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# THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

**THE ENTIRE STORY!**

FROM HIS CHILDHOOD IN  
POLAND TO THE  
ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT!





1994132

# MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

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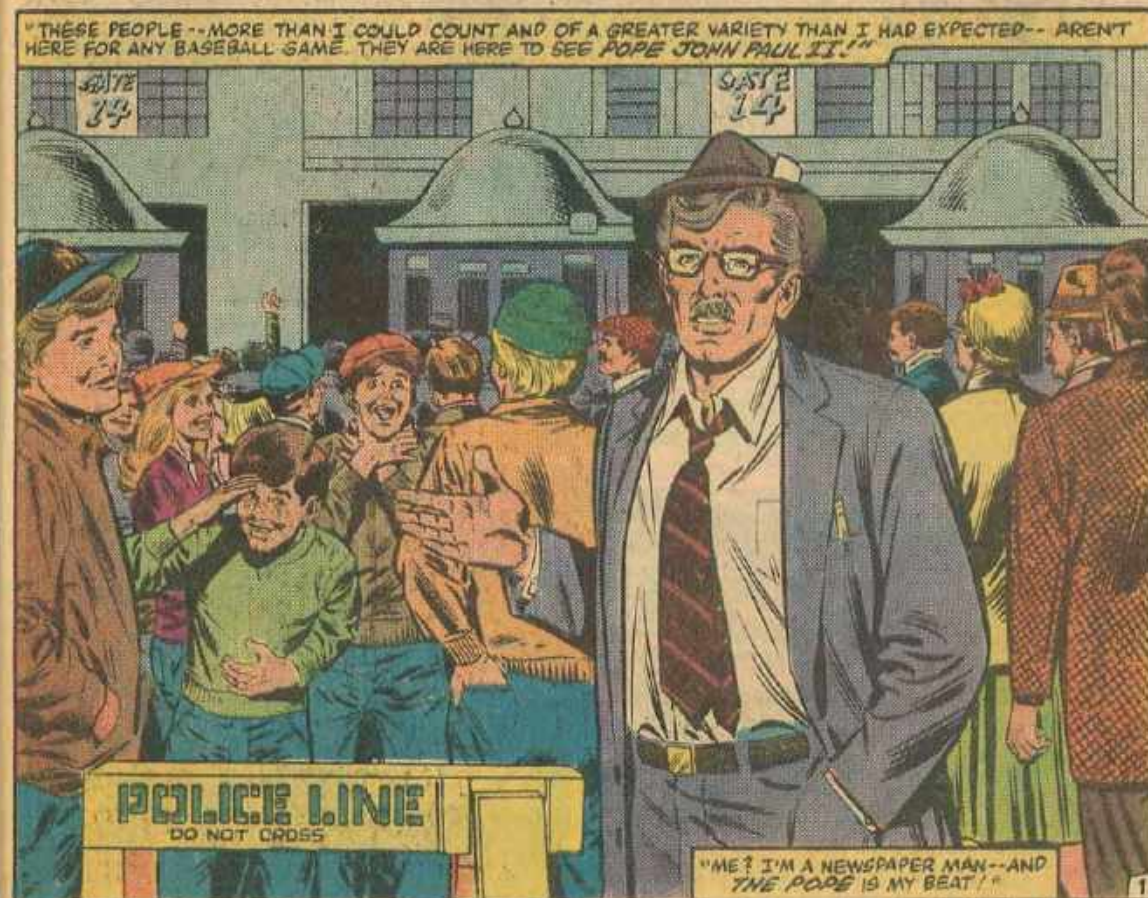
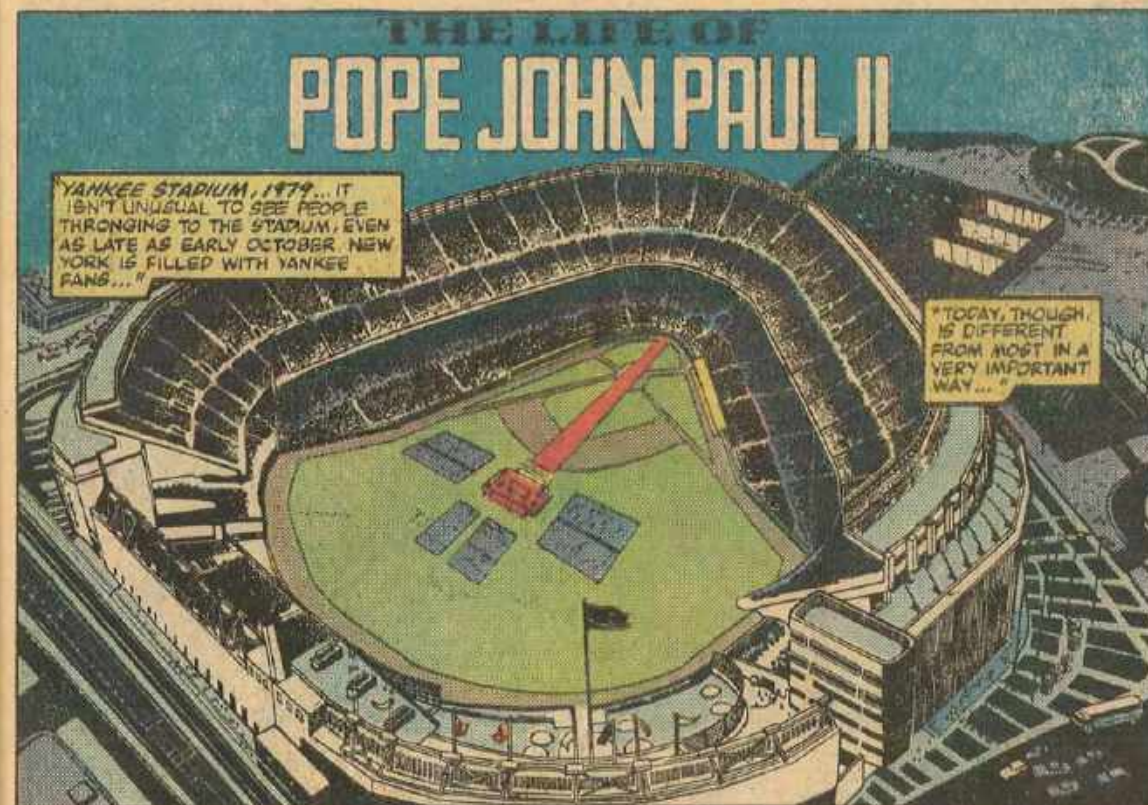
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THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II™ Vol. 1, No. 1, 1982 issue. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Z. Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Text copyright ©1982 Father Mieczyslaw Malinski. All rights reserved. Art copyright ©1982 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price \$1.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.75 in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. All business inquiries should be addressed to Ed Shukin, Vice-President, Circulation. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition.





"MY EDITOR HAD LIKED MY STORIES ON THE POPE--HIS BACKGROUND, HIS TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES SO FAR. I WASN'T SATISFIED, THERE WAS SOMETHING MISSING FROM MY PORTRAIT OF POPE JOHN PAUL II, SOMETHING I COULDN'T PUT MY FINGER ON..."



"I GLANCED IN ANGER AT THE TOUGHS. I KNEW THEIR TYPE--HOODLUMS WHO COME NOT TO LISTEN BUT TO JEER AND TO DISRUPT... WHAT CONNECTION COULD THE POPE HAVE WITH THE LIKES OF THEM?"



"AND, SITTING THERE, I THOUGHT PERHAPS I COULD ANSWER THAT QUESTION AND ALL MY OTHERS... THAT PERHAPS THAT MISSING ELEMENT MIGHT BE ALREADY IN MY GRASP, IF I ONLY WENT OVER MY FACTS ONCE MORE..."

"WADOWICE, POLAND, 1920..."



"IT IS TWO YEARS AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR, AND POLAND, A LAND HELD IN CAPTIVITY FOR 123 YEARS, IS AT LAST FREE OF OUTSIDE CONTROL. MOST RECENTLY, A RENEWED POLISH ARMY HAS BEATEN BACK INVADING SOVIET TROOPS. A NEW SPIRIT OF FREEDOM SWELLS ACROSS THIS WAR-TORN LAND..."

"IT IS HERE THAT KAROL WOJTYLA--WHO WILL GROW UP TO BE POPE--IS BORN, IN THE SHADOW OF THE 600-YEAR-OLD CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY IN THE TOWN OF WADOWICE..."



"THOUGH OF MODEST MEANS BY OUR STANDARDS, KAROL'S FAMILY IS COMFORTABLE IN POST-WAR POLAND. HIS FATHER SERVES AS A LIEUTENANT IN THE POLISH ARMY; KAROL'S BROTHER, EDWARD, FIFTEEN YEARS HIS ELDER, ATTENDS MEDICAL SCHOOL..."



"YOUR MOTHER AND I WANT TO ENROLL YOU AS AN ALTAR BOY WHEN YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?"



"DESPITE THE DAILY PRESENCE OF THE CATHEDRAL, IT CAN'T BE SAID THAT KAROL IS ANY MORE PRE-DISPOSED TOWARD THE PRIESTHOOD THAN ANY OTHER POLISH BOY OF HIS DAY."





"STILL, IT CAN BE SAID THAT AS A BOY, KAROL WOJTYLA APPROACHES LIFE WITH A ZEAL THAT OUTTRIPS MANY OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES..."

"THIS IS HIS DAILY LIFE... RISING BEFORE DAWN TO SERVE AT THE MASS..."

"WITH SCANT TIME TO SPARE BETWEEN MASS AND SCHOOL, HE DASHES HOME FOR A QUICK BREAKFAST..."

"IN SCHOOL, HE LEARNED WITH A PASSION, THAT QUICKLY BRINGS HIM TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS TEACHERS, A PASSION THAT WILL LAST THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE..."

"YET NOWHERE IS HIS ZEST FOR LIFE SO EVIDENT THAN IN THE SPORTS HE LOVES. BUT THE STRICT SCHEDULE GIVEN HIM BY HIS FATHER LEAVES HIM LITTLE MORE TIME, THAN AN HOUR AFTER SCHOOL MOST NIGHTS, FOR THESE PURSUITS..."

"IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT KAROL'S DISCIPLINE DID NOT ESCAPE THE NOTICE OF HIS SCHOOLMATES..."

HERE COMES WOJTYLA, THE GOODY-GOODY!

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SUCH A GOOD KID, HUH?

YEAH! MY FATHER SAYS, "KAROL WOJTYLA GETS UP AT 5:30 TO SERVE MASS! WHY ARE YOU SUCH A LAZY-BONES?"

