

A Family Together

A Group Activity for
the Family at Home
or Your Class Family

Jean Larkin

Two Popes, Two Saints

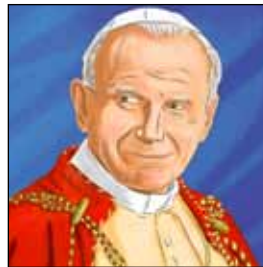
This past April 27, Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II were canonized by Pope Francis. The two new saints came from very different backgrounds and accomplished different things in their

lives, yet had much in common. Read these facts about each man. Then solve the puzzle to discover the most important thing they had in common. The bold words are clues.



St. John XXIII
1881-1963

- ✂ One of 14 children born into a poor farming family in northern Italy.
- ✂ Ordained in 1904.
- ✂ **Taught** Church history in seminary and published a diocesan paper.
- ✂ Was a stretcher-bearer for the Italian army during WWI.
- ✂ During WWII, he fought for **justice** and helped save 24,000 Jewish people from being killed.
- ✂ **Elected** pope in 1958; took the name of **John** after his father and the patron of Rome's cathedral, St. John Lateran.
- ✂ Called the Second **Vatican** Council out of which came many **reforms**.
- ✂ Known as "Good Pope John."
- ✂ Was pope for four years when he died.



St. John Paul II
1920-2005

- ✂ Born in Communist-controlled Poland; lost his mother, father, and brother before his 21st birthday.
- ✂ Ordained in 1946.
- ✂ **Taught** philosophy at Poland's University of Lublin.
- ✂ Was a fighter for **justice**; helped end Communist rule in Poland.
- ✂ Attended all four sessions of the Second **Vatican** Council and helped write some of its documents that brought **reforms**.
- ✂ **Elected** pope in 1978; took the name of his immediate predecessor, Pope **John** Paul I, who lived only 33 days after being elected pope.
- ✂ Was the most-traveled pope in history, visiting 129 countries.
- ✂ Established World Youth Day, which had its first gathering in 1986.
- ✂ Was pope for 27 years when he died.

Fill in the missing word of each sentence in the blanks to the right.

1. The Second ____ Council was a part of both their lives.

____ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

2. Both men were ____.

____ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

3. Both men worked for ____.

____ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

4. Both contributed to the ____ of the Second Vatican Council.

____ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5. Both men were ____ pope.

____ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

6. Both men chose the name of ____.

____ _ _ _ _ _ _

Now, put each of the boxed letters into the blanks below to complete the sentence and discover the most important thing these two great saints had in common.

Each man did great things out of his love for God and the _____.

Jean Larkin continues to edit and write as a freelancer since her retirement from 30-plus years in Catholic publishing. She can be reached at jeanklarkin@gmail.com.

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