

PROGRAM OF THE CELEBRATIONS:

“Open wide the doors for Christ”

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

- 4:00pm** Mass of Thanksgiving - in English, exposition of Saint JP II relic
- 5:00pm** Opening of the exhibit “Pope John Paul II: Road to Sainthood”
- 6:00pm** Evening Vigil with music & poetry - in Polish/English
- 7:30pm** Traditional Polish dinner
- 8:00pm** Screening of the movie “Pope John Paul II” - *Polish subtitles*
- 10:00pm** Rosary with Pope John Paul II - in Polish/English
- 11:00pm** Screening of the movie “John Paul II: I kept looking for you”
(*English subtitles*)

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

- 12:00am** Personal adoration of Saint John Paul II relics
- 3:00am** Live broadcast of the Canonization from the Vatican
- 5:00am** Continental breakfast
- 7:00am** Mass of Thanksgiving - in Latin
- 9:00am** Mass of Thanksgiving - in English
- 10:30am** Mass of Thanksgiving - in Polish/English, procession with flowers
- 12:00pm** Traditional Polish lunch
- 1:00pm** Concert “Open your door to Christ” - in Polish/English
- 2:00pm** Pope's special pastries - “Kremówki”
- 3:00pm** Holy Hour - devotion of the Divine Mercy
- 4:00pm** Veneration of the relics: Saint John Paul II & Saint Faustyna



April 27, 2014

CANONIZATION of JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul II Polish Center

Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Orange

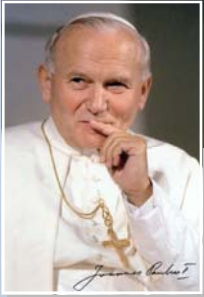
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AC 2014

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Biography of John Paul II



Early Life

Karol Józef Wojtyła was born on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. His early life was marked by great loss. His mother died when he was 9 years old, and his older brother Edmund died when he was 12.

Growing up, he was athletic and enjoyed skiing and swimming. He went to Krakow's Jagiellonian University in 1938 where he showed an interest in theater and poetry. The school was closed the next year by Nazi troops during the German occupation of Poland. Wanting to become a priest, Karol Wojtyła began studying at a secret seminary run by the archbishop of Krakow. After World War II ended, he finished his religious studies at a Krakow seminary and was ordained in 1946.

Rise Within the Church

Karol Wojtyła spent two years in Rome where he finished his doctorate in theology. He returned to his native Poland in 1948 and served in several parishes in and around Krakow. He became the bishop in 1958 and then the archbishop of Krakow six years later. Considered one of the Catholic Church's leading thinkers, he participated in the Second Vatican Council. The council began reviewing church doctrine in 1962, holding several sessions over the course of the next few years. As a member of the council, archbishop Wojtyła helped the church to examine its position in the world. Well regarded for his contributions to the church, he was made a cardinal in 1967 by Pope Paul VI.

Becoming Pope

In 1978, Karol Wojtyła made history by becoming the first non-Italian pope in more than four hundred years. As the leader of the Catholic Church, he traveled the world, visiting more than 100 countries to spread his message of faith and peace. But he was close to home when he faced the greatest threat to his life. In 1981, an assassin shot John Paul II twice in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. Fortunately, he was able to recover from his injuries and later forgave his attacker.

Legacy

A vocal advocate for human rights, John Paul II often spoke out about suffering in the world. He held strong positions on many topics, including his opposition to capital punishment. A charismatic figure, John Paul II used his influence to bring about political change and is credited with the fall of communism in his native Poland.

John Paul II died on April 2, 2005, at the age of 84, at his Vatican City residence. More than 3 million people waited in line to say good-bye to their beloved religious leader at St. Peter's Basilica before his funeral on April 8.

On May 1, 2011 John Paul II has been beatified by the pope Benedict XVI and his canonization has been scheduled for April 27, 2014 - the Divine Mercy Sunday.

POPE JOHN PAUL II IN NUMBERS

- 1st** Slavic Pope, from Poland
- 3rd** Longest Pontificate
- 5** Visits to Mexico and Spain
- 6** Times visited France
- 7** Times visited USA
- 8** Languages spoken fluently
- 9** Poles Canonized
- 9** Times visited Poland
- 10** Nominations of Polish Cardinals
- 11** Constitutions issued during his Pontificate
- 13th of May, 1981** – attempt to assassinate the Pope
- 14** Encyclicals issued during his Pontificate
- 30** Times earth's circumference (equal) traveled as Pope
- 43** Apostolic Letters issued during his Pontificate
- 132** Countries were visited in his travels
- 143** Travels made in Italy alone
- 154** Polish Venerable Servants of God were Beatified
- 232** Cardinals were nominated
- 245** Travels
- 264th** Successor of St. Peter
- 301** Times made pastoral visits to parishes in Rome
- 478** Saints were Canonized
- 586** Days spent while traveling
- 1020** Times met with the faithful during general audiences
- 1318** Venerable Servants of God were Beatified
- 1360** Meetings with political figures
- 2400** Speeches delivered during his foreign pilgrimages
- 9665** Days long John Paul II Pontificate
- 31000** Days long was the life of John Paul II (Karol Wojtyła)
- 1,200,000,000** Catholics worldwide considered John Paul II as the Head of the Church