MINE SAYS, "WHEN OTHER ALTAR BOYS DON'T SHOW UP, KAROL SERVES AT ALL THE ALTARS IN ST. MARY'S! WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE KAROL?"

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE US LOOK BAD, KAROL?

I WILL MAKE YOU LOOK BAD-- IF YOU TRY TO SCORE A POINT WHILE I'M GOALIE!

TH-THANK YOU, FATHER! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

AND STAY IN THE HILLS NEXT TIME, EH?

STOP THIS, BRAGGART!

HAH!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, MY FRIEND!

BRRR-INKLE!

ONNN!

RUFFIANS! AFTER ALL THE TIMES I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO PLAY BY THE CHURCH! WHOEVER DID THIS WILL BE PUNISHED --

RUN QUICKLY! BEFORE HE SEES US!

WOJTYLA? YOU?!

Y-YES, F-FATHER... I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD PLAY ONLY IN THE HILLS! BUT YOU'RE SUCH A HELP TO US AT THE CHURCH... I SUPPOSE I CAN OVERLOOK THIS... JUST THIS ONCE!

GOOD WORK, KAROL! YOU CAN BREAK ALL THE WINDOWS FROM NOW ON, OKAY?

COME ON! LET'S GO TO THE HILLS AND FINISH THE GAME!

I CAN'T! IT'S GETTING LATE -- I'LL MISS MY STUDIES!

SO WHAT? WE MISS OUR STUDIES! IT WON'T HURT YOU!

OH, KAROL'S AFRAID HIS MOTHER WILL YELL AT HIM!

MAMA'S BOY! MAMA'S BOY!

"IF THOSE ILL-CONSIDERED BARES WOUND KAROL'S YOUTHFUL PRIDE, THEIR EFFECT IS NEGLIGIBLE. FOR THE MOST PART, HIS CHILDHOOD IS A HAPPY ONE..."







"WHEN KAROL IS 12, DISASTER AGAIN VISITS HIS FAMILY-- HIS BROTHER EDWARD, NOW A DOCTOR, DIES OF SCARLET FEVER. KAROL'S REACTION TO DEATH AT THIS AGE IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE..."



DO NOT BE SAD, PAPA! THIS IS GOD'S WILL!

"YET, HIS BROTHER'S DEATH MAY HAVE AFFECTED KAROL MORE THAN HE EXPRESSES! SOON AFTERWARD, HE TAKES TO WANDERING THE STREETS OF WADOWICE, LOST IN SPELLS OF LONELINESS..."



"ONE OF THESE WALKS WILL TAKE HIM NEARER HIS DESTINY..."

SO THIS IS THE HOME OF THE FAMILY KOTLARCZYK! THEY WERE FRIENDS OF EDWARD! THEIR INVITATION FOR ME TO VISIT WAS KIND... I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING!



PARDON ME! I KNOCKED, BUT NO ONE SEEMED TO HEAR-- OH!



LOOK OUT WHERE YOU'RE WALKING, YOU YOUNG FOOL!

WHAT DO YOU DO HERE? EDWARD NEVER TOLD ME... WE ARE MAKING BACKDROPS FOR PLAYS FROM TISSUE PAPER, AS ANYONE CAN SEE! BACKDROPS THAT YOU HAVE RUINED, I MIGHT ADD!



BUT... WHY?

WHY? WE ARE ACTORS! DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE THEATER?

NOT REALLY... THEN YOU MUST LEARN, AS ALL YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD! FOR THEATER IS NOT MERELY ACTORS ON A STAGE, BUT A MEANS OF TOUCHING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF HUMANITY-- AND BRINGING ABOUT THE IMPROVEMENT AND ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE!



BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU? KAROL WOJTYLA, SIR, EDWARD'S BROTHER... AH, YES! OUR SYMPATHIES FOR HIS UNTIMELY PASSING. I AM MIECZYSLAW KOTLARCZYK, FATHER AND LEADER OF THIS CLAN OF PERFORMERS!



THAT ONE'S GOT ENTHUSIASM AND INTELLIGENCE! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T MAKE AN ACTOR OF HIM!



FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, KAROL SPENDS HIS FREE TIME EAGERLY ABSORBING KOTLARCZYK'S LESSONS AND LEARNING THE WAY OF THE ACTOR.



THAT BOY SPEAKING! HE'S A VERY GOOD ORATOR, AND SEEMS TO BE QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE!

PLEASE, SIR! I WANT TO... HELP REPAIR THE DAMAGE I'VE DONE. WILL YOU --LET ME JOIN YOU? OF COURSE, MY FRIEND! THE THEATER IS FOR ALL! YOU NEEDED BUT TO ASK!



"IT IS NOT A COURSE OF ACTION THAT SITS WELL WITH EVERYONE --AND, AT 17, WHEN KAROL GIVES A SPEECH AT HIS SCHOOL, DURING THE VISIT OF ARCH-BISHOP ADAM STEFAN SAPIENKA..."



IT'S NOT EVERY DAY WE HAVE THE ARCHBISHOP OF CRACOW IN OUR MIDST! IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN GET YOU, FATHER?

TELL ME-- IS HE PLANNING TO JOIN THE PRIESTHOOD? WE COULD USE HIS SKILLS IN THE CHURCH!



KAROL WOJTYLA?! HEAVENS, NO! HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO BE AN... AN ACTOR!



"AS KAROL'S HIGH SCHOOL DAYS END, SO DOES HIS LIFE IN WADOWICE. TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES, HE MUST GO TO UNIVERSITY--AND, FOR KAROL, THAT MEANS THE FAMED JAGIELLONIAN IN CRACOW, WHERE COPERNICUS TURNED THE UNIVERSE INSIDE OUT..."



"AND, INSIDE THE HOUSE IN WADOWICE..."



FATHER?

YES, KAROL, WHAT IS IT?

IT'S TIME, ARE YOU... READY? TO LEAVE, YOU MEAN? I DON'T KNOW... SO MUCH LIFE HAS BEEN LIVED IN THIS HOUSE... MEMORIES GOOD AND BAD. HOW DO WE LEAVE SO MUCH LIFE BEHIND?



I KNOW, I REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST HEARD THE CHURCH BELLS... I SOMETIMES FEEL THAT MY LIFE BEGAN ONLY THEN! AND I'LL MISS THAT OLD SUNDIAL ON THE CHURCH...

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE THESE THINGS, AND THIS HOUSE! BUT LIFE TAKES US FAR AWAY...



TELL ME, FATHER--DO YOU REGRET YOUR DECISION TO COME WITH ME TO CRACOW?

I, TOO, LOVE THIS HOUSE, BUT IT IS ONLY MEMORIES--AND MEMORIES CANNOT TAKE THE PLACE OF A SON!

I WILL ALWAYS HAVE MY MEMORIES... MY PLACE IS WITH YOU!



"KAROL AND HIS FATHER TAKE AN APARTMENT IN CRACOW, AND KAROL CONTINUES HIS STUDIES AND HIS ACTING. NEITHER FATHER NOR SON CAN GUESS THAT KAROL'S CAREER AT THE JAGIELLONIAN WILL LAST NO MORE THAN A YEAR..."



"...FOR THE YEAR IS 1939, AND THEIR WORLD IS ABOUT TO BE TORN AWAY FROM THEM BY BLOOD AND IRON..."

"1939... AND A FEW HUNDRED MILES WEST OF POLAND, THE MADMAN ADOLF HITLER CONTROLS A NATION--AND WAGES A CAMPAIGN OF TERROR AND LIES..."



THE GERMANIC PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO CONTROL THE WHOLE OF EUROPE AND TRANSFORM IT INTO A TEUTONIC REICH! THE GERMAN MINORITY IN POLAND MUST BE LIBERATED FROM POLISH OPPRESSION! POLAND MUST CEASE TO BE A POLITICAL CONSIDERATION IN THIS CENTURY--I WILL MAKE IT A LONG-FORGOTTEN NAME ON ANCIENT MAPS!

"THE PEOPLE OF GERMANY LISTEN TO THE MADMAN AND HIS DREAMS OF POWER... AND, ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1939, KAROL WOJTYLA WALKS TOWARD WAWEL CATHEDRAL, OUTSIDE CRACOW, TO SERVE AT FIRST FRIDAY MASS..."



BZZZZZZZZZZZ! EH? THAT'S ODD! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?



GERMAN BOMBERS? BUT WHY WOULD THEY...

OH, NO!

"KAROL WATCHES IN HORROR AS THE BOMBS DROP... AND THE PLANES ARE DRIVEN OFF BY POLISH ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS..."

"THEN HE HURRIES ON TO WAWEL CATHEDRAL..."

FATHER FIGLEWICZ! I KNOW, OUR LAND IS AT WAR.



COME, LET US CELEBRATE THE MASS AS SCHEDULED! NOW THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR PRAYERS!



"POLAND NEEDS MORE FROM HER PEOPLE THAN PRAYERS, HOWEVER! WITHIN DAYS, KAROL LEAVES CRACOW TO JOIN UP WITH THE ARMY IN THE EAST--AND JOINING THE EVER-GROWING PROCESSION OF REFUGEES, FLEEING FROM THE GERMAN TERROR..."



"SUCH A MOVE DOES NOT GO UNHINDERED..."



"WITH NEW DETERMINATION, KAROL MARCHES TOWARD THE EAST, UNKNOWN TO THE YOUNG MAN, THERE HAVE BEEN NEW EVENTS...OF DISASTROUS IMPORTANCE..."



HELLO! YOU ARE GOING THE WRONG WAY! THE ARMY IS IN THE EAST!

YOU ARE MISINFORMED, MY FRIEND! THE SOVIETS SWEEP OVER OUR EASTERN BORDERS--WE ARE ATTACKED ON TWO FRONTS!



RUSSIA? BUT WE HAD A TREATY--!

NO MORE! HITLER DECLARED POLAND DIS-SOLVED, YOU SEE--AND WITH NO POLAND, THERE IS NO TREATY! OR SO THE RUSSIANS WISH TO VIEW IT!

I FEAR OUR ARMY WILL BE UNABLE TO HANDLE TWO WARS ON TWO DIFFERENT FRONTS!



OLD FOOL! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THE ARMY IS FINISHED! POLAND IS FINISHED!

CALM YOURSELF!



WE ARE IN A PERIOD OF TURMOIL, YES... BUT I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT IT WILL NOT, IN THE END, LEAD TO A STRONGER, FREE POLAND! WE WILL RECOVER, DO NOT FEAR!

TRUST IN GOD, AND DO NOT DESPAIR--FOR BY DESPAIR, YOU DO YOUR ENEMY'S WORK FOR HIM!



WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



BACK TO CRACOW--AND WHATEVER IS IN STORE FOR OUR COUNTRY!



