

Chapter 1 : When the Man Who Played Jesus in "The Passion of the Christ" Met John Paul II

But what about "The Passion of Joan Paul II" (again, by J. J., not Caryl, Phillips)? Well, this one is a novella-length satire a clef on the politics and theology of the Vatican in recent times. It's hilarious, especially if you can recognize the real-life prototypes and situations that underlie the characters and action here.

His hometown had about 10, residents, roughly 8, Catholics and 2, Jews. He was given a nickname by his friends, "Lolek. Karol was the son of a Polish Army Lieutenant also named Karol, a tailor by trade. He had an older brother named Edmund and sister named Olga. His brother became a Doctor in the town of Bielsko. Sadly, his sister died before Karol was born. They rejected the growing anti-Semitism among some Poles in that troubled time. He later recalled playing soccer with Karol. The teams were divided between Catholics and Jews. However, given the disparity in numbers, he recounts that young Karol would volunteer to play on the Jewish team in order to make the game more competitive and even out the odds. This friendship lasted for a lifetime. A special love for the Jewish people took root in young Karol. It was demonstrated dramatically during his Papacy when he visited the Central Synagogue of Rome and condemned anti-Semitism "at any time and by anyone. He was fond of regularly referring to the Jewish people as "our elder brothers" and taught the whole Church to do the same. She died of heart and kidney problems. When he was only 12 years old his brother the Doctor died of scarlet fever. A childhood friend named Szczepan Mogielnicki told one news source that "he lost his childhood at 12, when he lost his brother There was no youthful folly in him. Even when he played sports, he was very concentrated, but of course, he had a lot of passion. He was a very noble person, and he expressed things in a very noble way, but there was no folly. The Father and the Son The elder Karol sewed his sons clothing and watched over his studies. He taught him to be self disciplined and to work hard. He was deeply devoted to raising the son he loved. Another friend recalls entering the small apartment and finding father and son playing soccer with a ball made of rags. Karol credited his Catholic faith to the influence of his beloved father. The Church was a vital part of their life as a family. He made his First Holy Communion at age 9, they practiced their Catholic faith in the home and Karol was confirmed at His lifelong love for the theater and all of the arts was born. He began writing poetry. He performed in his first student theatrical productions. He began the study of Greek, was elected president of the Sodality of Mary, and made his first pilgrimage to Czestochowa, home of the Image of Our Lady of Czestochowa. According to his friend Fr. Karol had been chosen to give the welcoming speech - and he did so with great skill. The Archbishop asked the pastor of the parish whether young Karol had considered the priesthood. He was told that Karol had his heart set on pursuing an acting career in the theatre. Maybe some of you would like to ask the same question. Let me try briefly to reply. I must begin by saying that it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what he had said to thousands before me: Christ was calling me to serve him as a priest. And you can probably tell that I am deeply grateful to God for my vocation to the priesthood. That has been true ever since the day of my ordination as a priest. Nothing has ever changed this, not even becoming Pope. He also joined "Studio 38" an "experimental" theatre group where he continued acting. Events in Poland intervened in his life and interrupted his formal studies. However, nothing would interrupt his continued pursuit of learning. They quickly overtook the ill prepared Polish army. The Nazi Aggressors Among the many immediate acts of aggression undertaken by the Nazis was to close the University. Young Karol took a job in as a stone-cutter at a quarry in Zakrzowek, near Krakow. He later worked in the Solvay chemical factory to earn a living and avoid being deported to Germany. Stanislaus Kostka parish in the s. During the Nazi occupation, priests were at a minimum. During his later participation in the Second Vatican Council and throughout his pontificate, he would be a champion of the universal call to holiness and the vital apostolate of the lay faithful. This tailor Jan Tryanowski was a mystic, a man of deep prayer, who studied the writings of St John of the Cross and spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila with great intensity. Initially, young Karol was not all that impressed with Tryanowski. Tryanowski became a mentor to Karol. His influence helped to set the future Pope on a path which not only changed him but would change the

