

Schedule is announced for Oct. 4-8 visit to U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Here is a partial schedule of Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United States, as approved by the Vatican and announced by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. All times are Eastern Daylight Time.

Wed., Oct. 4

— 3 p.m., Arrival at Newark International Airport and welcoming ceremony, including an address by the Holy Father.

— 5 p.m., Evening prayer at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark, including an address by the Holy Father.

Thurs., Oct. 5

— 9:15 a.m., Visit to the United Nations, including addresses by the Holy Father to the General Assembly and the U.N. staff.

— 5:30 p.m., Tour by popemobile inside Giants Stadium, New Jersey.

— 6 p.m., Celebration of Mass at Giants Stadium, including a homily by the Holy Father.

Fri., Oct. 6

— 9 a.m., Tour by popemobile inside Aqueduct Racetrack, Queens, N.Y.

— 9:30 a.m., Celebration of Mass at Aqueduct Racetrack, including a homily by the pope.

— 10:30 a.m., Tour by popemobile on the grounds of St. Joseph's School, Queens, N.Y.

— 5:15 p.m., Evening prayer and an address to seminarians.

Sat., Oct. 7

— 9 a.m., Tour by popemobile on the Great Lawn of Central Park, New York.

— 9:30 a.m., Celebration of Mass on the Great Lawn, including a homily by the Holy Father.

— 9:30 p.m., Recitation of the rosary in St. Patrick's Cathedral and a brief address by Pope John Paul.

— 5 p.m., Blessing of the offices of the Holy See's mission to the United Nations and a brief address by the Holy Father.

Sun., Oct. 8

— 9:30 a.m., Arrival and informal welcome at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

— 10:15 a.m., Tour by popemobile inside Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore.

— 10:45 a.m., Celebration of Mass at Oriole Park, including a homily by the Holy Father and recitation of the Angelus.

— 7:30 p.m., Departure ceremony, including an address by the pope.

— 8 p.m., Departure for Rome.



Reuters/RNS

Standing guards

Israeli soldiers stand guard July 9 as an army tractor prepares the ground on a site in the occupied West Bank where a district coordinating office will be built to monitor joint activities in the upcoming self-rule deal.

U.S. trip combines sports venues with solemn sites

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Mixing sports venues with some of the most solemn sites in the history of the U.S. Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit will be a uniquely American experience.

The pope's schedule, announced July 6, includes stops at Giants Stadium in New Jersey, Baltimore's Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Aqueduct Raceway in New York and the Great Lawn of Manhattan's Central Park for large outdoor Masses.

But Pope John Paul also will find time for prayer on a smaller scale at Baltimore's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption, the oldest Catholic cathedral in the United States; St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan; and Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark, the largest church in New Jersey.

For the head of the tiny Vatican City State, the trip will also have a secular purpose — an Oct. 5 visit to the United Nations, with talks scheduled to the General Assembly and the U.N. staff and private meetings with top U.N. officials.

The papal visit to the United States had originally been scheduled for last year but was postponed because of the pope's slow recovery from a broken thigh bone. But two U.S. prelates who saw Pope John Paul recently say he is nearly back up to full speed.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, who saw Pope John Paul in late June in Rome, said he has "practically returned to the full schedule he had a couple of years ago" but still has problems walking. The cardinal said the pope hoped to build up his strength with lots of walks during his 10-day holiday in northern Italy in July.

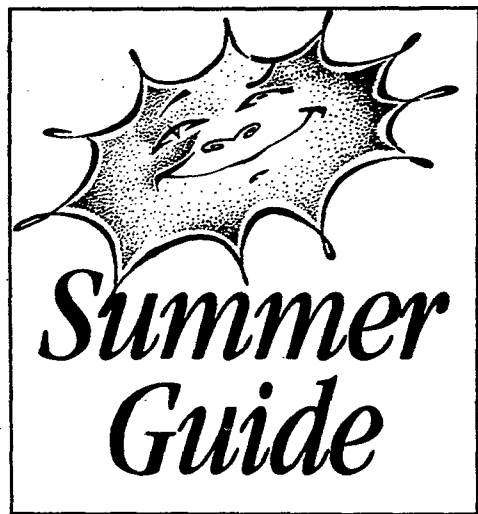
At a July 6 press conference in Newark, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick said Pope John Paul joked about his health when the two met during the recent papal visit to Slovakia.

Upon seeing the Newark archbishop, who was the only U.S. prelate present for the Slovakia visit, the pope said he had come "all this way" to see if he seemed healthy enough to make the October trip. "I will be there," the pope said.

Archbishop McCarrick also reported that the pope "looks 65, acts 55," and that only a slight limp gives away his age of 75.

The archbishop had been in Eastern Europe as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe and was invited by the Slovakian bishops to Bratislava while the pope was there.

In Baltimore, Pope John Paul will participate in what Baltimore officials are calling his first-ever parade through U.S. streets, complete with marching bands, Catholics garbed in colorful ethnic costumes and a 1,600-member Youth Celebration Corps lining the parade route.



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