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 ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ ____.

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