

# LP Bronze Newsletter - Rome



May 01, 2011

## Beatification Ceremonies for John Paul II in Rome

Laura and Andrew Krawczyk were privileged to be present at the historical moment of beatification of the very much loved, respected and adored Papa Giovanni II as he was known in Italy but for the rest of the world he was John Paul II. In this Newsletter they allowed for a mixture of general information and their own observations and reflections they experienced in the Eternal City.



On April 29, 2011 Vatican Representative, Fr. Lombardi explained that in the Vatican Grottoes, "the tomb of John Paul II was opened and the case containing the body of the Venerable Servant of God was extracted".

The Pope was buried in three coffins, the first of wood, which was displayed during the funeral, the second of lead, which was sealed, and the third, external one, also made of wood and was the one revealed at the moment of the extraction from the tomb. It was in a good state of preservation, even though showing signs of the passage of time.

After the opening of the tomb, which began first thing in the morning, the coffin was displayed on a dais at the gravesite until Cardinal Angelo Comastri, after a brief prayer, intoned the litanies. While singing the litanies during the brief passage, the case was translated before the tomb of St. Peter in the Vatican Grottoes and was covered with a wide cloth embroidered in gold.

The Cardinal Secretary of State offered a short final prayer and the assembly disbanded.

The great stone of the tomb, removed and placed in another part of the grottoes, was intact and will be moved to Krakow (in Poland) where it will be placed in the new church dedicated to the Blessed John Paul II.

The coffin remained in the grottoes until Sunday morning when it was translated to the Basilica, before the main altar, for the homage of the Holy Father and the faithful after the beatification. The permanent placement of the Blessed will be under the altar of the Chapel of St. Sebastian.

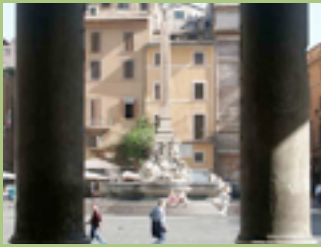
The celebration of the Vigil on 30 April took place at Circo Massimo. It was enlivened by the Choir of the Diocese of Rome and the Orchestra of the Santa Cecilia Conservatory. The



choir of the Philippine community in Rome and the Gaudium Poloniae Choir performed two traditional pieces.

During the first part of the vigil a celebration of memory, recalling the words and gestures of John Paul II, took place. There was a large reproduction of the image of Mary Salus Populi Romani, patroness of the city of Rome.

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Through images participants relived the last months of the pontificate of John Paul II, which were marked by his suffering.

Later that evening testimonials of some of those who worked with the pope were given: Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, and the French nun Marie Simon-Pierre whose miraculous cure opened the path to his beatification. Likewise, the testimonial of some of the youth of Rome on the importance of the example and the words of the Blessed on their lives were offered. At the end of this second part, Totus Tuus, composed for the fiftieth anniversary of the priestly ordination of John Paul II (1996), was sung. The second part of the Vigil commenced with a few words addressed by Cardinal Agostino Vallini, Vicar General of the Diocese of Rome that "summarized the spiritual and pastoral character of the Blessed", followed by the recitation of the Mysteries of Light of the Holy Rosary. They were live linked with five Marian shrines. Each of the Mysteries was tied to a prayer intention of importance to John Paul II: at the sanctuary of Lagiewniki, in Poland the intention was for the youth; at the sanctuary of Kawekamo, Bugando, Tanzania the intention was for the family; at the sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, the intention was for hope and peace among nations; at the sanctuary of Fatima, the intention was for the Church. At the conclusion, Benedict XVI, in a live link from the Vatican, gave the final prayer and imparted the apostolic blessing to all participating. The beatification Mass on 1 May, the first Sunday after Easter or Divine Mercy, an hour before the service started - there was an hour of preparation during which the faithful had prayed together the Devotion of Divine Mercy,



which was introduced by St. Mary Faustina Kowalska who was dear to Blessed John Paul II.

The preparation was concluded with an invocation to the Mercy of God in the world, with the hymn "Jezu ufam tobie" (Jesus, I trust in you). Directly following was Holy Mass, with the readings of the Sunday after Easter. At the end of the rite of beatification, the tapestry depicting the newly Blessed was unveiled, the Hymn of the Blessed was sung in Latin. At the end of the Mass, a reliquary of John Paul II was brought to the altar for the veneration of all the faithful.

The Mass of Thanksgiving (Monday 2 May, in St. Peter's Square at 10:30am) was presided over by Cardinal Secretary of State Tarcisio Bertone and was preceded by an hour of preparation during which the participants could hear some of John Paul II's poetry recited by two actors, one Polish and the other Italian. The Eucharistic celebration was enlivened by the Choir of the Diocese of Rome with the participation of the Choir of Warsaw and the Symphonic Orchestra of the Radio of Katowice, Poland. The texts were those from the Mass of the newly Blessed. Cardinal Dziwisz from Cracow thanked all Italians for the beautiful reception

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JP II enjoyed from the first day of his papacy. He also referred to the fact that John Paul II shed his blood on the square for the church. The Pope's blood, part of supply saved by Gemelli's Hospital in Rome, in case the pontiff needed a transfusion became a reliquary in the form of a silver olive branch holding

