

SAINT JOHN PAUL II THE GREAT

Priest Of The People
1920 - 1978



Karol Józef Wojtyła was born on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland

He was athletic and enjoyed skiing and swimming, and went to Krakow's Jagiellonian University where he showed an interest in theater and poetry

During the war Wojtyła studied at a secret seminary finishing his religious studies at a Krakow seminary and was ordained in 1946

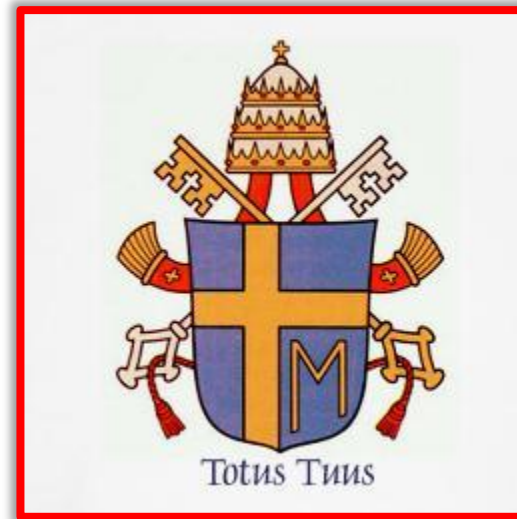
He spent two years in Rome where he finished his doctorate in theology, returning to Poland in 1948 he served in parishes near Krakow

Wojtyła became the **Bishop** of Ombi in 1958 and then the **Archbishop** of Krakow six years later and was made a **Cardinal** in 1967 by Pope Paul VI

Considered one of the Catholic Church's **leading theologians**, he was asked to participate in the **Second Vatican Council** in 1962

He lived under **Nazi and Communist** oppression and tyranny for much of his life **but always promoted Christianity religious freedom and human dignity**

Joannes Paulus PP II



Do Not Be Afraid
HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS
JOHN PAUL II AT THE MASS FOR THE
INAUGURATION OF HIS PONTIFICATE
St. Peter's Square
Sunday, 22 October 1978



**FRIENDS OF JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION**
WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER
jp2friends.org (703) 790 1984

*American Council
for Polish Culture*

2015



Pope To the World
1978 - 2005



Pope John Paul II made history in 1978 by becoming the **first non-Italian pope in more than 455 years**

The **longest reigning pope in modern history**, John Paul II visited 129 countries in a papacy that lasted more than 27 years

A charismatic figure, John Paul used his influence to bring about political change and is credited with **the fall of European communism**

Pope John Paul launched what has become the biggest international gathering on the church's calendar: **World Youth Day**

His teaching on the **"Theology of the Body"** was about the dignity of the human person and human love in the Divine Plan

He proposed a **"Culture of Life"** where **every human person**, at every age and stage, is recognized as having an **inviolable dignity and right to life, freedom and love**

His official **sainthood ceremony**, held on April 27, 2014, brought **four popes** together. **Pope Francis** led the event to elevate **Pope John Paul II** and **Pope John XXIII** to sainthood, and included **Emeritus Pope Benedict**