saverio Catapano, 31, said he is a worker who earns a little more than \$700 a month and that he and his wife share one room in a house owned by his in-laws.

Agents scrutinize Bakkers' finances

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — While Jim and Tammy Bakker have been asking for money to regain control of PTL and set up a new television ministry, federal agents have been keeping a close watch on their fund-raising tactics.

"I imagine they're checking very carefully to see what he's doing," said Hendersonville lawyer Jim Toms, one of Bakker's attorneys. He said federal authorities have questioned him about the recent fund-raising.

"They're looking at it critically, but are keeping an open mind," Toms said. "They're giving him room to see what he is really going to do."

The focus on the latest fund-raising effort comes in the midst of a 14-month-long federal grand jury investigation into possible wrongdoing by the former PTL president and founder and his top aides.

Bakker won't disclose how much his latest efforts have raised. But Toms said he is keeping federal authorities posted on Bakker's activities and has offered to let Internal Revenue Service agents inspect Bakker's financial records.

In a fund-raising campaign launched last month, the Bakkers mailed about 200,000 packets to potential donors across the nation.

Cards in the packets spell out their intentions: "Your gifts are used to support Jim and Tammy and all their ministry. They have the discretion to allocate your gift where needed. Jim and Tammy have

a nonprofit ministry, New Covenant Partners and Church, and are proceeding to apply for tax exemption, but your gift is not tax deductible at this time."

Charles Alexander, the Justice Department prosecutor heading the grand jury investigation, declined to say if agents are asking about the Bakkers' latest fund-raising techniques.

"I have no comment at all," Alexander told the Charlotte Observer. "I don't even acknowledge the existence of an investigation."

Les Witmer, an IRS spokesman in Atlanta, said: "Obviously, based on previous activities, the Internal Revenue Service would be very interested in the fund-raising activities of the new corporation."

The IRS in April revoked PTL's tax-exempt status on the ground that Bakker operated it mostly to make money — not to minister.

Bakker resigned as PTL president in March 1987 after admitting a one-time sexual encounter with former church secretary Jessica Hahn.

Three months later, PTL filed for reorganization under federal bankruptcy laws, and a bankruptcy judge has ordered the ministry to sell its assets—the Heritage USA Christian retreat and theme park, the PTL satellite TV network and 1,700 undeveloped acres of land.

Bakker's bid to buy the assets failed through last month. Last week, Stephen Mernick, a Toronto businessman, won the bidding for PTL with an offer of \$115 million.

Soviets report first AIDS death

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union on Sunday reported its first AIDS death, that of a pregnant prostitute from Leningrad, and authorities may publish her photograph to alert her sexual partners.

The 29-year-old woman died Sept. 5 of pneumonia following a 26-pound weight loss, chronic tonsillitis and bronchitis and a serious decline in the count of her immune system's T-cells, the labor newspaper *Trud* reported.

All are common symptoms of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and the newspaper noted that epidemiologists were incensed that the woman's doctors failed to diagnose AIDS before she died.

They are now trying to locate the victim's sexual partners to determine who else might be infected with the disease, and

authorities are considering publishing the woman's photograph to alert her partners, the paper said.

She was registered as a night school student and as a worker at a factory, but police said she earned her living as a prostitute for foreigners.

Soviet officials say they have identified 83 AIDS cases but only one person who has developed the deadly disease.

However, they say other cases may have been diagnosed correctly.

AIDS is caused by a virus that damages the body's immune system, leaving victims susceptible to infections and cancer.

It is spread most often through sexual contact, needles, syringes shared by drug abusers, infected blood or blood products, and from pregnant women to their offspring.

Renaissance Festival

(Continued from page 6)

son said. "We have nine types of banners with pictures of griffins, dragons, castles and unicorns on them, which run for \$20 each. Our tents are popular, too." Dawson said they make five kinds of tents, which sell to both individuals and other Renaissance festivals around the country.

"Our most common style is a closed tent with a teardrop-shaped entry and 16-foot peak," Dawson said. "But we sell many open tents, too." The average price for the hand-made tents is about \$1,000 to \$1,500, he said.

If the 225 shops can't hold the visitors' interest, they can watch plays, musical groups, magicians and other performers on any of the many stages on the festival grounds.

Michael Kaufman, also known as "Magical Mystical Michael," presents a unique mixture of magic and humor.

"My great-great-grandfather handed these magical secrets down to my great-grandfather," Kaufman said during a performance. "My great-grandfather handed them down to my grandfather. And my grandfather sold them to me."

Kaufman is one of many professionals who work the Renaissance Festival "circuit," including about 30 festivals nationwide. The festivals start in April in Florida and end in November in Texas.

"I started doing Renaissance Festivals in 1978 in California, and then went to Minnesota and Texas," Kaufman said. "I used to do street shows in California, but I prefer doing the festivals. There's more money in them, for one thing, and they're more controlled. You don't have

to worry about getting run off of the road."

Kaufman's show is about half an hour long.

"One thing I really like about the festival here in Texas is that there's 30 minutes between each show," Kaufman said. "It's a great idea. If you really get caught up in your act, it gives you a few extra minutes to go over without running into the next performer's time. It's also a nice break for the audience."

Less structured events take place all over the festival site. James Ellis, known as Deante Fettucci, does a tightrope act in the middle of town that even includes juggling cooked pasta.

"I've been working the circuit for seven years now," Ellis said. "This is my first year here at the Texas festival, and I think it's going to be great." Ellis joined

his first festival in children's costumes when he was 12.

In addition to plays, shows and dancing, visitors can enjoy many games, including dart tosses, dunking games and climbing Jacob's Ladder. They also watch chariot races and jousting matches.

Food is also a major attraction for many guests. Turkey legs, sausage on a stick, corn on the cob, steak-on-a-bun, apple dumplings and Italian ice are common fare. New this year are Cajun-style sausage, seafood gumbo and fish and chips.

The festival, which runs weekdays through Nov. 13, is located near County six miles south of Plantersville on 1774. Tickets are \$12 for adults and for children 5 to 12 years old. Children under 5 are free.

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