

Papal trip planned in detail, but surprises possible

By Tracy Early
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — The papal visit to New York has been planned in almost infinite detail, but New York's archbishop has learned to expect the unexpected from Pope John Paul II.

"He's the pope and he's going to do what he thinks he should do in any given situation, whatever his advisers may say," said Cardinal John J. O'Connor. "He's not impetuous, but he keeps himself open to the Holy Spirit."

In an joint interview Sept. 22 with Catholic News Service and *Catholic New York*, his archdiocesan paper, Cardinal O'Connor said preparing for the visit involved "a billion details" and "meetings, meetings, meetings" of "more committees than the United Nations has."

But he said he was amused when he heard people on the planning staff say "We can't let him do this or that," and "We have to keep him on schedule."

"I've been with him too much," said Cardinal O'Connor. "When he gets caught up in the situation, he does what he wants. If the spirit moves him, time means nothing."

Cardinal O'Connor said the plans for

Pope John Paul to stay at his residence during the proposed visit last year had been changed this year so that he will stay at the residence of the Vatican's U.N. nuncio, Archbishop Renato R. Martino.

"It's strictly a protocol matter," he said. The nuncio, also called the permanent observer, has taken on an enhanced role through such events as the Cairo and Beijing conferences, he said, and the pope wants to show "the importance of the Holy See's mission to the U.N."

On the evening of Saturday, Oct. 7, Cardinal O'Connor will host a dinner for Pope John Paul and key Vatican officials with him as well as U.S. cardinals and bishops of the New York region.

Cardinal O'Connor — noting that during Pope John Paul's previous visit in 1979 he was in New York as an auxiliary bishop of the Military archdiocese — said this time he sensed a greater excitement among New Yorkers and a different kind of interest.

"I think there's a hunger now for the spiritual and for moral leadership that wasn't nearly so evident then," Cardinal O'Connor said. "Whether they agree or not, people hunger for someone who stands and says this is right and this is wrong."



AP/Wide World Photos
Pope John Paul II recently met with altar servers in St. Peter's Square. Plans are being finalized for the Oct. 4-8 papal visit to the United States.

Despite the "legitimate" excitement over seeing the papal visit as a festive event, Cardinal O'Connor said, the New York archdiocese has emphasized that Catholics were "coming on a pilgrimage."

"I have asked that where they are com-

ing from a distance on a bus, they pray the rosary together and sing hymns as they travel so they will have a real sense of pilgrimage," he said. "This is not a rock concert. It is a spiritual enterprise that we hope will move people deeply."

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7:30 p.m. ... St. Mary Lyceum Hall ... 15 Clark St., Auburn ... 315-252-9545
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WEDNESDAY

7:30 p.m. ... Guardian Angels Church ... 2061 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester ... 716-334-1412
7:30 p.m. ... Holy Family Home School Assoc. ... 899 Jay St., Rochester ... 716-328-4800
7:30 p.m. ... Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church/St. Andrew School, ... 923 Portland, Rochester ... 716-226-6458

THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. ... St. Anne Church ... 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester ... 716-271-3260
7:30 p.m. ... St. Stanislaus Church ... 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester ... 716-544-9951
8:00 p.m. ... Holy Cross Church ... 4488 Lake St., Rochester ... 716-225-8563

FRIDAY

8:00 p.m. ... St. Mark Church ... 54 Kuhn Rd., Rochester ... 716-225-3710

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