



Pope John Paul II

Saint Happiness Presentation

Recommended Background Music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOlpcJhNyDI>

Pope John Paul II

Pope John Paul II was an extremely influential Pope, reigning from 1978 until his death in 2005. He was considered a driving force in the fall of Communism in Poland, and a key figure in improving the Vatican's relations with other religions.

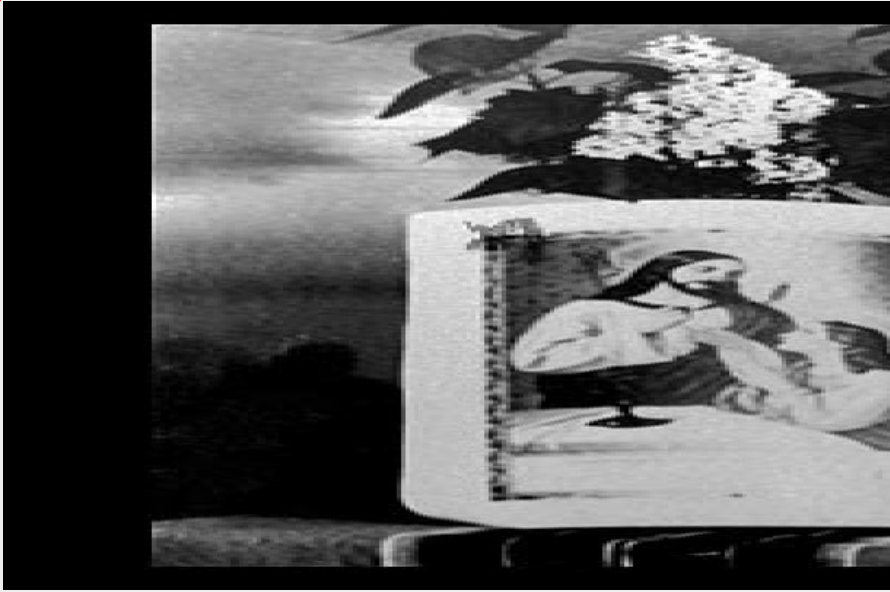


His Childhood

Saint John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920. He was the youngest of three children. During his childhood, he was very athletic, enjoying swimming and skiing. His childhood began with tragedy, with his mother dying in 1929, his older sister dying before he was born, and his older brother dying in 1932, leaving just him and his father.



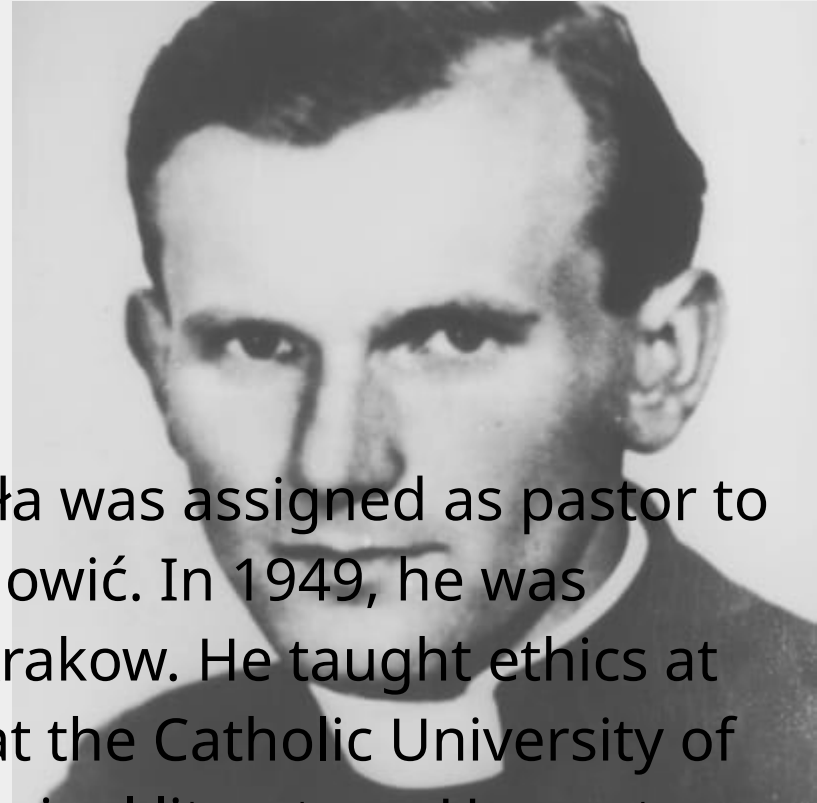
His Education



Wojtyła decided to join the priesthood in autumn 1942. The Nazis prohibited studying for priesthood, so he attended illegal classes held by the then-current Archbishop of Krakow, and spent the remainder of World War II in the Archbishop's palace. He was ordained

a priest by the same Archbishop in November 1946. Wojtyła was sent by the Archbishop to study at the Angelicum in Rome. He earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in 1947 and earned a Doctorate in Philosophy in 1948. In 1953, his thesis was accepted at Jagellonian University, and he earned a Doctorate in Sacred Theology.

