

Name: _____

Pope John Paul II

Who was John Paul II? He was the Pope. But in his life he was other things too, like a professor, a factory worker, and even an actor!

Pope John Paul II was born in Poland in 1920 as Karol Wojtyla. In some ways, his life was hard. Both his mother and his only brother died when he was a child. His father died when he was a young man. For most of his life, Poland was ruled by people who didn't like religion.

When he was learning how to be a priest, he had to do it in secret. Yet when he first became Pope John Paul II on October 16, 1978, he said, "Be not afraid!"

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Birth Name: **Karol Wojtyla**

Born: **May 18, 1920**

Died: **April 2, 2005**

Home country: **Poland**

The **264th** pope in history

The **3rd longest serving** pope in history (**26 years**)

First **non-Italian** pope in **455 years**

As pope, made **104 visits** outside Italy.

Being pope is a big job. About **1.1 billion** people are Catholics. This means that **one out of six people on the planet** have the Pope for their spiritual leader.

A pope's main job is to help his followers to love God and to love others. Pope John Paul II took **104 trips** around the globe. Both Catholics and non-Catholics flocked to see him.

He also met with leaders of government. He often spoke out on political issues. Some people didn't

like that. In 1981, a man tried to kill him. But the Pope publicly forgave him. He even visited him in jail.

Pope John Paul II loved youth. He was the first pope to have **World Youth Days**. At these enormous rallies, huge crowds of youth would talk, sing, and pray with him. In 1995, the World Youth Day in the Philippines may have been the **largest human crowd in history**. At the final Mass, there were **5 to 7 million** people.

John Paul II died on April 2nd, 2005.

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Exercise A

1. What is Pope John Paul II's birth name?
2. How many popes came before John Paul II?
3. List a few problems Pope John Paul II had in his life.
4. What did he say when he became Pope?
5. One in _____ people on this planet is a Catholic.
6. How many trips did Pope John Paul II take outside Rome?
7. What special event for youth was Pope John Paul II the first to have?
8. What may have been the largest human crowd in history?
9. What do you think about Pope John Paul II?

Name: _____

Answer Key:

Exercise A

1 Karol Wojtyla

2.263

3.Any of:

death of mother, brother, father

had to leave University

had to study in secret

assassination attempt

lived under Nazis and/or Communists

4.Be not afraid!

5.six

6.104

7.World Youth Day

8.The final Mass at the 1995 World Youth Day in the
Phillippines.

9.Answers vary.