Benedict XVI declared John Paul II "blessed" meaning that he is now able to be publicly venerated. During the Mass, a tapestry of John based on 1989 photograph was unveiled in the center of the St. Peter's Bernini's facade. Pope Benedict praised John Paul II for having carried out the vision of the liberalizing Second Vatican Council. He also "thanked God for the gift of having worked for many years with Blessed Pope John Paul II. John Paul II was a papacy of milestones. In 1978, as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, he became the first non-Italian to become pope in four centuries. Under him, the church issued its first new catechism in nearly 500 years. In 2000, he asked pardon for the church's sins against Jews, women, heretics and minorities. He was also the first pope to visit Rome's synagogue and mosque. JP II survived an assassination attempt by a Turkish gunman who claimed "Bulgarian" connection. The four bullets missed by fraction of inch vital organs. JP II explained that fact that it was intervention of Madonna.



a small glass tube with JP II's blood. The weather was cooperating for all three days despite "sure" prognosis of rain sun and gentle wind prevailed to surprise of all. People on the square felt presence of JP II. An estimated 1.5 million people turned out for the celebration on Sunday and approximately 0.5 million on Monday.

"He was witness to the tragic age of big ideologies, totalitarian regimes, and from passing John Paul II embraced the harsh suffering, marked by tension and contradictions, of the transition of the modern age toward a new phase of history, showing constant concern that the human person be its protagonist," Benedict XVI said, speaking to the crowds gathered at St. Peter's and surrounding squares and following the mass on the large screens.



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know the rest is history. Andrew and Laura married after installation of JP II in Vatican and left with three Polish priests for Rome. Here they were received in Pope's library by a single person who entered the library "who was dressed in white" it was Karol himself.

They were blessed by JP II at this very private encounter with the future Saint. We met with Pope several times including our children, friends and family. Andrew received even a personal fax and letter from Pope. Already after his death I had a chance to examine his shoes. Pope had a big foot (#12). They were hand made in...Ecuador.

We will write the rest of our story separately but wanted to show you a picture of the Pope small bronze statue we created during his life that was a model for his largest in North America

After the Sunday Mass Benedict XVI walked into basilica to kiss John Paul's closed casket. He was followed by cardinals who did the same. The wooden casket will be placed in a side chapel next to Michelangelo's famous "Pieta".

The Vatican declared October 22, the day that John Paul was installed as pope in 1978, as a day for his public veneration. declared John Paul II "blessed" meaning that he is now able to be publicly venerated.

## Our story

The beatification story was a big event in our own lives so much connected with John Paul II. In an incredible coincidence Andrew left Poland in 1978 together with John Paul II who was going for the first Vatican conclave. However Andrew stayed in Italy with his fiancée Laura and Cardinal Wojtyła returned to his Archdiocese of Krakow after John Paul I (from Venice, Italy) was elected. Karol Wojtyła was then called for the second Conclave in October after the death of John Paul I. As we



statues (one in Toronto and one in Chicago) that he commented about that "you made me beautiful". The statue was carved by a

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young winner of international competition who was from Spain . Her name was Eva Riquelme. Eva was able to portray the dynamism of JPII combined with his incredible facial likeness. She had a chance together with Andrew to meet with Pope to get a better feel for his features and his personality.



Walking around St. Peters were noticing the variety of people who came for this occasion from literally all over the world. The Roman youth, serving as hosts and volunteers were extremely helpful and were by hundreds distributing water , fruits, juices, food to the pilgrims. The feeling on the streets was of incredible joy and excitement. People were smiling and very obediently following the directions of all kinds of Italian police, Carabinieri (Military Police) Vigili Urbani (City Police), Guardia di Finanza (Financial Police) Guardie Forestieri (Forest Police) , Secret Police, Polizia Stradale (Troopers) there must be some other kind of police I did not mention. The cleaning after the 1.5 million of people was very quick. Next day you could hardly notice the tons of waist left the previous day. We were told that after May 01 celebrations several thousands of buses left Rome. The traffic was indeed very intense and being Sunday the public transportation was very

limited and was deviated from the Vatican to other zones. The streets were like rivers full of pilgrims .

Vatican was doing everything possible to accommodate the crowds who wanted to see the casket with JPII at St. Peters. The Basilica was opened all night till early morning but it was not sufficient and Some of the Pilgrims were able to go to Basilica on Tuesday until 5:30 pm when it finally was closed. Disappointed pilgrims were told that the veneration of the casket will be allowed after the casket is put underneath of the altar but will be visible till Thursday when it will finally be covered with a marble tablet.



We caught some of the Tuesday Mass and after were rushing to the Fiumicino airport to take our flight to Frankfurt. In the airpor we met Americans from Chicago, New York, California ... together with other nations from all over the World. The presence of JPII was felt everywhere....

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As of this Tuesday May 3rd it is possible to venerate John Paul II in the San Sebastian Chapel of Vatican St. Peter's Basilica located next to the Chapel with Michelangelo's Pieta'. If only possible we highly recommend making a trip to see St. Peter's Basilica.

