

THE HERALD OF THE COUNCIL

This is an excerpt from the Address of Pope Francis to the pilgrims of Bergamo given at the Vatican on June 3, 2013 marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Blessed John Paul XXIII.

Exactly 50 years ago, at this very time, Blessed John XXIII departed this world. Those who, like myself, have reached a certain age have vivid memories of the emotion that spread everywhere in those days... The whole world had recognized Pope John as a pastor and father; a pastor because he was a father. What had made him one? How had he been able to reach the heart of people so different from each other and even many non-Christians? To answer this question we may refer to his episcopal motto, *Oboedientia et Pax*: obedience and peace. "These words", Monsignor Roncalli noted on the eve of his episcopal ordination, "in a certain way sum up my story and my life."

Angelo Roncalli was a man who could communicate peace; natural, serene and cordial peace; a peace which, with his election to the Pontificate, was manifested to the whole world and was described as "goodness".

It is so beautiful to find a priest, a good priest, filled with goodness. And this reminds me of something that St Ignatius of Loyola said to the Jesuits when he was talking about the qualities a superior should have. And he said: he must have this and that... a long list of qualities. Lastly, however, he says this: "and if he does not possess these virtues, he must at least have great goodness." It is the essential. He is a father. A priest with goodness.

This was undoubtedly a distinctive trait of his personality which enabled him to make firm friendships everywhere, as was particularly evident in his ministry as Papal Representative. He served in this capacity for almost three decades, frequently in touch with environments and worlds far removed from the Catholic universe in which he had been born and raised. In those very milieus he proved an effective weaver of relationships and a solid champion of unity, both in the ecclesiastical community and outside it. Moreover he was open to dialogue with the Christians of other Churches, with

representatives of the Jewish and Muslim worlds and with many other people of good will.

Indeed Pope John conveyed peace because his mind was profoundly at peace: he had let the Holy Spirit create peace within him. And this mind filled with peace was the result of long and challenging work on himself, abundant traces of which have been left in the *Journal of a Soul*. In it we can see Roncalli — the seminarian, the priest, the bishop — coming to grips with the gradual process of purification of the heart. We see him, day by day, taking pains to recognize and mortify the desires that stemmed from his own selfishness and to discern the inspirations of the Lord, letting himself be guided by wise spiritual directors and be inspired by teachers such as St. Francis de Sales and St. Charles Borromeo. In reading these writings we truly see a soul being formed under the action of the Holy Spirit who works in his Church, in souls: it was the Spirit himself who, with these good inclinations, brought peace to Roncalli's soul.

Here we come to the second and crucial word: "obedience." Although peacefulness was his external feature, Roncalli's inner disposition consisted of obedience. Obedience, in fact, was his means for attaining peace. First of all it had a very simple and practical meaning: carrying out in the Church the service that his superiors asked of him, seeking nothing for himself, not shrinking from anything requested of him, even when it meant leaving his homeland to face worlds unknown to him and staying long years in places where Catholics were few and far between. It was his willingness to be led like a child that forged his career as a priest, with which you are well acquainted; secretary to Bishop Radini Tedeschi and at the same time teacher and spiritual director at the diocesan seminary; Papal Representative in Bulgaria, in Turkey and Greece, and in France; Pastor of the Venetian Church, and, finally, Bishop of Rome. Yet through this obedience, Roncalli — as a priest and as a bishop —



also lived a deeper faithfulness, which we could describe, as he might have said, as abandonment to Divine Providence. He constantly recognized in faith that through living in this way, seemingly led by others and not by his own preferences or on the basis of his own spiritual sensibility, God was designing a project of his own. He was a man of governance, he was a leader. But he was a leader led by the Holy Spirit, out of obedience...

This is a lesson for each one of us, but also for the Church of our time: if we let ourselves be led by the Holy Spirit, if we are able to mortify our selfishness to make room for the Lord's love and for his will, we will find peace, we will be builders of peace and will spread peace around us. Fifty years after his death the wise and fatherly guidance of Pope John, his love for the Church's Tradition and his awareness of the constant need for renewal, his prophetic intuition of the convocation of the Second Vatican Council and his offering of his life for its success stand as milestones in the history of the Church in the 20th century; and as a bright beacon for the journey that lies ahead.

THE SERVANT OF THE COUNCIL

This is an excerpt from the Homily of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone at the Mass of Thanksgiving for the Beatification of John Paul II at St. Peter's Square on May 2, 2011.

