

# What Kind of People Are You?

A number of years ago I saw a charming and amusing film, "The Secret of Santa Vittoria." The "secret" of the story was how an Italian village hid a million bottles of wine from the invading German army during the last world war. A wide range of human characters are delightfully represented in the story. The village has its born leaders, its politicians, its rascals, its parasites, as well as its greater and lesser heroes. As the conspiracy develops, a deep sense of loyalty knits the feelings and actions of the community tightly together. The plan is carried out successfully, and the wine and village industry is saved. Deeply humiliated, the baffled, frustrated, arrogant Germans leave the village on roaring motorcycles. The film ends with the entire community standing gathered together in the village square as the protagonist of the story, played marvelously by Anthony Quinn, with a majestic gesture of his right hand, salutes and compliments all of his fellow citizens with the question: "What kind of people are you?"

As we prepare ourselves for the one thousandth anniversary of our Christianity we cannot avoid asking ourselves the question: what kind of people are we? Who are we? What do we amount to? What do we stand for? What do we represent? What really are we?

In the talk that he gave during his historic visit to Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Philadelphia last October, Pope John Paul II gave us the answer to the question from his perspective as universal pastor and as our neighbor from Poland. The Pope began by making his own the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians: "Now in Christ Jesus. . . you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household. You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations, and Christ Jesus himself for its main cornerstone." (Eph. 2, 13, 19-20)

Since we are baptized, we have been incorporated into Christ. We are Christ's. We belong to him. As a result, we are on equal footing with all Christians, and we are part of God's household. We are part of the building of which Christ is the cornerstone. To quote the Holy