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Joint efforts make Mass success

Crews thwart mishaps at site

By Lee Schexnaider
Staff Writer

SAN ANTONIO — The National Guardsmen stand 20 feet apart along Potranco Road in San Antonio. They stand in camouflage with antens, cameras and miniature television sets. They are watching, waiting.

Files of spent road flares litter the ground.

U.S. Secret Service personnel in suits and ties watch the crowd. Tiny wires snake out of their collars and into the earphones tucked in their ears. They are becoming tense. Pope John Paul II's plane has landed.

An old Spanish woman, weak and sick from the heat, refuses to leave her roadside chair. Several Red Cross workers try to convince her to accept help. A guardsman approaches with a green canvas stretcher. She will not go. The first aid volunteers and the guardsman leave. Her relatives fan her with a picture-fan of the pope.

Small children play with rocks at their parents' feet. The rocks line a small, newly built road with a thin, asphalt coating.

Two birds circle overhead.

An usher asks people to close their umbrellas because they block the view behind them. They ask a man to remove his ten-gallon hat for the same reason.

Secret Service helicopters fly low over the crowd, as do dragonflies.

Red and blue lights flash in the distance. He has arrived.

The ushers join hands along both sides of the road. Secret Servicemen ride by in a four-wheel, all-terrain vehicle.

"I can see him," someone farther ahead shouts. "There he is."

Flags, banners and pennants start to wave.

The "popemobile" slowly passes by. The windows are slightly tinted, so his white clothing appears gray.

The sky has begun to clear. Only a few white, puffy clouds are left.

He follows a looping road through another part of the crowd. One of the ushers thanks the crowd for being so well-behaved.

Gina Dallel of San Antonio is at a free water booth near the road. She is sitting on several cases of distilled water jugs for a better look. The pope is going to come around again.

Halfway around the loop, the popemobile speeds up. This time he passes by rather quickly. Blink and you would have missed him.

The motorcade proceeds to the altar, which is flanked by huge colorful decorations.

Time passes as ushers and police try to regain control of the crowd. They have overflowed into the road for a better view.

The temperature is rising quickly. The crowd chants, "El Papa."

The procession up the many steps to the altar begins. The pope has changed into a bright green vestment. The Mass proceeds.

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Photo by Lee Schexnaider

Pope John Paul II passes through the crowd before the papal Mass in San Antonio on Sunday. The crowd was estimated at 300,000 for the service.

Tourists crazy over papal keepsakes

By Elisa Hutchins
Staff Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Pope John Paul II visited San Antonio Sunday to increase religious awareness and reunite alienated Catholics to the church, but the atmosphere in the city and at the Mass was more like a fiesta than a church service. Visitors bought almost anything with the pope's picture on it.

About 300,000 people from 26 ethnic groups made the pilgrimage to the Mass site and were greeted along the way by vendors selling everything from hats and T-shirts to pennants and buttons. Some vendors even took pictures of customers with a life-size cardboard replica of the pope.

Deborah Konecny, a San Antonio resident, set up a family-operated jewelry stand on Potranco Road, the main road to the site, on Sept. 10.

Unfortunately, Konecny said, the \$10, limited-edition pope-and-Texas-shaped necklaces didn't sell as well as expected because of a low turnout.

About 500,000 were expected to attend the Mass.

Other, less expensive items, like \$3 H.E.B. grocery store bus tokens, were saved as mementos by some tourists.

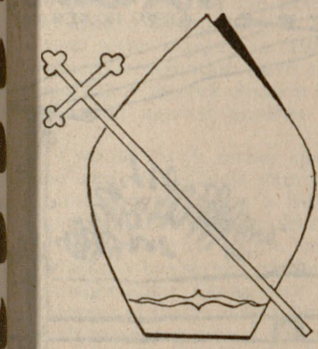
Fans adorned with the pope's image, which were used to ease the 94-degree heat, and free souvenir Mass programs also were popular items.

The sagging Texas economy prevented many people from coming to San Antonio to participate in the historical event, while many of the ones who did come were content to see the pope and sign their names in albums at the San Fernando Cathedral instead of attending the Mass.

