



CHAPLAIN'S *report*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS *In service to One. In service to all.*

LEARNING THE FAITH, LIVING THE FAITH ♦ 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326, USA

The Spiritual Fatherhood of St. John Paul II

Formed and inspired by faithful men, Karol Wojtyła lived as a powerful witness of fatherhood for many.

**Archbishop
William E. Lori**

Supreme Chaplain



Years ago, while serving as Cardinal James A. Hickey's priest-secretary, I had the privilege of joining a small number of priests who concelebrated an early morning Mass in Pope John Paul II's private chapel. Afterward, the Holy Father greeted each of us as

our picture was taken. Of all the photos I had with John Paul II over the years, this one is my favorite. The pope put his hand on my shoulder and smiled at me, the way a proud father smiles at his son. It was a moment when I personally experienced the spiritual fatherhood of John Paul II.

THE RADIATION OF FATHERHOOD

Pope John Paul II affected many priests in the same way that he did me. Indeed, his spiritual fatherhood radiated through the Church, inspiring a new generation of priests. They were attracted not only by the pope's obvious intelligence, energy and charisma, but even more by his faith, inner strength and fatherly love. Both by his teaching and his example, John Paul II personified the love a father should express toward his family and the love that a spiritual father, a priest, should express toward the Church and her members.

In his beautiful exhortation titled *Pastores Dabo Vobis (I Will Give You Shepherds)*, John Paul II spoke of this spousal dimension of the priesthood. He wrote that just as Jesus gave his very life for the Church, so too must

priests make a "gift of self to the Church ... insofar as she is the Body and the Bride of Jesus Christ" (23). In this way, the priest's celibate way of life is far from lonely and barren. Rather, it corresponds to the joy that married couples experience when, even amid suffering and setbacks, they give themselves to each other and to their families. When a priest gives himself to the people he serves, even when this entails great sacrifice, the Lord sees to it that his ministry bears much fruit.

Many have written about John Paul II's relationship with his own father, a man of faith and virtue. The future pope's mother died when he was eight years old, yet throughout his formative years, young Karol Wojtyła was blessed by a loving father. Capt. Wojtyła instilled in Karol a passion for history, literature and sports. Above all, he helped his son develop a deep life of faith and prayer, so that he might become the man that God intended him to be. Later, as pope, Karol Wojtyła would write that his father's example of prayer was his "first seminary" (*Gift and Mystery*, p. 20).



(CNS photo/Catholic Press Photo)

SEE **FATHERHOOD**, PAGE 2

U.S. Bishops Designate Washington D.C. Location as John Paul II National Shrine

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) designated the Washington-based facility dedicated to Pope John Paul II as a national shrine.

Beginning on Sunday, April 27, the day set by Pope Francis for Pope John Paul II's canonization, the shrine will be known as the "Saint John Paul II National Shrine." It will mark the occasion with liturgical celebrations, a reception and a gathering of young people.

"The American bishops are pleased to reflect the love of Catholics in America for John Paul II by designating this location a national shrine," said Louisville Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, who signed the bishops' decree as USCCB president. "This national shrine is truly America's fitting tribute and remembrance of his legacy."

The Knights of Columbus took ownership of the facility in 2011 to create a shrine dedicated to John Paul II and his contributions to the Church and society. Currently known as the Blessed John Paul II Shrine, it is located on the site of the former John Paul II Cultural Center at 3900 Harewood Road in northeast Washington.



"Pope John Paul II shaped an entire generation of Catholics, and the shrine serves to remind people throughout this country of his saintly life and of his call to holiness for each of us," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "This shrine gives us the opportunity and privilege of continuing Pope John Paul II's mission of the new evangelization for future generations of Catholics and we gladly accept it."

SEE **SHRINE**, PAGE 2

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, blessed the Knights' initiative and declared the site an archdiocesan shrine in 2011.

"Pope John Paul visited Washington and was an important force for good in America, so we are particularly honored to have this saint's national shrine here and to be one of the first places of worship in the world to bear his name," said Cardinal Wuerl. "In its three years as a local shrine, it has also become a place of pilgrimage and prayer, attracting people from far beyond this city."

An inspiring centerpiece of the shrine will be a relic consisting of a vial of John Paul II's blood, entrusted to the Knights of Columbus by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, archbishop of Kraków and longtime personal secretary to John Paul II.

The shrine's lower level will feature a 16,000-square-foot permanent exhibition on the pope's life and teaching, slated to open later this year. The main floor will be converted into a church and the current chapel will serve as a reliquary chapel. Both will feature floor-to-ceiling mosaics.

