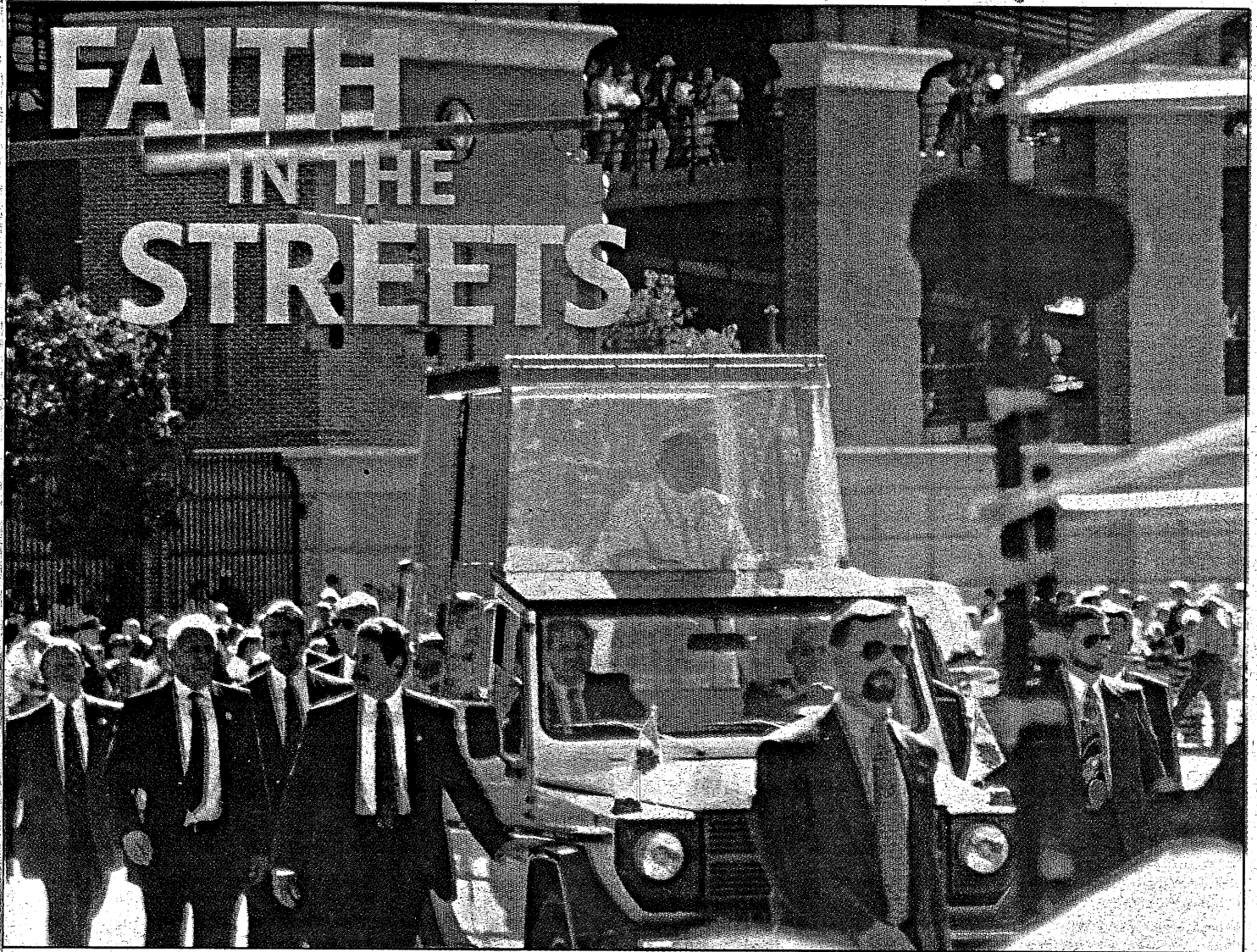


THE HOLY FATHER IN BALTIMORE

The papal parade



OR PHOTOS BY
DEAN ALEXANDER

Flanked by Secret Service agents, the pope emerged from Oriole Park in the popemobile and took to the streets of Baltimore at the front of the papal parade (above), while throngs of spectators lined the sidewalks for a chance to see the Holy Father (right).



