

City man prepares for Mass for a million

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By DAVID MAYLOR

He was told to go forth and build an outdoor church site for the papal mass of John Paul II.

Most men couldn't imagine where to begin such a task, especially when accommodations must be made for not only the Pope and various national and international dignitaries, but also an audience of 1 million people.

Unlike most men, when Mississaugan Frank Paznar, was asked to be chairman of the papal mass preparations, he knew exactly what had to be done and what he didn't know he would find out.

Pope John Paul II will be visiting the Toronto and Midland areas from Sept. 14 to 16. The papal mass is planned for Saturday, Sept. 15, at Downsview airport in the city of North York.

Even though preparations for the mass have been going on for about one year, Paznar didn't get involved until John Wimbs, executive co-ordinator of the papal visit, requested him to about five months ago.

"It's an exciting project, there is an aura about the Pope," said Paznar.

As the senior vice-president of Mediacom Industries Inc., Paznar has been chairman of the Cana-



FRANK PAZNAR

dian Cancer Society Parade Committee, team captain of the United Appeal, member of *The Mississauga News* Christmas Bureau Fund, and press chief of the 1976 Montreal Olympics. He's been involved in many other ventures as well.

Paznar has lived in the Creditview area of Mississauga for 16 years with his wife Maria, daughters Andejka, 17, and Nadja, 7, and son Mark, 13.

In his capacity as chairman of

the papal mass, Paznar is responsible for making sure that everything runs smoothly.

The planning for the mass involves anticipating the needs of the 1 million people who are expected to be in attendance, which Paznar likens to building a miniature city for a day.

Planning includes sorting out the transportation problems to and from the site; determining how to properly organize the audience; making sure there is enough water supply and electrical power at the site; stocking the concession stands with enough food and mementos; coordinating maintenance people, ushers, tradesmen, and the various levels of police, from the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department to the Swiss Guards.

Accommodations will also be made for a helicopter launching pad, medical teams (comprising of St. John Ambulance personnel, doctors and heart specialists), dignitaries, and members of the press.

"Every detail will be taken care of," said Paznar.

With only four months until the mass takes place, he spoke of the preparations in terms of a "religious fervor beginning to set in."



FRANK PAZNAR

Papal mass chief collects just reward

NOT FOR CIRCULATION

One look at Frank Paznar's daily schedule and you'd immediately understand why this Mississauga resident has been awarded the Ontario Bicentennial Medal.

This honor, which has been bestowed on active community leaders throughout Ontario, is another in a long list of Paznar's achievements.

Paznar, who is senior vice-president of Mediacom Inc., was chairman of the Papal mass held in Downsview; chairman of Toronto's Tall Ships Parade and

is a member of the Toronto Sesquicentennial Board.

Paznar also keeps busy with *The Mississauga News* Christmas Bureau Fund, Jaycees, Board of Trade and the Mississauga Business Development Advisory Board.

Paznar was delighted to be chosen as a recipient for the award, and although he likes the recognition, he says, "I enjoy doing the things I do."

"Through these projects you meet new people — and the projects are always a challenge," said Paznar.

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PAZNAR, FRANK