"As the premier site dedicated to Pope John Paul II in the United States, we are grateful that the U.S. bishops have elevated our status to a national shrine, and we look forward to welcoming pilgrims to this place of prayer," said shrine Executive Director Patrick Kelly. "It is dedicated to a great saint who bore courageous witness to the love of God and the dignity of the human person." For more information on the shrine, please visit jp2shrine.org.

A Talk With the Blessed John Paul II Shrine Executive Director

Patrick Kelly has served as the executive director of the Blessed John Paul II Shrine since the beginnings of the facility. Recently, he offered some insights on the shrine and its mission.

What do you see as Pope John Paul II's legacy, and how is it reflected in the shrine?

Blessed John Paul II has many legacies because he was an extraordinary figure on many levels. His greatest legacy is a legacy of love. He was motivated by love of God and love of the person made in the image and likeness of God. His example of "gift of self" and personal holiness is something we are all called to emulate. Through its liturgical and sacramental life, the shrine will be a place where pilgrims grow in their love for Christ and their fellow man in the spirit of and through the intercession of Saint John Paul II.

What makes the shrine such an important place for pilgrims, and what would you hope visitors to leave the shrine with?

The shrine is first and foremost a place of prayer and pilgrimage with a unique mission to develop and promote popular devotion to Saint John Paul II. Our major catechetical dimension will be a 16,000-square-foot exhibit on the life and teaching of Saint John Paul II. It will lead the pilgrim on a journey through Karol Wojtyła's early years as a priest and bishop, then through the major events and themes of his pontificate, and will conclude with his final days and his return "to the Father's house." We hope all pilgrims leave the shrine with a sense that their lives, just like that of John Paul II's life, are a pilgrimage and that they are called to make a gift of their lives to God and to others. We want all pilgrims to realize that sanctity is possible in the personal and unique circumstances of their own lives.

What does it mean to you, as a Catholic and specifically as a Knight, to be involved in this endeavor?

It has been an extraordinary blessing to work on the shrine and to be part of this historic project. The Knights of Columbus had an important relationship with John Paul II, and we worked closely with him on many projects and pastoral initiatives. The shrine is perhaps the largest and most important pastoral initiative we have ever undertaken. In a very real sense, the shrine is at the service of the Church and can be seen as a gift from the Order to the Church and the whole of society. I truly believe the shrine will become an integral part of the new evangelization of the North American continent.



As a priestly vocation began stirring in his heart, Wojtyła found a true spiritual father in Cardinal Adam Stefan Sapieha, archbishop of Kraków. During World War II, Polish seminarians had to be formed for the priesthood clandestinely in the cardinal's residence. Here, up close, the seminarian Karol Wojtyła witnessed in Cardinal Sapieha a man of profound faith and great courage in the face of grave and tragic circumstances. It was an example that John Paul II cherished for the rest of his life.

Throughout his ministry as priest, bishop and pope, John Paul II related to everyone as a strong, loving and wise spiritual father. From the very beginning he reached out to young people — hiking and skiing with them, participating in student theater, teaching them to know and love their culture, and helping them to think critically about life. Most importantly, he encouraged them to discover their dignity and joy in Christ.

When he became archbishop of Kraków, the communist authorities at first dismissed him as a thinker and dreamer, a poet, playwright and mystic. He was all those things — and much more. Archbishop and later Cardinal Wojtyła was a courageous leader, an image of the Good Shepherd who guides his flock through dangerous territory. As a wise father, he knew how to deal with the communist regime in order to defend the rights of his people and the freedom of the Church.

FATHER FIGURE FOR THE WORLD

In 1978, when he was elected pope, John Paul II embraced a much larger family of faith. Months later, he returned to Poland, his fatherland, with a message of human dignity, hope and freedom — the freedom that God the Father offers us in Christ — and soon brought that same message all around the world. Among his earliest pastoral innovations was World Youth Day. Though some of his advisers told him this idea would never work, Pope John Paul II knew better. Nothing would prevent him from touching the minds and hearts of young people just as his own father had nurtured him in the ways of faith, wisdom and human maturity. Young people responded enthusiastically, turning out in droves, despite predictions of failure. And it seems the older and more infirm that John Paul II became, the more young people loved him. Who can forget the throng of young people holding vigil in St. Peter's Square on the night the pope said, "Let me go to the house of my Father"?

As we celebrate the canonization of St. John Paul II, let us keep in mind his spiritual fatherhood. In his ministry to the family, he taught us to seek the source of fatherhood in the heavenly Father, whom Jesus teaches us to call, "Abba, Father" (Mk 14:36; cf. Rom 8:15, Gal 4:6). He helped us see how fathers and mothers cooperate and complement each other in establishing a stable home and in guiding their children in ways of faith, knowledge and love. And always he spoke about fatherhood, motherhood and family as a vocation of love, service and self-giving.