Papal parade takes pope to the people

By Mark Grutkowski
Catholic Review staff

Baltimore has never been graced by the visit of a pope, and the pope has never led a papal parade. So when these two firsts were achieved Sunday afternoon and Pope John Paul II took to the streets of downtown Charm City in the popemobile, thousands of the faithful were there as witnesses.

"This is something I dreamed of my entire life," said Jane Kromeke of Our Lady of Victory parish in southwest Baltimore. "I can't believe this is hap-

pening."

Ms. Kromeke and her friend, Terry Lehr of St. Clement's parish in Rosedale, set up a card table on the sidewalk along the route, and played 500 rummy to kill nearly six hours before parade began.

"I hope he'll be okay," Ms. Lehr said. "The pope keeps such a hectic schedule."

Beverly Weiman, 21, of St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish in Highlandtown, and her fiance, Jeremy Griffith of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Hampden, staked out their territory along the pa-

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Pope John Paul takes to the streets

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rade route six hours before the parade.

"I waited my whole life for this moment. This is something I'll tell my kids about someday," Ms. Weiman said.

Mr. Griffith added, "He symbolizes all that is good. With all sorts of things going on in the world today, we need something to believe in. He is that something."

Before the parade, a calm settled on the streets. The sound of choppers flying overhead echoed through the streets, and police cruisers made intermittent runs of the route. Police sharpshooters were perched on the tops of buildings along the route, scanning rooftops and the street alike for potentially dangerous situations.

The crowd was unusually silent. It was difficult to believe that in just a few short hours, the same street would be the center of international attention, buzzing with life and excitement.

But as the papal Mass at Oriole Park concluded and the Holy Father took to the streets, the crowd roared. He followed in the wake of the cheer, which erupted along the parade route as the pope became visible to crowds bunched on the sidewalks.

The pope led some 3,000 parade participants on a three-quarter-mile ride through the city. He paraded from Oriole Park up to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The procession included more than 40 units of musicians, dancers and representatives of ethnic communities. About 800 members of the "families of faith," representing parishes across the archdiocese, also walked the route.

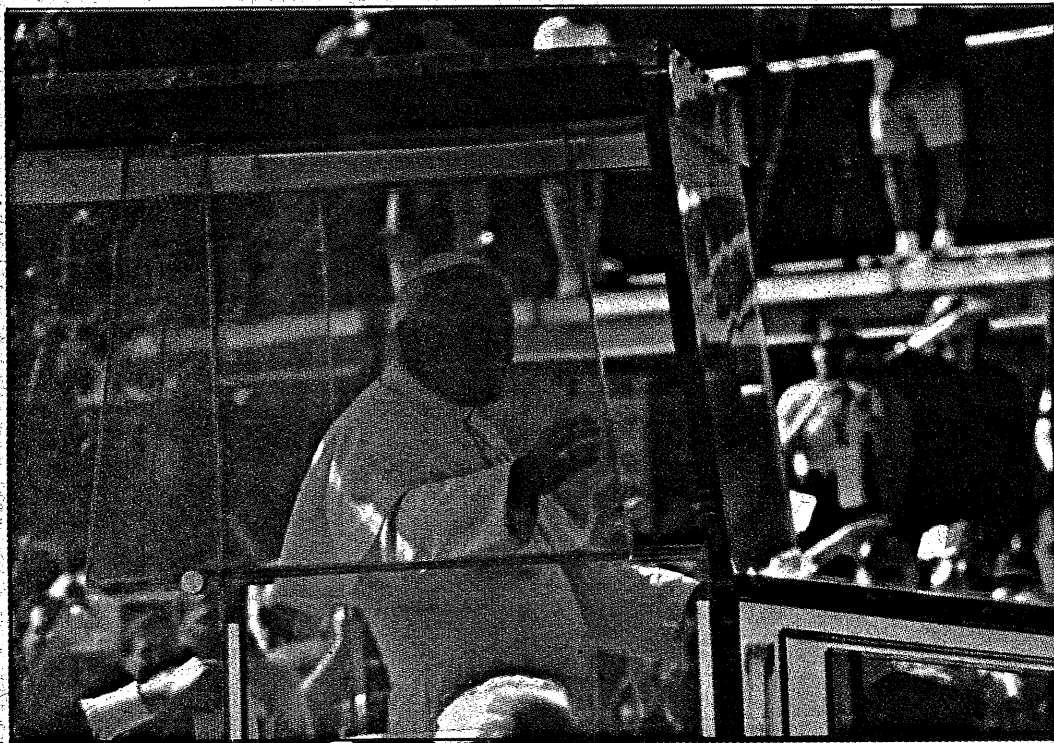
"They represent the ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of our community," Cardinal William H. Keeler said in a written statement.

