

POPE JOHN PAUL II TO BE BEATIFIED MAY 1, 2011

On May 1st of this year Pope John Paul II will officially be named "Blessed", the second last stage to becoming canonized a saint of the Roman Catholic Church. This past popes popularity led the crowds at his funeral in St. Peter's Square in Rome to chant "Santo Subito!", which means "Sainthood Now!" In fact John Paul II's cause for canonization has moved so swiftly that it has taken most other saints at least ten times longer to reach even the first stages in the canonization process.

Pope John Paul II

- the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II is the longest on record as he served as pope for 26 years. Only Pope Pius IX and St. Peter himself were popes longer
- canonized more saints than all of the previous popes combined creating 1,338 Blessed's and 482 Saints
- the most travelled pope in history visiting over 129 nations
- he left the Vatican over 1500 times for official journeys living outside of Rome for more that 2 ½ years in 26 years
- his journeys put on over 1,000,000 kilometers (which is like going around the world 30 times)
- in 1995 the largest crowd gathered in world history, estimated at between 5 and 7 million people came to celebrate Mass with Pope John Paul II in Manila, Philippines. No one in the history of mankind has seen or has been seen by that many people
- he initiated World Youth Day which has now been held on five continents
- as a prolific writer he penned more than 1,000 pages in magisterial documents, the equivalent of a library with 200 volumes with each volume containing 500 pages each
- his writings include 3,500 speeches from his trips
- John Paul II was the first pope to walk into a modern synagogue, to enter a Protestant church and to visit a mosque

Besides all of the records of Pope John Paul II, his greatest legacy stands out as the man he was. He was always a priest. He defended the sanctity of human life with passion, he was uncompromising on Church teaching, never failed to speak about Christ and had a great devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. Following his mother's death when he was only eight years old, his father took him to a local Marian Shrine, pointed out the statue of Mary in the church, and told Karol that "she is your mother now".

He was a champion for human rights, social justice and warned the world of the excesses of materialism.

Perhaps one of his greatest gifts was his love for people made manifest constantly whenever he was in the midst of a crowd, whether it be 100 people or in front of millions.

In April of 2005, as the Holy Father lay dying in his Vatican apartment, many of the youth from different parts of the world gathered outside his window in St. Peter's Square. One of the popes aids told the pope that the youth were outside the window praying for him. He responded by saying, "I have gone to them, now they have come to me."

When Pope John Paul II died, I wrote the following tribute to him and gave copies to the parishioners.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II 264th Roman Pontiff & Vicar of Christ October 16, 1978 - April 2, 2005

For over a quarter century millions around the world have known only John Paul II, the 264th Supreme Pontiff, as their pope. At his passing, and just as his name was changed from Karol Wojtyla to John Paul II, as Simon's was to Peter, so too will death be turned to life,

**mourning into joy,
and time into eternity.**

**Bidding him farewell is like losing
a much beloved member and head of the family.
Yet farewells rooted in faith
will be the new greetings of our tomorrow with God.**

Our Holy Father, John Paul II, has represented so much to so many. He has been called the "Pilgrim Pope", so named for his vast and many pastoral visits, where his personal charisma as a man and his holiness as a man of God has inspired, influenced and even thrilled the hearts of those who met him or watched him walk among the peoples of the earth as one who genuinely loved them.

**Holy Father, Pope John Paul II,
our Heavenly Father has called you home to himself
after a long and full day
working in his vineyard of the earth.
May you hear him say at the end of your day,
as all the earth has echoed;
"Well done, good and faithful servant".
May you receive the fullness of
that which you have always
and passionately defended - Life!**

**Our Canadian soil,
baptized and blessed
in the faith and blood of the Canadian Martyrs,
has thrice held your feet
as you trod this great land from coast to coast -
Peter gone to the ends of the earth
as Christ had sent him.
Reap the eternal reward of your labours
as you rest your feet at the side of the road of this life,
'til you cross the fields to that glorious place
where there is
"peace and light and endless home".
May heaven be 'Totus Tuus', 'totally yours'.**

**God our Father,
you reward all who believe in you.
May your servant, John Paul II, our pope,
vicar of Christ and shepherd of your Church,
who did your work by faithfully administering
the mysteries of your forgiveness and love on earth,
rejoice now with you forever in heaven.**

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

"Our home is - Heaven. On earth we are like travelers staying at a hotel. When one is away, one is always thinking of going home." (St. John Vianney, Cure of Ars)

Blessed John Paul II, Pray For Us!

