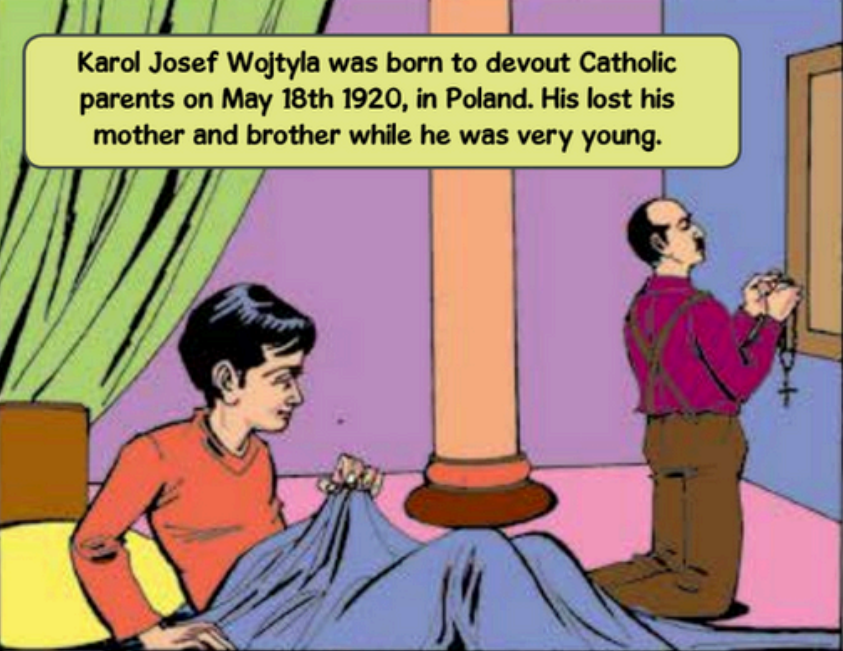


Pope St. John Paul II

Feast: 22nd October

Karol Josef Wojtyla was born to devout Catholic parents on May 18th 1920, in Poland. His lost his mother and brother while he was very young.



He regularly assisted his parish priest. Once when the Archbishop visited.


Who is this child? I see a good priest in him.

His heart is set on the theatre.

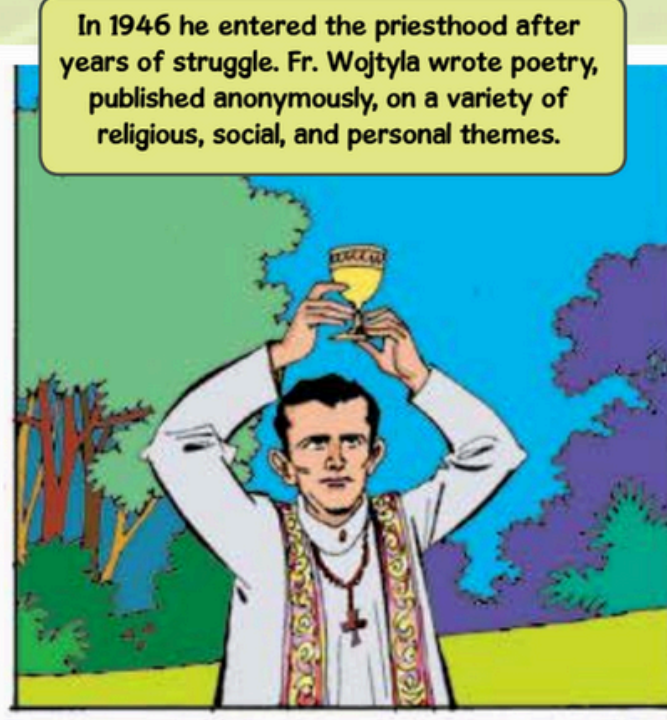


He was hard working and self-disciplined, excellent in his studies and loved playing football.

As a young man, Karol had to work long hours in the quarry as a stone-cutter. He returned one night to find his father dead.





In 1946 he entered the priesthood after years of struggle. Fr. Wojtyla wrote poetry, published anonymously, on a variety of religious, social, and personal themes.