"BY 1941, IT IS A FAR DIFFERENT CRACOW THAT HOUSES KAROL WOJTYLA. FOLLOWING THE SURRENDER OF ITS BELEAGUERED ARMY, AND THE ESCAPE OF THE GOVERNMENT TO LONDON, ENGLAND, POLAND'S FREEDOM IS GROUND OUT BY THE NAZI BOOT, AND ITS SPIRIT IS UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK..."



HEY, YOU! POLE!

LET'S SEE YOUR WORK PAPERS! SCHNELL!



WOJTYLA, EH? WORKER AT THE SOLVAY CHEMICAL PLANT? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, POLE? YOU ARE NEEDED FOR THE WAR EFFORT!



HOW MUCH CAN WE BEAR? THE GERMANS CLOSE OUR SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES, ROUND UP OUR PRIESTS, DESTROY OUR ART, EVEN FORBID US THE USE OF OUR LANGUAGE! THEY SEEK TO REDUCE US TO BRUTES, SUITABLE ONLY FOR MENIAL LABOR!



WE MUST KEEP OUR ARTS AND LANGUAGE ALIVE, EVEN IF IT IS UNDERGROUND! THE NAZIS WOULD PROBABLY EXECUTE ME IF THEY LEARNED I WAS IN THE RHAPSODIC THEATER...

... BUT IT IS WORTH THE RISK TO KEEP MY ART--AND THE HOPE OF POLAND--LIVING!



WOJTYLA! YOU MAY ENTER!

THERE WAS ANOTHER RAID LAST NIGHT-- JUST DOWN THE STREET! JEWS, I THINK, IN HIDING!

POOR DEVILS! I'VE HEARD OF A PLACE NEAR AUSCHWITZ THEY ARE SENT TO...



PSST! KAROL! WHERE'S THE NEXT THEATER MEETING?

THURSDAY, 8 AT NIGHT! THE OLD LADY'S ATTIC! WE'RE DOING READINGS OF NORWID'S POETRY!



NEIN! NO TALKING AMONG LABORERS! GET TO WORK!



"MORNING CRAWLS INTO LUNCHTIME AT THE FACTORY, BUT THE NOON MEAL BRINGS LITTLE MORE THAN A FEW PIECES OF BREAD..."

WHAT'S THIS? I NEED MORE BREAD! THIS ISN'T ENOUGH!

THAT'S YOUR RATION FOR THE DAY... SAME AS YESTERDAY!

NO! I NEED MORE! PLEASE!



HERE, OLD MAN, HAVE SOME OF MINE.

THANK YOU! BLESS YOU!



I WOULD LIKE TO PRAY.

SURE, BUT WHY? A LOT OF GOOD YOUR PRAYERS DID WHEN GERMANY WAS SMASHING THROUGH OUR WESTERN GATE.



HEY, LEAVE HIM ALONE! THE PRAYERS CAN'T HURT, THAT'S FOR SURE!

ALL RIGHT, BUT IF YOU ASK ME, HE'S CRAZY!

NO ONE ASKED YOU, BESIDES...



...A MAN'S GOT TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING IN THESE TIMES.



"IN THE CRISIS OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION, KAROL BIDES HIS TIME WAITING FOR FREEDOM, FILLING HIS LIFE WITH A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES..."

"WITH HIS THEATER GROUP, HE HELPS TO PRESERVE THE WORK IN PERFORMANCE OF POLISH POETS AND PLAYWRIGHTS..."

"UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE FABLED 'MYSTICAL TAILOR OF CRACOW', JAN TYRANOWSKI, KAROL DELVES FURTHER INTO THE RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF HIS BEING, AS A MEMBER OF THE UNDERGROUND LIVING ROSARY..."



"AT THE FACTORY, HE WORKS DILIGENTLY -- FOR WHILE HIS BODY IS FORCED TO LABOR FOR THE GERMANS, KAROL'S MIND IS FREE, AND ACTIVE..."

"AND IN THOSE FEW MOMENTS OF SOLITUDE, KAROL TRIES HIS HAND AT WRITING HIS OWN POETRY, TO GIVE VOICE TO THOSE FEELINGS WHICH KNOW NO VOICE..."

"YET, IN THOSE DAYS OF 1941, EVEN THE FORCED CALM IN KAROL'S SOUL CANNOT LAST..."



I'M HOME, FATHER...



WAKE UP, IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH!  
FATHER?

OH, NO, NO...  
NOT YOU, TOO...  
NOT YOU...



"LATER..."

I'M SORRY, WOJTYLA! BUT HE WENT QUICKLY -- A HEART FAILURE...

HE WAS A GOOD MAN...



WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

I... MUST GO SOMEWHERE ELSE! I CANNOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF LIVING... THERE... NOT WITHOUT HIM!



"FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, KAROL WOJTYLA STAYS WITH FRIENDS AND CONTINUES HIS STUDIES AND HIS WORK AT THE CHEMICAL PLANT..."



"YET NOW HIS SPIRIT, SEVERED FROM ITS ROOTS IN THE FAMILY, TAKES FLIGHT IN OTHER DIRECTIONS -- AND HE BEGINS TO COMMIT HIS INNERMOST FEELINGS AND OBSERVATIONS TO POETRY WITH GREATER FREQUENCY..."

*The Quarry*  
Hands are the heart's landscape  
They split sometimes like ravines  
into which an undrained force rolls.  
The very same hands that a man only opens  
when his palms have had their fill of toil.



"AND MORE THAN EVER, HE TURNS TO PRAYER, FOR IT IS HIS ONLY SOLACE IN THESE TIMES..."

WOJTYLA! WHAT? IF THE GUARDS HAVE CAUGHT ME... WHY WASN'T ANYONE WATCHING?



WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR STRENGTH, WOJTYLA! MAY WE...

MAY WE JOIN YOU?

I HAVE OFTEN WISHED YOU WOULD, MY FRIENDS.



LET US PRAY...



"IN WARTIME POLAND, THE DAYS DRAG ONE INTO THE OTHER, WITH LITTLE NEWS OF THE WAR'S PROGRESS. ALWAYS THERE IS THE THREAT OF THE GERMAN BULLET OR THE GERMAN CAMP..."



"...AND NOT EVEN THE YOUNG KAROL WOJTYLA IS FREE FROM THE TERROR OF UNEXPECTED VIOLENCE..."

OFF THE ROAD, PIG.



I TOLD YOU WE HIT SOMETHING! SOMEONE'S LYING OUT THERE HURT!

HEY, IT'S ONLY A POLE! TOO MANY OF THEM AS IT IS!



OHKHH... HE'S WAKING UP! GOOD!

A HOSPITAL? WH-WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I WAS ON THE ROAD, AND THEN... NOTHING!



YOU WERE RUN DOWN BY THE GERMANS A DAY AND A HALF AGO. YOUR INJURIES ARE BAD-- YOU'D BE DEAD IN A DITCH IF A WOMAN HADN'T FOUND YOU AND BROUGHT YOU IN.

"AFTER HIS RELEASE, KAROL LOOKS FOR THE WOMAN TO THANK HER. WITHOUT SUCCESS. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS IN WARTIME POLAND, SHE HAS VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE..."



BY THE WAY... YOU HAVE A VISITOR!

JAN TYRANOWSKI!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, KAROL. I WAS SO WORRIED... I BROUGHT YOU A BOOK TO READ, WHILE YOU'RE RECOVERING...



DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL BY ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS!

YOU'LL LIKE IT! IT CONCERNS THE PROBLEMS OF FAITH IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY...

BY THE WAY, THE OTHERS IN THE LIVING ROSARY HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR YOUR RECOVERY...



"KAROL READS THE BOOK MANY TIMES, FINDING IN IT A NEW CORNERSTONE FOR HIS SPIRITUALITY."

"YOUNG AND STRONG, KAROL MAKES A SPEEDY COMEBACK--AND SHORTLY AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL..."



HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! KAROL! STILL NOT WATCHING WHERE YOUR FEET STEP, EH?

MIECZYSLAW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN CRACOW?



AVOIDING THE BUTCHERS, MOSTLY. AND LOOKING FOR SOMEWHERE TO LIVE! ANY IDEAS ON THAT?

IT'S ROUGH THESE DAYS... WHY DON'T YOU USE MY APARTMENT?



SPLendid! WE'LL STAY THERE TOGETHER AND WORK ON OUR CRAFT!

UMM... I DON'T, UH, LIVE THERE ANYMORE... NOT SINCE MY FATHER DIED...

I HEARD ABOUT THAT, AND I'M VERY SORRY, KAROL-- BUT THAT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO! THERE IS A TIME FOR GRIEF, MY FRIEND, AND A TIME FOR PRACTICALITY! RETURN WITH ME! I INSIST UPON IT!

I DIDN'T WANT... TO BE ALONE THERE! BUT... ALL RIGHT! WE'LL SHARE THE PLACE!



IT WILL BE FINE! YOU'LL SEE!

WHAT A THEATER WE'LL CREATE WHEN POLAND IS FREE AGAIN! IT WILL BE THE GLORY OF THE HUMAN RACE...

"KAROL HEARS THE WORDS, BUT WITH HIS MIND, NOT HIS HEART--AND HIS INNERMOST THOUGHTS CONCERN DARKER THINGS..."



"DURING THESE YEARS OF THE OCCUPATION, KAROL WATCHES HIS COUNTRY SUFFERING. HE SEES WHOLE FAMILIES DISAPPEAR FOREVER INTO THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS..."



"HE SEES CHILDREN GROWING UP WITH NO KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CULTURE OR HERITAGE--AND NO RESPIRE FROM THE FEAR AND HATRED THAT ERODES THEIR SOULS..."



"THE CHILDREN! THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS HIM! FOR THE CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE OF POLAND--AND IF THE SOUL OF THE FUTURE IS DESTROYED, WHAT HOPE REMAINS?"



"AND SLOWLY... EVER SO SLOWLY... A DECISION IS MADE!"

HEY! KAROL! WAIT UP!

MIITEK!

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO YOU IN THIS PART OF TOWN.



I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU. WE HAVEN'T HAD MUCH CHANCE LATELY TO TALK AT THE LIVING ROSARY MEETINGS.

WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK WITH ME THEN. IT'S URGENT THAT I GET TO WAWEL.



WAWEL CASTLE? THAT'S GREAT-- I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE IN A LONG TIME!

WHY ARE YOU GOING THERE?

A PRIEST FROM WADOWICE IS THERE-- FR. FIGLEWICZ! HE'S AN OLD FRIEND... AND I NEED HIS ADVICE...

"WAWEL CASTLE IS WHERE THE KINGS OF POLAND ONCE LIVED, A STRUCTURE COMPRISING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF COURTS AND CATHEDRALS..."

