

## CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX OF THE LIFE OF JOHN PAUL II BY SCTJM



1920	May 18th	Karol Józef Wojtyla was born in Wadowice, Poland.
	June 20th	He was baptized in the parochial Church of Wadowice.
1929	April 13th	His mother Emilia died months after she had given birth to a baby who also died.
	May	He received his First Holy Communion.
1932	December 5th	His brother Edmund died.
1938	May 3rd	He received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
1939		German soldiers invaded Poland.
1940		He was hired by Solvay, a chemical company where he worked for 4 years. At first he worked in the stone quarry extracting stones; later he was transferred to the factory.
1941	February 18th	His father, Karol, died of a heart attack.
		<i>Karol met Jan Tyranowski at the parish. He was a tailor and knowledgeable in catholic spirituality. After the arrest of the parish priest, Tyranowski took charge of the youth group and formed the group "The Living Rosary." It was a kind of prayer group, of spirituality. Its leaders, one of which was Karol, were instructed by Tyranowski. All of this was done clandestinely. Tyranowski profoundly marked the life of the future pontiff—he was a personal and spiritual example and introduced Karol to the works of St. John of the Cross.</i>
1942		Karol studied in a clandestine seminary in Krakow, the former capital of Poland.
1945		Liberation of Poland from Nazi occupation
1946		He was ordained a priest and sent to Rome where he studied theology in the Angelicum College with the Dominicans.
1947		He obtained his Ph.D. in Spiritual Theology with the thesis: "Doctrine of the Faith according to St. John of the Cross."
1948		The first parish to which he was assigned, as parochial vicar, was the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady in a town near Krakow called Niegowic. A



		significant gesture at his arrival was that he knelt and kissed the ground. He was imitating a French priest whom he admired: St. John Marie Vianney who also influenced his “weakness” for the confessional.
1950		He wrote poems which he published under a pseudonym.
1953		He taught Philosophy at the Catholic University of Lublin while church-government relations fell into crisis, including the imprisonment of Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski which made Pope Pius XII protest.
1958		Pope Pius XII named him Titular Bishop of Ombi and Auxiliary Bishop of Krakow. Upon acceptance, he went to pray for many hours. He was the youngest bishop of Poland.
1960		He published his book “Love and Responsibility.” <i>(John Paul manifested the importance of always considering others as people worthy of respect and with equal dignity as creatures of God. The realization of each person is fulfilled in the gift of self. Respect for others who are different from oneself constitutes the central nucleus of the “Theology of the Body.”)</i>
1962		Start of Vatican Council II in which Karol Wojtyla participated.
1964		Paul VI was elected after the death of John XXIII. He named Karol Archbishop of Krakow and three years later, at the age of 47, a Cardinal.
1968		He published his book “Person and Action.” <i>(He showed that actions reveal the person and we look at the person through his/her action. The action offers us the best access to penetrate the intrinsic essence of the person and it allows us to obtain the greatest possible degree of knowledge of the person. We experience man as a person and we are convinced of this because it fulfills actions. We begin directly by the actions because this is how the root of the problem is resolved. It is human action that unveils who the person is as well as his/her dynamic and active nature.</i>
1972		He convened the Synod of the Archdiocese of Krakow which concluded in 1979 when he was already Pope. His work “To the Fountains of Renewal: Study on the application of Vatican Council II” had already begun to circulate.
1976		Paul VI asked him to preach the spiritual exercises of Holy Week to the Roman Curia. He saw his book, “Sign of Contradiction,” published.



