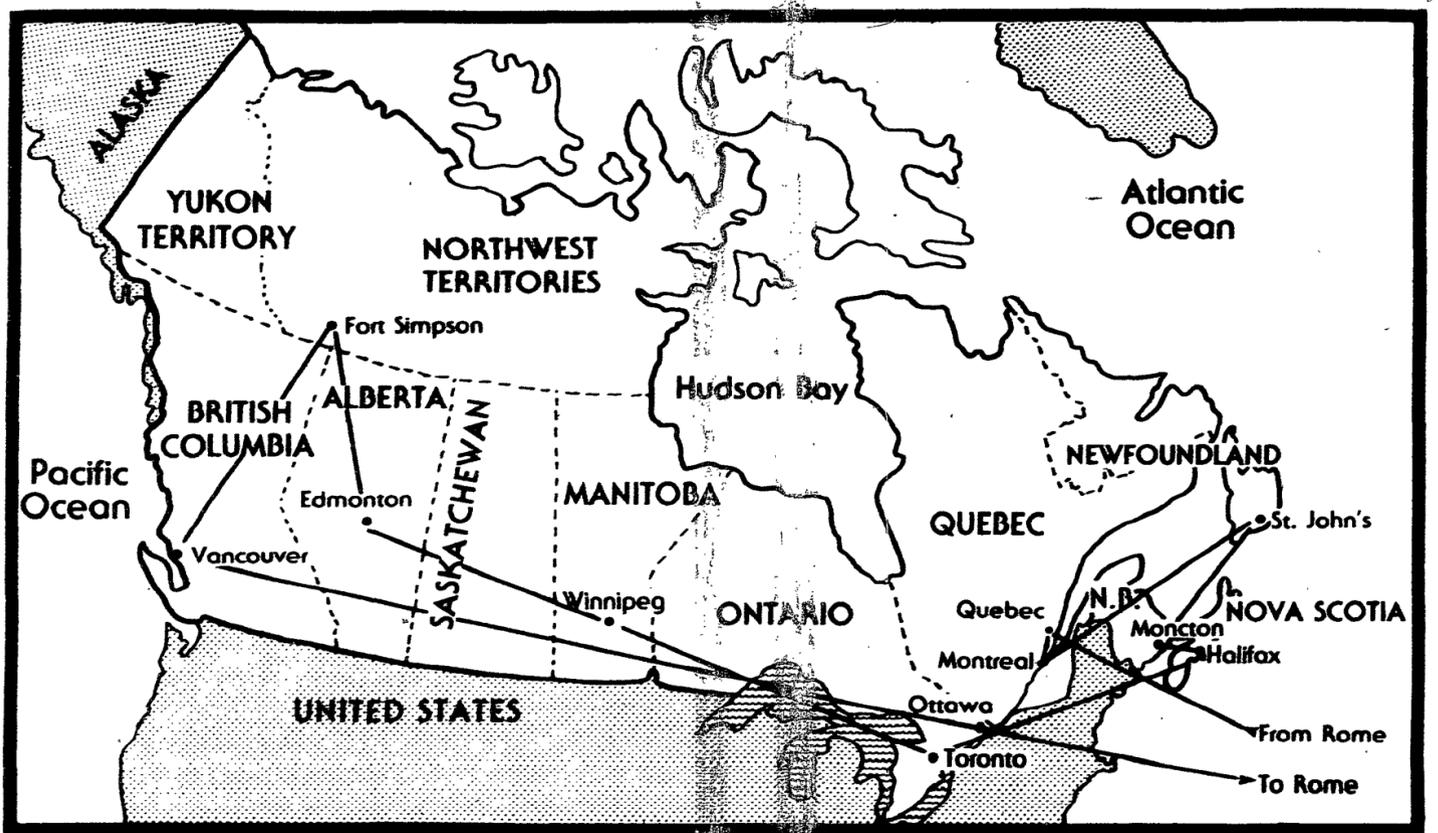


Canada Ready For Visit

This map shows Pope John Paul II's coast-to-coast route for his trip to Canada. Between the pontiff's arrival in Quebec on Sept. 9 and his departure from Ottawa Sept. 20, he will visit 14 major cities and give about 50 talks to various groups. (NC map)



On Eve of Papal Visit, Canada Church Vibrant

By Agostino Bono

Vatican City (NC) — When Pope John Paul II visits Canada Sept. 9-20, He will find a Catholic Church that is a strong and vibrant part of national life.

The church in Canada is ecumenically active, has formed liaison groups with government officials on public policy issues and has been a key promoter of minority rights for Canadian Indians and Eskimos.

At the same time it is a church with internal strengths and weaknesses similar to those of the church in the United States and other Western countries.

For example, there has been a steady decline in Religious vocations, but the Canadian church continues sending missionaries abroad and currently has more than 3,000 working in 96 countries.

Pope John Paul plans to discuss these and other issues in his "Proclamation of the Gospel within Canada," said a Vatican official involved in preparing the papal trip.

As has become the norm for his trips abroad, Pope John Paul draws his themes from the local bishops. He seeks their advice on how to develop the issues within the context of national life. He also conditions his messages to fit each area he visits within a country.

Canada is bilingual, so the pope plans to speak French while in the Province of Quebec, which was colonized by the French, and English in the rest of the country, said the Vatican official.

Of Canada's 11 million Catholics, 6 million are French Canadians and most live in Quebec. Catholics form 43

percent of the country's total population of 25 million.

The Canadian bishops have prepared for the visit by developing a series of background papers, each called a "dossier," dealing with national church life and issues the pope is likely to discuss.