As Knights of Columbus, as fathers of families, as priests who are spiritual fathers, let us ask St. John Paul II's intercession that we may be perfect, as our heavenly Father is perfect (cf. Mt 5:48).

The Witness of the Cross & the New Evangelization

Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, O.P.

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



As we approach the grace-filled season of Easter, the historic canonizations of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II stand as reminders of God's divine protection of the Church. "Good Pope John" not only invoked the Second Vatican Council, but asked every religious

order and diocese to send 10 percent of its priests and religious to the foreign missions. His prayers and personal appeals for peace brought the world back from the brink of nuclear annihilation over Cuba. "John Paul the Great" not only contributed significantly to the Second Vatican Council, but with Pope Benedict, he offered the definitive interpretation of the Council through the *Catechism*, *Code of Canon Law*, and the witness of his teaching, preaching and pilgrimages around the world.

Significantly, the canonizations will take place on April 27, the feast of the Divine Mercy and the 54th anniversary of the testimony to the faith at the Cross of Nowa Huta. After the ravages of World War II, the Communist authorities of Poland designed the new suburb of Nowa Huta, outside of Krakow, as a city "without God" for the working masses of the nearby steel plants. No churches were planned or allowed to be built in an area that housed over 40,000 people. After years of protest, the Church was finally allowed to purchase property, but delays in permits and bureaucratic subterfuge meant that no buildings were erected. Instead, the people began to celebrate outdoor Masses every Sunday on the ground designated for the church. Karol Wojtyła began offering the midnight Christmas Eve Mass in 1958.

On April 27, 1960, the Communist authorities dismantled the cross that stood on the church lot of Nowa Huta and sealed off the city with riot police and armored cars. The workers of the socialist state stood in opposition, erecting and defending a new cross and singing: "We want

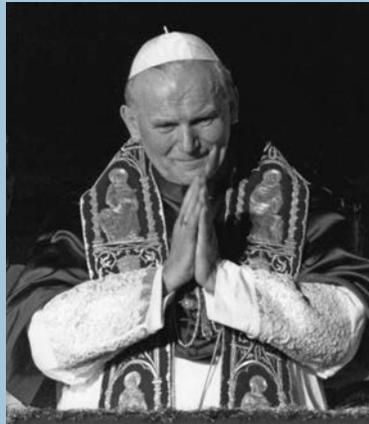
God, we who are defeated. He is our King, He is our Lord." The auxiliary bishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyła, stood in defense of the people, calling for the residents to remain calm. A negotiated truce ensured that the new Cross of Nowa Huta would remain in place.

On his first return visit to Poland in June 1979, Pope John Paul II spoke of this seminal moment at the Monastery of the Holy Cross in nearby Mogila. He said then, "Where the cross is raised, there is raised the sign that that place has now been reached by the Good News of Man's salvation through Love. Where the cross is raised, *there is the sign that evangelization has begun.*" Referring to the new Cross of Nowa Huta, he said, "With it we were given a sign that on the threshold of the new millennium, in these new times, these new conditions of life, the Gospel is again being proclaimed. A *new evangelization* has begun." This was the first time in his pontificate that he used the term "new evangelization."

Pope John Paul II reiterated again at the end of his talk: "From the Cross of Nowa Huta began the new evangelization, *the evangelization of the second Millennium.* ... It arose from a living awareness and responsible faith and must continue to serve that faith. The evangelization of the new millennium must refer to the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. It must be, as that Council taught, a *work shared* by bishops, priests, religious and laity, by parents and young people. The parish is not only a place where catechesis is given, it is also the living environment that must actualize it."

From the Cross of Nowa Huta, Karol Wojtyła gave witness to the faith with countless others. From that new cross on April 27, 1960, a shared work of witness began: the living faith that would not only build a Church, but transform the lives of so many. May we remind our brother Knights of the importance of the witness of the cross and their participation in the New Evangelization, to which John XXIII called missionaries forward and John Paul II gave witness and launched into the new millennium, and that which Pope Francis reminds us must be at the heart of every activity in the Church.

Vivat Jesus!



(CNS photo/Catholic Press Photo)

The Path to Sainthood

A holy death.

After struggling with Parkinson's disease for more than a decade, Pope John Paul II dies in his room at the Vatican. On April 2, 2005, near death, aware of the many young people in St. Peter's Square praying for him, he says, "I have looked for you, now you have come to me. And I thank you."

Cause for sainthood opens; person is called "Servant of God".

This happens for John Paul II in May 2005, after his successor, Pope Benedict, waives the usual five-year waiting period.