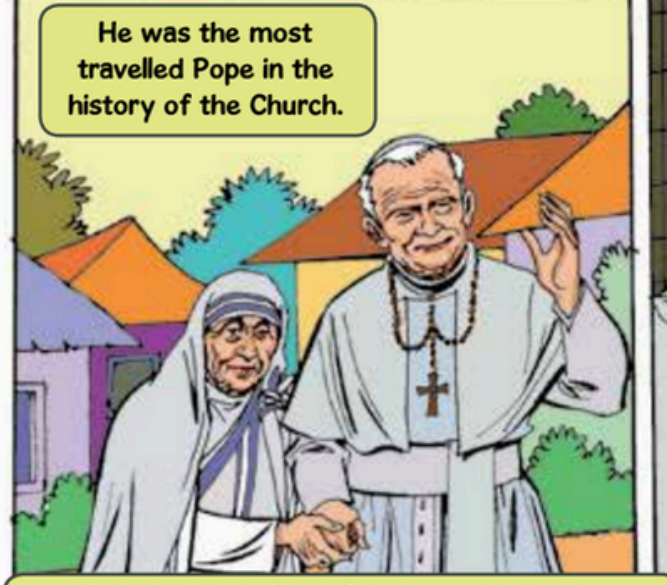


On October 16, 1978, he became the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

Be not afraid! Open up the wide gates to Christ.

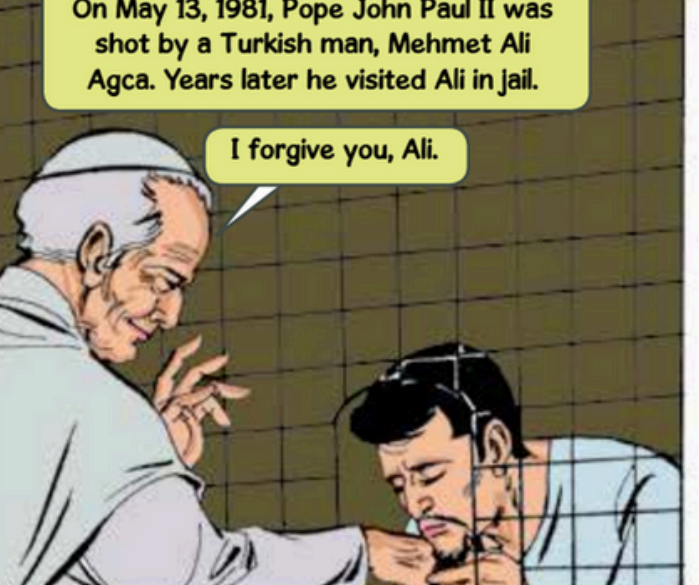


He was the most travelled Pope in the history of the Church.



On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot by a Turkish man, Mehmet Ali Agca. Years later he visited Ali in jail.

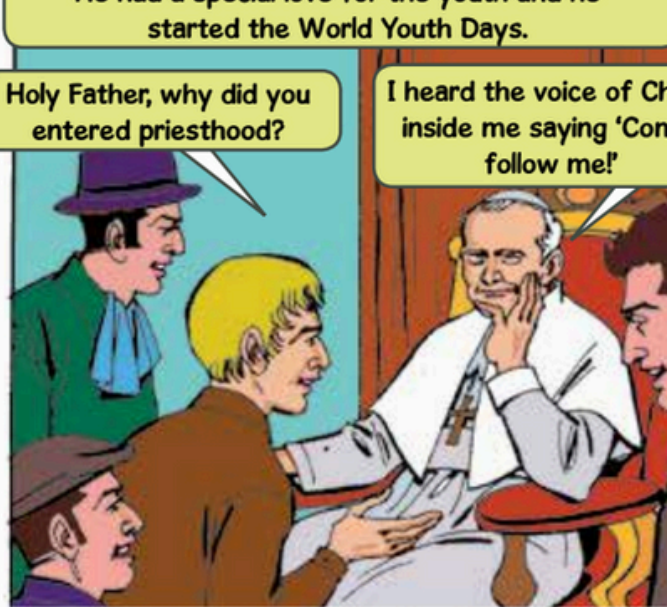
I forgive you, Ali.



He had a special love for the youth and he started the World Youth Days.

Holy Father, why did you entered priesthood?

I heard the voice of Christ inside me saying 'Come, follow me!'



Pope John Paul II is known as the Great Mercy Pope. He established the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Be apostles of Divine Mercy under the maternal and loving guidance of Mary.

