

Cardinal Urges Purging Of Anti-Semitism

ROME (WNS) — Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, delivered an impassioned plea for the purging of anti-Semitism from theological literature, for promoting deeper Christian understanding of Jewish religion, culture and tradition and for Jews and Christians to join in dialogue with people of other faiths, notably Moslems.

The Cardinal spoke to some 200 Christians and Jews from all over Europe, including the Eastern Bloc, assembled at Vallombroso, near Florence, for a colloquium, "1984 and Beyond: Purpose and Strategy in Jewish-Christian Relations." It is sponsored by the International Council for Christians and Jews (ICCJ).

"Let us go back to God and to man, His image. Let us bend over this Jewish brother, over the history of his suffering, martyrdom and persecution. Let us remove tendentious or injurious interpretations of passages contained in the New Testament and in other writings," Martini said.

He suggested, specifically, that Christians become acquainted with "Jewish prayer and Jewish spirituality"; for them to take the "initiative" to study and promote "research in schools by making use of already existing" opportunities provided by existing "scholastic regulations, creating others...revising text books ... planning refresher courses for the clergy and catechists, paying attention to and checking catachisms setting up similar courses and initiatives in diocesan seminaries."

This was the first time an Italian prelate of Martini's high rank has made such concrete suggestions as to steps to "dissipate the misunderstandings that still make us diffident of real reciprocal good will" and to further "a dialogue, a lively and up to date relationship with the entire Jewish reality" because it is "essential to the Church."

Geraldine Ferraro Is A Member Of Pioneer Women/Na'amat

NEW YORK — Geraldine A. Ferraro, Walter Mondale's choice for running mate, is a member of Pioneer Women/Na'amat who is as firmly committed to Israel's security as she is to equal rights for women, according to Phyllis Sutker, national president of the 50,000-member organization.

In a congratulatory message to the first woman to be designated for so high an office by a major party, Mrs. Sutker said: "As a feminist organization, once directed by Golda Meir, we have always encouraged the representation of women in the highest levels of government office, although as you know we do not endorse candidates.

"We are proud that a woman of your high calibre — a Pioneer Woman — has been designated as a candidate for the office of Vice President of the United States."

Met Na'amat's Leader in Israel

Mrs. Ferraro's enthusiasm for Israel — where she met Masha Lubelsky, secretary-general of Na'amat — drew a warm response from Pioneer Women/Na'amat's Keshet Club, a group of young professional women, whom she addressed on May 25. The club is in Forest Hills, Queens, part of Mrs. Ferraro's Congressional district.

On the Palestinians: "They are using the women and children in the refugee camps to generate sympathy...It's disgraceful to see what is happening there," she said on her visit to refugee centers in Lebanon and Jordan while en route to Israel.

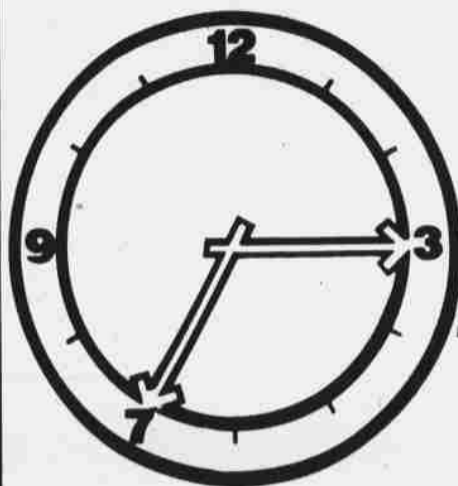
On Jerusalem, Mrs. Ferraro — an original co-sponsor of legislation to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem — said matter-of-factly: "It seems to me that if that's the capital, it's the capital."

On the Golan Heights: "There is no way that, if I were Prime Minister of Israel, I would ever agree to its being given back to anyone."

Juggling Job and Family

Asked how she balanced family and career, Mrs. Ferraro told the Pioneer Women/Na'amat Keshet Club: "My husband and I thought we were doing so well when we had two children. Then we had a third and all of a sudden I realized I didn't have a third hand!" For the benefit of the young mothers at the meeting, she revealed her secret for "maintaining my sanity when the children were young" — "Getting out of the house."

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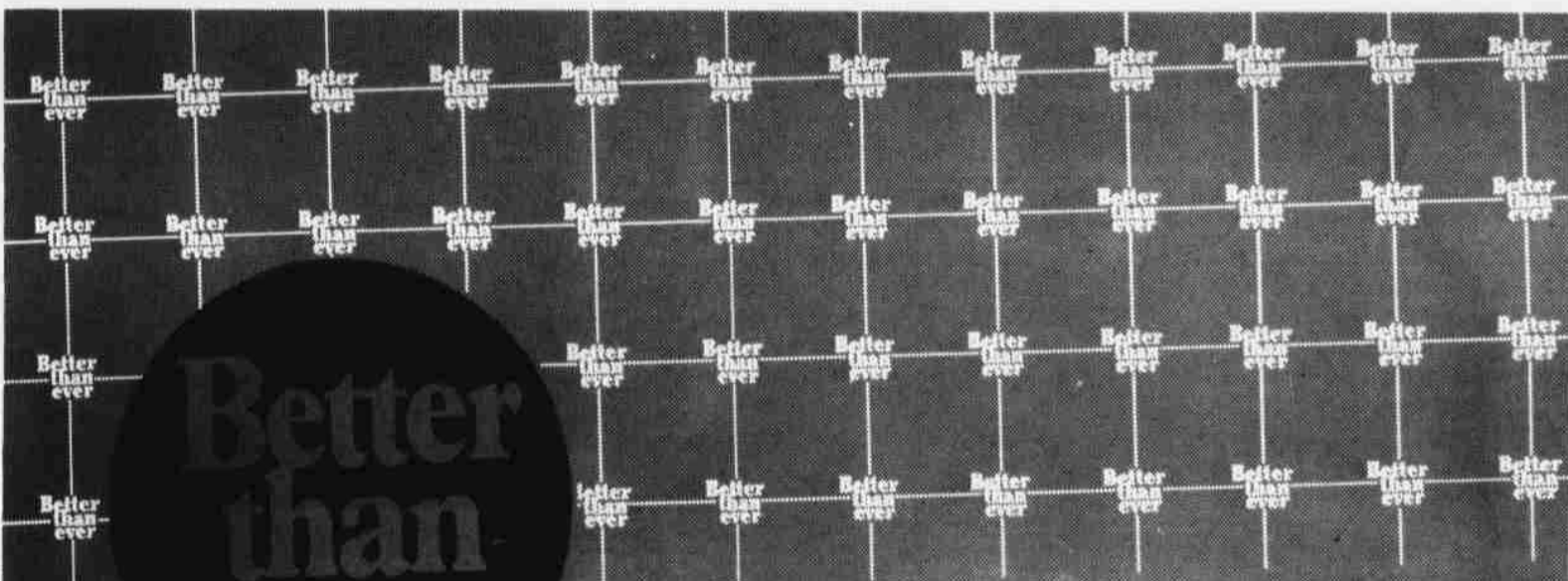
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