“Simon, son of John, do you love me?... “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” (Jn 21:17). The dialogue between the Risen One and Peter is the dialogue that precedes the mandate: “Feed my sheep.” but it is also a dialogue that first scrutinizes the whole of man’s life. Might not these be the question and answer that marked the life and mission of Bl. John Paul II? He himself said so in Krakow in 1999:

Today I feel called in a particular way to give thanks for this 1,000-year old community of Christ’s pastors, clerics and lay people, because their witness to holiness thanks to the environment of faith which they formed and continued to form for 10 centuries in Krakow, have made it possible at the end of this millennium, on the very banks of the Vistola River at the foot of the Wawel Cathedral for Christ’s exhortation: “Peter, feed my lambs” (Jn 21:15) to be heard. It became possible for one man’s weakness to find support in the power of the perennial faith, hope and charity of this land, and to give the response: “In the obedience of faith before Christ my Lord, entrusting myself to the Mother of Christ and of the Church, conscious of the great difficulty, I accept.”

Yes, it was this dialogue of love between Christ and man that marked Karol Wojtyła’s entire life and led him not only to faithful service to the Church but also to the unreserved personal dedication to God and to men and women which characterized his journey of holiness.

I think we all remember that on the day of the funeral, during the celebration, at a certain moment the wind gently closed the pages of the Gospel Book that lay open on his coffin. It was as if the breath of the Spirit had wished to mark the end of Karol Wojtyła’s human and spiritual adventure, illumined throughout by Christ’s Gospel. In this Book, he discovered God’s plan for humanity and for himself but it was from it in particular that

Karol learned Christ, his face and his love, which for him were always a call to responsibility...

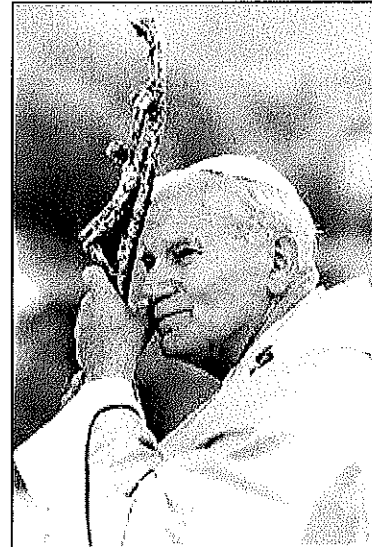
He was a man of faith, a man of God, a man who lived of God. His life was a ceaseless, constant prayer, a prayer that lovingly embraced every individual inhabitant of our planet, created in the image and likeness of God and for this reason deserving of respect; redeemed by Christ’s death and Resurrection, and for this reason truly the living glory of God (*Gloria Dei vivens homo* [the glory of God is a living man] — St. Irenaeus).

Today let us thank the Lord for having given us a Pastor like him. A Pastor who could read the signs of God’s presence in human history and who subsequently proclaimed his great works in all the world, in all the languages. A Pastor who had rooted within him a sense of mission, of the commitment to evangelize, to proclaim God’s word everywhere, to shout it from the rooftops...

Today let us give thanks to the Lord for a witness like him, so credible, so transparent, who taught us how we should experience faith and defend the Christian values, starting with life, without complexes or fear; and how we should witness to faith courageously and consistently, living the Beatitudes in our daily experience.

Let us thank the Lord for giving us a Pope who was not only able to give the Catholic Church a universal outreach and a moral authority at an unprecedented global level, but also, especially with the celebration of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, a vision that was more spiritual, more biblical, and more focused on the word of God. A Church which knew how to renew herself, how to structure a “new evangelization,” how to intensify ecumenical and interreligious relations and rediscover ways to fruitful dialogue with the new generations.

Lastly, let us thank the Lord for giving us a man as Holy as him. We were all able to perceive — some from close at hand,



others from afar — how consistent his humanity, his words and his life were. He was a true man because he was inseparably bound to the One who is Truth. In following the One who is the Way, he was a man constantly on the move, ever striving for the greatest good of every person, of the Church and of the world, and for the destination which for every believer is the glory of the Father. He was truly alive for he was a man full of the Life, which is Christ, ever open to his grace and to all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

CANONIZATIONS

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
OR OF DIVINE MERCY

APRIL 27, 2014

PREPARED BY THE
OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
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