

WORLD & NATION

As papal visit nears, Technology, last-minute changes take center stage

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 U.S. visit took a new twist as mushrooming computer technology paved the way for millions of people to share the event in cyberspace as well as on the ground.

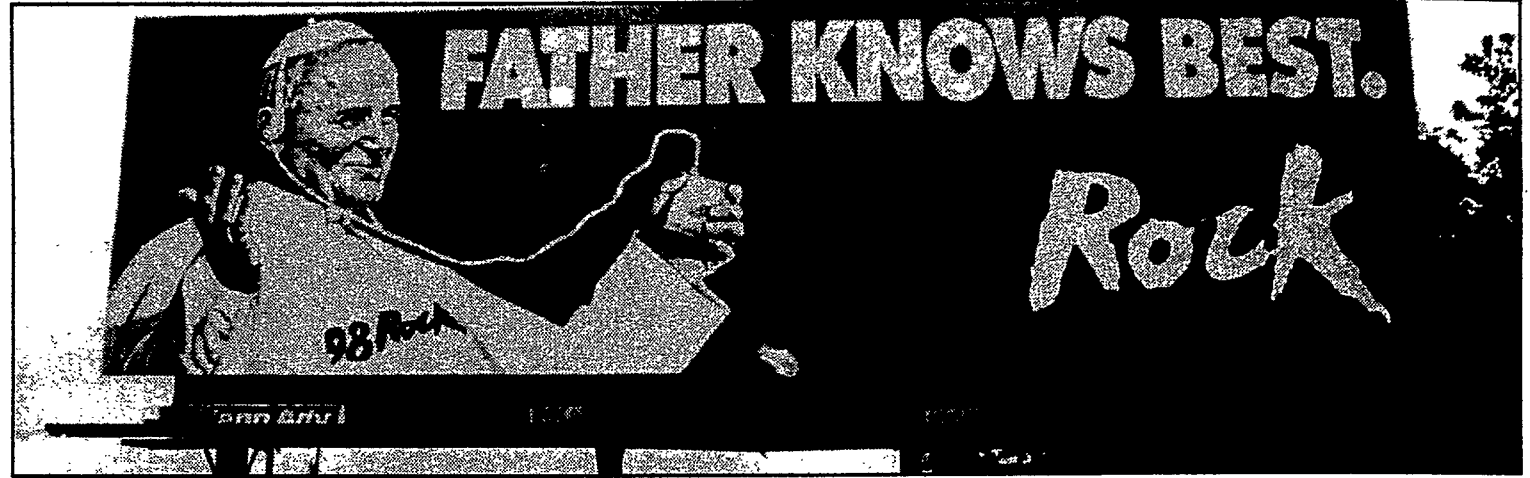
Computer users across the country were offered several new possibilities to see news about the pope, talk about his visit online or even — with the right equipment — capture live, online video coverage of the final papal Mass in Baltimore Oct. 8.

Another new feature not seen on previous papal visits was the addition of female altar servers, the result of a recent Vatican ruling that church law does not prohibit women from functioning in that ministry. Four young women were designated as candle bearers for the pope's Oct. 7 Mass in New York City's Central Park.

Dorothy Kluz, 17, a senior at Maria Regina High School in Hartsdale, N.Y., and one of the four female servers, has been a reader at her parish for four years and a chapel assistant at the high school since she was a freshman.

She said she was nervous about being one of the pope's Mass servers, but also proud of the church's outreach to young people. "Society tries to target teens negatively," she said. "In the church, they stretch out their arms and invite us. They bring out the best in us."

In Baltimore, long-standing Catholic social teaching on labor rights came into a last-minute conflict with papal visit plans when a labor dispute led the Hotel



PAPAL PROMOTION — A Baltimore radio station is using an image of Pope John Paul II for a billboard promotion. Some Baltimore-area residents complained about the billboards, which were placed around the city to coincide with the pope's upcoming visit.

and Restaurant Employees union to set up a picket line in September at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel.

For months about 200 U.S. bishops had been booked in the hotel, which had been designated as the main media center during the pope's time in Baltimore. Just 10 days before the pope was to arrive, the bishops' reservations were moved to three other area hotels, and the media center was relocated several blocks away in the Columbus Center.

