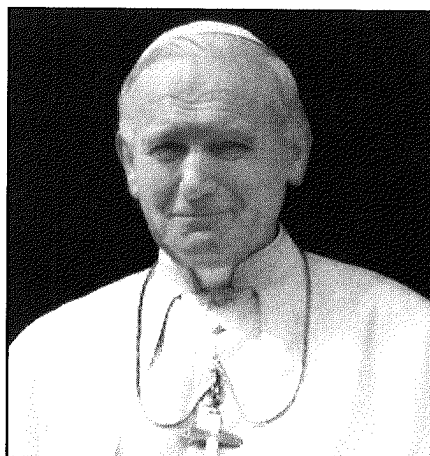


The following is the Catholic League's ad in honor of the Pope's fiftieth anniversary as a priest which was published in the Op-Ed section of the *New York Times* on October 27, 1996.

CONGRATULATIONS, HOLY FATHER



For Catholics, November 1 is All Saints Day. Appropriately, this November 1 is also the 50th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's ordination to the priesthood.

What makes this pope so special is that he is the greatest moral teacher of the twentieth century. Unlike politicians scrambling for votes, Pope John Paul II does not tailor his teachings to fit the latest ideological trends. Unlike other world leaders, he does not seek to time his words to the meter of elite opinion. And unlike other moral teachers, he does not waver in his commitment to God's law.

Still, some demur. Why doesn't Pope John Paul II get with the times and abandon "unfashionable" Church teachings about sex and the sanctity of human life?

Freedom, as Pope John Paul II has said, means the right to do what we ought; it does not mean the right to always do as we want. That's a tough sell in a world where "happiness" is identified with indulging every appetite—no matter how depraved. But it remains true: a concept of liberty that allows for the killing of innocents and the liberation of the libido is a *perversion* of freedom.

In his role as priest, pastor and philosopher, Pope John Paul II embodies the very best of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. He has become the conscience of our generation, filling a moral vacuum that demands a response. His invitation to self-reflection is especially appreciated as we approach the third millennium.

The Holy Father succeeds because he rises above reigning ideologies by proclaiming eternal truths. And he is loved by millions precisely because they find in him the greatest moral resource on earth. His legacy will be as emulated as it will be lasting, and that is why many are already calling him John Paul the Great.

William A. Donohue

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William A. Donohue".

President



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*The Catholic League is the nation's largest Catholic civil rights organization,
funded wholly through membership dues and private contributions.*