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Times-News

Burlington, North Carolina

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117th year, No. 334

SUNDAY, April 3, 2005

\$1.00

POPE JOHN PAUL II: 1920-2005

Life of a pope

MAY 18, 1920:

Born Karol Josef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland.

1938: Enrolls at Jagellonian University, Krakow.

OCTOBER 1942: Begins clandestine studies for the priesthood in Krakow's underground seminary.

NOV. 1, 1946: Ordained a priest.

DEC. 16, 1948: Earns doctorate in sacred theology at Jagellonian University.

1954: Accepts tenured professorship at Catholic University of Lublin.

JULY 4, 1958: Appointed auxiliary bishop in Krakow.

OCT. 5, 1962: Leaves for Rome to participate in Second Vatican Council.

DEC. 30, 1962: Appointed metropolitan bishop of Krakow.

JAN. 13, 1964: Appointed archbishop of Krakow.

JUNE 28, 1967: Consecrated a cardinal.

OCT. 16, 1978: Elected pope, takes the name John Paul II.

OCT. 2, 1979: Addresses U.N. General Assembly in New York.

MAY 13, 1981: Mehmet Ali Agca severely wounds the pope in assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square.

JAN. 25, 1983: Adopts new Code of Canon Law.

DEC. 27, 1983: Visits Ali Agca in prison, forgives him.

APRIL 13, 1986: Visits Rome's main synagogue.

OCT. 5, 1991: Prays in St. Peter's Basilica with two Lutheran bishops, first such ecumenical service with a pope.

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Pope John Paul II leans on his pastoral staff during a visit to the San Mattia parish church in the outskirts of Rome in March of 1999. The Polish pontiff led the Roman Catholic Church for more than a quarter century and became history's most-traveled pope.

By Victor L. Simpson
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II set an example of how to live life, a dynamic preacher who traveled the world, battled communism and proclaimed his moral code opposing abortion, casual sex and consumerism. In his final days, crushed by sickness that slowed his vigorous gait and silenced his powerful voice, he tried to set an example of how to suffer and how to die.

As he hovered near death, his system failing, the pontiff who once skied and hiked mountains refused to go to the hospital, preferring to remain in his Vatican apartment with his closest aides at his bedside.

Pope John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the German prelate who is the chief guardian of church doctrine, said John Paul had been aware that he was "passing to the Lord."

John Paul had often warned against a modern world that preferred to ignore its elderly, seeing them as useless appendages of society. Many said his persistence to stay on his job — even travel — set a wonderful example for the sick and the ailing.

The Polish pontiff who led the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years and became history's most-traveled pope, died Saturday in his Vatican apartment. He was 84. "We all feel like orphans this evening," Undersecretary of State Archbishop Leonardo Sandri told the crowd of 70,000 that gathered in St. Peter's Square below the pope's still-lit apartment windows.

A Mass was scheduled for St. Peter's Square today. The pope's body was expected to be taken to St. Peter's Basilica no earlier than Monday afternoon, the Vatican said.

It said the College of Cardinals — the red-robed "princes"



Photos by The Associated Press
Pope John Paul II smiles from his papal throne, in May 1990.

of the Roman Catholic Church — would meet at Monday. They were expected to set a funeral date, which the Vatican said probably would be between Wednesday and Friday.

The statement did not give a precise cause of death.

Bells pealed in mourning after the Vatican said the pope died at 9:37 p.m. (2:37 p.m. EST). The assembled flock fell into a stunned silence before some people broke out in applause — an Italian tradition in which mourners often clap for important figures. Others wept.

John Paul's passing set in motion centuries of tradition that mark the death of the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics, whom he led into the faith's third millennium.

The Vatican chamberlain formally verified the death and destroyed the symbols of the pope's authority: his fisherman's ring and dies used to make lead seals for apostolic letters.

The Vatican did not say if the

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What's next for the Catholic Church?

By Nicole Winfield
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The death of Pope John Paul II triggered a carefully scripted ritual that will culminate in the election of a new leader for the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics.

Rome's church bells tolled in mourning. Vatican flags were

lowered to half staff. Heavy chains blocked the door of the papal palace to signify the interregnum has begun.

It was the start of a process outlined by John Paul in a 1996 document, "Universi Dominici Gregis" ("Of the Lord's Whole Flock"), which lays out procedures for Vatican officials in handling a pope's death and

sets the voting rules for selecting a successor.

In announcing John Paul's death Saturday night, the Vatican said the document's provisions "have been put in motion."

The papal chamberlain becomes the most important Vatican official during the period without a pontiff. He will de-

stroy the symbols of the pope's authority: the fisherman's ring and the dies used to make lead seals for apostolic letters.

He also seals off the pope's bedroom and study, takes charge of the Holy See's property and arranges the

Local masses honor pontiff

By Keren Rivas
Times-News

Since Thursday night, when the Vatican announced the health of Pope John Paul II was deteriorating with every passing hour, Catholics and Christians around the world united in prayer.

On Saturday, they united again, this time to mourn his death.

At 9:37 p.m. Rome

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Special services

■ Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church will dedicate special prayers in memory of Pope John Paul II during all masses today: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. — English; 12:30 — Spanish.

■ A special Mass will be held the day of his burial in Rome. For more information call the church's office at 226-8796.



Julie Basile / Times-News

A family prays together Saturday afternoon at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church shortly after Pope John Paul II died.



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