The two albums, with more than 30,000 signatures, were blessed by the pope, church volunteer Sylvia Salazar said.

Dolores Gonzales, who signed her name to one of the albums, said, "I came here to sign my name because I am not going to go to the Mass, and this way, I can be involved. Instead

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Graphic by Susan C. Klein

Papal ushers in black slacks and white shirts start to line the roads through the crowd. Their yellow caps and sashes shine brightly in what little sun breaks through the clouds.

A two-star general walks by, inspecting his troops.

Everyone has a camera.

An American Red Cross volunteer sprays the crowd with a spray bottle filled with water.

The crowd applauds.

It is announced that the 540-member choir will begin practicing the songs and refrains they will sing during the Mass. People open up their free papal programs to the right page. The choir sings and the people echo them.

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power, God of might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Umbrellas open — not for the rain, but from the hot Texas sun.

300,000 attend San Antonio papal Mass

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Pope John Paul II, feted with mariachis, a stetson and a longhorn steer, greeted the largest crowds of his current U.S. tour Sunday with plaudits or Texans' spirit.

In the first visit a pope has ever made to Texas, the pontiff cruised past the Alamo in his Popemobile after calling the state a symbol of America's "founding moral principles" and urging citizens of all ages to work together.

Late Sunday afternoon, a cheering crowd of about 325,000 lined city streets as the papal motorcade wended toward San Fernando Cathedral past the former Catholic

mission, renowned in film and lore as the cradle of Texas liberty.

From there, thunderous applause and cheers of "Viva El Papa" followed him to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in one of San Antonio's poorest neighborhoods, where he blessed a yarn mural created by Bexar County inmates depicting him, six of the city's poorest Hispanic churches and the Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint.

Earlier at a hot, sunny outdoor Mass attended by an estimated 300,000 people — 200,000 fewer than predicted — the pontiff saluted those who have worked "on behalf of suffering brothers and sisters ar-

rive from" Latin America.

"Your history registers a meeting of cultures, indigenous and immigrant, sometimes marked by tensions and conflicts, yet constantly moving toward reconciliation and harmony," the pope, garbed in green robes symbolic of hope and growth, told worshippers at a 144-acre site.

"People of different races and languages, colors and customs, have come to this land to make it their home... You are thus a symbol and a kind of laboratory testing America's commitment to her founding moral principles and human values," he said.

The Hispanic-American community, as expected, was the focal point of the pope's 23-hour stop in San Antonio, the fourth sojourn on a nine-city, 10-day U.S. tour that began Thursday. The pope's Sunday Mass was the only one he will celebrate this trip.

At Kelly Air Force Base, the pope arrived at 10:01 a.m. CDT and was greeted by San Antonio Archbishop Patrick Flores, the nation's first Hispanic archbishop, along with Gov. Bill Clements and Mayor Henry Cisneros and their wives.

A seven-member local mariachi group wearing sombreros and maroon costumes greeted the pontiff

with what band leader Manuel Vega described as "happy Mexican music."

Two children received papal kisses after they presented him with yellow and red roses that are unofficial symbols of the Lone Star State and now the nation's official flower.

While the pope and Flores toured the Mass site in the bullet-proof Popemobile, musicians played and sang hymns from the hastily repaired altar whose 12-story towers toppled in high winds Thursday night.

"We are making history today," Flores told the crowd. "In 20 centuries of Christianity, this is the first

time we are so beautifully blessed with the successor to Peter, John Paul II.

"We had a little tragedy here that destroyed part of the decorations, some towers that had been constructed immediately behind the altar. The towers collapsed, but the church of Texas is standing."

Medical workers treated about 500 people for heat-related problems at first aid stations ringing the Mass site as the heat index sizzled above the century mark by early afternoon.

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Soviet official: Summit meeting depends on outcome of U.S. visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze said Sunday a decision on another superpower summit meeting depends on the outcome of his talks this week with President Reagan and Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

"We have come here in order to roll up our sleeves and work," Shevardnadze said on his arrival from Moscow.

The white-haired Soviet official brought with him a letter for Reagan from Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and "a degree of optimism."