"BUT NOW, INSTEAD OF KINGS, IT HOUSES DR. HANS FRANK, GERMAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF POLAND. YET STILL THE PRIESTS RUN THE CATHEDRAL, STILL THE MASS IS SAID..."



HALT! WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS HERE?

I WISH TO SEE A PRIEST, A FATHER FIGLEWICZ.

JA. I KNOW OF HIM.



ALL RIGHT, GO IN.

BUT ONLY YOU GO IN TO SEE THE PRIEST! YOUR FRIEND MUST WAIT OUTSIDE.



"MOMENTS LATER..."

FATHER? MAY I COME IN?

KAROL?

OF COURSE, YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME, BUT... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?



I AM TROUBLED, FATHER, WITH AS MUCH TIME AS I CAN SPARE, I TRY TO HELP OTHERS... WITH THE LIVING ROSARY... AND THE RHAPSODIC THEATRE...

BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH! I NEED TO DO MORE... AND I HAVE BEEN THINKING...



I WANT TO BECOME A PRIEST, FATHER.



HMMM... YOU KNOW THE NAZIS FORBID ANY NEW ADMISSIONS TO THE SEMINARY...

ISN'T THERE ANY WAY...?

PERHAPS, WAIT HERE. I WON'T BE LONG...



"EXACTLY WHAT TRANSPIRES THIS DAY IN WAWEL CASTLE MAY NEVER BE KNOWN..."



"... BUT THE RESULTS OF THAT CONVERSATION HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON KAROL WOJTYLA'S LIFE..."

YOU... DID... WHAT?!

FATHER FIGLEWICZ ARRANGED IT WITH ARCH-BISHOP SAPIEHA. I'M TO BECOME A SECRET SEMINARIAN.

IF THE NAZIS DON'T CATCH YOU!

WELL--YES, THERE IS THAT. BUT THEY DON'T KNOW HOW MANY SEMINARIANS THERE ARE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR ACTING? IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE SOME PARISH PRIEST, CHATTERING TO JUST A HANDFUL ABOUT MORALITY!

AS AN ACTOR, YOU MIGHT ENRICH THE WHOLE WORLD! WHERE CAN THE PRIESTHOOD TAKE YOU?

A MAN OF GOD CAN ENRICH THE LIVES OF HIS FELLOWMEN. AND WHEN THE WAR IS OVER, POLAND WILL NEED PRIESTS--IF IT IS TO SURVIVE SPIRITUALLY AS WELL AS PHYSICALLY.

I'M SORRY, MY FRIEND--NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL DISSUADE ME FROM THE PRIESTHOOD!

I GIVE UP!

MARK MY WORDS! SOMEDAY YOU'LL LOOK DOWN ON YOUR VILLAGERS, AND YOU'LL THINK OF THE ACTOR THAT YOU COULD HAVE BEEN--AND YOU'LL SAY, "I COULD HAVE HAD THE WORLD, BUT I GAVE IT UP FOR THIS!"

GOOD DAY, KAROL!

"KOTLARCZYK DOES NOT STAY ANGRY FOR LONG..."

"...AND KAROL EAGERLY PURSUES HIS NEW VOCATION AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. WHILE HIS FELLOW FACTORY WORKERS TAKE A LUNCH BREAK, HE CONTINUES READING..."

"...YET, AS THE WAR DRAGS TO AN END, EVENTS ARE OCCURRING IN POLAND..."

AUGUST, 1944! IN WARSAW, SOME 150 MILES NORTH OF CRACOW, THE POLES BREAK INTO OPEN REVOLT, EXPECTING SUPPORT FROM THE INVADING SOVIETS... SUPPORT THAT NEVER COMES.

"THE NAZIS NOW FEAR THAT THE REBELLION WILL SPREAD THROUGHOUT POLAND..."

"ON AUGUST 7, 1944 -- BLACK SUNDAY -- THE WORD GOES OUT: ROUND UP ALL ABLE-BODIED MALES IN CRACOW --AND BREAK THE BACK OF THE IMPENDING REVOLUTION."

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS! TEACH THESE PEASANTS THAT WE WILL ALLOW NO THREATS TO THE WELFARE OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE!

BAM

"WITH BRUTAL SPEED, A SOLDIER ENTERS THE WOJTYLA APARTMENT..."

WHOAH

POLE! SHOW YOURSELF!

"BUT THERE IS NO ANSWER, AND THE SEARCH FOR WOJTYLA IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED BY THE SOLDIER'S SUPERIOR..."

PRIVATE! COME UPSTAIRS--QUICKLY!

YES, SERGEANT!

"IN THE CONFUSION, KAROL'S ROOM IS NEVER SEARCHED."











"KAROL WOJTYLA AND HIS FELLOWS LIVE WITH CONSTANT VIGILANCE. THEN, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER..."

NOK!  
NOK!

YES?

GESTAPO! I WISH TO SEE HIS EXCELLENCY-- NOW!

COME IN!

ARCHBISHOP SAPIENA!  
I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS... ABOUT YOUR SEMINARIANS...

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?

ONLY ANSWERS, PLEASE. IN 1939, WE GRACIOUSLY ALLOWED THOSE IN SEMINARY TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES. NONE HAVE YET GRADUATED, FIVE YEARS LATER. WHY NOT?

THE STUDIES HAVE BEEN PROLONGED FOR ONE YEAR.

DO NOT POSTPONE THESE GRADUATIONS OVERLONG, ARCHBISHOP--OR WE WILL HAVE A LENGTHIER CHAT, AND ONE NOT NEARLY AS PLEASANT.

GOOD DAY.

WHEW!

EXCELLENCY! DID THEY--?

NO, THEY KNOW NOTHING OF OUR EXTRA STUDENTS.

BUT GLIB ANSWERS WON'T SATISFY THEM NEXT TIME-- AND I FEAR IT WILL BE AUSCHWITZ FOR THE LOT OF US!

"BUT THE NAZIS DO NOT RETURN, THOUGH SEVEN MORE STUDENTS ARE ADDED TO THE SEMINARY..."

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"BY JANUARY OF 1945, THE RUSSIANS FINALLY INVADE CRACOW..."

THE SHELLING IS COMING VERY NEAR!

THAT'S NOT THE BLARING OF WEAPONS! IT'S THE THUNDER OF OUR RESCUERS!

BOOM!  
BOOM!

SOMEONE MUST REMAIN UP TOP-- TO GREET THE NEW DAY!

HERE, YOU WILL BE SAFE IN MY CELLAR. MY SERVANT WILL GO, TOO, TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

WHAT OF YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY? IT'S DANGEROUS TO STAY...

WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE WHEN WE COME OUT? DO YOU THINK WE'LL SEE A RED FLAG OR THE SWASTIKA?

IF ONLY THERE WERE SOMETHING WE COULD DO...

ALL WE CAN DO NOW... IS PRAY!

THOOM!

THOOM!

"FOR THE NEXT 36 HOURS, THEY PRAYED MUCH AND SLEPT A LITTLE, THEN..."

UHNMM... WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS?

HEY, KAROL! LISTEN!

TO WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING...

THE SHELLING HAS STOPPED!

THAT'S RIGHT! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, CRACOW IS NOW AT PEACE!

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LOOK! THE CELLAR DOOR!

BUT... WHO WON? WAS IT THE GERMANS OR--?



WHAT'S THE MATTER, LAZY-BONES? WHY ARE YOU THERE-- WHEN WE HAVE WORK TO DO?

HOORAY!



THE NAZIS ARE GONE? REALLY GONE? THE WAR IS OVER?

THE WAR WILL NOT BE OVER UNTIL THE ALLIES MARCH ACROSS GERMANY, BUT... YES, FOR POLAND, THE WAR IS OVER!



I WAS NOT JOKING ABOUT WORK. THE SHELLING BLEW OUT ALL THE WINDOWS-- AND THEY MUST BE REPLACED!



"THAT AFTERNOON, WHILE KAROL IS FIXING THE FRONT WINDOWS..."

LOOK! SOLDIERS! AND THEY'RE STOPPING!

WHAT COULD THEY WANT HERE?



THEY'RE RUSSIANS!



...I BRING GREETINGS FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ARCHBISHOP SAPIEHA, UNCROWNED LEADER OF THE POLISH PEOPLE!



KAROL! MIECZYSLAW! GO HAVE DINNER PREPARED FOR OUR GUESTS!



"SOON, THE ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE IS THE SCENE OF REVELRY, AS POLE AND RUSSIAN CHEER THE LIBERATION OF A LAND..."

KAROL!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

NO, NO... GO AHEAD WITH YOUR PARTY. I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SEE SOME PEOPLE.

IT HAS BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE I LAST PASSED THROUGH THESE GATES.



THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SO MUCH... AND SO LITTLE. PEOPLE STILL SUFFER FROM THE WAR... SOLDIERS STILL WALK THE STREETS, THOUGH THEY ARE NOW OUR FRIENDS, NOT OUR CONQUERORS.

AND WHAT OF KOTLARCZYK?





WHAT OF...

...KOTLARCZYK!

KAROL?!

KAROL!



"KAROL CATCHES UP ON LOST TIME..."  
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU MUST TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED. THE GERMANS QUESTIONED ME WHEN YOU WERE MISSING. I TOLD THEM NOTHING BUT THOUGHT FOR SURE THEY'D CATCH YOU.

"DAYS LATER, KAROL AND HIS FELLOW SEMINARIANS TAKE UPON THEMSELVES AN AWESOME TASK: REPAIRING THE OLD SEMINARY THAT HAD BEEN CLOSED AND OCCUPIED BY THE GERMAN TROOPS..."



I REMEMBER... THIS WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE BEFORE THE WAR. THE GERMANS CHANGED THAT! WHAT A MESS!

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

EVERYONE SHOULD PICK A ROOM AND START CLEANING, I GUESS.

SNIFF!

WHAT'S IN THERE, I WONDER?



OH, NO! THAT'S DISGUSTING!



THE GERMANS NEVER FIXED THE PLUMBING...

...OR THE... THE... TOILETS!

ULP!

SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO... CLEAN IT OUT...



SHALL WE DRAW STRAWS, OR--?

NEVER MIND! I'LL CLEAN IT!



IT'S A DIRTY JOB-- BUT SOMEONE MUST DO IT!

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

"WITHIN DAYS, THE SEMINARY IS IN WORKING ORDER-- AND THE SEMINARIANS TURN THEIR EYES OPTIMISTICALLY TOWARD THE FUTURE..."

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW! THE SOVIETS HAVE DRIVEN THE GERMANS BACK PAST THEIR OWN BORDERS! ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND AMERICA PUSH INTO GERMANY FROM THE WEST...

