



April 2, 2005 - Statement of the Archdiocese of Boston Regarding Pope John Paul II

(Boston, MA) April 2, 2005...The Archdiocese of Boston released the following statement made by Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley in response to the passing of Pope John Paul II:

"Together with all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston, I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father's final years have borne witness to the dignity of life, especially in how the Pope modeled strength in the midst of suffering.

With gratitude I recall the Pope's pastoral care for the Church of Boston, from his Papal visit in 1979 through to the present day. Pope John Paul II was not only the Vicar of Christ on earth but also a world leader who changed the course of modern history. In the Pope's dedicated mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ he exhibited great love for youth and the poor, and was untiring in promoting social justice, the family, and the Gospel of Life. Our lives and our world are forever changed for the better because of the Holy Father's vision and his passionate commitment to the truth and human dignity.

In the Holy Year of 2000, the Holy Father called for all to "Open Wide the Doors to Christ", to follow Christ not out of obligation but out of love. Pope John Paul II's life mirrored this call as each day he opened himself to being an instrument of unapologetic truth on moral and ethical issues facing our culture. I pray that the Lord will grant grace upon grace to His faithful servant and will welcome him into the eternal light and peace of God's heavenly kingdom.

Devotedly yours in Christ,
Archbishop Sean P. O'Malley

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