

Sisters send cattle horns, quilt to await visit to Texas by pope

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some gifts are gold, some are gaudy and some Pope John Paul II will never see.

Texas bishops will decide this week what the official gifts for the pope will be, but worshippers from across the state already have sent in a variety of gifts for the pope, who will be in San Antonio on Sept. 13.

The gifts sit on a rollaway cart in a small room in the Catholic Chancery and each night, archdiocese archivist Edward Loch puts them into a vault.

"Some are nice, but some are gaudy," Loch said. "Some of these things I wouldn't buy. They're what my mother called dust-catchers, things that she didn't want around the house."

"But I guess it's just a matter of taste."

The gifts include a 24-karat gold ring donated by a local jeweler.

Its design is similar to the altar from which the pope will celebrate Mass. Other well-wishers have sent in a foot-high madonna, photo-

graphs and paintings of the Alamo, a book on the Soviet Union, a magazine on Texas, self-portraits, poems and other paintings.

Also included is a set of cattle horns, a gift from the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacra-

pope's bed, was created by another nun in Victoria.

Sister M. Gerard Mazoch spent the last days of her life creating the embroidered bed cover that depicts a tree blooming from within a map of Texas.

others how all these people blended to make it a great state."

Perhaps the most talked-about Texas gifts — a pair of \$4,000 boots, an \$800 belt buckle and \$1,000 cowboy hat — still continue to attract the curious.

Jimmy Villareal, a bootmaker whose family owns Economy Boot and Shoe Repair, said the papal boots at his shop have attracted new customers.

"We have people who come in here and they think this is already part of him," Villareal said. "People come in here and say prayers in front of it."

"They do the sign of the cross and they want to touch it, but it's in a glass case."

"It's like he's already owned them or he's been in them."

Archbishop Patrick Flores is scheduled to give the ruby-studded, 24-karat gold-decorated boots to the pope sometime during his visit, possibly during a lunch with Texas bishops.

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— Edward Loch, archdiocese archivist

ment in Victoria. The centerpiece is padded and embroidered with the words "In my name shall his horn be exalted" and "From Texas With Love."

Sister Perpetua Hawes of Victoria, said, "Our sisters wanted to give the Holy Father something that was uniquely Texan and we thought these horns would be appropriate."

A quilt, which will adorn the

Lettering around the map says "The Early Builders of Texas Culture."

The Czech-American nun died in July at the age of 90.

"This preoccupied her time during the last months of her life," Sister Hawes said. "Sister was a historian and she prided herself on her knowledge of Texas history. She prided herself on her ability to show

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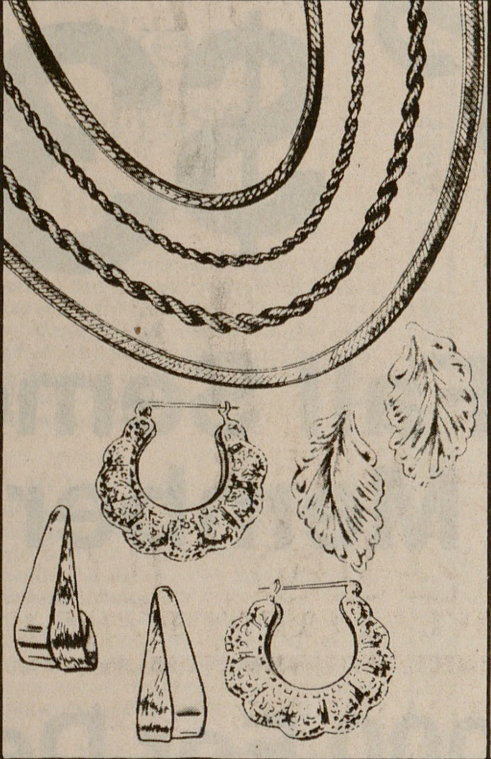


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