

at both a youth rally organized for his first evening in the city and the next morning when he paid a visit to about 50 ailing children in the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital. He spoke softly to the youngsters, many in beds and wheelchairs, touching some and shaking hands with parents.

The Pope ended his visit in the Maritimes with an open-air mass in Halifax for some 120 000 people. It was conducted against the background of an altar set before seven large sails, symbolizing the seafaring history of the east coast.

Central Canada

On the sixth day, Pope John Paul attended his first Canadian interdenominational meeting at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Toronto. In the presence of almost 3 000 representatives of 35 Christian churches, including the leaders of the Salvation Army and the Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Armenian Orthodox and Mennonite churches, the Pope pledged personal support for the "complete unity of Christians".

In Huronia, north of Toronto, the Pope toured Ste-Marie-Among-the-Hurons, a reconstruction of the settlement built by Jesuit priests in 1639; prayed at the graves of the Jesuit martyrs Father Jean de Brebeuf and Father Gabriel Lalemeant; visited the Martyr's Shrine Church to meet with 400 elderly, sick and handicapped people; and participated in an Indian ceremony. During the ceremony, the Pope was presented with an Indian's highest honour, an eagle feather, as a "warrior" who had shed blood for peace, a reference to the May 1981 assassination attempt against him in Rome.

After the visit to Huronia, John Paul returned to Toronto for a huge open-air mass at the airport. Before an estimated 500 000 people, the largest crowd of his visit, the Pope praised the achievements of advanced technology and appealed for its use in the cause of hope and the creation of a more humane society.

The West

The Pope's tour of western Canada began in Winnipeg where the open-air mass was attended by some 200 000. The Pope noted the multicultural make-up of the province and urged "that the openness shown to so many immigrants and refugees of ethnic minorities...should continue to characterize and enrich Canada in the future as in the past".

In Edmonton Pope John Paul conducted an ecumenical service that included the leaders from the Jewish, Moslem and Christian faiths. He urged the members of the world's religions to help the sick

and disabled and promote world peace.

The Pope's only disappointment was the cancellation of his trip to Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories. It was to have been a highlight of his Canadian tour — a meeting with native people on their own soil. Heavy fog prevented his plane from landing and the Pope made an unscheduled stop at Yellowknife, from where he broadcast an address to the native people of Canada.

In Vancouver, British Columbia, the Pope held another large open-air mass with some 250 000 people. He also attended a spectacular "Celebration of Life" at B.C. Place, where about 55 000 people gathered at the event for the young, old and handicapped.

Final stop

The Pope's Canadian tour ended in Ottawa, the nation's capital. Upon arrival he floated down the sun-lit waters of the Rideau Canal aboard the "popemobile" in a picturesque flotilla that attracted some 200 000 spectators. North America's first papal parade on water proved to be a fitting start to the pontiff's Ottawa visit and a colourful finale to his historic tour of Canada.

At a reception at Government House, the Pope called for a new vision of humanity, "a vision that does not see society's problems in terms of economic, technical or political equations alone, but in terms of living people". He continued his theme of world peace during the open-air mass before

some 250 000 people in the city before departing for Rome.

Pope John Paul's visit to Canada was his twenty-third foreign trip and the longest outside Italy. He has travelled on five continents since he rose to the papacy six years ago.



John Paul aboard the "popemobile" on the Rideau Canal in Ottawa. It was the first papal parade on water in North America.



The Pope greets native leader Harry Daniels (left) and François Paulette in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, during an unscheduled stop there after inclement weather prevented the landing of his plane in Fort Simpson. The Pope wears a moose skin jacket presented to him during the visit.