1978	October 16th	Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected Successor of John Paul I as the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church. He was the first non-Italian Pope since Adrian VI (1522-23), the first Polish Pope, and the youngest since Pope Pius IX. He took the name of John Paul II.
1979	March 4th	First Encyclical “Redemptor Hominis” ( <i>Presents the figure of Jesus Christ as the “center of the universe and of history” and man as the “first fundamental path of the Church”</i> ). It was published on March 15th.
	June 2nd-10th	First visit to Poland
	October 16th	Post-Synodal Pastoral Exhortation “Catechesi Tradendae” (about Catechesis). It was published on October 25th.
1980	November 30th	Second Encyclical: “Dives in Misericordia” ( <i>Analyzes Divine Mercy in Sacred Scriptures, particularly in the parable of the Prodigal Son. It also reflects on the dignity of the human person. Presents the Church as a follower of the call of Christ to practice Mercy</i> ). It was published on December 2, 1980.
1981		Theology of the Body: First Volume on “ <i>Original Unity of Man and Woman</i> ”
	May 13th	At 5:19, the Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca made an assassination attempt against the Pope’ life as he was greeting people in St. Peter’s Square before his General Audience; the Pope was taken to Gemelli Hospital where he underwent surgery that lasted 6 hours.
	September 14th	Third Encyclical “Laborem Exercens” ( <i>Discusses human labor and other social problems, places emphasis on the person instead of on economic systems</i> ).
	November 22nd	Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation “ <i>Familiaris Consortio</i> ” (on the family), published December 15, 1981.
	December 8th	Consecration of all people of the world to Mary Immaculate in Spain Plaza, Rome
1982	January 6th	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Caritas Christi</i> ” for the Church in China
	May 12th-15th	Visit to Portugal and thanksgiving prayer in the Marian Shrine of Fatima
	October 10th	Canonization of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe
	November 26th	John Paul announced the Holy Year of the Redemption: from Lent 1983-Easter 1984.
1983		Theology of the Body: Second Volume “ <i>Blessed are the Pure of Heart</i> ”



	January 6th	Papal Bull “Aperite Portas Redemptor” announcing the Jubilee for the 1,950th anniversary of the Redemption
	January 25th	Pastoral Constitution of John Paul II “Sacrae disciplinae leges,” on the promulgation of the new Code of Canon Law which John Paul II promulgated.
	March 25th	Opening of the Holy Door for the Jubilee of the Redemption
	June 16th-23rd	Second visit to Poland
	October 16th	John Paul II entrusted and consecrated the world to Our Lady of Fatima, along with the Cardinals and Bishops who participated in the Synod of Bishops.
	November 24th	Publication of the “Charter of the Rights of the Family”
1984		Theology of the Body: Third Volume “ <i>Reflections on ‘Humanae Vitae’</i> ”
	February 2nd	Pastoral Letter “ <i>Salvifici Doloris</i> ” (on the Christian meaning of suffering)
	March 25th	In spiritual unity with all the bishops of the world, John Paul II repeated the act of consecration of humanity and all peoples to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima on May 13th. Apostolic Exhortation “ <i>Redemptionis Donum</i> ,” to all men and women religious was published on March 29th.
	April 20th	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Redemptoris Anno</i> ” about the city of Jerusalem, a sacred patrimony of all believers and a crossroads of peace for the people of the Middle East.
	May 5th	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Les Grands Mysteres</i> ” on the problems in Lebanon
	November 28th	John Paul concluded a series of catechesis about conjugal love that he had begun in 1979. It is the longest catechetical series given on a subject by a Pontiff during the series of Wednesday Audiences.
	December 11th	Publication of the Post-Synodal Pastoral Exhortation “ <i>Reconciliatio et Penitentia</i> ”
1985	March 26th	Apostolic Letter “ <i>To the Youth of the World</i> ” on the occasion of the UN’s International Youth Year
	March 30th	First International Youth Gathering in Rome (March 30-31)
	June 2nd	Encyclical “ <i>Slavorum Apostoli</i> .” ( <i>Reminds the world of the complementarity of the Oriental and Occidental churches and invites them to overcome misunderstandings</i> )
1986		Theology of the Body: Fourth Volume “ <i>The Theology of Matrimony and Celibacy</i> .”
	May 18th	Fifth Encyclical “ <i>Dominum et vivificantem</i> ” ( <i>On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the world</i> ), published on May 30 <sup>th</sup> .
1987	March 25th	Sixth Encyclical: “ <i>Redemptoris Mater</i> ” ( <i>It presents</i>



		<i>the Virgin Mary as Woman by antonomasia and as a sign that hope is stronger than evil and death).</i> It is about the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, image of obedience and model of “femininity with dignity.”
	<b>March 31th</b>	2nd World Youth Day in Buenos Aires, Argentina (March 31 <sup>st</sup> -April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 1988)
	<b>June 6th</b>	Opening of the Marian Year on the Solemnity of Pentecost
	<b>June 8th-14th</b>	Third visit to Poland
	<b>August 1st</b>	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Spiritus Domini</i> ” on the bicentennial of the death of St. Alphonsus Mary Liguori
	<b>December 4th</b>	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Duodecimum saeculum</i> ” on the 1200th Anniversary of the Second Council of Nicaea
	<b>December 30th</b>	Seventh Encyclical: “ <i>Sollicitudo Rei Socialis</i> ” ( <i>On the 20th Anniversary of “Populorum Progressio.”</i> <i>Denounced the growing gap between the north and the south and corruption in the economy</i> ). It was published February 19 <sup>th</sup> , 1988.
<b>1988</b>	<b>January 25th</b>	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Euntes in Mundum</i> ” on the Millennium of the Baptism of Rus in Kiev, published on March 22nd.
	<b>June 28th</b>	Apostolic Constitution “ <i>Pastor Bonus</i> ” on the reform of the Roman Curia. Installation of 25 new Cardinals.
	<b>October 1st</b>	Publication of the Apostolic Letter “ <i>Mulieris Dignitatem</i> ” on the dignity and vocation of women.
	<b>December 4th</b>	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Vicesimus quintus annus</i> ” on the 25th Anniversary of the Conciliar Constitution, “ <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i> ,” on the Sacred Liturgy
	<b>December 30th</b>	Apostolic Exhortation “ <i>Christifideles Laici</i> ” ( <i>On the vocation of the lay faithful in the life and mission of the Church</i> ).
<b>1989</b>	<b>August 26th</b>	Apostolic Letter on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War.
	<b>September 7th</b>	Apostolic Letter to all Bishops of the Catholic Church regarding the situation in Lebanon. World Day of Prayer for Peace in Lebanon.
<b>1990</b>	<b>June 29th</b>	Apostolic Letter to the Religious of Latin America for the 5th centenary of the evangelization of the New World.
	<b>December 7th</b>	Encyclical Letter “ <i>Redemptoris Missio</i> ” ( <i>On the permanent validity of the Church’s missionary mandate</i> )
	<b>December 14th</b>	Apostolic Letter for the 4th centenary of the death of St. John of the Cross.
	<b>October 18th</b>	Promulgation of the new Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches
<b>1991</b>	<b>May 1st</b>	Encyclical “ <i>Centesimus Annus</i> ” ( <i>updates some extremes of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i> ) on the 100th anniversary of the Encyclical “ <i>Rerum</i>



		Novarum” on social doctrine by Leo XIII in 1891.
	June 1st-9th	Fourth visit to Poland
1992	March 25th	Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation “Pastores Dabo Vobis” ( <i>About priests</i> ).
	May 13th	John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick, which is celebrated every year on February 11th.
	June 25th	Official approval of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
	November 16th	The Apostolic Constitution “Fidei Depositum” is published for the new Catechism of the Catholic Church; its final text was presented in Paris.
	December 7th	John Paul II officially presented the Catechism of the Catholic Church to representatives of the Roman Curia and to the Presidents of the Episcopal Commissions for Doctrine and Catechesis.
1993	August 6th	Encyclical “Veritatis Splendor” ( <i>Directed to Bishops about the fundamentals of morality and the capacity of man to know the truth and to live accordingly to it</i> ). Published October 5, 1993.
	December 26th	Opening of the International Year of the Family in the Catholic Church.
1994	February 2nd	Letter of John Paul II to families on the occasion of the International Year of the Family.
	May 10th	The Holy Father instituted a female cloistered monastery inside the Vatican.
	May 22nd	Apostolic Letter to Bishops “ <i>Ordinatio sacerdotalis</i> ” ( <i>On reserving priestly ordination to men alone</i> ).
	October 20th	Publication of the book by John Paul II “ <i>Crossing the Threshold of Hope</i> ” in 21 languages and 35 countries. ( <i>It is not a testament, but a manifesto for the future when John Paul II repeats to a fearful humanity the cry “Do not be afraid!” that he proclaimed at the beginning of his pontificate. The Pope wants to open a door without obliging anyone to enter. This is how the purpose of the awaited book was described.</i> )
	November 10th	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Tertio millennio adveniente</i> ” to Bishops, priests, and faithful in preparation for the Jubilee Year 2000.
	December 13th	Letter to Children in the Year of the Family
	December 18th	“Time” Magazine named John Paul II “Man of the Year.”
1995	March 25th	Encyclical Letter “ <i>Evangelium Vitae</i> .” ( <i>About the inviolable worth and character of human life. Reflection on the commandment “You shall not kill,” with special references to abortion and euthanasia</i> ).
	May 2nd	Apostolic Letter “ <i>Orientalium Lumen</i> ” ( <i>On the centenary of “Orientalium dignitas” by Leo XIII</i> ).
	May 20th-22nd	Visit to the Czech Republic and Poland
	May 25th	Encyclical Letter “ <i>Ut unum sint</i> ” ( <i>On the disunity of Christians</i> ).
	June 29th	John Paul II published “Letter to Women.”



	November 12th	Apostolic Letter for the 4th Centenary of the Union of Brest.
1996	February 22nd	Apostolic Constitution “Universi Dominici Gregis”
	March 25th	The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation “Vita Consecrata” is published ( <i>On consecrated life</i> ).
	April 22nd	Apostolic Letter for the 350th Anniversary of the Union of Uzhorod.
	November 7th-10th	The Holy Father celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his priestly ordination with a solemn Mass along with more than 300 priests from the Vicariate of Rome. Publication of his book “Gift and Mystery.” ( <i>This book is a very personal yet expansive testimony of his priestly vocation: memories and reflections on the origins of his priesthood.</i> )
	December 5th	The Apostolic Letter “Operosam diem” by Pope John Paul II to the Archdiocese of Milan is published for the 16th Centenary of the death of St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Patron of Milan.
1997	October 19th	Pope John Paul II proclaimed St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face a Doctor of the Church during a Eucharistic celebration in St. Peter’s Square. St. Therese is the third woman in history to be proclaimed a Doctor of the Church.
1998	July 6th	The Apostolic Letter “Dies Domini” was presented ( <i>about the celebration of Sunday as the Lord’s Day</i> ).
	October 11th	Canonization of Edith Stein
	October 15th	The Holy See presented the Papal Encyclical “Fides et Ratio” ( <i>about the relationship between faith and reason</i> ).
	October 16th	John Paul II celebrated 20 years of his pontificate.
1999	January 22nd	He gave to the bishops of America the Post-Synodal Exhortation “Ecclesia in America” in the Basilica of Guadalupe.
	April 23rd	Letter to Artists
1999	June 17th	The Holy Father consecrated the Church and all of Poland to the Black Madonna of Czestochowa.
	December 24th	The Holy Father opened the doors of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome to inaugurate the Jubilee Year.
2000	January 1st	Opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Mary Major.
	April 30th	Canonization of Saint Faustina and declaration of Divine Mercy Sunday.
	May 12th-13th	Apostolic trip to Fatima.
	May 13th	Beatification of Jacinta and Francisco Marto. The Holy Father left his ring at the feet of the Virgin.
<i>During the Jubilee Year, various jubilees were celebrated for ecclesial life.</i>		
2001	January 6th	The Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica was closed. The Holy Father signed the Apostolic Letter “Novo Millennio Ineunte.”
	November 22nd	Promulgation of the Post-Synodal Apostolic



		Exhortation “Ecclesia in Oceania.”
2002	April 7th	Apostolic Letter “Misericordia Dei” ( <i>On some aspects of the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance</i> )
	August 16th-19th	Apostolic Visit to Poland on the occasion of the dedication of the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow.
	October 16th	Apostolic Letter “Rosarum Virginis Mariae” ( <i>On prayer of the Holy Rosary</i> )
	October 2002- October 2003	Introduced the Luminous Mysteries and proclaimed the Year of the Rosary
2003	April 17th	Encyclical Letter “Ecclesia de Eucharistia” ( <i>On the Eucharist and its relationship to the Church</i> )
	June 28th	Apostolic Exhortation “Ecclesia in Europa”
2004	January 13th	Letter to the Monfortians for 160 years of the publication of “Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary”
	May 18th	His third book, “Rise! Let Us Be on Our Way!” was published. ( <i>On the relationship of John Paul II with men of thought, with men of science, with artists, with collaborators, with the people. It is interesting to see how many pages reveal a sense of friendship. John Paul II profoundly lived the sentiments of friendship, gratitude, and fidelity. His sense of spiritual paternity is also highlighted.</i> )
	October 17th	Year of the Eucharist
2005	January 27th	On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi Concentration Camp, Pope John Paul II asked that “there must be no yielding to ideologies which justify contempt for human dignity” and asked that “Never again, in any part of the world,” a similar event be repeated.
	February 1st-10th	Hospitalized in Gemelli Polyclinic due to the flu
	February 23rd	The new autobiographical book of Pope John Paul II “Memory and Identity” was released ( <i>Speaks of a lived experience. The Pope opened his heart and explained how he lived the evil of his time.</i> )
	February 24th	Hospitalized due to respiratory difficulties and to have a tube inserted in his throat to help his breathing.
	March 30th	Sick with a high fever as a result of a urinary infection.
	April 2nd May 1st	At 9:37pm he entered the house of the Father Beatified by H.H. Benedict XVI
2011		

