

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Man of conviction

By Janaan Manternach
NC News Service

Karol grew up in a small town in Poland. His mother died when he was 9 years old. His older brother also died while Karol was young.

His father raised him. He made sure that young Karol went to Mass and to school every day.

Karol loved sports, especially soccer. He also liked to ski and take long hikes. He did well in school and liked to study. He had many friends. During high school Karol had to work to help support the family.

Karol acted in all the school plays. He also liked to dance and sing. He liked to write too, especially poetry.

At the end of high school he decided to study drama in order to become an actor. Then war came to Poland. His country was occupied by foreign soldiers. Karol had to stop studying and work in a quarry cutting stone. He also worked in a chemical

plant. There was no longer freedom in his country. Fear was everywhere.

Karol and his friends joined secret groups. They met often to pray and to plan ways to improve working conditions. They also planned ways to resist the army that occupied Poland. It was very dangerous. If they were caught meeting secretly, they would be arrested and maybe killed.

During this time, Karol decided to become a priest. Because the occupation forces wouldn't permit anyone to study for the priesthood, Karol began studying in secret.

After the war he was ordained a priest. His bishop sent him to Rome to study. Here he met people from all over the world. He learned as many languages as he could so he could talk with people from many places.

Now known as Father Wojtyla, he worked in a parish in the city of Krakow.

Father Wojtyla found many people who were sick, but there were

not enough hospitals. He saw people without enough to eat and with no decent places to live. So he did all he could to help suffering people. He preached about the need for better working conditions and for justice.

He became a teacher of young men studying to become priests. He wrote books and articles.

The pope made Father Wojtyla a bishop. The new bishop stood up for the rights of all people, for freedom and justice.

The pope named him ar-

chbishop of Krakow. Then the pope named him a cardinal.

Seven years ago in 1978 he was elected pope. We know him now as Pope John Paul II. He travels all over the world teaching Jesus' message of love, peace and justice, even at the risk of his own life. He is a brave and caring man.

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, scripture stories and original stories for children.)



Hidden Words

Find the words hidden in the puzzle below. They may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. All the words are in this week's children's story.

A	E	S	K	B	N	A	W	M	D
F	J	T	R	G	Q	L	I	O	R
P	O	X	A	P	W	U	F	S	T
R	D	P	K	M	O	Y	S	I	A
I	A	C	O	H	Q	P	Z	N	M
E	P	C	W	L	U	X	E	G	K
S	U	E	T	R	A	V	Q	U	A
T	K	I	P	O	R	N	J	K	R
B	G	N	V	L	R	Y	D	N	O
P	O	E	T	R	Y	C	H	Z	L

POLAND, KRAKOW, SING, POETRY, QUARRY
PRIEST, POPE, KAROL, ACTOR

HOW ABOUT YOU?

If you can, find a map of the world. Locate the country of Poland where Pope John Paul II grew up. Can you find the city of Krakow?

Children's Reading Corner

"Friends Are Like That" by Patricia Hermes. This story is about a girl named Kelly who knows what she is all about, and her friend, Tracy, who isn't so sure of herself. Throughout the story Tracy is torn between loyalty to her longtime friend and a longing to join Angie and the popular crowd at school, who don't like Kelly. In the end Tracy is forced to sort out what really matters to her. She discovers new courage and maturity in the process. After reading the story, ask yourself: "Have I ever acted in a certain way because of my values?" (Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 757 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Hardback, \$12.95.)



It's your move.

Maria was born into a community without options. Or resources. It couldn't even afford the services of a mission priest.

Today things are better. The parish has a priest who can stay and serve because his expenses are paid by the Catholic Church Extension Society. And that's what Extension does—it brings the Church to Americans who would otherwise be without it.

The priest who serves Maria's community is able to stay because he receives an expense subsidy made possible by the Catholic Church Extension Society.

Your parish has more options than Maria's did. It can choose to distribute Extension Calendars. By exercising that option your parish will have a direct hand in bringing the Church to poor and remote communities here in the United States.

It's your move. Check your parish calendar. If it's an Extension calendar, why not thank the sponsor or your pastor for helping us continue our work. If it's not, write us at: Extension Calendars, Room 400 F, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601, and we will be happy to send you one.



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