LET'S PRAY THE WAR ENDS VERY SOON. THEN THE SOVIETS WILL GO HOME, AND LEAVE POLAND TO ITSELF AGAIN.



"THE WAR DOES END SOON..."

"BUT THE SOVIETS DO NOT LEAVE... AND, ONCE AGAIN, POLAND LIVES NOT IN THE HAND OF FREEDOM, BUT IN THE GRIP OF THE CONQUEROR. THE RUSSIANS REFUSE TO LET THE POLISH GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE RETURN FROM LONDON. INSTEAD, THEY INSTALL THEIR OWN PUPPETS."



THEY LIED TO US! THE ALLIES SAID THEY WOULD FREE US, BUT THEY SOLD US TO THE RUSSIANS AT POTSDAM AND YALTA! HOW COULD THEY DO IT?



CALM YOURSELF, FRIEND. I, TOO, FIND THIS NEWS DISTRESSING-- BUT THE RULE OF NAZIISM WAS A TRIAL WE SURVIVED.



WE SHALL OUTLIVE A COMMUNIST REIGN AS WELL, AND COME OUT STRONGER FOR IT.

TRUST IN THE LORD



"NOWHERE IS RESISTANCE TO THE SOVIETS GREATER THAN IN THE CHURCH, FOR POLAND IS LARGELY CATHOLIC. YET, ONE DAY AT THE SEMINARY..."



YOU AT THE DOOR! STOP!



THANK YOU!

"THEN, WEEKS LATER, KAROL REACHES THE GOAL OF HIS STUDIES -- HE IS ORDAINED BY THE ARCH-BISHOP AS A PRIEST IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH..."



I HAVE SEEN YOUR PRIESTS! I ADMIRE THEM GREATLY, AND I WISH TO KNOW-- MAY I JOIN THE SEMINARY?



"TO KAROL WOJTYLA, THE EVENT IS A SIGN-- A SIGN THAT THE HUMAN SPIRIT CANNOT TRULY BE CRUSHED. IN GOD'S EYES, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE..."



"YET ARCHBISHOP SAPIEHA HAS NOTICED SOMETHING GREAT IN THIS YOUNG PRIEST, AND KAROL IS CALLED BEFORE HIM..."



I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY! BECOMING A PRIEST IS NO EASY THING, NOR SHOULD IT BE UNDERTAKEN LIGHTLY.



HOW STRANGE ARE GOD'S WAYS! HOW DID THE COMMUNISTS, WHO SEEK TO STAMP OUT RELIGION AND HOLY WORSHIP, EVER PRODUCE ONE SO HUNGRY FOR GOD?



THEREFORE, I AM SENDING YOU TO ROME, WHERE YOU MIGHT TRULY BE PUT TO THE TEST.



"FOR FATHER WOJTYLA, ROME OF 1946 IS A STARTLING CONTRAST TO CRACOW -- AND A REMINDER OF A LIFE HE HAD ALL BUT FORGOTTEN..."



"FOLLOWING HIS MONTHS OF SCHOOLING IN ROME, KAROL GOES HOME, AND IS ASSIGNED TO TEACH CHILDREN IN THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF NIEGOWIC -- A TASK FOR WHICH HE IS EMINENTLY SUITED..."









"DESPITE SUSPICION BY OLDER PRIESTS AND EVEN THE NEW PRIMATE OF POLAND, CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI, FATHER WOJTYLA SEEKS FOR NEW WAYS TO SPREAD CATHOLICISM, EVEN AS HE LECTURES AT SEMINARY AND AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AT LUBLIN..."



"FOR HE PERCEIVES THAT THE TIMES ARE CHANGING, AND THE CHURCH MUST CHANGE WITH THEM... OR DIE..."

FATHER? DO YOU REMEMBER ME-- GEORGE CIESIELSKI?

GEORGE! OF COURSE! YOU'VE SERVED AT MASS FOR ME-- AND YOU'VE BEEN ON SOME OF MY OUTINGS! HOW ARE YOU?



I WAS WONDERING, FATHER-- I HEARD YOU WERE AN AVID HIKER AND SKIER, AND YOU LIKE A GOOD GAME OF SOCCER...

KAYAKING? HMM!

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED KAYAKING?



"FATHER WOJTYLA IS AS EAGER TO LEARN, IN ALL THINGS, AS HE IS TO TEACH..."



"THESE OUTINGS PROVIDE A PERFECT GETTING FOR KAROL TO COMMUNE WITH OTHERS, BOTH LAY CHURCHMEN AND STUDENTS..."



"IN 1956, ON ONE SUCH OUTING..."



WE COME ALL THE WAY UP HERE BY ORDER OF CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI HIMSELF-- AND THEN YOU MAKE US LOOK FOR YOU! WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?

THE CARDINAL SENT YOU? WHY? IS SOMETHING WRONG?



THE CARDINAL HAS INSTRUCTED THAT YOU BE INSTALLED AS AN AIDE-BISHOP OF CRACOW-- AND WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!



GOOD WORK, UNCLE!



HEY, UNCLE! WHEN YOU GET BACK, WILL WE HAVE TO CALL YOU BISHOP?





"AS BISHOP, KAROL WOJTYLA FINALLY SEES THE FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM-- TO HAVE HIS MOTHER'S REMAINS BROUGHT TO CRACOW TO REST BESIDE THOSE OF HIS FATHER..."



"THOUGH STILL LOW IN THE RANKS OF POLISH BISHOPS, KAROL'S THOUGHTS ARE IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES-- AND IN ROME, POPE JOHN XXIII CALLS THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, TO BEGIN THE MODERNIZATION OF CATHOLICISM..."

"BISHOP WOJTYLA COMES TO THIS COUNCIL AS AIDE TO BISHOP EUGENE BAZIAK, OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POLISH CHURCH..."



"HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BISHOP WOJTYLA TRULY GRASPS THE INTERNATIONAL MEANING OF CATHOLICISM..."

"HERE, HE FEELS A GREAT EXCITEMENT, AS IF ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT ADVENTURE..."



"IN LEISURE MOMENTS IN THE VATICAN, HE SPEAKS WITH AS MANY BISHOPS AS POSSIBLE..."

YOU AGREE, THEN, THAT CATHOLICISM MIGHT BE ADAPTED TO THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF SPECIFIC PEOPLES?

YES--AND MY OWN AFRICA IS A CASE IN POINT. ONLY WE CAN SPECIFY WHAT IS NEEDED FOR OUR CULTURE-- WHILE THE VATICAN SHOULD TELL US WHEN WE'VE GONE TOO FAR...



"BISHOP WOJTYLA SPEAKS WITH THE TONGUE OF A PHILOSOPHER, LISTENS WITH THE EAR OF A STUDENT..."

"AND HIS RETURN TO ROME CULMINATES IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY-- A SPEECH THAT BEGINS HIS TRANSFORMATION FROM BISHOP OF POLAND TO MAN OF THE WORLD..."

...AND I SAY: INCREASE YOUR TIES WITH THE LAITY-- FOR THEY ARE THE STRENGTH OF OUR RELIGION!



THIS WOJTYLA IS ONE TO WATCH!

"AFTER HIS RETURN TO CRACOW, BISHOP WOJTYLA IS SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE DEATH OF POPE JOHN XXIII-- FOR THE MAN HAD OPENED DOORS FOR HIM..."



"...AND BEFORE THE COUNCIL IS FINISHED IN 1965 UNDER THE NEW POPE, PAUL VI, KAROL WOJTYLA IS PROMOTED TO ARCHBISHOP OF CRACOW..."

"THE RETURN TO ROME FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL RENEWS ARCHBISHOP WOJTYLA'S EXCITEMENT. HE ALREADY SEES HIS VIEWS BECOMING POLICY..."

DO YOU THINK WE HAVE A CHANCE THIS TIME-- THAT POPE JOHN'S THEORIES OF CHANGE WILL BE REALIZED?

HIS VOICE WAS A NEW WIND AT THE TIME-- BUT NOW HIS WISDOM IS CLEAR TO MOST. JOHN WAS A PROPHET, WHILE PAUL IS A THEORETICAL THINKER



YES, I'D SAY WE HAVE A CHANCE!



"THEN IN 1967 ARCHBISHOP WOJTYLA IS NAMED THE CARDINAL OF CRACOW..."

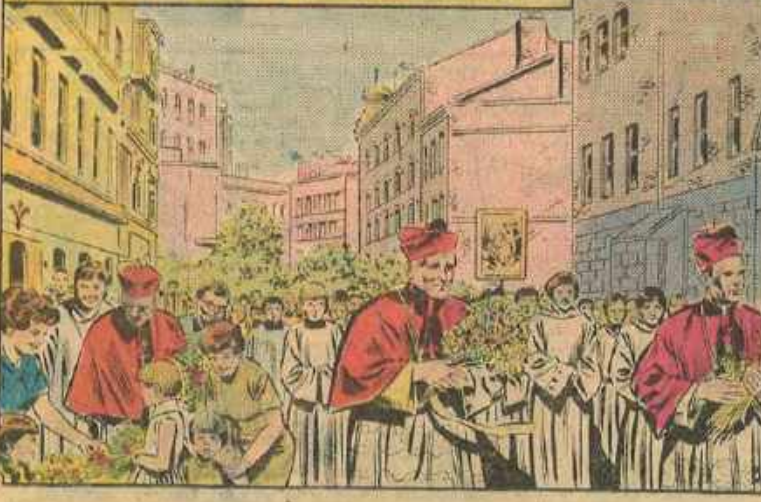
I WILL BE NEEDING A NEW CASCOCK, SISTER. COULD YOU SEW ONE FOR ME?



OK, YES... YOUR EMINENCE!



"NOW KAROL WOJTYLA IS AT THE PINNACLE OF THE POLISH CHURCH. ONLY CARDINAL PRIMATE WYSZYNSKI IS HIGHER-- AND ALL AGREE THAT THE LIFE OF THE PRIMATE IS NOT FOR WOJTYLA..."



"NOW, TRULY, KAROL WOJTYLA IS THE SPIRITUAL LEADER OF HIS NATION..."







"THE NEXT DECADE IS A PERIOD OF TRAVEL FOR CARDINAL WOJTYLA. HE SKIS IN THE TATRA MOUNTAINS, AND THOUGH HE IS IN HIS 40S, HIS TASTE FOR SPORTS HAS NOT FLAGGED..."



"ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, HE VISITS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN 1973..."

"IN 1976, CARDINAL WOJTYLA GIVES THE LENTEN SERMONS BEFORE THE POPE AND CARDINALS IN THE CURIA OF ROME..."