In a brief airport news conference, Shevardnadze added, "I would say cautious optimism, maybe."

He did not disclose the contents of Gorbachev's letter to Reagan, but said in Russian through an interpreter, "As for the summit, everything will depend on the results of our work here."

Reagan and Gorbachev agreed at their first meeting in Geneva in November 1985 to hold successive summits the next two years in Washington and in Moscow.

Instead, they met last October in Reykjavik, Iceland, and Gorbachev has not responded to the resident's invitation to visit the United States this year.

Last April during a visit by Shultz to Moscow, Gorbachev said "Generally, without reason, I do not go anywhere, particularly America."

Reagan administration officials have not pressed the Soviet leader for a response, but anticipated it might come during the talks to be held with Shevardnadze Tuesday through Thursday.

The Soviet foreign minister said the two sides had made "very substantial progress" on a treaty to ban intermediate-range nuclear missiles. But he tempered the positive remark by saying "a great deal of work also remains."

Shevardnadze said differences remained over warheads. On top of that, he said, procedures for verifying destruction of the U.S. and Soviet weapons as well as the pace still must be resolved.

"The warheads are a serious question," he said. However, Shevardnadze also declared, "We have come in a businesslike spirit and in a working spirit and with a degree of optimism."

Similarly, Shultz said in a CBS television interview that despite a public squabble, there was really little difference between the two sides on how to implement the nearly completed U.S.-Soviet treaty to eliminate intermediate-range ballistic missiles as well as cruise missiles in Europe and the Soviet Union.

But officials on both sides seemed to go out of their way to lower expectations of any breakthrough in the three days of talks Shevardnadze will hold here.

Veteran Soviet negotiator Viktor P. Karpov hinted in an interview with the Soviet news agency Tass on Saturday that Shevardnadze would take a rigid stance in the final phase of the treaty negotiations.

Karpov said if the United States refused to include the U.S. warheads on West German Pershing 1-A missiles in the pact, the Soviets might withdraw their offer to eliminate 130 missiles in the same general range of 315 to 565 miles.

That would still mean the scrapping of U.S. and Soviet missiles that can fly up to 3,125 miles.

Presidential adviser Edward L. Rowley last week accused the Soviets of holding cuts in strategic forces "hostage to demands that we abort our hope for protection against a ballistic missile threat."

Likewise, other Reagan administration officials warned against expecting dramatic developments or a date for a visit to Washington by Gorbachev during Shevardnadze's talks here.

Assistant Secretary of State Rozanne L. Ridgway told reporters Friday, "This is not a meeting about a summit."

Pat Robertson tops Iowa GOP's straw poll

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Television evangelist Pat Robertson gave his backers an emotional charge with a call for "moral strength" and won an easy victory in a straw poll of activists who gathered to listen to seven GOP presidential hopefuls.

Robertson got a third of the votes in the straw poll Saturday at the state GOP's "Cavalcade of Stars," outdistancing Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole and Vice President George Bush. Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig was the only candidate who did not attend the state GOP's "Cavalcade of Stars."

"I was surprised and I was impressed," said Iowa Republican Chairman Michael Mahaffey. "They (Robertson backers) were able to marshal their forces."

George Wittgraf, Bush's Iowa campaign manager, said, "He is a serious candidate and this is another indication of the seriousness of his candidacy."

Dole spokesman Steve Roberts

added, "He (Robertson) got a lot of respect tonight from the other candidates. He's a force to be reckoned with."

Most polls have shown Bush and Dole locked in a close race in Iowa with the other candidates trailing far behind. While Bush leads in most national polls, Dole has built a strong organization in Iowa, which holds an important early test of the candidates' ambitions with its Feb. 8 precinct caucuses.

Robertson got 33.6 percent of the votes, compared to Dole's 24.9 percent and Bush's 22.4 percent. Rep. Jack Kemp of New York was favored by 13.5 percent while former Delaware Gov. Pierre du Pont got support from 4.1 percent.

Haig and little-known candidates Ben Fernandez and Kate Heslop were under 1 percent.

Roughly 4,200 ballots were cast, though GOP officials said 5,700 tickets were sold for the event.