

# Pope to receive Native delegation

By Marilyn Richards

Tundra Times

Representatives of each of the 12 Native Regions will be meeting with Pope John Paul II when the pontiff makes his second visit to Alaska in three years on May 2.

The group is being formed by Sam Demientieff, chairman of the Doyon Lyd., who is one of the members of the Papal

Visitation Committee.

The Pope and President Ronald Reagan will make refueling stops in Fairbanks on their trip elsewhere. They will meet for 25 minutes then Reagan will leave and Pope John Paul will meet with local residents and travel through the city.

The Pope is to meet and bless the handicapped at the airport and deliver a homily

or liturgy. "They estimate 40,000 and that's almost double the population of Fairbanks," says Demientieff.

One of Demientieff's goals was to help get "Seven or eight people from each of the Native regions in to meet the Pope. We hope to have cultural representation from throughout the state, and not just the

Continued on Page Three

# Native group to greet Pope John Paul

Continued from Page One

Interior. We will have children and Elders, not necessarily the regular people who greet dignitaries, but people who usually don't get invitations who would appreciate meeting the Pope."

Demientieff says there will also be Native dancers among the entertainers for the crowd awaiting the Pope, but he is not sure who they will be or where they are from. On the previous Papal visit, his aunt, Frances Demientieff of Holy Cross, received Communion from the Pope. The Holy Cross congregation also gave the Pope a beaded bleached mooskin stole, a vestment worn by a priest during Mass.

Delores Sloan, originally from Fort Yukon who teaches Athabaskan crafts in Fairbanks schools, will present a moos-

skin stole to the Pope this time.

Betty Johnson, of Holy Cross, says she does not think the people will have any official gift for the Pope. "We were a little disappointed though when we heard Reagan was coming." Johnson says the people there were more excited about May 1 ordination of their resident priest Father Michael Kaniecki, S.J., who was named Coadjutor Bishop of the Fairbanks diocese by the Pope.

"We didn't know what to buy Father, and we heard he already got his Bishop's ring," says Johnson. So the gift to Father Kaniecki from the people of Holy Cross are the proceeds from a recent bingo game, and bake and rummage sales. Hundreds of people from the Bush are expected to attend

Father Kaniecki's ordination.

Father Art Lopilato, S.J. of the St. Francis Xavier Church in Kotzebue says, "There'll be a few people from here and there going to Fairbanks to see the Pope but the Kotzebue people will not present any official gift. He'll have everything but the kitchen sink," says the priest.

He said himself, Sister Ida McGuire who is a Kotzebue nurse, and Lenora Westlake, of Kiana will represent that church, themselves and the church's other 10 villages in Northwest Alaska for the Papal visit and for Father Kaniecki's ordination.

"This is essentially a refueling stop for both of them... there hasn't been much time,

but it's been a mad house," adds Father Lopilato. Efforts to reach Father Tom Provencial, S.J. at Chevak were unsuccessful at press time. The Chevak men made a Chupik-style canvas kayak for the Pope in 1981.

Though the Pope is expected to arrive at 9:45 a.m., busses from designated areas in Fairbanks will begin transporting people at 6 a.m. There will be not private cars or vehicles allowed at the airport. Entertainment will begin at 6:30 a.m. Area schools will have the day off.

After the meeting with Reagan and handicapped, and officials from all areas of the state, and the Native group, the Papal Visitation Committee an-

nounced the Pope will travel in a motorcade so that the people may have a chance to see him.

This visit will be the first time in the United States for the Pope since his Anchorage mass, so Fairbanks will be hosting Catholic hierarchy from all parts of the nation and Canada. His entourage includes four cardinals and over 30 Vatican officials on the chartered Alitalia Airlines jet.

Dignitaries from local, state, and federal governments including representatives from Reagan's administration, Gov. Bill Sheffield, and U.S. Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens will also be in attendance.