



# Lessons *for* Living

FROM POPE JOHN PAUL II

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A JESUIT MINISTRY



## The Gift of Peace

Become friends to those who have no friends.  
Become family to those who have no family.  
Become community to those who have no community. If we want peace, we must reach out to the poor. May the rich and poor of the world recognize that we are all brothers and sisters. May we all share what we have with one another as children of the one God, who loves everyone and who offers to everyone the gift of peace.

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## Faith Is Demanding

How can we profess faith in God's Word, and then refuse to let it inspire and direct our thinking, our activity, our decisions, and our responsibilities toward one another? Faith is always demanding because faith leads us beyond ourselves. Faith imparts a vision of life's purpose and stimulates us to action.

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## The Center

Prayer is not one occupation among many, but is at the center of our life in Christ. It turns our attention away from ourselves and directs it to the Lord. Prayer fills the mind with truth and gives hope to the heart.

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## Life Is A Talent

Life is a talent entrusted to us so that we can transform it and increase it, making it a gift to others. No person is an iceberg drifting on the ocean of history. Each one of us belongs to a great family, in which we can have our own place and our own role to play.

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## The True Face of Jesus Christ

Jesus says to us: "I am sending you to your families, to your parishes, to your movements and associations, to your countries, to ancient cultures and modern civilization, so that you will proclaim the dignity of every human being, as revealed by me, the Son of Man." If you defend the inalienable dignity of every human being, you will be revealing to the world the true face of Jesus Christ, who is one with every man, every woman, and every child, no matter how poor, no matter how weak or handicapped.

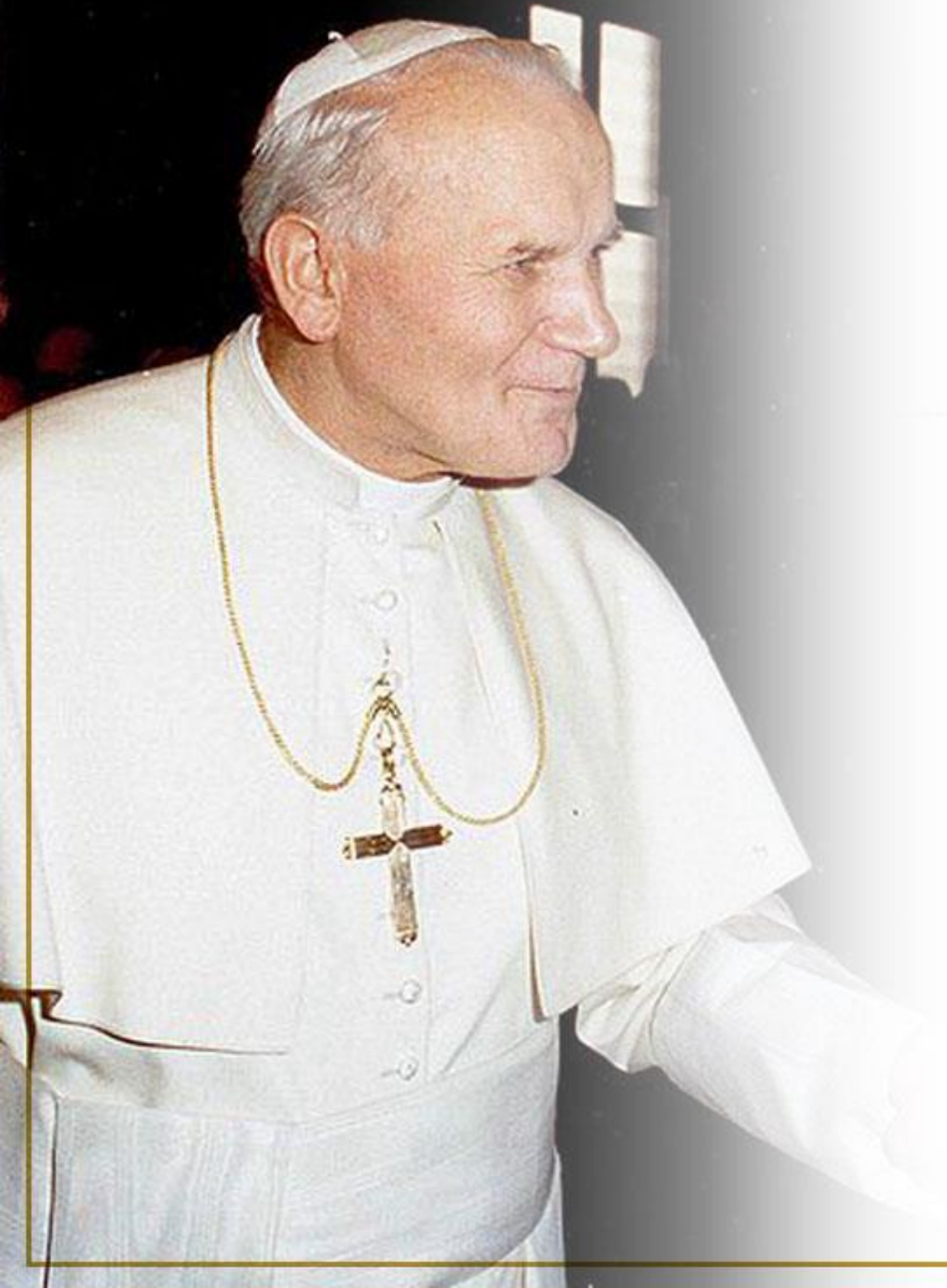
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## Humanity's Future

