

<b>THE PAPACY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II</b>		
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION ON POPE JOHN PAUL II</b>		
Karol Wojtyla, (pronounced voi ti wah) Elected Oct. 16, 1978 263rd successor of St. Peter 3 <sup>rd</sup> longest papacy in history after St. Peter (34 or 37 years), Pius IX (31.6 years) At 56, he was youngest pope elected in 150 years.  First Slav pope since Hadrian VI in 1552, a Netherlander First non-Italian pope since 1552 (455 years)		
Named 75% of world's active bishops and 96% of cardinals	Ordained 321 bishops between June 1979 and June 2003.	He has created 232 (1 <i>in pectore</i> ) cardinals in 9 consistories
1,112 General Audiences with a presence of more than 17 million people from every part of the world	709 other audiences and meetings with Heads of State and 241 audiences and meetings with Prime Ministers	
Traveled 700,000 miles (around the world 29 times) to 129 countries		
Visited Jewish synagogue in Rome (1986) Prayed at Western Wall in Jerusalem (2000). First pope to visit a mosque in Syria. Spoke to Muslim youths in Morocco (August 1985) Met with aids patients in San Francisco during U.S. visit (September 17, 1987)		
Increased the number of cardinals who can vote in a conclave from 120 (Pope Paul VI) to 135. (February 2001)		
He expanded the total number of cardinals to a record 184 in 2001 and added 30 + 1 (secret name) in Oct. 2003		
Canonized 482 people and beatified more than 1,300, including the first lay couple. Pope John Paul II has canonized more saints than all his predecessors in the last 500 years combined.		
<b>EMPHASIS DURING PAPACY</b>		
<b>Defending of the poor, unborn, elderly and terminally ill:</b> - Rich-poor imbalance in world - Christian ethical concepts of economic justice and full human development for all people - Global ministry - The Church and modern culture - Preaching of peace (Enacted five World Days of Fasting for Peace in 1986, 1993, 1994, 2001 and 2003) - Teaching of Catholic Christian faith - The dignity of women - The "Culture of Life" vs. a "Culture of Death"		
<b>Forgiveness and Reconciliation:</b> - Acknowledged past mistakes Galileo, wars, Inquisition, Crusades, Holocaust - Forgave Ali Agca, the man who tried to assassinate him on May 13, 1981 while the Pope was circling St. Peter's Square before his General Audience.		
<b>Evangelization in word and action:</b> - Kissing soil on first trip to a country; - Inserting a prayer scroll into a crevice of Jerusalem's Western Wall		

<b>WRITINGS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b>		
Published 14 encyclicals and 96 exhortations, constitutions, apostolic letters, and documents issued “motu proprio” on his own initiative.		
Three of the encyclicals are great social encyclicals. LABOREM EXCERCENS (September 14, 1981); SOLLICITUDO REI SOCIALIS (December 30, 1987); CENTESIMUS ANNUS ( May 1, 1991).		
Three encyclicals since 1993 challenge moral relativism in modern society.: <i>Veritatis Splendor</i> (1993)church’s moral teachings; <i>Evangelium Vitae</i> (1995) human life; <i>fides et Ratio</i> (1998) faith and reason		
50 major documents of his teachings bear on nearly every aspect of modern life: in vitro fertilization, Arms industry, role of mass media, impact of the Internet, women’s rights and dignity.		
New Code of Canon Law Catholic identity in Catholic universities Catechism of the Catholic Church, (his longest document)		
1960 – <u>Love and Responsibility</u> , affirming the dignity of the person and the responsibility of married love, chastity and friendship.		
1969 – <u>The Acting Person</u> , metaphysicaly based work emphasizing importance of human person and personalistic ethics.		
1994 – authored <u>Crossing the Threshold of Hope</u> , answers to a journalist’s questions on God, prayer and salvation.		
1996 - authored a book on his life as a priest, <u>Gift and Mystery</u> , on the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood		
2003 - published a small book of poetry, <u>Roman Triptych</u> , meditations inspired by the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel that has sold more than one million copies and has been published in 20 languages.		
2004 - authored 200-page personal reflection on his 20 years as a bishop in Poland, <u>Arise! Let Us Go!</u> The book was written in Polish and published in Italian on May 18, 2004 and is a sequel to <u>Gift and Mystery</u> .		
Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George W. Bush – June, 2004		
Added luminous mysteries to the rosary after nearly a millennium		

Taken from “A Pope for the World,” editorial in America magazine, October 6, 2003 and “John Paul’s Quarter-Century,” by John Thavis: America magazine, October 6, 2003