"IN 1976, HE IS INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA, BEFORE WHICH HE IS TO SPEAK AT THE HARVARD SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY..."

"THE PLACE: PHILADELPHIA'S 30TH ST. STATION..."



"THE PRIEST: FATHER WITKOWSKI, SENT BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA TO MEET THE INCOMING CARDINAL WOJTYLA..."

CARDINAL! WOJTYLA!

GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR EMINENCE! WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA! IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN! EVERYTHING IS PREPARED FOR THE CONGRESS!

BLESS YOU, IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FATHER!



IT'S A SHORT WALK TO THE CAR, YOUR EMINENCE!

I NEVER MIND WALKING, TELL ME FATHER, WHY IS EVERYONE STARING AT US?



I BELIEVE IT'S THE CASBOCK. THEY AREN'T COMMONLY WORN IN THIS COUNTRY.

IN POLAND, THEY ARE WORN EVERYWHERE-- FOR THEY ARE OUR SYMBOL, A MEANS OF REMINDING THE PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNISTS THAT THE CLERGY ARE STILL THERE.



"AT THE CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA, CARDINAL WOJTYLA AGAIN ADDRESSES THE PROBLEMS FACING THE CHURCH-- THE NEED TO BRING RELIGION INTO THE CONTEXT OF THE LAITY'S LIVES, THE CHALLENGE OF ADAPTING TO CHANGE, AND THE QUESTION OF SUPPORTING FREEDOM IN AN EVER MORE TYRANNIZED WORLD..."



MARVELOUS SPEECH, CARDINAL! YOU SHOULD HIT THE COLLEGE SPEAKING CIRCUITS IN THIS COUNTRY!

YOU KNOW, THERE IS ONE PLACE IN AMERICA I WANT TO GO...



OH? WHERE'S THAT?  
MONTANA?  
MONTANA?



"SEYSER, MONTANA, 1976..."



"INSIDE THE CHURCH..."

PERHAPS YOU ARE WONDERING WHY I AM IN MONTANA?



I WANTED TO VISIT YOU BECAUSE I HAVE MY PRIEST HERE...

HE IS YOUR MONSIGNOR--AND I AM HIS BISHOP.



HE CAME FROM MY NATIVE POLAND MANY YEARS AGO. AND FOR MANY YEARS, WE HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS TO ONE ANOTHER. I TOLD THE PEOPLE IN PHILADELPHIA THAT I SHOULD SEE HIM, WHERE HE LIVES, HOW HE MANAGES. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE...







"THIRTY-FOUR DAYS PASS SINCE POPE JOHN PAUL'S INSTALLATION-- AND, ON THIS MORNING, A RUDE AND TERRIBLE SURPRISE AWAITS HIS SECRETARY, FATHER MCGEE..."

YOUR HOLINESS?! ARE YOU UP? YOU'RE RUNNING LATE!

YOUR HOLINESS? OH, NO...

WHERE'S CARDINAL VILLOT? AS VATICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO! FIND HIM!

FATHER! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE POPE IS DEAD!

"AN HOUR LATER, IN CRACOW..."

WHAT'S THIS? I GO TO SAY MASS, AND WHEN I COME TO BREAKFAST, MY ENTIRE STAFF LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HAS DIED!

THE POPE HAS DIED, YOUR EMINENCE! WHAT? IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! HE JUST TOOK OVER... HE JUST...

"IN HIS HEART, CARDINAL WOJTYLA FEARS LOSING MORE THAN HIS POPE. IN THE LAST PAPAL ELECTIONS, HE RECEIVED SEVERAL VOTES, AND NOW THE PAPACY LOOMS HEAVILY BEFORE HIM..."

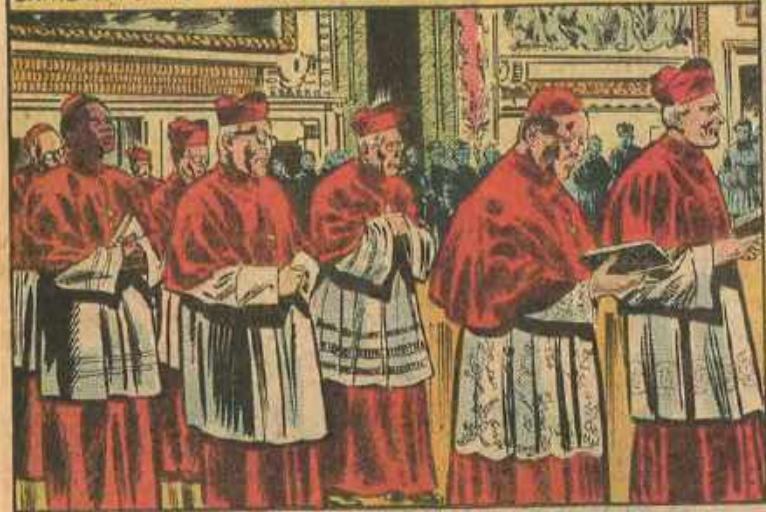
"IT'S SAID THAT ALL CATHOLICISM REVOLVES AROUND THE VATICAN. CARDINALS AND PRIESTS AND PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARRIVE HERE TO WATCH THE ELECTION OF A NEW POPE..."

A MOURNING ON TOP OF ANOTHER MOURNING! IT IS A VERY GRAVE TRIAL FOR THE CHURCH, AND WE MUST PRAY!

WHO KNOWS WHAT AWAITS US NOW?



"OCTOBER 14, 1978. FROM ALL OVER THE VATICAN, THE CARDINALS GATHER, KNOWING THAT ONE OF THEM WILL BECOME THE NEXT POPE..."



HEY! YOU DON'T REALLY THINK I'LL BE ELECTED, DO YOU?

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE...AND I NEED PICTURES OF ALL THE CARDINALS!



"THE CARDINALS LOCK THEMSELVES IN CONCLAVE AND ALL EYES WATCH THE CHIMNEY THAT WILL SIGNAL THE ELECTION OF THE POPE..."



WHITE SMOKE! WE HAVE A NEW POPE! A NEW POPE!

WAIT! SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT HERE, I'D SWEAR IT!

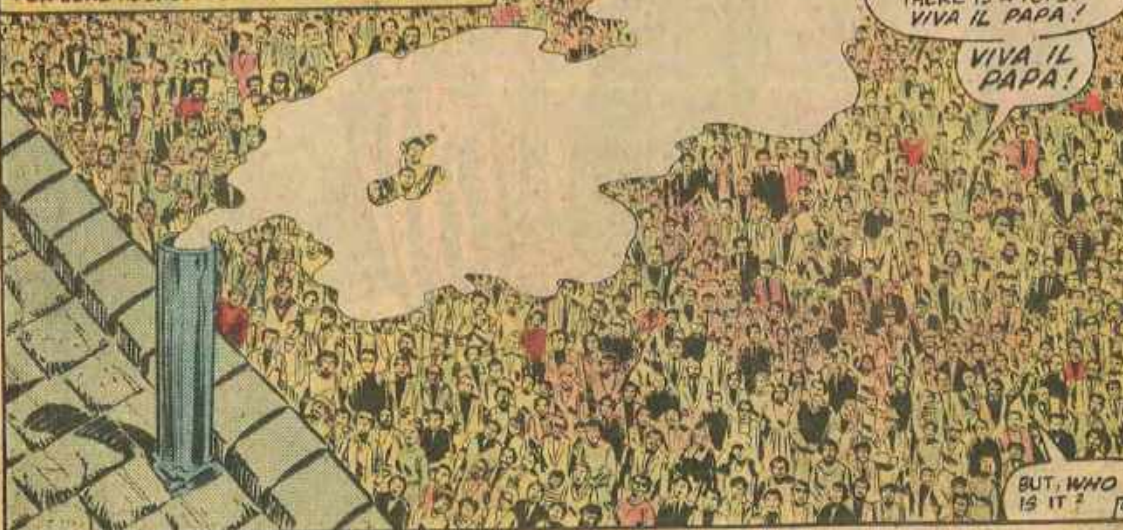


"LATER..."



SEE! BLACK SMOKE! THE FIRST BALLOT PRODUCED NO WINNER!

"FOR LONG HOURS, THE WAITING CONTINUES..."



AT LAST! WHITE SMOKE! THERE IS A POPE! VIVA IL PAPA!

VIVA IL PAPA!

BUT, WHO IS IT?

"THE CROWD QUIETS ANXIOUSLY AS CARDINAL PERICLE FELICI SUDDENLY APPEARS..."

I ANNOUNCE TO YOU A GREAT JOY! WE HAVE A POPE! I PRESENT KAROL CARDINAL WOJTYLA OF CRACOW-- HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II.



A POLE? POPE?

WHY NOT? THERE HAVE BEEN NON-ITALIAN POPES BEFORE!

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE HE'S FROM! HE IS A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD NOW!



"AS IF TO QUIET THE EXCITED CROWD, A CALM VOICE RINGS OUT IN ITALIAN--THE VOICE OF THE NEW POPE..."

I WAS AFRAID TO RECEIVE THIS NOMINATION!



BUT I TOOK IT IN THE SPIRIT OF OBEDIENCE TO OUR LORD, AND IN TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN HIS MOTHER, THE MOST HOLY MADONNA.



EVEN IF I CANNOT EXPLAIN MYSELF WELL IN YOUR--OUR--ITALIAN LANGUAGE, YOU WILL CORRECT ME IF I MAKE A MISTAKE.



AND SO I PRESENT MYSELF TO YOU ALL TO CONFESS OUR COMMON FAITH, OUR HOPE, OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE MOTHER OF CHRIST--



--AND ALSO TO START ANEW ON THAT ROAD, THE ROAD OF HISTORY AND OF THE CHURCH, TO START WITH THE HELP OF GOD AND WITH THE HELP OF MEN.



"WARSAW, POLAND, THE SAME DAY--IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS..."

MINISTER, THERE ARE RUMORS THAT A POLE MAY BE ELECTED POPE. ANY COMMENTS?

MY COMRADES OF THE PRESS, LET US NOT BE *RIDICULOUS*.

I HAVE A HOTLINE TO THE VATICAN, AND IF SUCH A THING WERE TO HAPPEN, I--**KAZIMIERZ KAKOL**-- WOULD BE THE FIRST TO KNOW ABOUT IT!

HA! GOOD JOKE!

SERIOUSLY, I SHALL BUY YOU ALL CHAMPAGNE IF THE NEW POPE SHOULD BE POLISH!

LET US MOVE ON TO MORE URGENT MATTERS...

MR. KAKOL! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW...

WELL, SPIT IT OUT! I CAN'T KEEP THESE MEN WAITING!

