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## THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN PAUL II WAS TO BE A WITNESS

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Foundress

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(Feast of St. Francis de Sales)

*Below, we present to you the first part of an article of our Mother Foundress which she wrote upon the announcement of the beatification of St. John Paul II.*

*Dear Family:*

There are no words to describe the profound gratitude that we should experience towards God for elevating this great witness of love, truth, life, and hope, in the heart of the Church, of the world and before our eyes. Even after his death, he continues being and doing the same thing that he did during his life: ***“being a witness.”*** He was and is, and continues to be a great witness in the heart of the Church and the world...and on May 1, the day of his beatification, on the summit of the mountain so that his luminous legacy may be a lit candle that illumines the path and the history of the Church of the Third Millennium.



**THE MISSION OF JOHN PAUL II WAS TO BE A WITNESS:**

***To be a faithful witness, ardent witness that love can do all things,*** that love is possible and that love is our greatest dignity and at the same time, our greatest mission. That love is not a utopia, but is capable of building a new civilization with choices of love that every heart makes with responsibility.

***To be a witness that darkness and evil do not have the last word,*** that evil has a limit: the power of Divine Mercy which forgives all, heals all, restores all, elevates all, and creates. It creates from every evil an infinitely greater good.



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***To be a witness of the gift of the Maternal Heart of Our Lady***, that every disciple is called to welcome her into the home of their heart and give full freedom to her mission and maternal mediation to form the human heart in wisdom, grace and Christian and human maturity, to be missionaries and apostles of Christ in the world. ***The great witness of the power of being all of Mary, that the Heart of Our Lady, Our Mother, is the most perfect home and school, is most effective in forming the human heart in the paths of heroic love, in holiness expressed in the daily choices of love...*** The great witness of the power that exists in giving a total and generous Totus Tuus to our Mother so that we can be formed in her Immaculate and Maternal hands, into ardent witnesses of the power and fecundity of love.



***To be a witness of the dignity and greatness of the human person***, of the true face of man...that man is capable of God, capable of His love and capable of being the face, His voice, His hands and feet, the living reflection of His Love... witness that the human person was created for full freedom, the freedom that resides in the gift of being able to choose the good, of making choices of a high degree of love, choices that transform his history and the history of the world in the history of salvation. ***He was a witness that the human heart is capable of loving to the extreme of giving one's life... capable of "being a gift", of giving oneself with generosity, unconditionality, total integrity and courage...capable of loving and giving oneself without limits and which in that love, in that his greatest dignity resides in this self-donation.***

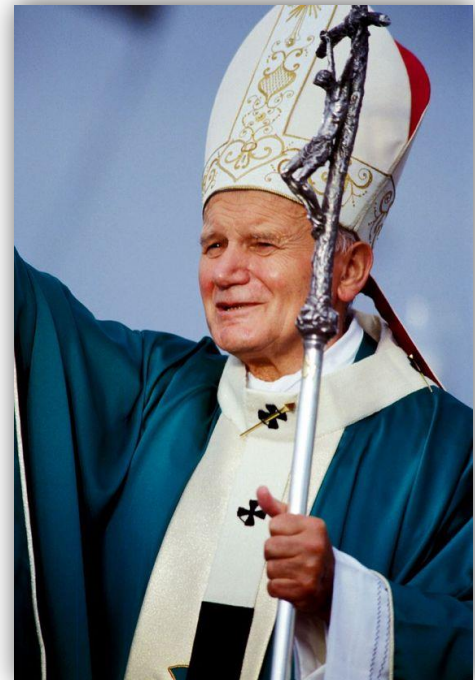
***To be a witness of Christian hope***, a witness that, in the terribly dark moments of human history, God makes himself present, God enters history in so many ways.... God intervenes in history, raising up men and women who in the simplicity and generosity



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of their fiats, become witnesses of hope, lit candles, rays of light that pierce the darkness and reveal to humanity that only with God and in God can man live and walk with meaning and only in Him, can they find their greatest destiny. Witness of hope...that where evil abounds, good abounds all the more...that where darkness, error, violence and disorientation of the human heart seem to reign, God in his mercy always sends “stars” that illumine the storms of the ocean of history and with their light, redirects their horizon, origin, destiny, their path... Yes, St. John Paul II was and is a witness of hope... that in the dark chapters of human history, God is always with us and writes new and more luminous chapters with generous hearts.

*To be a “witness” of the salvific power of human suffering. St. John Paul II was formed in the school of the Cross from a very Young age, he was a firsthand witness,* that suffering in all its forms only reaches its deepest meaning and its greatest fecundity in the Cross and in light of the Cross of Our Redeemer. St. John Paul II learned suffering in the school of the Pierced Heart, he knew deeply the suffering of losing loved ones, his friends, his mentors, his brother seminarians.... He knew the effects of the lack of freedom, of the trampling of human dignity, of persecution, of war, of injustice, of loneliness, of sickness... He knew the martyrdom of peoples, the suffering that totalitarian systems cause, systems without God... whatever name they take, they always end up destroying man. *St. John Paul II was formed in the school of the Cross... he knew its shape...its strength, its pain, its wisdom...and he didn't flee from it, but made it his path, his most efficacious way of being transformed into another Christ...* St. John Paul II understood that only the love revealed in the Pierced Heart of Jesus on the Cross gives the response, the meaning and the greatest value to human suffering. Only love transforms suffering into a fecund fountain.



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*To be a Witness that human love is the most precious gift and the most arduous task of the human person.* That love, which is always a gift, must be cultivated, guarded, communicated and elevated with the mature response of heart. *St. John Paul II was a witness that love is authentic when it is lived with responsibility: that the gift of love is always a task.* St. John Paul II was a valiant and untiring witness of the Family and its mission in the life of the Church and the world. He taught us that the family is the place where the human person comes to know love, learns love, experiences love, and is formed to love... *that the Family is the Home and School of the human heart, the place where the civilization of love begins and is built.* Where the human person learns his dignity, value, his gift... and where he learns to give himself. St. John Paul II is a witness that the Family *“is the path of humanity”* and so is *“the path of the Church.”*.. that the family and man will always be his greatest mission... and that the value, dignity and fecundity of human love can only be understood in light of divine love... St. John Paul II gave testimony before all of us, of his donation as a spouse and father... He gave himself entirely, he gave his heart, his “personal I”, his gifts and his life...he gave his body....even until the physical shedding of his blood in St. Peter’s Square, and he taught us that the human body must be the visible expression, transparent, pure and fecund communication of conjugal love.

