

## 15 million set to take part in 'Jesus March'

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — Organizers are expecting up to 15 million people to join in a "March for Jesus," scheduled for June 25 in more than 500 U.S. cities — including Rochester and Elmira — and 170 other countries.

"People of every denomination, race and affiliation will come together as never before," said Tom Pelton of Austin, Texas, national coordinator of March for Jesus U.S.A. "There is no political agenda, no social agenda or protests taking place, but rather a celebration designed to bring whole communities together."

In Rochester, the march is slated to begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of Upper Falls Boulevard and North Clinton Avenue, and conclude with a prayer rally at Silver Stadium, 500 Norton St.

In Elmira, a Children's March for Jesus will start at 11 a.m., beginning on South Main Street and proceeding to Winsor Park.

According to an announcement from regional coordinators in South Bend, Ind., marches will begin in New Zealand as the sun rises and continue around the globe through every time zone.

March for Jesus began in 1987 in London, with a march of 15,000. Within two years, it had grown to 200,000 in 600 locations throughout England. Pelton brought the concept to the U.S. in 1991.

Among the plans for 1994:

- More than 1 million marchers are expected in Sao Paulo, Brazil, site of the world's largest march last year with 300,000 people.
- Another 1 million marchers are likely to participate in prayer walks linked by radio in China.
- More than 2 million will gather at Yoida Plaza in Seoul, South Korea, for a prayer rally.
- In the United States, Christians of all racial groups are expected to join in a rally near the site of the Los Angeles riots. In New York, the march will conclude with prayer in front of the United Nations.



AP/Wide World News

## Violence takes major toll

Bangladeshi officers load the body of their Uruguayan counterpart, Major Juan Sosa, wrapped in a U.N. flag, into a truck for transport to Nairobi. Sosa was killed when his vehicle was attacked by troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Front as he traveled outside Kigali.

## Vatican, Israel announce full relations

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican and Israel announced the establishment of full diplomatic relations and the exchange of ambassadors, crowning a two-year-long process of delicate negotiations.

The Vatican, announcing the step June 15, said diplomatic relations will provide "a privileged channel of dialogue between the Holy See and the state of Israel for the promotion of the great values of peace, freedom and justice."

The move will also aid the defense of Jerusalem and the Holy Land as a unique historic, cultural and religious patrimony, the Vatican said.



AP/Wide World Photos  
Pope John Paul II blesses the crowd from his studio window at the Vatican June 15.

Named as Vatican nuncio to Israel was Archbishop Andrea Cordero Lanza de Montezemolo, a longtime apostolic delegate to Jerusalem and a special representative to Israel since January. The Italian archbishop was one of the chief architects of a historic "fundamental agreement" reached last year between Israel and the Vatican, which opened the way to the diplomatic breakthrough.

The Vatican's nunciature, or embassy, will be located in the Tel Aviv suburb of Jaffa.

Israel's ambassador to the Vatican is Samuel Hadas, a career diplomat who was named a personal envoy to the Vatican earlier this year.

The Vatican and Israel had agreed to upgrade their relations to ambassador-level within four months of ratification of the "fundamental agreement." Both states ratified the accord in March. The agreement outlined principles of religious freedom and church-state relations, leaving the more difficult issues — such as the church's tax status and property holdings — to subsequent joint commissions.

Pope John Paul II, speaking to the world's cardinals June 13, cited the normalization of relations with Israel as one of the most important recent accomplishments of Vatican diplomacy. He was careful, however, to link it to the establishment of similar relations with Jordan and what he called the "significant development of dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization."

The Vatican and Israel still have major differences over the status of Jerusalem, which Israel claims as its capital. The Vatican has insisted that the city, which is sacred to Christians, Muslims, and Jews, should have an internationally guaranteed status that would protect its special character.

The question of Jerusalem is considered one of the most difficult issues that remain to be resolved in ongoing Middle East peace talks. It has not been on the agenda of Vatican-Israeli negotiations.

Israeli and Vatican representatives are already at work on the thorny bilateral issues of taxation and the status of church institutions in Israel and the territories it occupies. The "fundamental agreement" proposed a two-year deadline for resolving both questions, but representatives on both sides say these talks may take longer.

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