whole world through him. Jan Tryanowski taught Karol about union with God and the call to abandon all to follow Jesus. Now we call that tailor, the Servant of God Jan Tryanowski and his own cause for canonization is underway. Then, among his other youth outreaches, Tryanowski had formed a "Living Rosary" group. From that group many priestly and religious vocations emerged, including that of the young Karol Wojtyla. He disclosed to me the riches of his inner life, of his mystical life. In his words, in his spirituality and in the example of a life given to God alone, he represented a new world that I did not yet know. I saw the beauty of a soul opened up by grace. Aware of his call to the priesthood, Karol Wojtyla made the choice to begin courses in the underground seminary of Krakow. However, Karol continued his acting, writing, and poetry. He became one of the pioneers of the "Rhapsodic Theatre". It, like seminary formation, was also forced underground by the Nazi occupation. This connection between the beauty of the Arts and the Christian vocation became a continuing theme of Karol Wojtyla. He also enrolled once again at Jagiellonian University to study theology. He was ordained to the diaconate and then to the priesthood by Archbishop Sapieha in Krakow on November 1, His intelligence and aptitude for further study became clear to the Archbishop, by then elevated to Cardinal. Karol, Graduate Student Fr. Karol Wojtyla first entered into graduate studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas Angelicum in Rome. His intelligence was one of the many gifts, both natural and spiritual, which he offered to the Lord. While a student, he roomed with Fr. Starowieyski, another Polish priest at the Pontifical Belgian College, with whom he became friends. That summer the two traveled to France, Belgium and Holland. In the area of Charleroi he carried out his pastoral activities with the Polish workers. Then, under the oversight of Fr. The influence of Jan Tryanowski was still bearing fruit in the life and thought of Fr. John of the Cross. He was called to Krakow to be an assistant pastor at St. For two years he worked on this further academic position successfully completed his examinations. He also had to write and defend another thesis in order to qualify for a university professorship. This he diligently pursued for the next two years. His philosophical interests lay in the area of phenomenology and he focused on a philosopher named Max Scheler. He began to see the limitations of the approach. As a result, the seeds were planted in Fr Karol the scholar, student and professor to begin what would later become his own contribution to the field of philosophical ethics and the renewal of Catholic Moral theology. He began his teaching experiences by offering a class on social ethics to fourth year theology students in the seminary. Karol Becomes a Professor As time passed, Jagellonian University merged its theology program with the archdiocesan seminary. In effect, the entire faculty of the theology school was eliminated. Karol Wojtyla accepted what was originally a non-tenured professorship at the Catholic University of Lublin. In he was appointed to a Chair in Ethics and the next year he was approved as a full lecturer. For the next twenty years he taught and developed his thought in the field of Ethics and moral Theology.

Chapter 2 : Rosarium Virginis Mariae - Wikipedia

The Passion of Joan Paul II: Title Prefix - Translated From - Translation Of - Uri Descriptions - Uris - Url - Weight - Work Title - Work Titles - Additional Info.

My memories of two memorable Popes, both of whom are now Saints! I remember it as well as the second I am typing this column! In September , after two years of working at the Rome bureau of the New York Times when it really was a paper of note, in my judgment I was working at their bureau in Cairo. I had been called there by bureau chief Christopher Wren to work as an assistant on what we thought would be the peace talks between Israel and Egypt. Those talks were moved to Camp David and, while that deprived Chris and me from what would have been a heady professional experience of covering a history-making event, I had more time and a better chance to explore a country for which I had had a passion since childhood. Forty years ago we did not have satellite TV, the phones in Egypt did not work, there were no fax machines or computers or Internet or cell phones. The only TV we had I lived with Chris and his wife Jacqueline and their two children at the time was a small black-and-white set with local shows in Arabic. Our access to news was short wave radio. As I re-read these lines, I realize how much this seems like the days of Fred Flintstone! One morning over breakfast, we heard the news that the Pope had died. Thinking the announcer meant that Paul VI had died he had died in Castelgandolfo on August 6 , we opined that he had made a huge mistake and was really out of the news loop. In seconds we found out that the new Pope had died John Paul!! Naturally, we were stunned. For weeks we stayed tuned to the BBC, following the funeral, the nine days of Masses and the new conclave. We also watched the English language news crawl every night on TV. It was a news story for the Arabic world but got nowhere near the coverage other nations around gave the death of a Pope and election of his successor. My mind raced and I could not come up with a name and then we heard it was the cardinal from Krakow, Poland. Stunning news once again! CNA photo Six days later October 22, there was the solemn Mass to inaugurate that pontificate. When certain anniversaries come around, I think of those days the very heady and exciting and wondrous days of Pope John Paul II. By the way, in an earlier paragraph I spoke of the death of the new Pope, John Paul. He was not called John Paul I during his pontificate, of course. In September , having just moved to Italy to work for St. I was excited beyond telling, even more so as I had to leave Rome as the audience took place in a beautiful modern audience hall in the town of Castelgandolfo, a hall later given to the Focolare movement by Saint John Paul. Unbelievably, I was brought to the very front row on the right side of the audience hall and was literally only yards away from Paul VI as he addressed us. I was totally enthralled! The chair on which Pope Paul was seated was in essence a movable throne. When the Holy Father had concluded the audience, the sediar, the chair bearers, came to insert two long, red velvet-covered poles under the chair on each side and began to lift him to carry him back out through the hall. We all started to gasp! As the chair was being lifted, the Pope seemed to have spotted someone and started to stand up. The chair bearers immediately set the throne down, the Pope got up and came over to our row! Seems the daughter of a diplomat was seated next to me and the Pope knew her family. Paul VI briefly spoke to her. I was speechless at being so close to a Pope and then, of all things, he spoke to me! An amazing moment and memorable day! His secretary for Vatican affairs was Fr. It was Holy Week. On Good Friday my boss called me in and said he had an unusual favor to ask and I could say no if I wanted to. He heard that Pope Paul VI had perhaps suffered a mini stroke during Mass the previous Holy Thursday but could get no confirmation in order to write a news story. Would I be willing to ask Cardinal Wright if he knew anything? I asked Cardinal Wright what he knew, and said I would respect whatever he would tell me, including that I had no right to ask him. He said he could confirm the fact but added with a smile: In those days the Times wanted three separate sources to independently verify such a story. Times in a literal and figurative sense have really changed! Paul VI went on to reign for over a year and died in Castelgandolfo August 6,

