

What's the Latest?

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Archbishop Selects New Name for Parish

St. John Paul II

Archbishop Joseph Tobin has selected St. John Paul II as the name for our new parish. Our founding date will be November 30, 2014, the first Sunday of Advent.

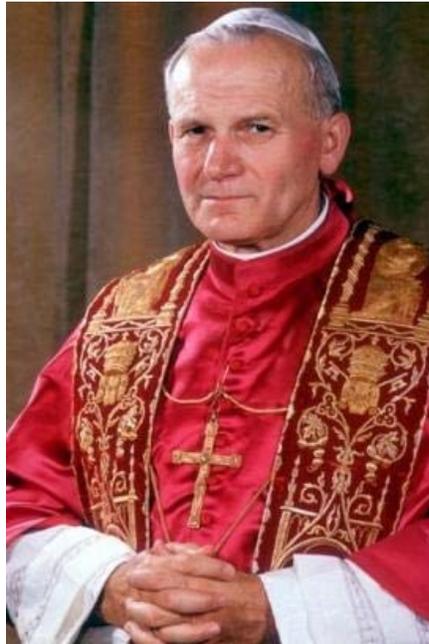
"I'm excited about the name," Fr. Tom said. "I remember when St. John Paul II was elected pope. I was a freshmen at St. Meinrad College and to have the first non-Italian pope in 4 centuries told me that something special was happening in our Church."

St. John Paul II along with St. John XXIII are among the newest saints in our Church having been canonized together on April 27, 2014, by Pope Francis.

Born Karol Joseph Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland, young Karol distinguished himself as both a scholar and an athlete.

In 1939, while Wojtyla was a freshman at university, the Nazis invaded Poland requiring that all able-bodied men go to work. Wojtyla had various jobs including a messenger for a restaurant, a laborer in a quarry, and also working for a time in a chemistry lab.

His father died two years later and his death prompted the 21 year-old Wojtyla to consider a vocation to the priesthood for the first time. Seminaries, however, were not allowed to exist in oc-



cupied Poland and so he studied in an underground seminary started by then Archbishop Adam Stefan Cardinal Sapieha. He continued his studies in the underground seminary until the Nazis fled Poland in 1945. At that time the seminarians returned to the ruins of the major seminary.

On All Saints Day in 1946, Wojtyla was ordained a priest by Cardinal Sapieha and was immediately sent to graduate studies in Rome and earned his doctorate in 1948.

Fr. Wojtyla returned to Poland that year and began various pastoral assignments including parish priest and university professor. He continued these various assignments until 1958 when he was named auxiliary bishop of Krakow. At age 38, Bishop Wojtyla became the youngest bishop in Poland.

In 1962, Bishop Wojtyla participated in the Second Vatican Council and was influential in the drafting of two council documents: the *Decree on Religious Freedom* and the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*.

Pope Paul VI, in 1964, appointed Wojtyla as the Archbishop of Krakow and named him a cardinal in 1967. One of the gifts that Cardinal

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St. John Paul II

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Wojtyla possessed was a gift for languages. It is generally known that he spoke 12 languages, nine of which he used throughout his many trips as Pope John Paul II.

In August 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla participated in the papal election that elected Cardinal Albino Luciani who took the name Pope John Paul (later to become Pope John Paul I). Pope John Paul I reigned as pope for only 33 days before his death on September 28, 1978.

When the College of Cardinals gathered together in October to select the new Successor to St. Peter, Cardinal Wojtyla was elected on the 8th ballot. He chose the name Pope John Paul II in honor of his immediate predecessor. With his election, Pope John Paul II became the 264th pope.

Immediately after his election, he broke with tradition by addressing the crowd gathered outside of St. Peter's. *"Dear brothers and sisters, we are saddened at the death of our beloved Pope John Paul I, and so the cardinals have called for a new bishop of Rome. They called him from a faraway land — far and yet always close because of our communion in faith and Christian traditions. I was afraid to accept that responsibility, yet I do so in a*



Cardinal Wojtyla greets his predecessor, Pope John Paul I

spirit of obedience to the Lord and total faithfulness to Mary, our most Holy Mother. I am speaking to you in your — no, our Italian language. If I make a mistake, please correct me."

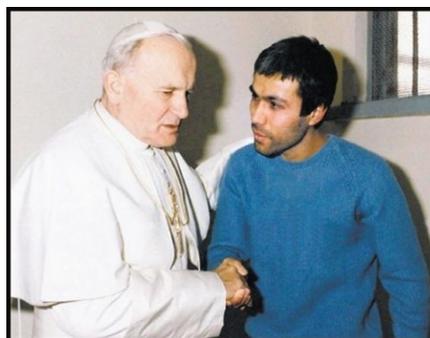
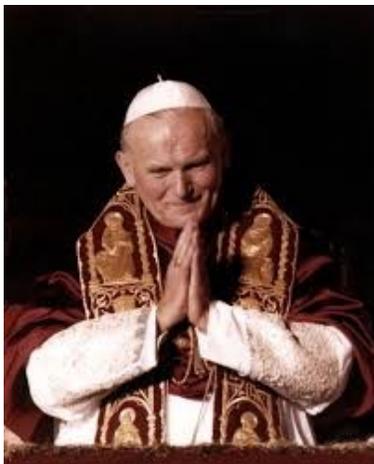
Pope John Paul II is the most travelled of all the popes, visiting 129 foreign countries. In May of 1981 he survived a would be assassin's bullet and later went to the prison to forgive the offender.

Pope John Paul II spoke out frequently against communism and many believe that he was instrumental in its decline throughout Europe.

Once a very active man, Pope John Paul II's health began to decline in the first years of the new millennium. In 2001, the Vatican revealed that Pope John Paul II had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. For many he was a model of faithfulness through suffering.

Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005. He was declared a saint less than ten years later.

As a parish, we should be honored to have as our patron a man of great faith, humility and courage. St. John Paul II, pray for us!



Left to Right: On his election day. Offering forgiveness to Mahmet Ali Agca, the would be assassin. In his final years with Parkinson's.



Founding Day Activities Planned

The Long Range Planning Team has begun making plans for our Founding Day Celebration. Once again, our founding day for the new parish is November 30, 2014. At that time, we will officially be St. John Paul II Catholic Church.

We will celebrate that day with a special Mass at 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Knobs Church. "We wanted to go some place neutral," said Fr. Tom, "And St. Mary's seemed like a good choice. It's close by and big enough to gather most of our parish into one Mass."

The Founding Day Mass will be the only Mass on that Sunday for our parish community. Bishop

Christopher Coyne will preside and preach. We will have both Saturday evening Anticipation Masses but we will have no other Masses on that Sunday.

Following the Mass we will have a small social followed by a parish-wide dinner and entertainment into the evening.

"I realize that we are up against the tail end of Thanksgiving weekend, but I hope people will make an extra effort to attend," Fr. Tom said. More information about the events of the day will be coming in the bulletin and during the announcements at Mass.

Archdiocese Gives Permission for Feasibility Study

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has granted permission to our parishes to begin a feasibility study. This study will take a close look at what the space needs will be for the new parish. It will examine all aspects of the parish operations: church, school, day-care, meeting space, athletic facilities, cemetery, etc. It will give estimates of the cost of construction/renovation at each of our current locations as well as at a neutral location. As promised throughout all of the meetings we have had, we will look at all options in all locations.

This study will be done by an independent architecture firm that will be selected by the Building Planning Team, a sub-committee of the Long Range Planning Team. It was approved by both parishes' parish councils.

Four firms will be presented with the information needed to do the study. At this time we do not have a timeline for when the study will be complete. It is the hope of the Long Range Planning Team that once the study is complete, we will then be able to look at what our next steps will be and when we will take them.

The original plan called for us to wait until the Archdiocesan planning process, "Connected In The Spirit," was complete before we began a study of what we would want to do. However, the archdiocese has put that process on hold for at least a year in our deanery and we felt it was best to move forward now rather than wait. The archdiocese agreed and thus we were given permission for the feasibility study.

Decrees Available at Parish Offices

Archbishop Tobin has published the official decrees that have established St. John Paul II Parish and closed the entities of St. Paul Parish and St. Joseph Hill Parish. These decrees are available at both parish offices for any parishioner who

would like to read them.

If you are interested in reading them you are welcome to stop by either parish office during normal business hours (9 a.m.— 5 p.m. at St. Joe Hill and 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at St. Paul).

Frequently Asked Questions

By Fr. Tom Clegg

A Note from Fr. Tom: In each issue of "What's the Latest," I will write a column called "Frequently Asked Questions." These will be questions I have heard. I believe the question one person asks is often shared by others.

Now that we will become one parish officially on November 30, 2014, what are the next steps in the process?

There are two next steps that we are working on at this time. The first is to plan the celebration of our Founding Day which is November 30, 2014. The plans now are to have a single Mass that day at 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Knobs Church in Floyd Knobs. The Mass will be followed by a parish celebration dinner and other activities. (See page 3)

The other "next step" is the feasibility study. (See page 3). This study will look at our space needs and how we can best meet those needs.

Once the study is complete we will then look at how to best utilize that information to determine what our next steps are at that time.

As I have said from the beginning, I see this being a process that will take years to complete. My best guess is that construction/renovation will be done in phases but that will ultimately be determined by what the feasibility study says.

Why is this taking so long? Why aren't we moving forward?

I find it interesting when someone says something like this because others might ask just the opposite question. Why don't we slow things down? In any case we need to remember that we are making major decisions that will affect the life of this community for years to come. We want to make sure that we make these decisions with the best information available. Gathering that information takes time. We are moving right now! Organizations have merged together (parish councils, finance councils, liturgy committees just to name a few). All I can promise is that we will move when the Long Range Planning Team, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the Pastoral Team in consultation with the parish at large, all feel like we are ready to move to the next step.

It has been mentioned several times that we plan to keep St. Joe Hill Church open even if we build a new Church or renovate St. Paul's for the new parish. Has anyone looked into the cost of maintaining two church structures?

This is one of the things that will be looked at with the feasibility study. Throughout this process there will be times when we be operating buildings on at least

two campuses and maybe three. We will always do so with fiscal responsibility as both parishes have done throughout their existence.

When will we start building and/or renovating our buildings?

Once again, that's a really difficult question to answer because there are so many unknown variables right now. Once we have the information from the architect we choose to do the feasibility study, we will present that information to the parish (probably in a parish assembly). We will gather your input at that time as to what you think is the best way to proceed.

After that, it will take us several years to raise the money to do whatever needs to be done no matter what location we choose. All in all, I see this as a long-term process taking many years (5-10 or more) for its completion.

What can we do to help now?

Pray! Keep an open mind. Don't gossip. Ask questions. Be positive. And did I mention, pray?

If you have a question you would like answered here, please send it to Fr. Tom Clegg. You can mail it to either parish office or drop it in the collection basket to Fr. Tom's attention. You can also email them to him at t.clegg@twc.com. He would ask that you sign the question. He will not publish the names in the article, but it will be helpful to him so that he can address you personally if needed.

**St. Joe Hill Parish
2605 St. Joe Road West
Sellersburg, IN 47172**

**St. Paul Parish
216 Schellers Ave.
Sellersburg, IN 47172**

Food for Thought:

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not your woe, so as to give you a future full of hope.
Jeremiah 29:11