

First Anniversary Tribute to Pope John Paul The Great

Holy Father of the Universal Catholic Church • 1978 to 2005

Born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920

Entered the Seminary in 1941

Ordained a Priest on November 1, 1946

Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow, Poland in July, 1958

Appointed Archbishop of Krakow, Poland in December, 1963

Elevated to Cardinal of the Catholic Church on May 29, 1967

**Elected as Holy Father of the Universal Catholic Church on
October 16, 1978**

Died at His Vatican Home in Rome, Italy on

Saturday, April 2, 2005

Pope John Paul The Great First Anniversary Memorial Tribute Mass



One year ago, on April 2, 2005, the world mourned the passing of Pope John Paul The Great. The day before his funeral Mass, more than two thousand people gathered at St. Adalbert Church, Thompson Street and Allegheny Avenue in Philadelphia for a community-wide Memorial Mass. One year after his passing, the Polish American community again gathered in large numbers to remember a son of Poland who became the Universal Catholic Church Leader and for 27 years worked to unite people of all faiths for peace and justice for all. The Memorial Tribute Mass for Pope John Paul the Great took place on Sunday, April 2, 2006, in St. Adalbert Church, exactly one year from his death.

The Memorial Tribute began with a large procession to the church which included officers and representatives of Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, its member groups which included the children of St. Adalbert Polish Language School, Adam Mickiewicz Polish Language School, Polish Scouts- Harcerstwo, Polish Police Association of Philadelphia, Polish American Heritage Association of Delaware County, Polish Intercollegiate Club, P.K.M. Polish Folk Dance Group, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and Polonia.

Polonia is grateful for the hospitality of Msgr. Francis Feret, Pastor of St. Adalbert Parish, who celebrated the Memorial Tribute Mass. Msgr. Bernard Witkowski, Chaplain of the Polish American Congress, Eastern Pennsylvania District, was among the concelebrants; Rev. Thaddeus Gorka, Parochial Vicar of St. Adalbert Parish, was the homilist. The children of St. Adalbert Polish Language School, under the direction of Maria Koleda, principal, and Jerry Ossowski, the organist, lead the singing of hymns enjoyed by Pope John Paul The Great during his life in Poland and his return trips to his homeland. A new portrait of the Pope John Paul the Great (painted by Zenia Konik) was unveiled and will be permanently displayed in St. Adalbert Church. This Memorial Tribute Mass, another historic event in Polish American history, is one of many tributes being held throughout the world for Pope John Paul The Great, a man who made us all proud.

Pope John Paul II

A Man of God, A Man of the People

On October 16, 1978, the world community was stunned when the Roman Catholic Church's College of Cardinals elected a Polish Cardinal to become the 264th successor to St. Peter. Karol Cardinal Wojtyla was the first non-Italian Pope chosen for over 400 years and the first Polish Pope ever elected.

Karol Wojtyla was born in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, to a poor family. His mother and brother died when he was a young boy. He was an outstanding student and was

very interested in literature and the theater. In 1938 Wojtyla entered Jagiellonian University to study literature. During this time he also appeared in the theater.

In September, 1939, the Nazi armies invaded Poland and turned the lives of the people into confusion. Karol Wojtyla's life was no exception. Jagiellonian University was closed. But Wojtyla and other students established an underground university. Professors and students would secretly meet in private homes. Wojtyla went to secret classes and performed in plays at night, and during the day worked as a laborer in a limestone quarry. During this time his father died, which some friends feel stimulated him to seriously study theology.

Wojtyla began serious study for the seminary during the war. This placed his life in jeopardy and he was placed under protective custody at the Archbishop of Krakow's Palace. On November 1, 1946, Wojtyla was ordained a priest by Cardinal Sapieha.

After the war, Wojtyla was sent by Cardinal Sapieha to Rome and other European locations to continue his studies. He received his doctorate in theology. Upon his return to Poland in 1948, he was assigned as a parish priest. Wojtyla found a very different country - a country under communist rule.

Through his years as a priest in Poland, Wojtyla continued his education and his writings. Wojtyla wrote books, essays, articles, poems and plays during his years in Poland. He also was a professor and lecturer at the Catholic University in Lublin.

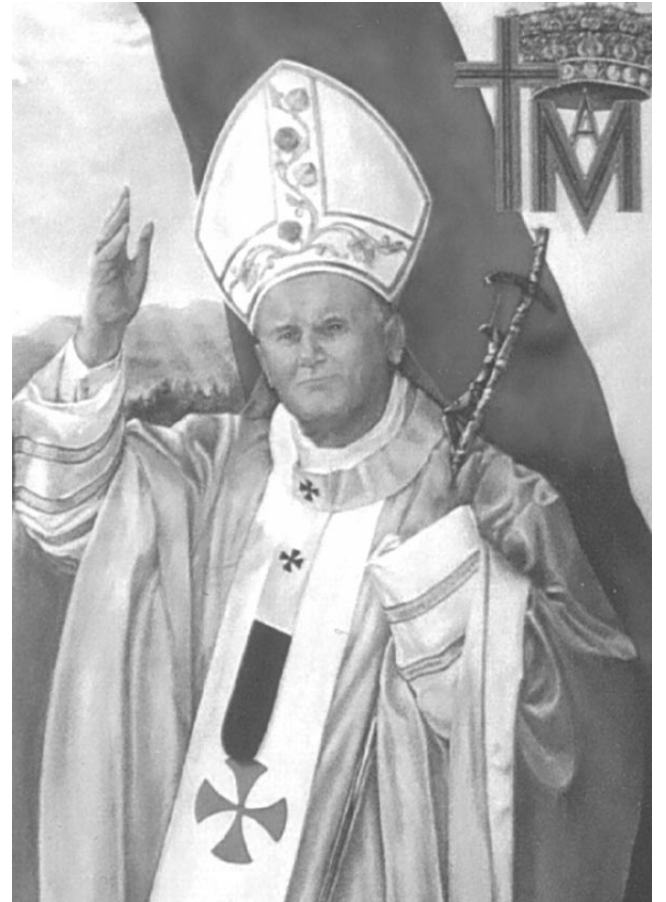
In July, 1958, Wojtyla was appointed auxiliary bishop of Krakow. His consecration took place at Wawel Cathedral in September of that year. Shortly afterwards, in December 1963, he was chosen as Archbishop of Krakow. Wojtyla continued his rise in the Church when he was made Cardinal on May 29, 1967. In his role as a priest, teacher, bishop and cardinal, Wojtyla was an outspoken advocate of religious freedom in communist ruled countries.

Upon the death of Pope John Paul I in 1978, Wojtyla and the College of Cardinals, were summoned to elect a successor to St. Peter. After the eighth ballot Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was chosen to be the leader of the Catholic Church.

As was customary, the new Pope greeted the crowd who gathered in St. Peter's Square. The people were anxious to hear a non-Italian Pope address them. They were overwhelmed when he spoke to them in Italian. The Inaugural Mass took place on October 22, 1978, with cardinals, dignitaries and guests in attendance.

Pope John Paul II was a very active leader of the Catholic Church. Unlike other Popes he traveled around the world to visit and meet with the people. His knowledge and fluency of many languages aided him in communicating with people from different countries.

Pope John Paul II died at his Vatican home in Rome, Italy, on Saturday, April 2, 2005.



New portrait of Pope John Paul The Great in St. Adalbert Church in Philadelphia, PA.