

Special pull-out section: Pope Francis in America



The U.S. flag flies in front of a mural of Pope Francis in New York City, Aug. 28. Pope Francis' 10th foreign trip will be the longest of his pontificate and, with stops in Cuba, three U.S. cities and the United Nations, it also will be a "very complex trip," the papal spokesman said.

BRENDAN MCDERMID/REUTERS, CNS

'Complex' trip to Cuba, U.S. will be pope's longest

Staff and wire reports

Pope Francis' 10th foreign trip will be the longest of his pontificate with stops in Cuba, three U.S. cities and the United Nations.

It also will be a "very complex trip," said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman. The plans were "enriched" after Pope Francis agreed to go to the World

Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and, particularly, after the United States and Cuba announced they were moving toward normalizing diplomatic relations.

The pope will be away from the Vatican Sept. 19-28 and is scheduled to give 26 formal speeches — only four of them entirely in English.

Not only will Pope Francis be the first pope to visit

the U.S. Congress, but papal speeches to parliaments of any single nation are extremely rare.

In Cuba, he may meet with Fidel Castro. Pope Francis will canonize the 18th-century Franciscan missionary Blessed Junipero Serra on Sept. 23.

See inside for his U.S. schedule, and on Page P-4 for some of the East Bay connections to the visit.



Pope Francis billboards are posted over the streets of Havana.

ENRIQUE DE LA OSA/REUTERS, CNS



ALEJANDRO ERNESTO/EP, CNS

Pope Francis in America;

GREGORY A. SHEMITZ/CNS



Sept. 25, 8:30 a.m.
The United Nations
Address to the United Nations General Assembly

Pope Francis' speech will mark the fifth time a pope has addressed the United Nations. The first, Pope Paul VI, visited 50 years before. Migration is expected to be a theme.

GREGORY A. SHEMITZ/CNS



Sept. 25, 11:30 a.m.
9/11 Memorial, World Trade Center

Pope Francis' predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, visited Ground Zero in 2008. Seven years later, Pope Francis will participate in an interfaith service at the 9/11 Memorial.

GREGORY A. SHEMITZ/CNS



Sept. 25, 6 p.m.
Madison Square Garden
Mass

On previous visits, popes have celebrated Mass at Yankee Stadium. Pope Francis will celebrate Mass at another venerable sports venue, Madison Square Garden. The procession to the Mass will wend its way through Central Park.

WASHINGTON, D.C. September 22-24

Pope Francis in the news

Daily
www.facebook.com/TheCatholicVoice
www.CatholicVoiceOakland.org
www.catholicnews.com
www.catholicnewsagency.com
www.ewtn.com
www.worldmeeting2015.org

General
U.S. Conference of Bishops
<http://bit.ly/1F8PBCN>

Vatican Information Service
<http://bit.ly/1LP1Hu8>

All times Eastern Daylight

STEFANO SPAZIANI/POOL/CNS



Sept. 23, 9:15 a.m.
The White House
Meeting with President Obama

It's the first meeting of the two on U.S. soil — President Obama has visited the Vatican — and topics for discussion could include immigration and care for the poor.

TYLER ORSBURN/CNS



Sept. 23, 4:15 p.m.
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Canonization Mass for Junipero Serra

Sainthood for the founder of the California missions has been long debated, and is not without controversy. The Mass will have a distinctly California presence, with a handful of Californians, Franciscans and laity, taking part in the Mass, which will be celebrated in Spanish. Oakland's Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, will be concelebrating Mass with Pope Francis in all three cities.

LARRY DOWNING/CNS



Sept. 24, 9:20 a.m.
U.S. Capitol
Address to Congress

History in the making: This marks the first time a pope has addressed Congress. Pundits expect a lot of squirming on both sides of the aisle. Seats in the gallery are among the toughest tickets during the papal visit. The Very Rev. James V. Matthews, rector of the Cathedral of Christ the Light, will be the guest of Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Oakland.

