



Archdiocese of San Antonio

April 1, 2005

Pope John Paul II's life spanned the biggest tragedies and greatest accomplishments of the modern world. He lived through the destruction of his nation, Nazi and Soviet mass murder, global nuclear stalemate-and yet he still could lead millions across the world to see in the human person the image of God's beauty and love. As a pastor he renewed the Church by turning the ideas of Vatican II into living realities. As a thinker, his writings on the dignity of human labor, the sanctity of human life, the meaning of real human freedom and role of faith and reason will shape the way Christians interact with the world for generations. His faith in Jesus Christ marked an entire age.

For his entire pontificate, Pope John Paul II lived the Gospel of Christ faithfully and witnessed it to the entire world. In his life we could see his deep love and devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary.

During his pontificate, Pope John Paul II went through the world without fear. He confronted an assassination attempt and death threats with the confidence of one who knows that he is in the hands of God and our Blessed Mother.

Throughout his recent illness, Pope John Paul II continued to show the world his great courage and faith. His light will remain a source of life and inspiration to us all.

May our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother Mary, to whom Pope John Paul II's deep devotion was known, help us to gain spiritually from the gift of his life. He will be profoundly missed.

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez