

PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII

Pope John XXIII

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Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born on 25 November 1881 in Sotto il Monte, a small village near Bergamo in Italy.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1904 and he began also papal nuncio in France and a delegate to Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey.

Roncalli was elected pope on 28 October 1958 at age 76 after 11 ballots. He was the first pope to take the pontifical name of John upon election in more than 500 years.

He died on the 3^o June 1963.



POPE JOHN XXIII AND HOLOCAUST

Roncalli saved lots of Jews as he was an apostolic delegate of the Vatican in Istanbul between 1935 and 1944. He obtained immigration certificates in Palestine to allow Jews to emigrate, saving them from the Nazis.



Roncalli personally intervened in favour of Bulgarian and Slovak Jews. He helped also Hungarian Jews creating false baptism certificates, so they could avoid the deportation in concentration camps. Roncalli collaborated with Jewish clandestine organization during his stay in Istanbul , and then, in 1944, as he was transferred, in Paris.



POPE JOHN XXIII AND THE COLD WAR

On 22 October 1962 the president of the United States of America, John F. Kennedy announced the presence of missile installations in Cuba and the approach of some soviet ships. The president imposed a naval blockade at 800 miles from the island, but the soviet ships were going to force the blockade. Because of this situation the pope felt the need to act to ensure the peace: on 25 th October, he appealed “to all Men of good will”, through the Vatican radio, with a message in French.





ANECDOTES ON POPE JOHN XXIII

- Once, he did 800 kms just to celebrate in a small Christian community: there were only eleven people.
- He used to give a bunch of money to man who worked for him, just to express his gratitude.

THE BEATIFICATION

- On 3 September 2000, John XXIII was declared "Blessed" by Pope John Paul III. Following his beatification, his body was moved from its original burial place in the grottoes below the Vatican to the altar of St. Jerome and displayed for the veneration of the faithful.
- The 50th anniversary of his death was celebrated on 3 June 2013 by Pope Francis, who visited his tomb and prayed there, then addressing the gathered crowd and spoke about the late pope.

MONUMENTS



La Chiesa Parrocchiale

The church was built at the begin of the XX century and was consecrated on the 21 st September 1929. On Sundays at 4pm there is a Mass that ends with a procession to the statue of Pope John XXIII

Cappella Nostra Signora della Pace

The new chapel is dedicated to one of our favourite subject: Peace. Here you can see the portrait of Pope John XXIII. This place is dedicated to religious confessions and people can also go there to think and pray.



Il giardino della Pace

“Il giardino della pace” is a park where pilgrims get to know the life and spiritual philosophy of John XXIII. They walk through the park , they pray and at the end there is the crypt. At the centre of the park there is a statue of John XXIII

Cripta Oboedientia et Pax

The crypt was rebuilt for the 50 th anniversary of the death of John XXIII. This is the most intimate and intense place of this religious journey.

OSPEDALE PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII

In 2012 a new hospital was built in Bergamo. The hospital was named “Pope John XXIII”