UM... CHAMPAGNE FOR EVERYONE...

"THE NEWS SPREADS RAPIDLY IN POLAND, TOUCHING OFF A SERIES OF PILGRIMAGES TO THE MONASTERY OF JAGNA GORA, HOME OF THE LAND'S HOLIEST RELIC--THE PAINTING CALLED THE BLACK MADONNA..."

"THE SOUND OF CELEBRATION IS EVERYWHERE IN THAT COUNTRY..."

"YET, POPE JOHN PAUL II SAYS NOTHING OF HIS OWN THOUGHTS ON THIS HIGH HONOR. HE HAS NEW DUTIES TO ADJUST TO, BEGINNING WITH A CONCLAVE OF CARDINALS, TWO DAYS AFTER HIS ELECTION..."

"THE CARDINALS HAVE ASSEMBLED TO SWEAR FEALTY TO THEIR NEW LEADER-- BUT THE POMP ACCRUED TO HIS OFFICE OVER THE YEARS IS NOT FOR POPE JOHN PAUL II..."

CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI! AS PRIMATE OF POLAND, YOU WERE MY LEADER FOR SO LONG! IT IS NOT RIGHT THAT THE LEADER SHOULD KNEEL BEFORE THE FOLLOWER!

LET US EMBRACE INSTEAD-- AS FRIENDS AND AS BROTHERS IN GOD!

"IT IS, IN FACT, THE BEGINNING OF A CANDOR THAT WILL COME TO CHARACTERIZE THE NEW PONTIFF-- CONTINUING WITH A NEWS CONFERENCE SEVERAL DAYS LATER..."

ARE YOU GOING TO VISIT POLAND?

IF THEY'LL LET ME!

"THERE ARE SOME WHO DISMISS THIS DEPARTURE FROM PROCEDURE AS A SENTIMENTAL ABERRATION ON THE POPE'S PART..."

WILL YOU CONTINUE SKIING?

OH, THEY DEFINITELY WON'T LET ME!

OH, IF ONLY WE HAD ANOTHER POPE LIKE PIUS XII. HE WAS SO GOOD, HE NEVER EVEN SMILED!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! THIS *PEOPLE'S POPE* WILL BE THE RUIN OF US!



"SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1978... ON THIS DAY, KAROL WOJTYLA OF POLAND IS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED AS THE 264TH POPE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH."

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST I OFFER A CORDIAL GREETING... I COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF YOUR PRAYERS AND YOUR GOODWILL IN CARRYING OUT MY MISSION OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AND MANKIND. MAY CHRIST GIVE YOU HIS GRACE AND HIS PEACE, OVERTURNING THE BARRIERS OF DIVISION AND MAKING ALL THINGS ONE IN HIM!

PRAY FOR ME, HELP ME TO SERVE YOU! AMEN.



"THE EVENT IS ATTENDED BY A NUMBER OF DIGNITARIES--THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN, THE HEAD OF THE PEOPLE'S STATE COUNCIL OF POLAND, THE PRIME MINISTER OF FRANCE, THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI... AND, MOST INTERESTINGLY, THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, LEADER OF THE PROTESTANT ANGLICAN CHURCH..."

"ALL IN ALL, 300,000 PEOPLE ARE IN ATTENDANCE IN THE SQUARE--AND A BILLION MORE WATCH WORLDWIDE ON TELEVISION..."

"HUNDREDS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II'S COUNTRYMEN COME TO THE INAUGURATION--AND, ON THE NEXT DAY, THE POPE MEETS THEM ALL, FOR THEY ARE STILL DEAREST TO HIS HEART..."



"LATER..."

YOU SHOULD SEE THE PEOPLE BACK HOME! IT WAS QUITE A THRILL FOR THEM!

THE GOVERNMENT WASN'T VERY THRILLED, THOUGH... NOR THE RUSSIANS!

I KNOW. THEY REFUSED TRAVEL PERMITS TO SEVERAL FRIENDS I'D PERSONALLY INVITED HERE.



THESE ARE DANGEROUS TIMES FOR PUBLIC FIGURES. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WEARING A BULLET-PROOF VEST?

AH, MIETEK. HOW COULD I BE A FRIEND TO THE PEOPLE IF I WALKED AMONG THEM IN FEAR? NO, THERE WILL BE NO VEST.



YOUR DINNER IS READY, YOUR HOLINESS.

YOU SEE, MY FRIEND? IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, I'VE IMPORTED POLISH NUNS TO PREPARE MY FOOD--SO AT LEAST THE ITALIAN COOKING WON'T GET ME.



IT'S A DIFFICULT TASK I HAVE AHEAD OF ME, MIECZYSLAW. GOD WILLING, I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BRING THIS CHURCH INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

I PRAY I WILL BE UP TO THE CHALLENGE.





"FINALLY, AFTER SEEMING YEARS, THE FRIENDS ARE GONE, THE REPORTERS ARE GONE, THE SPECTATORS AND THE DEVOUT ARE GONE..."

"ONLY POPE JOHN PAUL II REMAINS, ALONE... I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT EMOTIONS TROUBLE HIM IN HIS MOMENTS OF SOLITUDE..."

"DOES HE THINK ABOUT HIS PARENTS, HIS LIFE, THE STRANGE AND CIRCUITOUS PATH THAT BROUGHT HIM TO HIS OFFICE?"



"DOES HE CONSIDER WHAT HE HAS LOST--HIS HOME-  
LAND, HIS PERSONAL MOBILITY  
AND FREEDOM--TO FOLLOW IN  
THE SERVICE OF HIS GOD? FOR  
A POPE IS LESS A MASTER THAN  
SERVANT, BELONGING NOT TO HIM-  
SELF, BUT TO THE CHURCH."

"DOES HE LONG TO BE A SIMPLER--  
AND PERHAPS HAPPIER--PARISH PRIEST  
SOMEWHERE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF  
CRACOW?"



"OR DOES HE SIMPLY ACCEPT? I DON'T KNOW... AND PERHAPS I NEVER  
WILL. BUT THE POPE WAS A MAN LONG BEFORE HE REACHED THE  
VATICAN... AND HE IS STILL AS MUCH A MAN AS A MAN OF GOD..."

"THE YEAR AFTER HIS INAUGURATION IS A WHIRLWIND OF TRAVELLING, AS POPE JOHN PAUL II CARRIES HIS MESSAGE TO HIS NEW SEE, MOLDING EMPHASIS TO FIT THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF EACH LAND."

"IN MEXICO, HE SPEAKS OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS  
OF MEN, REGARDLESS OF RACE OR STATUS."



"IN IRELAND, HE PREACHES TOTAL EQUALITY, EXHORTING  
CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT TO WORK TOGETHER FOR A  
NEW IRELAND."

"IN HIS NATIVE POLAND, HE DESCRIBES  
THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL,  
SUPERIOR TO THE MACHINERY OF ANY  
STATE..."



"AND FINALLY, TODAY, OCTOBER 2, 1979, HE IS IN AMERICA. ON MY  
TURF, NEW YORK CITY."

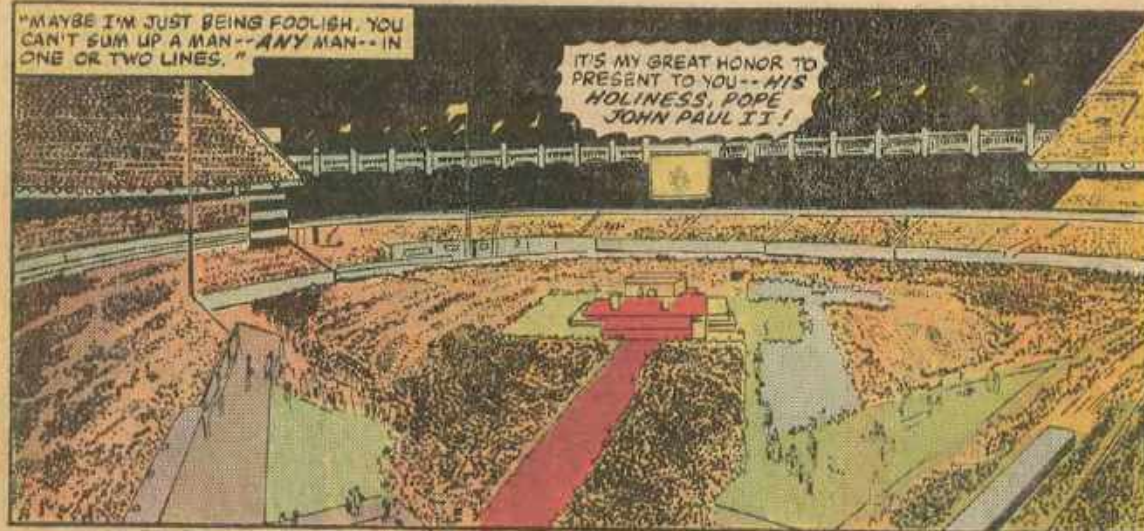
"AND HERE I AM, WAITING FOR HIM TO SPEAK,  
HOPING FOR THAT SINGLE INSIGHT THAT WILL  
SOMEHOW UNLOCK HIM FOR ME."





"MAYBE I'M JUST BEING FOOLISH. YOU CAN'T SUM UP A MAN--ANY MAN--IN ONE OR TWO LINES."

IT'S MY GREAT HONOR TO PRESENT TO YOU--HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II!



RACK 'EM UP, STACK 'EM UP, BUST 'EM IN TWO! HOLY FATHER, WE'RE FOR YOU!

HEY, MAN! WHAT YOU LOOKIN' AT?



PUNKS!

HOW CAN THEY LET HOODLUMS LIKE THAT IN HERE? THIS IS GOING TO BE A DISASTER!



EPILOGUE--I AM WRONG IN THAT MOMENT OF DOUBT. I AM WRONG.

"SUDDENLY, HE IS THERE AND YOU CAN FEEL THE CONTAGIOUS EXCITEMENT CRACKLING THROUGH THE STANDS, AND THE SILENCE SPREADS LIKE A HUSHED WIND..."



"...AND, IN THAT MOMENT, IT SEEMS LIKE THE ENTIRE WORLD IS WAITING FOR POPE JOHN PAUL II TO SPEAK..."

"PEACE BE WITH YOU!"



THESE ARE THE FIRST WORDS THAT JESUS SPOKE TO HIS APOSTLES AFTER THE RESURRECTION... TONIGHT, IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, IN THE MIST OF A WORLD THAT IS ANXIOUS ABOUT ITS OWN EXISTENCE, I REPEAT THESE WORDS TO YOU, FOR THEY ARE THE WORDS OF LIFE:

"PEACE BE WITH YOU!"



WHAT THE--? IMPOSSIBLE!

