

JP2

Feast Day: October 22

## POPE JOHN PAUL II

**Birth date:** May 18, 1920

**Death date:** April 2, 2005

**Birth place:** Wadowice, Poland

**Birth name:** Karol Jozef Wojtyla (VOY-TI-WA)

**THE BEGINNING...** Karol Jozef Wojtyla (VOY-TI-WA) was born on **May 18, 1920** in Wadowica a small city in Southern Poland. This was the year that **women were granted the right to vote** and a year before the **World Series was broadcast on the radio** for the first time. *\*The New York Giants defeated the New York Yakees, five games to three.* Growing up Karol lost his mother when he is just 9 years old, his Father was a soldier and takes him on a pilgrimage to the **Shrine of Kalwaria**. There he shows Karol Our Lady and says "You have lost your mother, but you will never lose this mother... she will always be with you."



JP2 very often recalled the example of his father praying. He remembered his deep spirituality. His youth was influence by **deeply patriotic values, deeply religious values.**



Our Lady of Calvary is a 17th-century painting situated in the shrine of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in Poland.

**JP2 THE REBEL...** After high school, Karol attended Jagiellonian University in 1938 until **WWII begins in September 1939**. After the war began he started working in quarries and chemical factories.

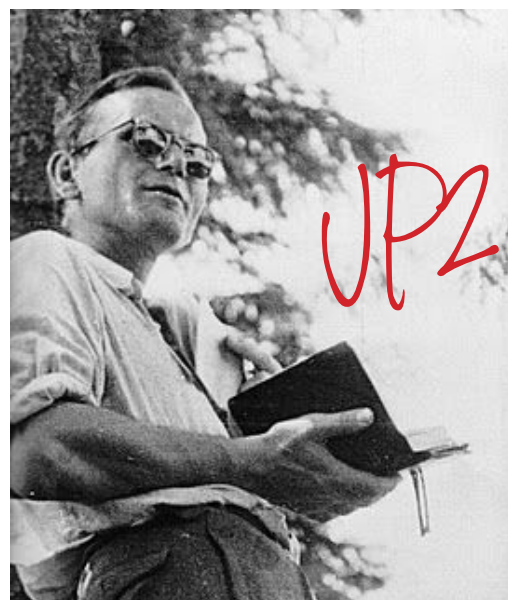
As we all know (*or you should know if you are paying attention in history*) that the Germans were just **THE worst** during this time period. Almost 1/2 of the priests during this time were victims to repressions. Many were sent to concentration camps or prisons during the German occupation of Poland. **Sadly, 20% of all Priests in Poland were killed.**

At this time anybody that could think for themselves was an enemy, so religion and culture was a major threat because it could influence hope in the Polish people.

In 1941 Karol along with his rebellious friends **started an underground theater**, called the Rhapsodic Theater, to present works in Polish in defiance of the Nazis. **He loved poetry, drama and novels.** During the day he spent time working as a manual laborer in a Nazi chemical plant. This experience bonded him to working people. Karol's father died February 18, 1941. In an interview as pope, John Paul II told the writer Andrew Frossard, **"At twenty I had already lost all the people I loved, and even those I might have loved, like my older sister who, they said, died, six years before I was born."** At 22 he joined an **underground seminary** organized by Archbishop Sapieha.

He accepted a vocational call to the priesthood, he wanted to **defend the dignity of the human person.**

*"Life with Christ is a Wonderful Adventure"*





In 1946 he celebrates his first mass.

From 1946 - 1948 he studies in Rome, he earns a doctorate in philosophy.

After returning to Poland he also earns a doctorate in Sacred Theology. The Polish people were continually oppressed, and **Karol spent his time as a priest working with the young people.** Many said he treated them like his own children. He enjoying peaceful time **hiking, kayaking, skiing** - not common behavior for a priest at this time. But he created zones of freedom, despite living in a secret police-dominated society of Communist-era Poland. Encouraging the young people to think about their faith as a way to escape the current times. **These outings had to be covert - as they were forbidden by the communist powers.** **1958 - He is consecrated as a bishop,** the Communists ironically wanted him to become archbishop as they thought he would be open to dialogue

1962 - 1965 - Participates in Vatican II in Rome. He sides with reformers who want to modernize the church.

"Dear Young People, let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ, and spread that light wherever you are."



*Around the campfire at night they would read from books, including the popular C.S. Lewis' class The Screwtape Letters (published in 1942)*



1964 Karol Wojtyla is ordained as Archbishop of Krakow.

1967 in a secret consistory, Wojtyla is elevated to cardinal. Two days later, he is formally installed in a Vatican ceremony.

## discussion time...

### WHY DO POPES CHANGE THEIR NAMES?

It's not required, but many do. Often they choose a name that honors a saint or a previous Pope (or both). "Mercurius" was the first Pope to change his name, as he was named after a pagan god, and that wouldn't really work well as a pope.

JP2 SUFFERED GREAT LOSS AS A YOUNG ADULT. DO YOU TURN TO GOD WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG? WHAT DO YOUR FRIENDS DO?

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT KAROL WAS ABLE TO REACH THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLAND?

AS A YOUNG PERSON WHAT DRAWS YOU TO THE CHURCH?

NAME ONE THING YOU LEARNED ABOUT JP2 TODAY THAT YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW.

IS THERE SOMETHING THAT OUR CHURCH SHOULD BE DOING TO CATER TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY? IF SO WHAT?