

**April 2013**

# **BL. POPE JOHN PAUL II**

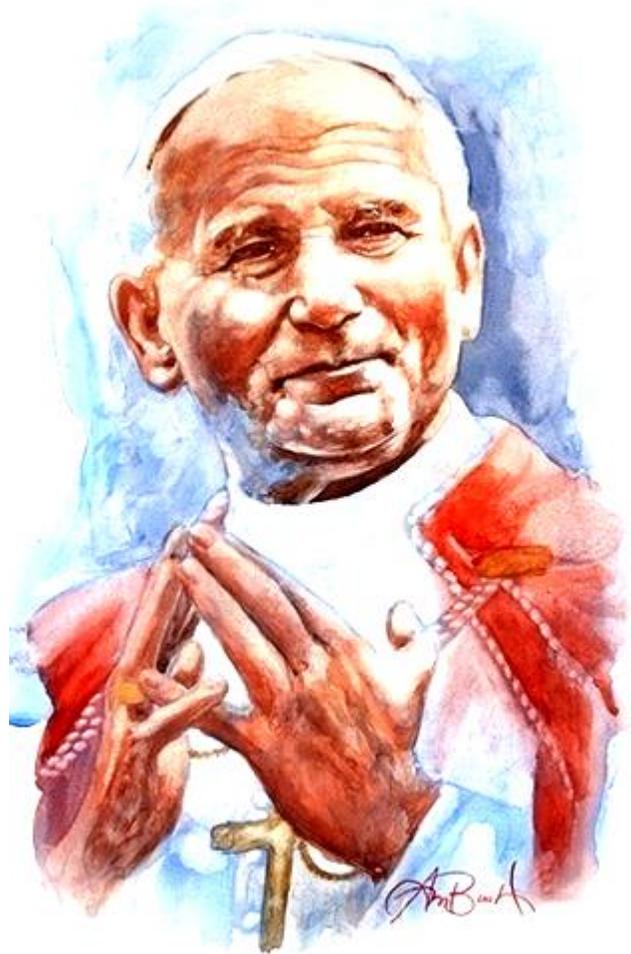
## **LIFE IN BRIEF**

**Blessed John Paul II** was born Karol Józef Wojtyła 18 May 1920, Wadowice, Republic of Poland). He reigned as Pope of the Catholic Church from 1978 until his death till April 2nd 2005. He was the second-longest serving Pope in history and the first non-Italian since 1523. All of the major themes of John Paul II's papacy can be traced to the shaping events of his life--a life whose roots are sunk in Polish soil. His Christian vision, his vocation, his very emotions draw their depth and intensity from the country he left to become Holy Father of the Catholic Church in Rome. **On 19 December 2009, John Paul II was proclaimed venerable by his successor Pope Benedict XVI and was beatified on 1 May 2011 after attributing one miracle to him, the healing of a French nun from Parkinson's disease.**

## **RESPONSE TO THE LORD IN FAITH**

Aspect of his faith in the Lord should be as the Vicar of Jesus Christ and successor of St. Peter, he has revolutionized the office of the modern pope. He has taken his mission out of the Vatican and around the globe, pushing back the boundaries of the old Christian Europe--proselytizing, reforming, opening new churches wherever he's gone in Latin America, the United States, the East and Africa. He wooed and won the media with his personal gifts and variety. He has been the skiing pope, the poet pope, the best-selling CD pope, the designer robes pope, the intellectual pope.

He is the pope who brought down Communism; the pope who worked ceaselessly towards Christian reconciliation with the Jews; the pope who raised his voice against the contemporary evil in our "culture of death." He has never consulted pollsters, but marched to a stern, unyielding drummer. So John Paul II has also been the infuriating pope, the retrograde pope, the silencing pope, the pope who has ignored the revolutionary changes in the status of women. His uncompromising limitations--as well as his extraordinary accomplishments-- all reflect the impress of a vanished world: the Poland where Karol Wojtyla came of age.





