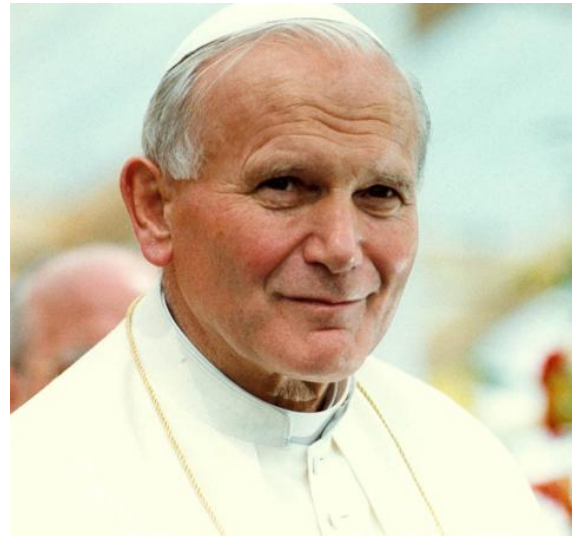


Saint John Paul II

- **Born/Died:** 1920–2005
- **Country:** Poland
- **Feast Day:** 22 October
- **Patron of:** World Youth Day, young people, and families



Life

Karol Józef Wojtyła, later known as John Paul II, was born in Poland in 1920. His early life was marked by loss — his mother, brother, and father all died before he reached adulthood. During World War II, his country was invaded and occupied by the Nazis, and later came under communist rule. Despite the danger, Karol studied secretly to become a priest, believing strongly that faith could not be destroyed by violence or oppression.

He was ordained in 1946 and became a bishop at a young age. In 1978 he was elected Pope, taking the name John Paul II — the first non-Italian pope in over 400 years. He quickly became a global figure, travelling to more countries than any pope before him, reaching out to people of every nation and faith. He spoke up for human rights, inspired millions of young people through World Youth Day, and played a key role in the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.

John Paul II suffered greatly in his final years from illness, but he continued to lead with courage and faith until his death in 2005. He was canonised as a saint in 2014.

Famous Quote

“Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ.”