



# Crossroads



ARCHBISHOP WOOD HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

WARMINSTER, PA.

## REFLECTIONS... The visit of John Paul II

by Michael Riccardi

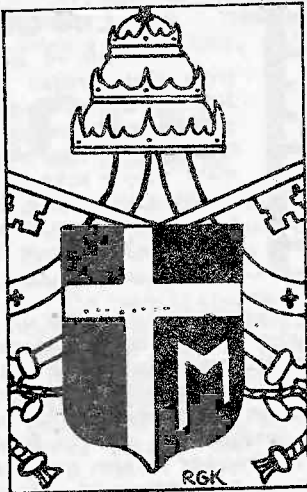
Memories. Frames from one's mental motion picture of Pope John Paul II's visit to America are what stand out initially. The first glimpse of him as he entered the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The magnificent sight of the papal platform bathed in light as dusk fell on Logan Circle. His greeting of the handicapped kids as he left the Civic Center. And finally, the Little Flower High School girls singing "Sto Lat" as Shepherd One, the papal jet, sped out of sight.

But snapshots aren't the really important thing as one reflects on the events of October 3 and 4. On these days, a great blessing was bestowed on our city.

The showers of the morning of October 3 gave way to a beautiful afternoon. The awaiting throng was the most well-mannered group of one million imaginable. And why shouldn't they've have been? For one afternoon, they would be a community of friends.

The Pope finally arrived and Philadelphia lived up to its name. For twenty-one remarkable hours, we were indeed the City of Brotherly Love. Moreover, most striking was the emotional charge that a million people of all faiths, generated as the Holy Father walked around the platform, waving to the multitude.

As one of the ushers representing Archbishop Wood at the Logan Circle Mass, I got to stand in the sil-



ver section, and was privileged, at one point, to be within an arm's length of the Pontiff. While I didn't achieve any personal contact with him, I could feel that special quality which seemed to exude from the man. This was the same quality that filled the air around the Circle with electricity, and still makes my adrenalin pump through my veins when I think about the occasion.

Other members of the Wood community were touched in special ways by the Vicar of Christ, Father Frederick Gaulin, C.M., principal of Wood, was among the priests and other religious to receive Holy Communion from the Holy Father at the Civic Center. When I asked him about his experience, Fr. Gaulin responded, "It's always special to receive it (the Blessed Sacrament), but to receive it

from the Pope is extremely special, and, quite humbly." He provided an interesting sidelight when commenting on whether he received the Host on that day in the hand or on the tongue, stating, "The Holy Father didn't seem to give anyone a choice. He just served it on the tongue, no questions asked." Finally, Fr. Gaulin said that he felt John Paul's conservative views were "terrific. On the last couple stops on the trip, instead of a litany of saints, he gave a litany of sinners." Fr. Gaulin was alluding to the fact that the Pope built goodwill during the Boston and New York stops, but grew stern with us in Philadelphia, Des Moines, Chicago, and Washington (for example, in Des Moines: "[Giving hungry nations] crumbs from the table is not enough. You

[American farmers] have the resources to rid the world of hunger."). Also, Father Victor Sharrett and Father Joseph Shields received communion from the successor to Peter at the Civic Center along with our Fr. Gaulin.

A final note, with which I would like to end, is my personal speculation of what thoughts the Pope might have harbored as he was greeting the huge throngs in Chicago and Philadelphia. It is the last verse of the Beatles' song, "Across the Universe."

"Sounds of laughter shades of earth are ringing through my open view inciting and inviting me. Limitless undying love which shines around me like a million suns; it calls me on and on across the universe."

the busing dispute

## ...AND THE FIGHT GOES ON

by David Vasquez

In what has seemingly become a continual show-down, the Archbishop Wood High Schools have once again faced a crisis situation with regards to bus service.

In this year's bout, we faced the likes of Centennial School District, which supplies Wood with more buses than any other public school district, as well as being the district

in which our school is located.

This year's problems started during the summer when Centennial School District contacted Wood concerning student safety problems presented by the traffic flow and bus loading system on our campus. Centennial advised us that if these problems were not corrected, they would cut

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