*"Although I have lived through much darkness, under harsh totalitarian regimes, I have seen enough evidence to be unshakably convinced that no difficulty, no fear is so great that it can completely suffocate the hope that springs eternal in the hearts of the young. You are our hope, the young are our hope. Do not let that hope die! Stake your lives on it! We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son." -- Pope John Paul II, World Youth*

## Week I

### Quote of the Saint

*"Do not be afraid to go out on the streets and into public places like the first apostles who preached Christ and the Good News of salvation in the squares of cities towns and villages. This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is time to preach it from the rooftops" (World Youth Day 1993).*

### Prayer of the Saint

*For Responses to God's Call*

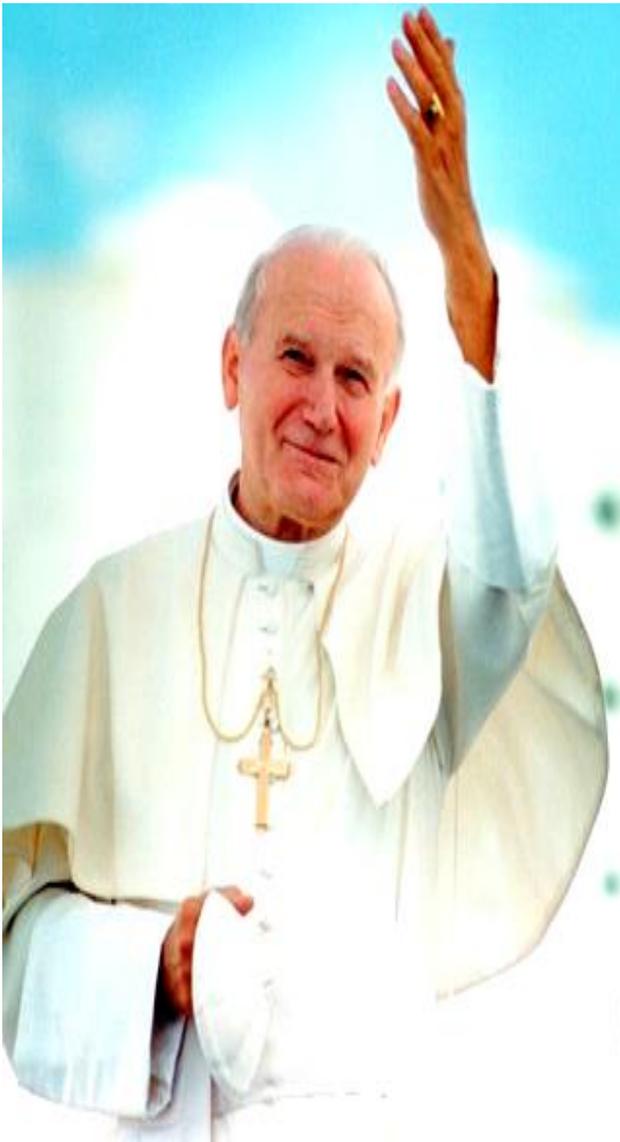
***Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the Lord?***

*1 Chronicles 29:5*

*Let us pray that the most holy mysteries of the risen Christ and of the Spirit, the Paraclete, may enlighten many generous people, ready to serve the Church with greater readiness.*

*Let us pray for the young people, to whom the Lord extends His invitation to follow Him more closely, that they may not be drawn away by the things of this world, but may open their hearts to the loving voice that is calling them. Let us pray that they may feel capable of dedicating themselves for their whole lives, "with undivided heart," to Christ, the Church, and souls. Let us pray that they may believe that grace gives them the strength to make this gift, and that they may see the beauty and greatness of priestly, religious, and missionary life.*

*Let us pray for families, that they may succeed in creating a Christian environment favorable to the important religious choices of their children. And at the same time with all our hearts let us thank the Lord that in these recent years, in many parts of the world, many young and not so young people are responding in growing numbers to the divine call.*



*Let us pray that all priests and religious may be an example and an encouragement to those who have been called, by their availability and humble readiness,...to accept the gifts of the Holy Spirit and to transmit to others the fruits of love and peace, to give them that certainty of faith from which derive the profound understanding of meaning of human existence and the capacity to introduce moral order into the life of individuals and of the human setting.*  
**[L'Osservatore Romano, 1-14-80]**

## **Week II**

### **Quote of the Saint**

*"In any case, in the path of love which life entails, always remember that above every love there is one Love. One Love. Love without constraint or hesitation. It is the love with which Christ loves each one of you."*