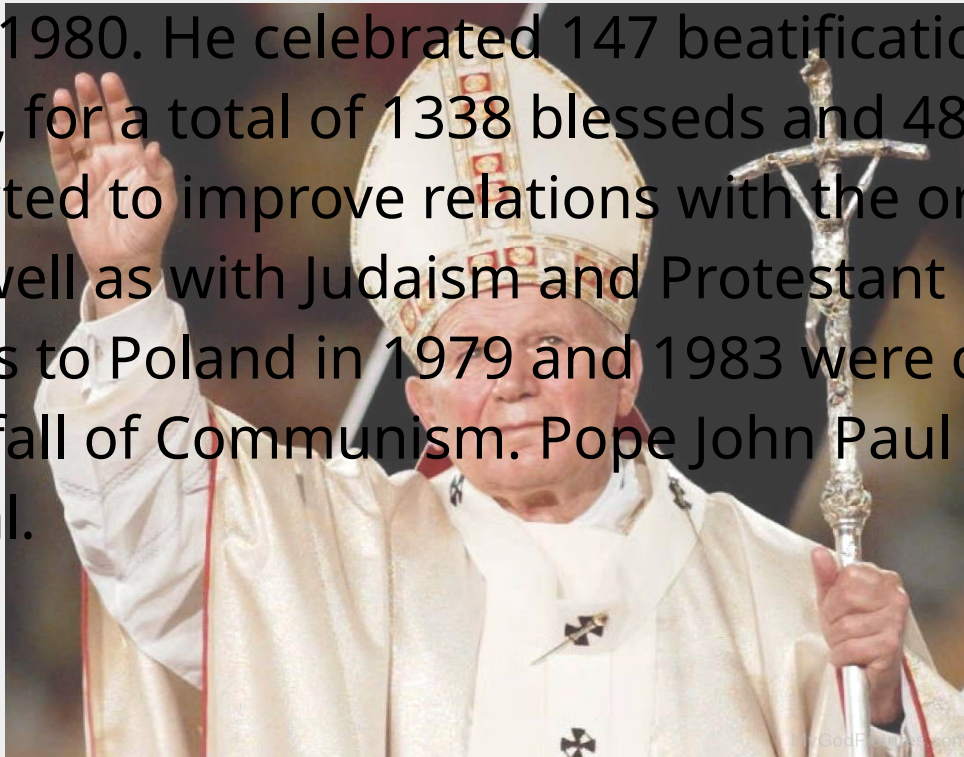
His Priesthood



After completing his doctorate, Wojtyła was assigned as pastor to the Church of the Assumption in Niegowić. In 1949, he was moved to the Saint Florian parish in Krakow. He taught ethics at the Jagiellonian University, and then at the Catholic University of Lublin. Wojtyła wrote quite a bit of original literature. He wrote about war, about living under Communism, and about his pastoral responsibilities. In 1960, Wojtyła published the book Love and Responsibility, a theological book defending traditional Church teachings. He also participated in the Second Vatican Council starting in 1962.

His Papacy

Wojtyła was made a cardinal in 1967. He participated in the election of Pope John Paul I in August 1978. When Pope John Paul I died unexpectedly in September 1978, Wojtyła participated in what was to be his own election. His papacy began with a visit to Poland in 1978, which some credit with sparking the Solidarity movement of 1980. He celebrated 147 beatifications and 51 canonizations, for a total of 1338 blessed and 482 saints. Pope John Paul II acted to improve relations with the orthodox churches, as well as with Judaism and Protestant churches. His pontifical visits to Poland in 1979 and 1983 were considered crucial to the fall of Communism. Pope John Paul II's papacy was very influential.

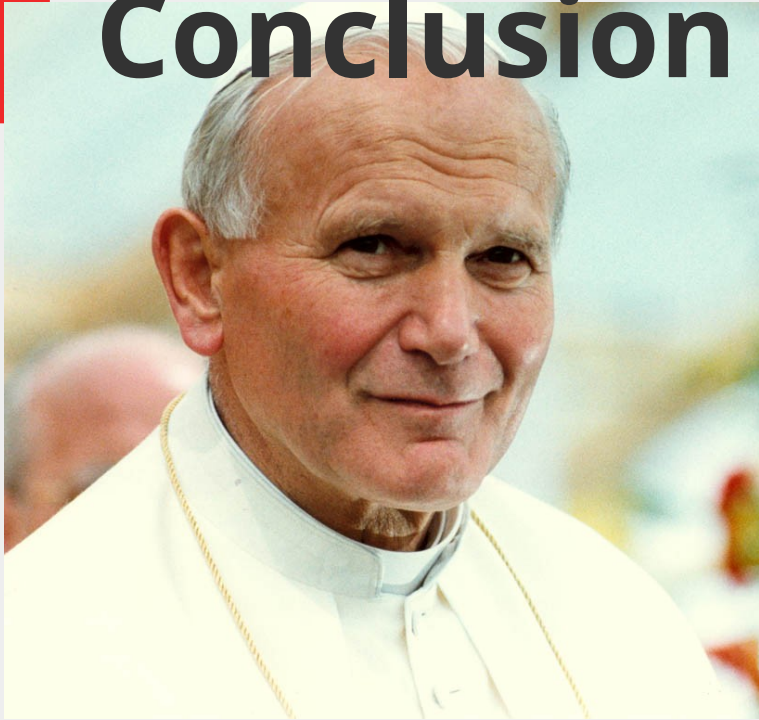




His Death

After suffering a shooting, a colon surgery, a broken femur, an appendectomy, flu and breathing problems, and Parkinson's disease, Pope John Paul II died peacefully on April 2, 2005. He was canonized in 2013. Wojtyła's influence after his death was great. He met over 17 million people during his life, and affected billions.

Conclusion



Pope John Paul II held Jesus dearly in his heart, and inspired many others to do as well. He is recognized for his acts promoting equality amongst God's children, including developing closer ties with

Judaism and Islam, as well as the Orthodox churches. Pope John Paul II is recognized for his canonizations, having designated almost five hundred saints. He is understood as one of the most influential Popes of all time.

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Picture Credits

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