

Blessed John Paul II

WHO: Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in the Polish town of Wadowice on May 18, 1920. He was the youngest of three children. In 1938, he enrolled in university in Krakow to study drama. The following year, Nazi occupation of Poland closed the university, forcing the future pope to work in a quarry and then in a chemical factory to earn his living and to avoid being deported to Germany. In 1942, aware of his call to the priesthood, Wojtyła began courses in the underground seminary run by the archbishop of Krakow.

WHAT: Ordained a priest in Poland in 1946, he was elected to the papacy in October 1978. Pope John Paul II expressed his love of – and great hope for – young people by establishing the annual World Youth Day celebration. He died on April 2, 2005.

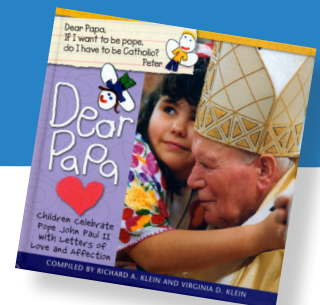
In April 2011, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the normal five-year waiting period before beginning the cause for canonization (sainthood) would be waived for Pope John Paul II. On May 1, 2011, he was beatified, becoming Blessed John Paul II.

WOW! Pope John Paul II was truly a “missionary” pope – bringing the Gospel message and being a witness for Jesus to 129 countries in 104 trips outside Italy (including seven to the United States). As a news report said when he died: “Whether at home or on the road, he aimed to be the Church’s most active evangelizer, trying to open every corner of human society to Christian values.”



Activity

Dear Papa: Children Celebrate Pope John Paul II with Letters of Love and Affection is a book compiled by Richard A. Klein and Virginia D. Klein on the 25th anniversary of his pontificate (2003). The work features letters, poems, prayers and pictures from children of all ages. Have young people read through that book, and then discuss what our own actions “say” to others. In reading how Blessed John Paul II inspired us with his witness to Jesus, discuss how our actions can lead others to Christ. Gather those thoughts about “mission witness” into a book for display in your school or parish.



Pope John Paul II Takes the Cake!

In 1999, Pope John Paul visited his home town of Wadowice, Poland. While there, he mentioned that one of his favorite treats as a little boy was a pastry known as “cream cake.” This cake consists of a shortbread crust, layers of custard cream and a puff pastry top; today it’s known by a new name – *Kremówka Papieska*, “Papal Cream Cake.” For your next family dinner, consider making this delicious dessert in honor of Pope John Paul II’s beatification.

Papal Cream Cake

CAKE INGREDIENTS:

- 2 sheets frozen puff pastry dough, thawed
- 2 cups pastry cream (*for a thick layer of filling, double the recipe*)
- Confectioners’ sugar

CREAM FILLING INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups milk
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Pinch salt
- 5 tablespoons cornstarch
- 6 large egg yolks

CAKE PREPARATION

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Roll out each piece of puff pastry slightly to blend the seam lines. Without cutting all the way through, lightly score each pastry sheet into 9 sections. Sandwich each puff pastry sheet between two pieces of parchment paper and two

cooling racks. This will keep the pastry flat but still flaky. Bake 15 minutes, remove top rack and top sheet of parchment paper. Replace rack and continue to bake until golden and crispy throughout, about 15 more minutes. Cool completely.

2. Using a 13x9-inch pan as a mold, place one layer of cooked puff pastry in the bottom of the pan. Pour hot pastry cream over it (see preparation directions below), and place second layer of cooked puff pastry on top. Refrigerate until set. When ready to serve, using the pre-scored marks as guides, cut into 9 pieces. Dust each piece with confectioners’ sugar. Refrigerate leftovers.

CREAM FILLING PREPARATION

In a medium saucepan, bring milk, sugar, vanilla, salt, cornstarch and egg yolks to a boil, stirring constantly with a wire whisk. Reduce heat slightly and continue to boil for one minute, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon to get

Prayer for the Intercession of Blessed John Paul II, Pope

O Blessed Trinity, we thank You for having graced the Church with Pope John Paul II and for allowing the tenderness of Your Fatherly care, the glory of the cross of Christ, and the splendor of the Holy Spirit, to shine through him. Trusting fully in Your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd and has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and is the way of achieving eternal communion with You. Grant us, by his intercession, and according to Your will, the graces we implore, hoping that he will soon be numbered among your saints. Amen.

in the corners. Take the pan off the heat and plunge it into an ice-water bath or, if you have lumps, strain it through a sieve into a pan or heatproof bowl set in ice water. Pour over the pastry as indicated in step two above.

Refrigerate cake for one hour before serving. Yield: 9 slices