The papers reveal a church deeply involved in ecumenism. The Canadian Catholic Church is a member of more than 50 working groups with other Christian churches on theological and social issues.

"A current example of inter-church cooperation is the peace and disarmament movement," according to the dossier on ecumenism. "The presidents of the Canadian Council of Churches, and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops together with leaders of the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Churches have met regularly with federal government leaders to call for Canadian leadership for world peace and force changes in Canada's involvement in the arms race," the background reads.

"Theology students of several churches study together at the Toronto School of Theology, the Atlantic School of Theology (Halifax), the Vancouver School of Theology and through the faculty of religious studies at McGill University (Montreal)," the background paper says.

The papal schedule lists several meetings with non-Catholic religious leaders.

The schedule also lists several meetings with native Indians and Eskimos, with whom the Catholic bishops have developed close ties.

A Catholic background paper on this issue says that aboriginal rights, still held in more than one third of Canada, are closely linked to the efforts of native peoples to maintain their cultural and ethnic identity.

These people "steadfastly wish to retain their cultural identity" and wish to be known by their own linguistic and cultural sub-groups rather than being lumped together as Indians and Eskimos, says the background paper.

Currently there are 60 identifiable linguistic and cultural sub-groups, it adds.

Besides evangelizing at home, the Canadian church is also active abroad. In addition to sending out missionaries it also collects funds to be used in underdeveloped countries. In 1983 the church earmarked the equivalent of \$12 million for foreign projects.

Canada has been sending missionaries abroad despite a decline in the number of Religious who make up more than half of those assigned overseas. The number of Religious priests dropped from 7,107 in 1962 to 4,774 in 1983. During the same period the number of brothers went from 6,103 to 2,533 and the number of sisters fell from 59,712 to 37,634.

The drop has been paralleled by what the bishops see as a decline in religious practice among Canadian Catholics in general. They estimate that from 30 percent to 50 percent of the Catholic population attends Mass weekly.

The bishops see this as tied to problems produced by the fast-paced changes in modern urban industrialized societies.

World, Nation, People . . . in Brief

Provided by NC News Service

Use of Plane Protested

Washington — Americans United for Separation of Church and State has protested the use of a U.S. Air Force jet to fly Archbishop Pro-Light, papal pronuncio to the United States, from a meeting with President Reagan in California Aug. 11 to the coronation of a bishop in the Virgin Islands. A White House spokesman said the president had made a "last minute request" to send the archbishop to the Virgin Islands. The Holy See's "overseas" spokesman said the archbishop's presence in the Virgin Islands is "a recognition of the importance of the Holy See's presence in the Caribbean region." The archbishop's flight was scheduled for Aug. 12.

U.S. Polaris Is Strong

Washington — The U.S. Navy's Polaris missile submarine fleet is the strongest in the world, a Navy spokesman said today. The fleet, which is based at Kings Bay, Georgia, consists of 12 submarines, each with 24 missiles. The spokesman said the fleet is "the most advanced and most capable in the world." The Polaris fleet is the backbone of the U.S. nuclear deterrent. The spokesman said the fleet is "the most advanced and most capable in the world." The Polaris fleet is the backbone of the U.S. nuclear deterrent.

'Against Abortion But' Politicians Lack Courage, Archbishop Writes

Hartford, Conn. (NC) — Any Catholic legislator who personally is against abortion but fails to vote for pro-life legislation "is not showing the courage of his or her convictions," Archbishop John F. Whealon said Aug. 10.

In a column in the archdiocesan weekly newspaper, the Catholic Transcript, Archbishop Whealon said the actions of Catholic legislators who ignore personal beliefs and vote against pro-life legislation were "lacking in both logic and courage" and "irresponsible and even dangerous."

Catholic legislators are especially responsible for their votes on abortion because "they have the guidance of the teaching of the church on moral issues," the archbishop said.

Archbishop Whealon said the "weakness" of separating personal conviction from a legislator's voting record "is

perhaps clearer when applied to other moral questions.

"Concerning the wholesale killing of Jewish and Polish people in the holocaust, such a legislator could say with equal logic: 'I would personally never gas another human being, but I am in favor of other people having the right to do so if they wish.'"

"The pro-choice Catholic legislator is, in my judgment, neither logical nor theological. Such a legislator is not showing the courage of his convictions."

He cited the former Connecticut Gov. Ella Grasso, who died in 1981, as an example of the ideal Catholic legislator.

"There was no question where Ella stood on abortion: it was wrong and she would have nothing to do with it. We need more Ella Grassos in our legislatures," the archbishop said.

What Bishops Told GOP Platform Unit

Dallas (NC) — The U.S. Catholic Conference, public action agency of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, told the Republican Party platform committee that the bishops regard protection of life from abortion and nuclear war as questions of human survival itself.

The testimony, scheduled for presentation by Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCarthy of Galveston-Houston at a hearing in Dallas, site of the

Republican National Convention Aug. 20-23, was identical to testimony presented earlier to the Democrats.

The USCC said that the "fundamental insight" of Catholic social teaching is "the dignity of the human person" and expressed particular concern about nuclear war and abortion.

"Some wrongly regard abortion and nuclear war as

altogether separate and unrelated issues, applauding our actions on one and opposing our views on the other," the bishops said in the USCC testimony to both parties.

"We see as clearly as anyone that they are two issues; we know that each presents a different set of problems requiring different solutions. But it is clear to us that the sanctity — indeed, the survival — of human life is at stake

in both," the testimony said.

"It is likewise clear that in both cases our nation faces grave problems which cry out for a redirection of public policy," the testimony added.

The testimony addressed 12 other issues as well, including civil rights, criminal justice, employment, food and agriculture, housing, immigration and regional conflict in the world.