Humanity's future depends on people who rely on the truth and whose lives are enlightened by lofty moral principles that enable their hearts to love to the point of sacrifice.

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## God Comes to Us

God comes to us in the things we know best and can verify most easily, the things of our everyday life.

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## Active Faith

Let our faith be active, let it manifest itself and take on concrete shape in laborious and generous charity toward our brothers and sisters who live crushed in sorrow and in need; let it be manifested in our serene adherence to the teaching of the truth; let it be expressed in our availability for all those tasks that we are called upon to participate in the building up of the Kingdom of God.

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## Doing What God Wants

It is not a question of simply *knowing* what God wants from each of us in the various situations of life. The individual must *do* what God wants.

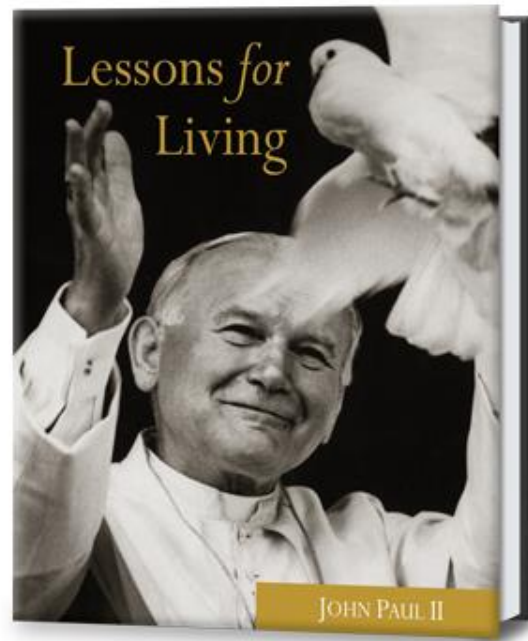
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## Every Area of Our Lives

There cannot be two parallel lives in the existence of the faithful: on the one hand, our so-called spiritual life, with its values and demands; and on the other, our so-called secular life, that is, life in a family, at work, in social relationships, in the responsibilities of public life, and in culture. Every area of our lives, as different as they are, enters into the plan of God, who desires that these very areas be the places where the love of Christ is revealed and realized for both the glory of the Father and service of others.

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For more quotes from John Paul II,  
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