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 in America;

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.

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.

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 wind its way through Central Park.

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.

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 lay, 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.

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.

Sept. 22, 9:15 a.m.
The United Nations
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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
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.

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.
Walk with Pope Francis
When Pope Francis heads back to the Vatican Sept. 26, parishioners at Santa Maria Church in Orinda will be going alone: Her daughter Carmen Dorado’s turn.
By taking the pledge to “Walk with Pope Francis,” parishioners will be participating in outreach, evangelization and service to last well into the next year. The pastor, the Very Rev. George Mockel, explains:

**What do you hope your parishioners will learn from “walking with Pope Francis”?**

**Rev. Mockel**

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 or our gratitude, we need to express it. It is in our nature. St. John Paul II called it the “the law of the gift.” It is not simply our church or our parish. We are all very successfully completed the diocesan Capital Campaign, which gave our people an opportunity to share their “treasures,” we could also give them a challenge and opportunity to grateful, 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 neighbors, especially those who are the poorest and vulnerable. The poor are at the center of the Gospel. They should be in the center of the Gospel. They should be in the center of our faith life. Two have special roles: The first is the poor and vulnerable. The poor are at the center of the Gospel. They should be in the center of the Gospel. They should be in the center of our faith life.

**Whichever steps are you personally planning to take on that “walk”?**

I learned a long time ago “leaders have to do what I would ask anyone else to do something that you are not willing to do yourself.” I choose two of the pledges or 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

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 was able to book flights. Hotels were another issue. The first ones she found were 15 miles away; when a hotel closer to the action in Philadelphia became available, she 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. John 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