

Middle Left: Snare Lake Drummers Paul Eyakfwo, Sam Simpson and Bobby Pea'a sing and play skin drums to mark the occasion. For Dene, drumming and the drum dance celebrate the bonds of kinship, friendship and love.

Middle Right: Rose Boots and her family traveled by boat to see the Pope. Boots lives at a camp at Willow River, between Wrigley and Fort Simpson.

Bottom: An elderly native woman is swaddled heavily against the cold.







The sun out, tarps can be cast aside. Yellow-jacketed Dene security watch over some 4,000 people who came to Fort Simpson to see the Pope.

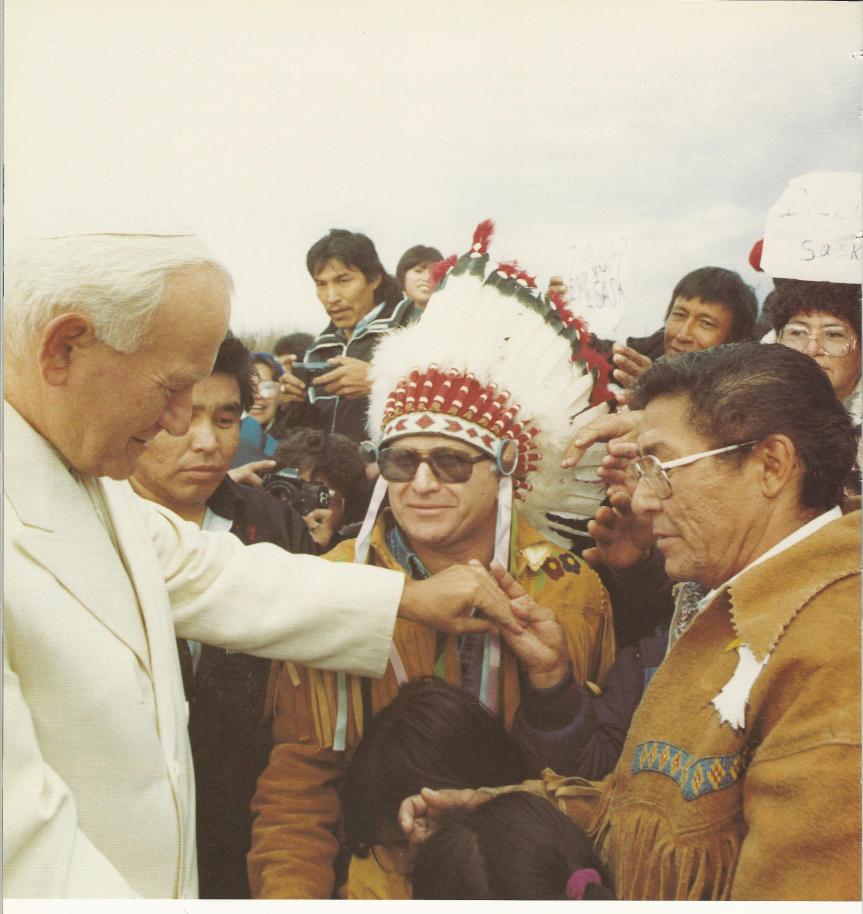




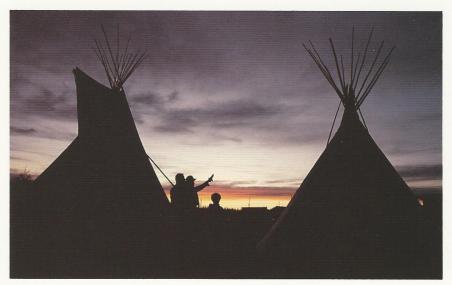
Left: Clad in colourfully beaded jackets, devout Dene sing Dogrib hymns. Left to right: Joe Champlain, Joe Fish Zoe, Phillip Nitsiza, and Elizabeth Nitsiza are from Lac La Martre. They are joined by Paul Quitte of Rae.

Above: Drummers from Assumption, Alberta, noted their music and language was similar to that of drummers from the Northwest Territories.





The Pope greets a group of Saskatchewan well-wishers. Among them, Chief Roland Crowe (centre) of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians.





Top: The sun sets over ceremonial teepees on the Papal grounds.

Bottom: For about 20 minutes, native leaders and the Pope discussed native people's aspirations and the obstacles ahead. Constitutional development was highlighted as a means to restoring aboriginal rights in Canada.

Right: Native people came to set up tent camps from all over Denendeh, as well as from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The event offered the chance to renew acquaintances and share in dancing, games and traditional fun.