### **Prayer of the Saint**

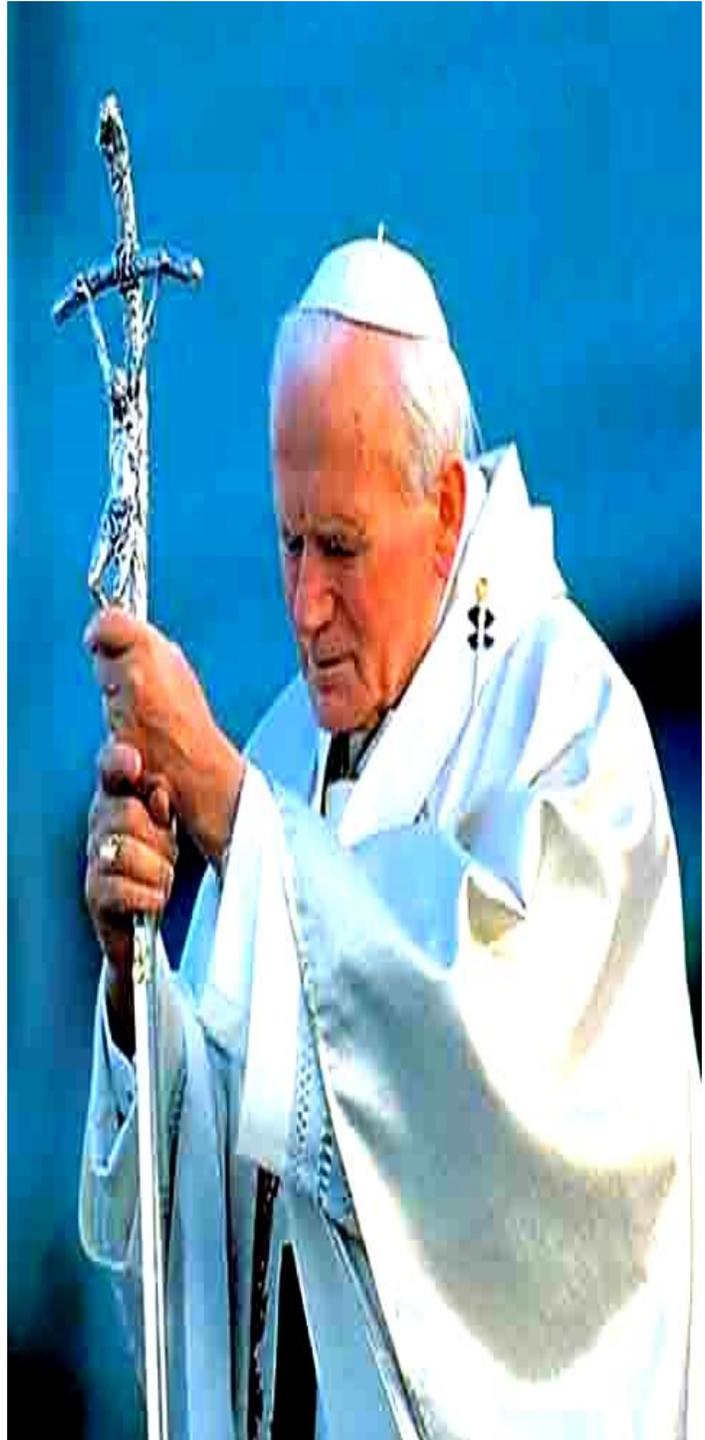
***How precious is Your love, O God!...  
For with You is the fountain of life,  
and in Your light we see light.***

*Psalm 36:8, 10*

*Jesus proclaims that life finds its center, its meaning and its fulfillment when it is given up ... We too are called to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters, and thus to realize in the fullness of truth the meaning and destiny of our existence.*

*We shall be able to do this because You, O Lord, have given us the example and have bestowed on us the power of Your Spirit. We shall be able to do this if every day, with You and like You, we are obedient to the Father and do His will.*

*Grant, therefore, O Jesus that we may listen with open and generous hearts to every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. Thus shall we learn not only to obey the commandment not to kill human life, but also to revere life, to love it, and to foster it.*  
**[Evangelium Vitae, n. 51]**



## Week III

### Quote of the Saint

*"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal"*  
**(World Youth Day 2000).**

### Prayer to the Saint

#### **To the Spirit of Light and Love**

*"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love Him, " God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God...Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit..."*