**ST. LEO CATHOLIC SCHOOL &
ST. BRIDGET CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES
MANDATORY CLASSES DATES:**

Class #1 - Saturday, February 5, 2011 – 1 to 3 pm

Class #2 - Saturday, February 12, 2011 – 1 to 3 pm

IN THE PARISH THIS WEEK:

Knights of Columbus General Meeting – Feb. 1, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Social Committee Meeting on Feb. 3, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Euchre Night - Friday, Feb. 4th at 7:00 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting on Feb. 8, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast- Sunday, Feb. 13th after 9 & 11 a.m. masses.

You are invited to attend The Social Committee's Leo's Lunch on Wednesday, February 16th at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets are \$10.00 each, available in the Church vestibule on February 5/6 and 12/13. TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Feb. 1 – 8:30 a.m. -

Wednesday, Feb. 2 – 7:00 p.m. –Stefan Danielewski+

Thursday, Feb. 3 – 8:30 a.m. -

Friday, Feb. 4 – 8:30 a.m. – Marien Fabik+

Saturday, Feb. 5 - 5:00 p.m. – Brenna Seeley+

Sunday, Feb. 6 - 9:00 a.m. – Christine Mackey+
- 11:00 a.m. – Special Intentions

ST. LEO'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE invites all parishioners to participate in an "International Night" on Friday, February 11th at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up on the forms in the Church vestibule indicating how many family members will be coming and the International Dish you would like to bring for supper. Those unable to bring a dish can make a donation towards the purchase of rolls, butter, etc. Copies of your recipes and the wearing of national costumes would be most welcome. More details to come.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2011 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES IN THE PARISH HALL THIS WEEKEND.

ANNUAL ONE-DAY RETREAT FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SPIRITUAL INSTRUCTION FOR THE LAYMAN WITH GUEST SPEAKER ARCHBISHOP COLLINS

Men of all ages are invited to deepen your relationship with the Lord, Renew one's spirit and recharge one's energy. Saturday, Feb. 12th – registration with coffee and snacks at 9 a.m. Light Lunch 12 noon (cost \$10) – Finish 3 p.m. Locations St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1100 Mary St. N. Oshawa, ON L1G 5G8. Please contact: Wayne Lillie (905) 433-1716 or email wrlillie@sympatico.ca. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

On Wednesday, Feb. 2nd, the Church celebrates the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. In the Archdiocese of Toronto we are blessed to have living and serving among us more than 1,100 religious men and women of over 100 different religious congregations. This World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is a wonderful opportunity for us to thank God for the gifts of these religious sisters, brothers and priests and to pray for God's blessing upon them in their efforts to faithfully live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience.

All are welcome to come to a special Mass this Sunday, January 30 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Basilica to celebrate with and pray for these men and women religious who are such a vital and important part of the life and ministry of the Church in our Archdiocese.

Catholic Family Services Heart to Heart Ball

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$75.00 per person. Please see the poster on the church bulletin board for detailed information.

Preparation for Marriage Course St. Gertrude's Parish, Oshawa

All engaged couples are invited to register for the six week course beginning Saturday, Feb. 19th from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish hall. Cost: \$150.00 due upon registration with the parish office Call Teresa at (905) 433-0828 to register.

New Beginnings: For those who are Separated Divorced and Widowed. Come and join us for an informative evening with Stephanie Ozorio, Stephanie has been with the New Beginnings Ministry for many years and has a lot to offer. Her topic is Matters of the Heart. It will take place Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011 at 8 p.m. The location is Saint Bonaventure's Church, 1300 Leslie Street, Toronto, Ontario (on the west side of Leslie, south of Lawrence). Preregistration is not required. Enquiries: Deacon James Shaughnessy at 416-921-1163 ext. 2227.