Like children chasing a parade, men and women alike fled from their vantage points as the pope passed them by, and rushed to corners farther along the parade route to see the Holy Father a second, third and even fourth time.

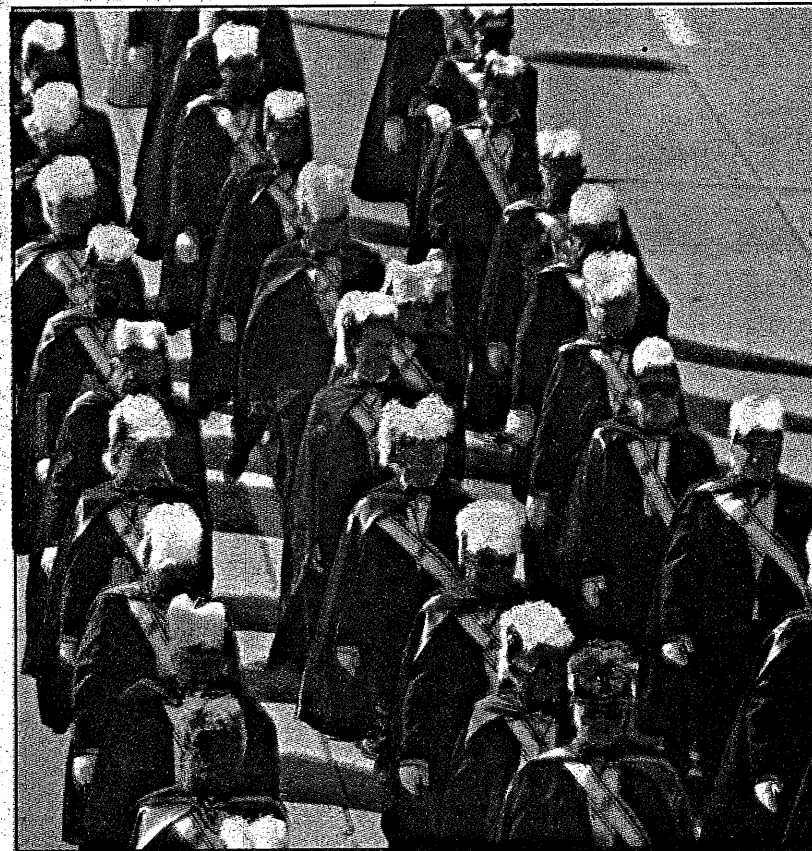
As the pope passed by, people held babies high above their heads.

The Kasprzak family waved Polish flags high and chose a spot on Light Street to show their children the Polish pope.

"This is very exciting. We are very proud," said Grazyna Kasprzak, a parishioner at Holy Rosary Church near Fells Point in Baltimore. "As Catholics this is very important. Because he is Polish, we are extra proud."



CR/JOHN HO



CR/JOHN KING

Shielded by bullet-proof glass in the popemobile, the Holy Father (above) waves to the crowds that jammed the sidewalks of the parade route.

The pope wasn't the only attraction at the parade, however. The Knights of Columbus (left) was one of the many organizations representing the archdiocese in the parade. Members from councils across the archdiocese marched in the procession.