Cause is investigated in the local diocese.

Since John Paul II was from Poland, but spent nearly three decades as pope, the Diocese of Rome manages the cause with help from the Krakow Diocese. On May 18, 2005, the tribunal begins gathering testimonies, writings, personal letters and any information either favorable or contrary regarding his life.

As people pray and prayers are answered, possible miracles are reported.

Sister Marie Simon Pierre and her fellow nuns pray to John Paul II to alleviate her Parkinson's disease. On June 1, 2005, she is cured.

The diocesan phase ends; the cause goes to the Vatican for more investigation.

On April 2, 2007, the positio containing all the diocesan research on John Paul II's life goes to the congregation for the Causes of Saints, which examines the materials, including possible cures, with greater scrutiny by historians, doctors, theologians and cardinals.

Decree of Heroic virtue; the title "Venerable" is given.

After the congregation reaches a positive decision about John Paul II's holiness, on December 19, 2009, Pope Benedict signs the "decree of heroic virtue" and John Paul II is declared "Venerable."

A miracle confirmed – Beatification announced.

On January 14, 2011, after the congregation affirms the cure's evidence, Pope Benedict authorizes the congregation to promulgate the decrees concerning the miracle, making beatification possible.

Beatification ceremony; the title "Blessed" is given.

On May 1, 2011, John Paul II is beatified at the Vatican by his successor Pope Benedict XVI.

A second miracle is approved - Canonization Announced

Floribeth Mora, a 50-year-old Costa Rican woman, is cured of a brain aneurysm after a photograph of John Paul appeared to speak to her during his beatification. Her doctors confirm that the aneurysm disappeared for no apparent reason.

Canonization; declaring "Sainthood".

The Vatican announces on September 30, 2013, that Pope John Paul II will be declared a saint on April 27, 2014.

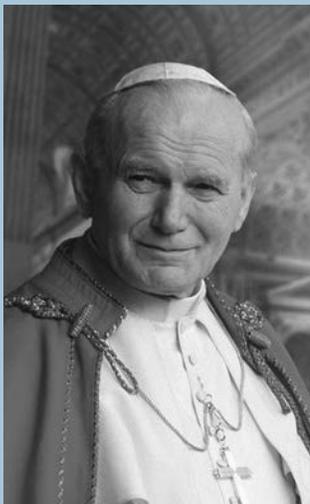


(CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)



Saint John Paul II Prayer Card

The Supreme Council and the Saint John Paul II National Shrine have produced a new prayer card (#4983) requesting the intercession of St. John Paul II. These prayer cards are available in packs of 100 at a cost of \$3 per pack. Make checks payable to “Knights of Columbus” and write “#4983” in the memo line. Mail to: Knights of Columbus Supply Department, 78 Meadow Street, New Haven, CT 06519. Questions? Call 203-752-4214.



PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF
SAINT JOHN PAUL II

O Blessed Trinity, we thank you for having graced the Church with Saint John Paul II and for allowing the tenderness of your fatherly care, the glory of the Cross of Christ and the splendor of the Spirit of love to shine through him.
Trusting fully in your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd.
He has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and is the way of achieving eternal communion with you.
Grant us, by his intercession, and according to your will, the graces we implore, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

With ecclesiastical approval
+DONALD CARDINAL WUERL
Archbishop of Washington

SAINT
JOHN PAUL II
NATIONAL SHRINE

In the Words of Pope Francis

Following the Lord in Holy Week

“God always thinks with mercy: do not forget this. God always thinks mercifully. He is the merciful Father! God thinks like the father waiting for the son and goes to meet him, he spots him coming when he is still far off. ...

“What does this mean? That he went every day to see if his son was coming home: this is our merciful Father. It indicates that he was waiting for him with longing on the terrace of his house. God thinks like the Samaritan who did not pass by the unfortunate man, pitying him or looking at him from the other side of the road, but helped him without asking for anything in return; without asking whether he was a Jew, a pagan or a Samaritan, whether he was rich or poor: he asked for nothing. He went to help him: God is like this. God thinks like the shepherd who lays down his life in order to defend and save his sheep.

“Holy Week is a time of grace which the Lord gives us *to open the doors* of our heart, of our life, of our parishes — what a pity so many parishes are closed! — of the movements, of the associations; and ‘to come out’ in order to meet others, to make ourselves close, to bring them the light and joy of our faith. To come out always! And to do so with God’s love and tenderness, with respect and with patience, knowing that God takes our hands, our feet, our heart, and guides them and makes all our actions fruitful. I hope that we all will live these days well, following the Lord courageously, carrying within us a ray of his love for all those we meet.”