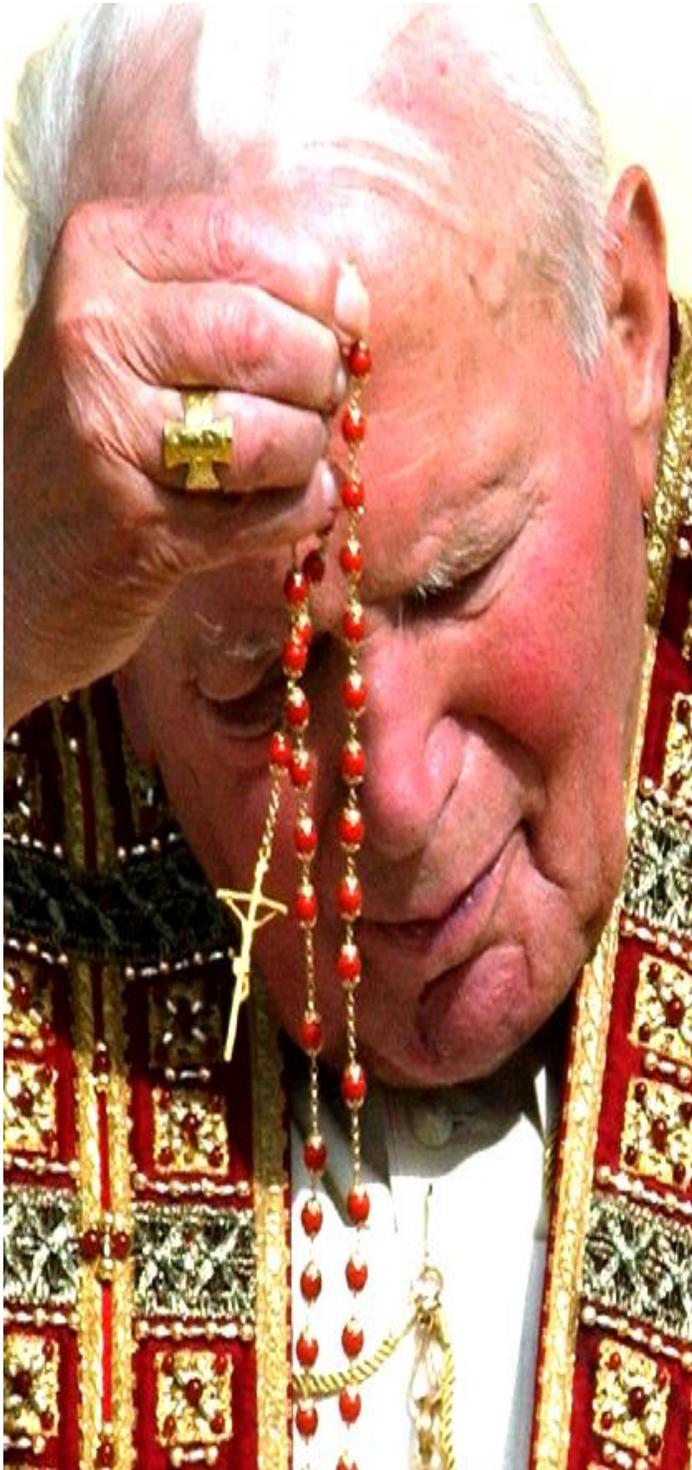
#### **1 Corinthians 2:9-10,12-13I**

*May the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Pentecost, help you to clarify what is ambiguous, to give warmth to what is indifferent, to enlighten what is obscure, to be before the world true and generous witnesses of Christ's love, for no one can live without love.*

**[L'Osservatore Romano, 6-16-80]**

## Week IV

### Quote of the Saint





*“Chastity is a difficult, long term matter; one must wait patiently for it to bear fruit, for the happiness of loving kindness which it must bring. But at the same time, chastity is the sure way to happiness” (Love and Responsibility, 172).*

### **Prayer to the Saint**

#### **For Every Family On Earth**

*Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways!...*

*Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;  
Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.  
Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.*

*Psalm 128:1, 3-4*

*Lord, from You every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Father, You are Love and Life.*

*Through Your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, the fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love.*

*Grant that Your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families of the world. Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.*

*Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of Marriage, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.*

*Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.*

*We ask this of You, who are Life, Truth, and Love with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**[L'Osservatore Romano, 5-25-80, 19]**