Apart from Oct. 4 — which was to feature a mid-afternoon papal arrival at Newark International Airport in New Jersey, a private meeting with President Clinton and a Vespers service at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark — outdoor

papal Masses were to be the main public events of each day of the pope's trip.

Giants Stadium in New Jersey's Meadowlands was scheduled as the site for an evening Mass Oct. 5, ending a papal day spent mainly at the United Nations in observance of that organization's 50th anniversary.

The next day it was Aqueduct Race Track in Queens, N.Y., the only site in the Brooklyn Diocese to be visited by the pope.

Climaxing his New York stay is to be the first-ever papal Mass on the Great Lawn of Central Park a morning event Oct. 7 expected to draw about 120,000 worshippers.

To illustrate the family theme of the

Central Park Mass, Florida liturgical artist Linda P. Schapper created a cross-shaped tapestry to hang behind the altar. The 55-foot by 42-foot tapestry, titled "The Family of Christ" includes 175 hand-embroidered faces.

One late addition to the papal schedule in Baltimore was a luncheon with a group of families and individuals served by Catholic social programs in the archdiocese.

The lunch, scheduled for 2 p.m. at Our Daily Bread, a church-run soup kitchen that feeds about 800 hungry and homeless people every day, was to feature a typical soup-kitchen menu of chicken casserole, peas, carrots, dinner rolls and cookies.

Visit becomes 'sign' for man's conversion

By Joe Bollig
Catholic News Service

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Richard Hazlewood was thinking about becoming a Catholic, but wanted to be sure. A sign from God would be nice, he thought.

Then, just months after being hired as a master engineer for TWA, Hazlewood got his first big assignment: to design the interior of Shepherd I, the charter aircraft lined up for Pope John Paul II's use during his U.S. visit Oct. 4-8.

"Once I realized that this was my sign, not just me getting my job, but the pope, I mean, the POPE — come on, what bigger sign could someone ask for?" said Hazlewood, 32.

Hazlewood planned to enter the catechumenate program Oct. 1 at Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Overland Park, Kan. Two days later, he was to fly to

TWA's mini-hub at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York to help convert a 767-300 aircraft from its normal configuration into the papal charter.

Everybody at the TWA Kansas City Overhaul Base at Kansas City International Airport in Missouri has taken pride in the project, but none more than Hazlewood. From making decisions about where the pope sits to handling the details of refurbishing his bed, he said the job has given him time to reflect.

Baptized a Baptist, Hazlewood said that his mother occasionally took him to church as he was growing up. His mother was a nondenominational Protestant and his father was a Lutheran but not very religious. Because his father worked in the oil fields, his family moved all over the world, Hazlewood told *The Leaven*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kan.

Although he always considered himself Christian and believed in God, Hazlewood said he became disillusioned by the biblical literalism and fundamentalism he found in Baptist teachings.

Religion didn't come into his life again until long after he married his wife, Kathy, who is a Catholic, and he became a father. He thought his boys should attend Mass and didn't want to be hypocritical, so he began to attend regularly himself.

"Slowly, over three to four years, there was definitely something there," said Hazlewood. "It grew, until a year ago, I really started thinking about whether I wanted to convert to Catholicism."

He said he didn't want to convert for the wrong reason, such as subtle family pressure, but wanted to do it for himself. After graduating from the University of Kansas last May, he took an inquiry class, but was not yet convinced.

"In my heart I felt I needed a sign that this was what God wanted me to do, that this wasn't what Richard was doing for his family or anyone else," said Hazlewood. "God gives you a pretty good sign when he gives you the pope."

'48 Hours' to examine papal-trip preparations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The CBS-TV news program "48 Hours" will take a look at preparations behind Pope John Paul II's U.S. visit Oct. 5 from 10-11 p.m. EDT.

Highlights include interviews with the merchandiser of official papal merchandise, talk show host Regis Philbin, a strong supporter of Catholic education, and a cloister of nuns preparing for one of their rare journeys outside the cloister to take part in the papal visit.

The program will look at lotteries that host dioceses are using to allocate tickets to papal events.

Coverage to go 'online'

You can obtain updated information on the pope's trip throughout this week from America Online and Catholic News Service. Simply dial into America Online from your personal computer, go to the keyword "pope," and look for stories from CNS. To subscribe to America Online, call (800) 827-6564.

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