

## COLUMNS

## Milestones recounted as pope turns 80

Pope John Paul II turns 80 on May 18. Born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, an industrial town near Cracow, his path to maturity was strewn with many personal obstacles.

His mother had died in childbirth when he was only 9, and his physician-brother died caring for the sick in an epidemic, when Karol was only 12. The father, who had raised him, died in 1941 when the future pope was just 21.

By then, Europe was embroiled in another world war. Nazi occupation forces closed the Jagiellonian University in Cracow where Karol was a student. To avoid deportation to Germany, he worked in a quarry as a stone cutter and later in a chemical plant.

In October 1942 he began his studies for the priesthood in an underground seminary maintained by Cardinal Adam Sapieha, archbishop of Cracow. The young seminarian was struck by a car in late February 1944, and was hospitalized for nearly two weeks. Later that same year, the archbishop moved all of his seminarians into his official residence until the end of the war.

Karol was ordained on Nov. 1, 1946, and left Poland two weeks later to begin graduate work in Rome at the Angelicum, a Dominican university. He



BY FATHER RICHARD P. MCBRIEN

## essays in theology

earned a doctorate in theology in 1948, under the direction of Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange, a prominent theologian known for his traditional approach to religious questions.

After three years in parish work, Father Wojtyla returned to the Jagiellonian to study philosophy, while teaching social ethics at the local seminary. In 1956 he was appointed professor of ethics at Lublin University.

His life as an ecclesiastic then shifted to the "fast track." On July 4, 1958, at the age of 38, he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Cracow. Less than six years later, he became archbishop of Cracow. He was only 43. Three and a half years after that, at age 47, he was named a cardinal.

In spite of the Communist control over his homeland, Cardinal Wojtyla was

able to travel freely and frequently around the world, establishing personal contacts that would serve him well in the second conclave of 1978. He attended the eucharistic congress in Philadelphia in 1976, and visited the Middle East, Africa, South and East Asia and Australia. He gave the Lenten retreat to the pope and the papal household in 1976.

After Paul VI's death on Aug. 6, 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla participated in the election of John Paul I. When the newly elected pope died after only 33 days in office, the cardinals returned to Rome in a virtual state of shock, looking to elect someone more physically vigorous.

The restorationist cardinals, regarding Pope John XXIII's council as a major disaster, lined up behind Genoa's Cardinal Giuseppe Siri. The cardinals favoring Vatican II reforms supported Cardinal Giovanni Benelli, the archbishop of Florence and a trusted adviser of Paul VI. A powerful force in the Roman Curia, he also had made some enemies.

The restorationist cardinals were determined to block Benelli, even if it meant electing the first non-Italian pope in more than 450 years. Although reliable reports indicated that Benelli had well over a majority of the votes, he could not garner the necessary two-thirds, so

the electors began to look elsewhere. Their eyes fell upon Carlo Colombo, the moderate 76-year-old cardinal-archbishop of Milan. But Colombo announced that he would not accept election.

That evening Cardinal Franz Koenig of Vienna is said to have campaigned openly for Wojtyla as one who understood the problems of the church behind the Iron Curtain. The next day his votes doubled to roughly 20.

There was also a surge for another non-Italian, Cardinal Jan Willebrands of Holland, head of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. Willebrands asked his supporters to unite behind Wojtyla, who was elected, it seems, on the eighth ballot. There was no move to make the vote unanimous, some of Siri's supporters holding out to the end.

John Paul I had honored both John XXIII and Paul VI by his unprecedented double-name. The newly elected pope, referring to Paul VI, who had made him a cardinal, and to John Paul I, chose the name of John Paul II. John XXIII was not mentioned but the pope will beatify him in September.

To John Paul II, a happy 80th birthday.

Father McBrien is a professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

## Christ, as good shepherd, protects his flock

Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 14): (R3) John 10:11-18; (R1) Acts 4:8-12; (R2) 1 John 3:1-2.

Permit me a few more words about keeping Sunday morning uncluttered with sports and shopping until noon.

There is no better way to build up the family than by Sunday worship together and a Sunday dinner together.

The recent Code of Canon Law says: "On Sundays the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass; they are also to abstain from those labors and business concerns which impede the worship to be rendered to God, the joy which is proper to the Lord's Day, or the proper relaxation of mind and body." (Canon 1247)

Note the new code uses the strong words "are bound" and the focus is not on the kinds of work forbidden but on worship, joy and relaxation. In other words, Sunday is an invitation to come apart from the hustle and bustle of life and rest awhile and think of the things that make life worth living.

