

Reflection Thursday Week 29 St Pope John Paul II – 2020

Saint John Paul II (1920-2005)

Karol Józef Wojtyła was born in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. After his ordination to the priesthood and theological studies in Rome, he returned to his homeland and resumed various pastoral and academic tasks. He became first auxiliary bishop and, in 1964, Archbishop of Kraków and took part in the Second Vatican Council. On 16 October 1978 he was elected pope and took the name John Paul II. His exceptional apostolic zeal, particularly for families, young people and the sick, led him to numerous pastoral visits throughout the world. Among the many fruits which he has left as a heritage to the Church are above all his rich Magisterium and the promulgation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church and for the Eastern Churches. He died on 2nd April 2005 and was canonized by Pope Francis on 27th April 2014.

Like Peter in the Gospel John Paul II loved his people deeply and spent himself tirelessly at the service of the Church. He grounded the authority of the Church with dignity before the world and won great respect. Even if everyone did not agree with him, his views could never be ignored and influenced many. He worked tirelessly for peace throughout the world. Showed tremendous love for young people whom he both challenged and inspired. He also emulated what Isaiah wrote. His feet certainly did bring good news. He proclaimed peace and was the bearer of good tidings, proclaiming salvation to all without exception.

Let us be inspired by his words:

Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace, to live peace... Peace will be the last word of history.

There must be a cooperation of all who believe in God, knowing that authentic religiousness - far from placing individuals and peoples in conflict with one another - rather pushes them together to build a world of peace.

If development is the new name for peace, war and preparations for war are the major enemy of the healthy development of peoples. If we take the common good of all humanity as our norm, instead of individual greed, peace would be possible.

Allow the light and the healing presence of Christ to shine brightly through your lives. In that way, all those who come in contact with you will discover the loving kindness of God.

My wife asked me if she could have some peace and quiet while she tried to cook dinner
So, I took the batteries out of the smoke alarm!!