

SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Saint John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla on May 18, 1920 in the Polish town of Wadowice. He attended Krakow's Jagiellonian University in 1938 before Nazi occupation forces closed it in 1939.

He began seminary in 1942, continued his studies after the war, and was ordained as a priest by Archbishop Sapiha in Krakow in November of 1946. He was then sent to Rome, finished his doctorate in theology two years later, and returned to Poland.

In Poland, he served as the vicar to numerous parishes, became a professor of moral theology and social ethics, and was appointed titular bishop of Ombi and auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958. He was appointed archbishop of Krakow in 1964, made a cardinal in 1967, and took part in Vatican Council II.

The Cardinals elected him as Pope on October 16, 1978 and he took the name of John Paul II. His papacy lasted nearly 27 years, comprised of more pastoral visits, meetings with the people of God, and audiences with world leaders than any of his predecessors, and authored dozens of encyclicals, exhortations, constitutions, and letters.

Pope John Paul II also established World Youth Days, encouraged dialogue with members of other religions, and tirelessly prompted the spiritual renewal of the church until the end of his life. He died on April 2, 2005. Between his day of death and funeral on April 8, more than three million pilgrims came to Rome to pay homage.

Born	Ordained a Priest	Named Cardinal	Elected Pope	Died
May 18, 1920	1946	1967	October 16, 1978	April 2, 2005

SAINT JOHN XXIII

Saint John XXIII was born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli on November 25, 1881, in Monte, Italy. He entered the Bergamo seminary in 1892 and was admitted to the Secular Franciscan Order in 1896.

He continued his studies at the Pontifical Seminary in 1901, was ordained in Rome in 1904, and was appointed secretary to the new Bishop of Bergamo a year later, a position he held until the bishop's death in 1914.

In 1921 he was brought to Rome by Benedict XV to be Italian president of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He was named Apostolic Visitor in Bulgaria four years later and ordained as bishop. In 1935 he was named Apostolic Delegate in Turkey and Greece.

During World War II, he helped many Jews escape from Greece and aided numerous prisoners of war. After the war, he lived a life striving for Gospel simplicity and was a living example of prayer, pastoral care, and trust in the Lord.

The cardinals elected him Pope on October 28, 1958, and he took the name of John XXIII. Although his papacy – defined by his meek, gentle, simple, and courageous spirit – lasted less than five years, his decision to summon the Second Vatican Council launched an extensive renewal of the Church still felt fifty years later. He died in June 3, 1963.

Born	Ordained a Priest	Named Cardinal	Elected Pope	Died
November 25, 1881	1904	1953	October 28, 1958	June 3, 1963