Leo XIII wrote in his encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (No. 23):

"Christian morality, when adequately and completely practiced, conduces of itself to temporal prosperity, for it mer-



BY FATHER ALBERT SILAMON

## a word for sunday

its the blessings of God, the source of all blessings; it powerfully restrains the greed of possession and the thirst of pleasure — twin plagues, which too often make a man who is without self-restraint miserable in the midst of abundance."

Louis Martin, father of the Little Flower of Jesus, felt so strongly about the Sunday rest that he closed his shop on Sundays, the busiest day of the week. It was the day country folk came to Alencon to shop, to prepare for weddings and to buy presents. His neighbors thought him foolish, yet he became one of the most successful businessmen in town. Today his home is one of the finest in Lisieux. And he is up for canonization.

Seek first the kingdom of God, Jesus said, and everything else will be given

you. How true! But if a person refuses to rest from his labors, he will soon refuse to labor for the rest that is eternal.

So again, I plead with you to work for a cessation of sports, business, and unnecessary work at least on Sunday morn so families can worship together and be together, at least this time once a week.

Now to the Sunday readings for "Good Shepherd Sunday."

Twice in the Gospel Jesus calls himself the "good" shepherd. In Greek there are two words for "good": *agathos* and *kalos*. *Agathos* simply describes a person or thing as competent, sound, all right. *Kalos*, describes a person or thing that is not only good but, in addition, winsome, attractive, lovely. From *kalos* comes the word "calligraphy," meaning beautiful writing; and kaleidoscope, meaning beautiful patterns.

When John wrote of Jesus, "I am the good shepherd," he used the word *kalos*. He wanted us to know that Jesus is more than efficient. He is faithful, kind, loving, understanding and concerned, enough to seek out and save lost sheep.

But Jesus is a good shepherd for another reason: He lays down his life for us, his sheep.

Sheep are pitifully helpless. That is

why a shepherd carries, besides his staff, a rod: a heavy club. David tells how he clubbed a lion to death to protect his sheep. "Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me."

So Jesus gives us shepherds, — the Latin word is "pastors" — willing to give their lives for the sheep. Yet today there is a dearth of "shepherds." Our Lord asked us to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

## Daily Readings

Monday, May 15  
Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10  
Tuesday, May 16  
Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30  
Wednesday, May 17  
Acts 12:24-13:5; John 12:44-50  
Thursday, May 18  
Acts 13:13-25; John 13:16-20  
Friday, May 19  
Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6  
Saturday, May 20  
Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14



## Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre

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## Summer 2000 Retreats

May 28-29: An Introduction to Icons  
Jun 11-16: Directed Retreat Week  
Jun 18-23: Rejoice in Your Hope (for Priests)  
Jun 11-16: Directed Retreat Week  
Jun 24-30: Prayer of Heart & Body  
Jul 1-8: Directed Retreat Week  
Jul 2-7: Wellness: The Way to Live Life Fully  
Jul 9-14: Journey to Wholeness  
Jul 16-20: The Wonder of the "Creating" Soul  
Jul 16-21: Dance of the Spirit (for Women)  
Jul 21-23: Looking East Toward Mt. Carmel: An Eastern Christian View of This Holy Mountain (for Byzantine & Latin Catholics)  
Jul 22: Praying with Women of Scripture  
Jul 23: Celebration in Honour of Titus Brandsma

Jul 23-28: DeMello Spirituality: Joy is the Infallible Sign of God  
Jul 28-30: Married Couples Retreat  
Jul 30-Aug 5: Sisters' Retreat: "And the Cloud Descended ..."  
Aug 6-12: Preached Retreat For Laity Serving in Church Ministries  
Aug 13-18: Healing Your Inner Child: Experiencing Self as Gift  
Aug 20-25: "A Year of Favor": Jesus, Jubilee, and Justice  
Aug 26: A Day for Widows & Widowers  
Aug 27-Sep 1: A Journey with St. Thérèse  
Oct 5-8: Servant-Leadership Retreat  
(See also: www.leadership-retreats.com)

www.carmelniagara.com

## Come worship with us for these special Masses

## TWO SPECIAL MASSES

May 14, 2000

MOTHER'S DAY MASS - 9:00 A.M.

Mother's bring your Daughters!  
Daughters bring your Mothers!

May 21, 2000

HOME COMING MASS - 9:00 A.M.

Return to St. Francis of Assisi Church  
It doesn't matter how long you've been away!

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