Chapter 3 : John Paul II's "Ecumenical Passion" | Catholic Answers

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Hosanna in the highest! These acclamations of the crowd gathered in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover accompany the entry of Christ and the Apostles into the holy city. Jesus enters Jerusalem mounted on a colt, according to the words of the prophet: The animal chosen indicates that it was not a triumphal entry, but that of a king meek and humble of heart. However the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem, almost unaware of this expression of humility or perhaps recognizing in it a messianic sign, greet Christ with words full with joy: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! And when Jesus enters Jerusalem, the whole city is in agitation. This was not the first time that the people recognized Christ as the king they expected. It had already happened after the miraculous multiplication of the loaves, when the crowd wanted to carry him in triumph. Jesus knew however that his kingdom was not of this world; for this reason he had fled from their enthusiasm. He now sets out for Jerusalem to face the trial that awaits him. Since that day, the Church throughout the world has repeated the words of the crowd in Jerusalem: She repeats it every day while celebrating the Eucharist, shortly before the consecration. She repeats it with particular emphasis today, Palm Sunday. The liturgical readings present the suffering Messiah to us. They refer first of all to his sufferings and his humiliation. This hymn of inestimable theological value presents a complete synthesis of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday through Good Friday to the Sunday of the Resurrection. These words from the Letter to the Philippians, progressively repeated in an ancient responsory, will accompany us throughout the Triduum Sacrum. Both the first reading and the responsorial psalm speak of it. For several years Palm Sunday has become the great world day of youth. It was the young people themselves who paved the way for it: Over the years, the World Youth Days have grown out of this event, whose celebration has spread throughout the Church, in parishes, in Dioceses, and every two years in a place chosen for the whole world. Since , these world meetings have been held at two-year intervals: Next August the meeting has been set for Paris, France. This act has its own particular eloquence: All, like their predecessors in the Holy Land, want to accompany Christ, to share in the week of his Passion, of his Triduum Sacrum, of his Cross and Resurrection. Glory to you, O Christ, Redeemer of the world!

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You who live and reign for ever and ever. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Pilate said to him: For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice. At this point, the Roman Procurator saw no need for further questions. He went to the Jews and told them: The tragedy of Pilate is hidden in the question: This was no philosophical question about the nature of truth, but an existential question about his own relationship with truth. It was an attempt to escape from the voice of conscience, which was pressing him to acknowledge the truth and follow it. When someone refuses to be guided by truth he is ultimately ready even to condemn an innocent person to death. The accusers sense this weakness in Pilate and so do not yield. They relentlessly call for death by crucifixion. The cruel punishment of scourging inflicted upon the Accused is not enough. When the Procurator brings Jesus, scourged and crowned with thorns, before the crowd, he seems to be looking for words which he thinks might soften the intransigence of the mob. Pointing to Jesus he says: But the answer comes back: He is increasingly convinced that the Accused is innocent, but this is not enough for him to decide in his favour. The accusers use their final argument: This is clearly a threat. Recognizing the danger, Pilate finally gives in and pronounces the sentence. But not without the contemptuous gesture of washing his hands: Thus was Jesus, the Son of the living God, the Redeemer of the world, condemned to death by crucifixion. Over the centuries the denial of truth has spawned suffering and death. It is the innocent who pay the price of human hypocrisy. Half measures are never enough. Responsibility for the blood of the just remains. This is why Christ prayed so fervently for his disciples in every age: Grant to us and to all the men and women of our time the grace to remain faithful to the truth. Do not allow the weight of responsibility for the sufferings of the innocent fall upon us and upon those who come after us. To you, O Jesus, just Judge, be honour and glory for ever and ever.

Chapter 5 : Beatification of Pope John Paul II - Wikipedia

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Chapter 8 : Pope St. John Paul II | Joan's Rome

Pope John Paul II saw the Passion of Christ movie by Mel Gibson the weekend before last, in the Vatican, apparently in his private rooms, on a television, with a DVD and said "It is as it was." Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ" gets a thumbs-up from Pope John Paul II.

Chapter 9 : Stations of the Cross: opening prayer (April 21,) | John Paul II

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Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in She was canonized in Eight years later, and almost years after her death, she was immortalized on screen in Carl Dreyer's The Passion of.