"I HAD KNOWN KIDS LIKE THIS! MESSED OVER FROM BIRTH, NOT LISTENING TO ANYONE-- NOT PARENTS, NOR POLICE, NOR SOCIAL WORKERS. SOMEHOW, IN A FEW SECONDS, HE GETS THROUGH TO THEM..."



AND I KNOW-- THAT IS WHY THE POPE IS GREAT!

WE CANNOT STAND IDLY BY WHEN THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS ARE DYING OF HUNGER, NOR CAN WE REMAIN INDIFFERENT WHEN THE RIGHTS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT ARE TRAMPLED ON...

AND SO, IN THE NAME OF THE SOLIDARITY THAT BINDS US ALL TOGETHER IN A COMMON HUMANITY, I AGAIN PROCLAIM THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN PERSON...

...WITH DEEP CONVICTION AND AFFECTION, I REPEAT TO YOU THE WORDS THAT I ADDRESSED TO THE WORLD WHEN I TOOK UP MY APOSTOLIC MINISTRY IN THE SERVICE OF ALL MEN AND WOMEN: "DO NOT BE AFRAID."





"WHEN IT IS ALL OVER, I HAVE THE STRANGEST FEELING OF SATISFACTION. I CAN'T SHAKE IT FOR DAYS AND I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN PUT IT INTO WORDS..."

"ALL I CAN BE SURE OF IS THAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING... AND THAT I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE!"



"THAT IS THE ONLY TIME I SEE POPE JOHN PAUL II. FROM THERE, HE GOES ON TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY--AND LATER CONTINUES HIS TRAVELS..."

"TRAVELLING TO ZAIRE, HE SPEAKS OF BRINGING THEIR VARIETY OF CATHOLICISM INTO LINE WITH THE AFRICAN EXPERIENCE..."



"IN FRANCE, HE EMPHASIZES THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE PURPOSE OF RELIGION IN SECULAR LIFE, HOPING IN THAT WAY TO FIND THE FULFILLMENT OF HUMANISM IN CHRISTIANITY..."



"IN GERMANY, HE MAKES WHAT HE TERMS 'A PILGRIMAGE TO THE LAND OF LUTHER', DESCRIBING SIMILARITIES OF PRINCIPLES IN CATHOLICISM AND LUTHERANISM..."



"IN BRAZIL, HE REPEATS THE MESSAGE HE GAVE TO MEXICO: ALL MEN HAVE INALIENABLE RIGHTS THAT EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF MEN MUST NOT TREAD UPON..."

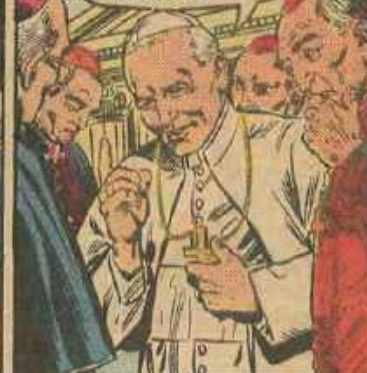


"IN TURKEY, POPE JOHN PAUL II PLEADS FOR ECUMENISM WITH THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH--AND PRAISES ISLAM AND ITS MAJOR VIRTUES, SUCH AS ITS DOCTRINE OF THE ONE TRUE GOD..."



"AND, OF COURSE, DUTIES IN ROME OCCUPY MOST OF HIS TIME AND THOUGHT, AS HE STRUGGLES TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD... FORMING, FOR EXAMPLE, A COUNCIL ON FAMILY MATTERS..."

FAMILIES MUST PRESERVE THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF THE CHURCH...



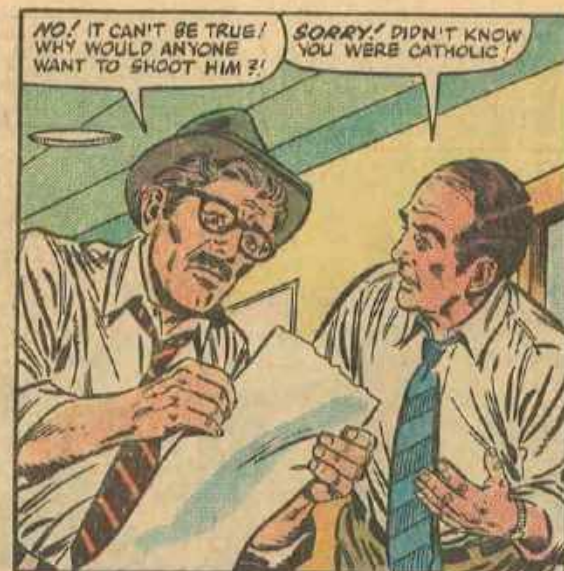
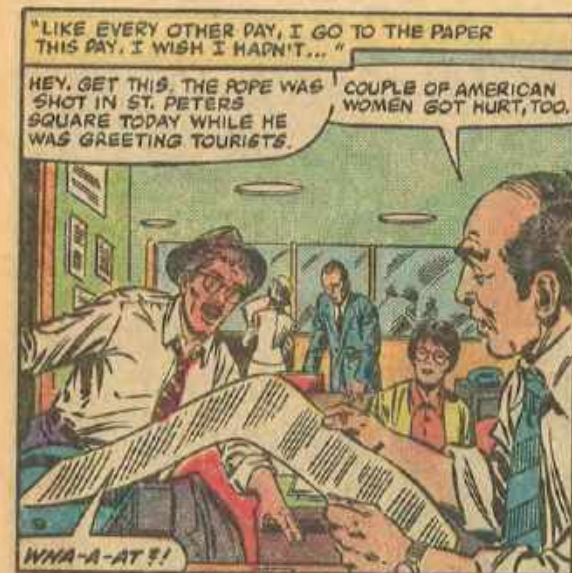
"THEN, ON MAY 13, 1981--"



"--TRAGEDY STRIKES!"









"HE MUST HAVE HEARD THIS ONE, THEN, BECAUSE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF VOICES WERE SAYING THE SAME THING. MAYBE IT ISN'T A MIRACLE THAT POPE JOHN PAUL II RECOVERS, BUT IT SURE FEELS LIKE ONE..."

... SO HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR ATTACKER?

I FORGIVE HIM. WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? I HAVE NOT THE HEART FOR MALICE!



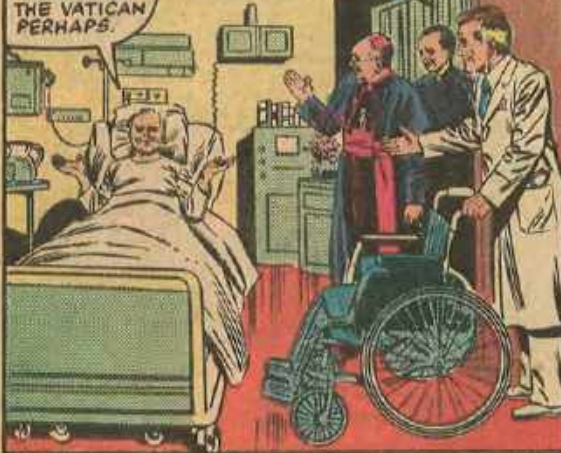
YOU KNOW... AFTER I WAS ELECTED, I VISITED A SICK FRIEND HERE. I SAID THEN I'D NEVER WANT TO BE STUCK HERE MYSELF.

I'LL HAVE TO WATCH WHAT I SAY FROM NOW ON.



AH, MY STAR PATIENT. ARE YOU FEELING WELL ENOUGH TO GO HOME NOW?

WELL... TO THE VATICAN PERHAPS.



ONE REQUEST. MAY WE DETOUR BEFORE I LEAVE? I'D LIKE TO MEET THE WOMAN WHO WAS INJURED IN THE SHOOTING.

OF COURSE.



THEN IT'S OFF TO YOUR APARTMENTS FOR REST AND RECUPERATION. YOU MUST START LOOKING AFTER YOUR OWN HEALTH, YOU KNOW.

OH, I HAVE YOU FOR THAT!



"PENTECOST SUNDAY, SEVERAL WEEKS LATER..."

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!



THEY'RE WORRIED... AND I MUST SHOW THEM THAT I'M ALL RIGHT!



YOU ARE NOT ALL RIGHT! THERE ARE STILL WEEKS UNTIL YOU FULLY RECOVER... POSSIBLY MONTHS!



NO! I WAS NOT GIVEN THIS OFFICE SO THAT I COULD REST. DO THEY REST? I HAVE A DUTY TO THEM--AND I WILL FULFILL THAT DUTY!



I ABSOLUTELY WON'T LET YOU!

I'M SORRY, DOCTOR. I AM NOT MY OWN MAN ANYMORE!



LOOK! IT'S POPE JOHN PAUL II!







Pope John Paul II is welcomed enthusiastically wherever he travels around the globe. His frequent trips have generated many exciting new projects for the Pontiff. Indeed, this very magazine came about as a result of the Pope's visit to Japan in February, 1981.

Father Julian is a Polish priest now serving at the Shibuya Catholic Church in Tokyo. He is also a close friend and neighbor of the Marvel Comics representative in Japan, Gene Pelc. Intrigued by Marvel's biography of St. Francis, *Francis, Brother of the Universe*, Fr. Julian passed copies of it to members of the Pope's entourage during the Tokyo visit.

An idea was soon hatched: a Marvel comic about the life story of Karol Jozef Wojtyla!

After conferring with the Pope, Fr. Julian arranged a meeting between Pelc and the Pope's chosen representative, Fr. Mieczyslaw Malinski — a lifelong friend of the Pope, and one of Europe's foremost religious writers. As someone who had lived with the Pope, gone to school with him, laughed and cried with him, only Fr. Malinski could provide the intimate details of the man, Karol Wojtyla.

Flying to Marvel's headquarters in New York City, Gene Pelc and Fr. Malinski met with Editor-in-Chief Jim Shooter, Writer Steven Grant and Artist John Tartaglione. With the aid of Lucy Mazareski (who helped interpret for Fr. Malinski), the ball was soon rolling.

Providing anecdotes, insights, history and bits of human interest gathered from his 40 odd years of close friendship with the Pope, Fr. Malinski related events that have never before been told to the general public in any medium. True insights and facts about Pope John Paul II are told for the first time in this Marvel magazine.

Production of this magazine was temporarily slowed when martial law was recently imposed in Poland and communications with Fr. Malinski were severely hampered.

Adding to the drama of the creation of this work was the assassination attempt on the Pope in Rome. Fr. Malinski flew to the Vatican to cover the situation firsthand.

Constantly reviewing the work as it progressed, Fr. Malinski insured its faithfulness to the life of Pope John Paul II.



