

# HARLEM WELCOMES POPE



Pope John Paul, II, gestures to crowd during his visit to New York. His stop in Harlem was greeted with cheers and applause

as he visited St. Charles Borromeo Church.

(COREEN SIMPSON PHOTO)

**25,000**  
*show*  
*up*

By J. ZAMGBA BROWNE  
Amsterdam News Staff

A wild and enthusiastic crowd lined Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard Tuesday night to greet Pope John Paul II as he paid a visit to St. Charles Borromeo Church at 211 West 141st Street.

Pope John Paul II is also the first pontiff to visit a church in Central Harlem, and many of the residents including the city's 50,000 Black Catholics didn't hesitate to show their affection for him.

As his motorcade approached St. Charles Borromeo Church, 211 W. 141st St. about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, there he was greeted by the church's pastor Msgr. Emerson Moore, stopped for about 20 minutes, amongst wild cheers and much excitement from the multitude who lined the route.

There were people on fire-escapes, in windows and doorways, waving enthusiastically in a dramatic gesture of welcome as the Pontiff passed by and as he spoke in front of the church.

Police estimate the crowd that greeted the Pope in Harlem at about 25,000. Only parishioners with special passes were allowed near the Pontiff.

The entire block between Seventh and Eighth Aves. on 141st St. was sealed off to the general public. There about 700 law enforcement officials near to guard the Pope.

His Holiness was presented with a bouquet of flowers by eight-year-old Lynda

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# Pope John Paul's peace message to the people

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Anderson and Joe Fanandez made a presentation on behalf of the pupils who came to cheer the Pope.

Five schools in Roman Catholic parishes in Harlem were on hand to welcome the Pope. They include, All Saints, St. Joseph, St. Marks, St. Charles, and St. Aloysius.

Across the street from the historic cathedral, one woman was seen jumping and said, "I have never seen a Pope — I'd like to see one." A man holding his young son high on his shoulders shouted, "Jesus have mercy, I have never seen so much excitement for one man."

The 1500-member St. Charles Church has been Harlem since 1888. It has changed through the years from a predominantly white church to an institution that now has 95% Blacks and 5% Hispanics. It is pastored by the Rev. Monsignor Wmerson Moore.

## **Pomp and fanfare**

But amid the pomp and fanfare, some of the spectators warned about being swept away entirely by the charm and grace of His Holiness.

John Paul is perhaps the most charismatic Pope in modern times. In one short year, he has captured the imagination of millions and catapulted himself on center stage as the most important religious leader in the western world.

This was evident in his two-day visit here this week when a multitude of people from all walks of life poured into the streets, straining their necks just to catch a glimpse of the Pontiff.

It was a period when the Big Apple stood practically still, and when all eyes here became focused on the 59-year-old spiritual leader from the moment his TWA jetliner, pilot by Clarence Powell, Jr., a Black man landed at LaGuardia Airport about 9:08 a.m. Tuesday.

At the airport, the Pontiff was greeted amid wild cheers by some 5,000 well wishers including church, federal, state, city and U.N. dignitaries.

Responding to welcome remarks by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, the Pontiff said he had looked forward to

this visit from the moment he was elevated to the papacy a year ago.

## **Limited traffic**

There was limited traffic throughout the midtown area during the Pope's visit, and traffic restrictions were put into effect hours before he journeyed to various locations in the metropolitan area.

But mass transit was in full swing because the Transit Authority had placed its subways and buses on an all-day rush hour schedule during the Pontiff's 28 hours stay here.

An estimated 13,000 cops were placed on duty and the Amsterdam News learned that more than \$2.5 million was appropriated in overtime alone for police protection.

Police said the crowd that turned out to

greet the Holy Father is the largest they have seen in recent years, and since General Douglass MacArthur's homecoming here back in 1951.

Side streets crossing major avenues were blocked for some 30 minutes whenever the Pope's motorcade was about to journey to designated locations.

On the first full day of his visit here Tuesday, Pope Paul addressed United Nations General Assembly on the subject of global peace, human rights and individual justice.

The Pontiff also called for an overall solution to the Middle East and Rhodesian controversies as well as the elimination of arms confrontation throughout the world.

He further stressed that unless the Palestinians are included in the Middle East discussions there would be no lasting peace in the area.

## **Second Pontiff**

Pope Paul II is the second Roman Catholic Pontiff to visit the Big Apple and to address the U.N. General Assembly in 14 years. The first visit was by Pope Paul VI in 1965.

"There is always a tendency that while basking in the glow of such historic visit, we will not listen quite as closely as we might, and we will not examine quite as

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# POPE —

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carefully as we must," said Dr. Claire Randall of the National Council of Churches.

The Rev. Herbert Daughtry, chairman of the Black United Front declared that if the Pontiff addresses himself to the conditions of "our people in this city, then I would rejoice in his visit here."

But if on the other hand there is no mention by him of the deplorable conditions, Rev. Daughtry said then the Pope's presence here will be "an exercise which would divert our attention away from survival issues."

In other words, Rev. Daughtry continued, if Jesus Christ came to the Big Apple and didn't speak up against some of the social evils confronting Blacks in particular and poor people in general, then "I would wish him a quick exit from this city."

Among some of the social problems mentioned by Rev. Daughtry include widespread joblessness, police brutality and killings, inferior education, dilapidated housing, closing of hospitals and the racist attitudes of some public officials.

"If Christ himself were to come and didn't speak out against these problems," Rev. Daughtry noted, "then I would also wish he had stayed in Heaven so we would be forced to focus on life and death question of survival, and not be carried away with a lot of meaningless pomp and ceremonies."

## **Sharp criticisms**

There were also some sharp criticisms about the massive preparation made in

Harlem for the Pontiff's visit.

Some residents were opposed to the clean-up campaign that was launched in the area just for the visit. There was an unusual garbage collection and many houses were painted near St. Charles Church where the Pope visited.

"Why are they trying to impress the Pope? They know damn well that they don't collect garbage here for months. They should have let the Pontiff see exactly how we are treated here," said one female spectator.

Practically every Roman Catholic School in the metropolitan area were closed on Wednesday so that some 19,000 youngsters, many of whom were selected by their respective schools would be able to attend a special service conducted by the Pontiff at Madison Square Garden.

One youngster described the Pope's visit as a milestone in the history of the State of New York. "We look at his visit as a great spiritual event because we don't see anyone on the level of the Pontiff in the whole wide world."

## **Christian leader**

Another youngster called the Pope a dynamic Christian leader who doesn't hesitate to communicate in a very spontaneous way. "He has made the papacy a very human institute," the youngster added.

At Shea Stadium where the Pope blessed a multitude before his departure for Philadelphia, some 60,000 voices sang a theme in honor of his visit. In addition, he was presented with a special engraved copy of one of his poems.