P.S. to the NEWS

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POPE JOHN PAUL I

Toose who hoped that the College of Cardinals would select an Anerican Pope for the Catholic Church were disa:ppointed, but they can rejoice that the new Pope took the same name as one of the irost revered of Anerican patriots. In selecting his name, Pope Jahn Paul I may oot have had John Paul Jones in mind, but his choice raninds Anericans of the clarion call that has eclx>ed through the pages of our histo:ry, "I have not yet begun to fight."

For generations, Jones' valiant exhortation to the Bonhorrme Richard's crew to snatch victo:ry fran the jaws of· defeat has been used and reused by leaders in milita:ry, political and religious battles.

In the years following World War II, the Catholic Church was admired by many oot of that faith as the world's greatest bulwark against the spread of atheistic Camu nism, then sweeping across Eastern Europe. Today the Catholic Church is oot even able to persuade its neri:>ers in still-free Italy to vote against CCJmunist candidates. The Carmunist Party has captured control of lace and nearlyeve:ry other major Italian city.

In 1965 and 1966, a group of Anericanreligious and lay authorities on Ccmnunism made two trips to Rema to urge Catholic Church officials to calduct a large-scale educational program on the strategy and tactics of Camunisn. The Anerican delegation included leaders such as the late Bishop Cuthbert C>" **4;ara** and others who had had first== hand experience with Ccmnunists in led China, Hungary, Cuba, and other parts of the world.

In particular, the Anerican delegation urged the Church to strengthen and the effective work of the Rev. Antlx>ny Gliozzo, S.J. , who operated a study center on Camunism in Rane. His educational work had been instrunental in defeating the Ccmrunists in Italian elections.

Unfortunately, Father Gliozzo's center was closed soon afte:twards, his faculty

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dispersed, and he was transferred to Sicily out of the educational and political mainstream of Italy. Apparently a high-level Vatican decision was made to abandon anti-camrunist leadership and to te:rminate educational efforts to inform Catholics on how to defend themselves -- psyclx:>logically, politically, or militarily -- against Carrnunist advance.

Given no training in how to refute the false propaganda and clever tactics of the Camrunists, and shown news photographs of oordial neetings between the Pope and Carrnunist emissaries fran Russia and Eastern Europe, Italians voted for the Ccmm.mist Party in increasing numbers.

A major success in the conquest by the Coomunists of one-third of the world and in their continuing march through Africa today is their unshakable faith that history is on their side, that they will surely win, and that the rest of the world
is powerless to turn back the tide of the future. This isn't true, but the Carrnunists' blind faith in that dogma has helped to shape events their way.

As the first Pope in a tmusand years to pick an original name, Pope John Paul I oould be signalling a new awroa.ch to church policies. If the Catholic Church clx:>oses to be a leader in the worldwide battle against Ccmnunism, it has the talent, resources,
and organization to do it. There is ample incentive; millions of Ca th::>lics behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains are being persecuted for their religion.

But those who want to win any battle, ideological as well as militacy, must first have faith in their ultimate victory and an iron determination to win. John Paul Jones had it. We hope John Paul I has, too.

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