

Pope John Paul II: Donated “in honor of our loving family” by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Teaberry, Sr., our window depicts a man most of us remember. Born Karol Józef Wojtyła in Wadowice, Poland on May 18, 1920, Karol endured tragedy at a young age: when he was nine, his mother died, when he was twelve his brother Edmund died, and when he was twenty-one, his father died; a sister had died before his birth. As a young man, Karol saw his country invaded and devastated by the Nazis, who closed Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where Karol was studying drama. During the war, Karol had to work in a quarry and a chemical factory. Secretly he began studying for the priesthood while World War II still raged, and he also helped to found the Rhapsodic Theatre, another secret venture. Ordained in 1946, he completed a doctorate in theology in 1948. He worked as a parish pastor and university chaplain and was consecrated a bishop at Wawel Cathedral in Krakow in 1958. He took an active part in Vatican Council II, was appointed archbishop of Krakow in 1964, made a cardinal in 1967, and elected the 264th pope in 1978, taking the name of John Paul II. During his long pontificate (1978-2005), he traveled to many countries and throughout Italy, met with leaders of nations, and established World Youth Days around the world. John Paul II was instrumental in bringing about the fall of communism in Europe. He promoted the beatification and canonization of many holy men and women, wrote a great deal, and promoted the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* as well as revisions of the eastern and western Codes of Canon Law. When John Paul II died on April 2, 2005 he was mourned throughout the world. A charismatic figure, a theologian, a poet, and even a dramatist, John Paul II made his mark on the twentieth century and took the Church into the Third Millennium. He was canonized on April 27, 2014, by Pope Francis.