World Meeting of Families

Learn more

The World Meeting of Families — Philadelphia 2015 Congress is being held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. This event is expected to attract an estimated 17,000 people from as many as 150 nations. Based on responses thus far, this will be the largest World Meeting of Families Congress in history, but not one of the largest gatherings in Philadelphia annually. The Horticultural Society: Philadelphia Flower Show welcomes more than 250,000 people to the Convention Center each year, as does the Philadelphia International Auto Show, which actually had record attendance at more than 252,000 visitors this year.

www.worldmeeting2015.org

NEW YORK
September 25

PHILADELPHIA
September 26-27

Sept. 26, 4: 45 p.m.
Independence Hall
Pope Francis visits

For his speech at Independence Hall — where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were written — Pope Francis will use a simple walnut lectern, the same one used by President Abraham Lincoln when he gave his Gettysburg Address.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Festival of Families

The closing events for the World Meeting of Families — which begins Sept. 22 — include an intercultural, multifaith celebration of family life around the world. An appearance by Pope Francis is the highlight of the festivities.

Sept. 27, 4 p.m.
Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Mass

Pope Francis celebrates Mass for the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, which was expected to draw 17,000 participants from 150 countries. Those thousands will be joined by upward of a million of their closest friends. After Mass, the Holy Father plans to meet with the leaders of the World Meeting of Families, then depart for Rome.



COURTESY PHOTO



ALESSANDRO BIANCHI/CNS

East Bay connections



MICHELE JURICH/THE CATHOLIC VOICE

Vincent Medina Jr., left, and Andrew Galvan, at the grave marker of their ancestors, Poylemja, who became Faustino at Baptism, and Jochoeme, who became Obulinda, in the cemetery at Mission Dolores.

Ohlone

The canonization Mass will include descendants of the native Californians Father Junipero Serra came to evangelize. Descendants of tribes from the nine missions Father Serra founded will be guests of the Franciscans in Washington, DC, for the event.

Two have special roles: The first reading will be by Vincent Medina Jr in Chochoeny, the native language of the Ohlones, who lived near Mission San Jose.

After the canonization, a relic of the saint will be presented by Andrew Galvan, curator of Mission Dolores and a longtime supporter of Father Serra's canonization.

Galvan and Medina are cousins who work together at Mission Dolores, where Medina is the assistant curator and an oft-requested tour guide. Those tours pass the graves of their ancestors in the mission cemetery.

Galvan has supported the canonization for more than three decades, working first with Franciscan Father Noel Francis Moholy at Mission San Jose in 1978.

"When Father Noel found out I was a California Mission Indian descendant who liked Father Serra — gold," Galvan said.

Galvan said when people would ask, "Isn't there a controversy about how Father Serra treated Indians?" Father Moholy would say, "Would you like to talk to my Indian adjutant?"

Working side by side with Father Moholy took Galvan to the Vatican many times, including Sept. 25, 1988, for the beatification.

Medina, a generation younger, has studied wax recordings made in the 1920s by the people believed to be the last speakers of Chochoeny. He has taught the language to family members, and spoke it publicly, in prayer and poetry, in July at a gathering hosted by the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose in Fremont.

His mastery of the language led to an invitation to translate the first reading. Though Catholic himself, Medina hesitated doing the reading, because he opposes the canonization.

Consultation with his elders helped him decide to say yes, Galvan said.

"When you stand at the ambo and you read in Chochoeny, there's going to be half a billion people worldwide watching," Galvan told his cousin. "Chochoeny will no longer be considered a dead language because half a billion people will have heard it."

— Michele Jurich

The Reliquary

During the canonization Mass, a relic of by-then-St. Junipero Serra will be presented to the Holy Father. The relic will be brought to the altar in a reliquary designed by Sacramento artist Marirose Jelich and Rev. Ronald G. Schmit, pastor of St. Anne Church in Byron, who have been collaborating on liturgical art for three decades.



Rev. Schmit

They took as their inspiration the Spanish missionary's own mission cross.

Father Schmit wrote to his parishioners:

"When missionaries are commissioned to go on mission they often receive a 'mission cross.' The cross symbolizes that they are carrying the Good News that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that the world might be saved through him.

"Franciscan Friar, St. Junipero Serra carried a 'mission cross' in his mission to California. In 1943, when Serra's remains were exhumed, his mission cross was found. It was a copy of a miraculous doubled barred cross known as the Cross of Caravaca, named for the town in Spain where it is located.

"Serra's mission cross was in the form of a reliquary. It contained the relics of Blessed Raymond Lull a native of Serra's Mallorca to whom Padre Serra had a special devotion."

Jelich and Father Schmit used the form of the Cross of Caravaca; relics of St. Junipero Serra are placed below the tooled metal of the crucified Christ.

"On the reverse side of the cross is the image of the Virgin Mary as the Immaculate Conception. This is



COURTESY PHOTO

The reliquary to be presented at the canonization Mass was made by California artists; one is a diocesan priest.

an important symbol in Franciscan theology. Mary was integral to the plan of God. Through her, God takes on our humanity in the person of Jesus. From the beginning of creation God desired to share his life with us. This is accomplished through the Virgin's Son," Father Schmit wrote.

"The cross, base and frame for the nimbus (rays of light) are white metal. The rays of light are gold-leafed. The cross is decorated with semi-precious stones of carnelian, mother-of-pearl, lapis-lazuli and abalone shell. The colors of the stones symbolize Christ, Mary and the liturgical seasons. Abalone is native to California and was important to the Indigenous Californians with whom Padre Serra worked."

After the canonization, the reliquary will make its home at Mission Carmel, where the saint is interred beneath the altar.

— Michele Jurich

Walk with Pope Francis

When Pope Francis heads back to the Vatican Sept. 27, parishioners at Santa Maria Church in Orinda will be beginning.

By taking the pledge to "Walk with Pope Francis," parishioners will be participating in outreach, evangelization and prayer to last well into the next year. The pastor, the Very Rev. George Mockel, explains:



Rev. Mockel

What do you hope your parishioners will learn from "walking with Pope Francis"?

Two things. First, I am a great believer in Stewardship. All we have and all we are is a pure gift from God. Although God does not need our thanks and gratitude, we need to express it. It is in our nature. St. John Paul II called it the "the law of the gift." It struck me that as our parish just very successfully completed the diocesan Capital Campaign, which gave our people an opportunity to share their "treasure," we could also give them a challenge and opportunity to gratefully give back to God a portion of their "time" and "talent" by doing something tangible and practical. This led to my second reason. Pope Francis is challenging us to put our faith into action.

While prayer, the Eucharist and the sacraments are essential to our faith, so too are care and love for our neighbor, especially those who are the most poor and vulnerable. The poor are at the center of the Gospel. They should also be a central focus of our faith life.

How did you select the options available on the pledge cards?

The idea came from a news article I read about a similar effort being promoted in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. The staff and I sat down and tried to find opportunities that were first of all practical. People have different gifts and talents, so we also tried to offer a variety of options so that there was something that everyone could do. We placed the options under three headings: Outreach, Evangelization and Prayer.

Which steps are you personally planning to take on that "walk"?

I learned a long time ago "leaders have to lead" and don't ask anyone else to do something that you are not willing to do yourself. I chose two of the pledge options for myself. I will participate with the youth of our parish in the Walk for Life next January and have also committed to praying the Prayer for our Brother and Sister Immigrants each day during the month of November.

(See the Washington, DC pledge at <https://walkwithfrancis.org>)

— Michele Jurich



COURTESY PHOTO

Carmen and Ofelia Dorado are bound for Philadelphia.

People

It's a Dorado Family tradition: Santa Claus saves the best for last. So last Dec. 25, after the great-grandchildren, grandchildren and children had received their gifts, it was Ofelia Dorado's turn.

The family matriarch received the gift of a lifetime. She learned that she would be going to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis during his 2015 visit to Philadelphia.

She also learned that she would not be going alone: Her daughter Carmen would be accompanying her. Surprise.

The gift was a thoughtful gesture from the quick computer action of Michael Johnson, fiancé of Carmen Dorado, whose first thought, when he heard on CNN last Nov. 17 that Pope Francis would be coming to America: "My fiancée really wants to go to the Vatican."

He then thought of her mother.

Ofelia Dorado rises early on Sunday mornings and takes a bus to St. Peter Martyr Church in Pittsburg. "My great idea was that they could go together," Johnson said.

Working quickly at his computer, he was able to book flights. Hotels were another issue. The first ones he found were 15 miles away; when a hotel closer to the action in Philadelphia became available, he booked it.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime event," Johnson said. "I wanted them to be as close as possible."

The two women will be going to the Festival of Families, to the pope's speech at Independence Hall and to the Mass the pope will celebrate on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Johnson does not travel by plane. But if he did, he said, he'd go, "just to be in the presence."

By the way, he's Baptist.

— Michele Jurich

