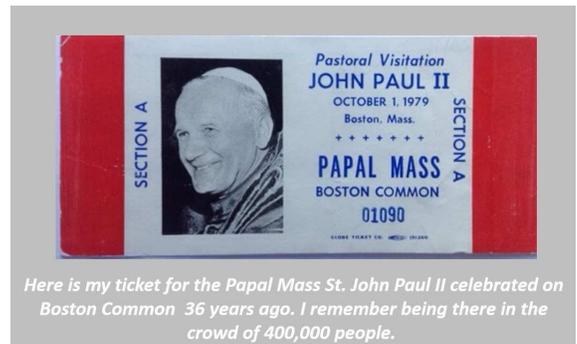


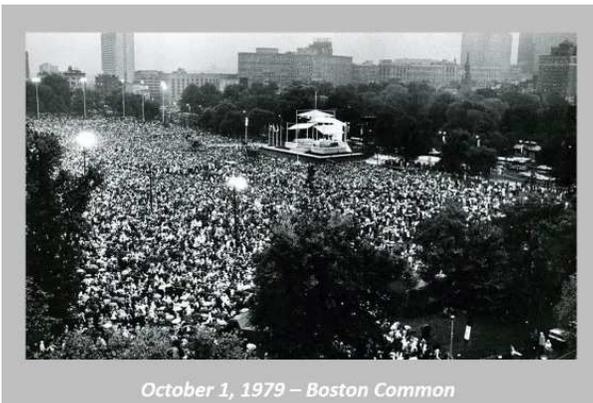


Msgr. Mike's Blog "I love Boston...even in the rain."

"I love Boston...even in the rain." I can still remember these words that Pope (now Saint) John Paul II used to greet the crowds at Boston Common on October 1, 1979 as Mass began during his first papal visit to the United States. I was among the crowd of 400,000 people who were there that day. At the time I was a seminarian and studying in Rochester, New York. All of the New England seminarians were able to get tickets for the first Mass that the Pope would celebrate in the United States. That weekend we loaded up our cars and headed for Boston. We had a great spot on the Common, but unfortunately it was pouring rain all day long. It was impossible to stay dry, and we were all soaked to the skin long before the Mass began. But that didn't matter. We were thrilled to be there.



Here is my ticket for the Papal Mass St. John Paul II celebrated on Boston Common 36 years ago. I remember being there in the crowd of 400,000 people.



October 1, 1979 – Boston Common

Fast forward thirty six years later.....For the past several weeks hardly a day goes by when there isn't something in the news about Pope Francis' upcoming trip to the United States. This will be the first trip for Francis to the U.S. and we are all anxiously awaiting his arrival. He will travel to Washington, DC to visit the White House and address a joint session of Congress. He will celebrate Mass in Spanish at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and canonize Junipero Serra. He will travel to New York to address the United Nations and celebrate Mass at Madison Square Garden before traveling to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. We are all

anxiously awaiting his arrival and the news media is already buzzing about the themes of his homilies and talks. There will be plenty of TV coverage of this historic papal visit on the major networks and especially on [EWTN](#). Be sure to watch and listen.

Let's hope and pray that Pope Francis and the crowds will be blessed with good weather. May the crowds gather to welcome him with enthusiasm. May Pope Francis rekindle in all of us what he himself calls the "joy of the Gospel". May we listen attentively to his words and allow ourselves to be encouraged and even challenged to live out our faith.

God Bless