

We hope you enjoy these sample pages. For ordering information, visit Liguori.org.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

IN MY OWN WORDS

MEMORIAL EDITION

1920-2005

Compiled and edited by

Anthony F. Chiffolo



Liguori

LIGUORI, MISSOURI

Liguori Publications • © 1998, 2005 All rights reserved. • Liguori.org • 800-325-9521

Compilation copyright
1998, 2005 by Anthony F. Chiffolo
www.liguori.org

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

John Paul II, 1920–

In my own words / Pope John Paul II ; compiled and edited by Anthony F. Chiffolo. — 1st ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-7648-0264 (hc); 978-0-7648-1377-1 (pbk)

1. John Paul II, Pope, 1920—Quotations. 2. Christian life—Catholic authors. I. Chiffolo, Anthony F., 1959– .

II. Title.

BX1378.5.J574 1998

282—dc21

98-7743

The editor and publisher gratefully acknowledge permission to reprint/reproduce copyrighted works granted by the publishers/sources listed on pages 115–16.

Printed in the United States of America

09 08 07 06 05 6 5 4 3 2

Paperback edition 2005

*Friends: I greet you and
all those dear to you,
I bless you and
I encourage you not to
grow faint as you travel
the right road.*

REETING, SOUTH BRONX, 1979



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	IX
GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT ...	1
PRAYER	11
FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE	17
SALVATION	25
TRUTH AND FREEDOM	31
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE	39
THE SANCTITY OF LIFE	55
MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY	61
SOLIDARITY AND HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS...	67
PROGRESS AND THE MODERN WORLD	75
THE CHURCH	93
THE SACRAMENTS	99
THE PRIESTHOOD	105
MARY	109
PERMISSIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	115

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



*The true success of our lives consists
in knowing and doing the will of Jesus,
in doing whatever Jesus tells us.*

MEETING WITH YOUTH, NEW ORLEANS, 1987

Everyone has a vocation: parents, teachers, students, workers, professional people, people who are retired. Everyone has something to do for God.

HOMILY AT GIANTS STADIUM, 1995

The search and discovery of God's will for you is a deep and fascinating endeavor. It requires of you the attitude of trust expressed in the words of the Psalm... "you will show me the path to life, fullness of joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever" (16:11). Every vocation, every path to which Christ calls us, ultimately leads to fulfillment and happiness, because it leads to God, to sharing in God's own life.

MESSAGE TO YOUTH

True holiness does not mean a flight from the world; rather, it lies in the effort to incarnate the Gospel in everyday life, in the family, at school and at work, and in social and political involvement.

TO CATHOLIC CHARISMATICS, 1996

God can use our weakness as easily as our strength in order to accomplish his will.

MEETING WITH PRIESTS, MIAMI, 1987

Do not be afraid! Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure. He alone can give full meaning to life, he alone is the center of history. Live by him!

MASS WITH YOUTH, HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ,
CZECH REPUBLIC, 1997

The whole of the Christian life is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father, whose unconditional love for every human creature, and in particular for the “prodigal son,” we discover anew each day. This pilgrimage takes place in the heart of each person, extends to the believing community and then reaches to the whole of humanity.

TERTIO MILLENNIO ADVENIENTE

Conversion to God always consists in discovering his mercy, that is, in discovering that love which is patient and kind as only the Creator and Father can be....Conversion to God is always the fruit of the “rediscovery” of this Father, who is rich in mercy.

Authentic knowledge of the God of mercy, the God of tender love, is a constant and inexhaustible source of conversion, not only as a momentary interior act but also as a permanent attitude, as a state of mind. Those who come to know God in this way, who “see” him in this way, can live only in a state of being continually converted to him.

DIVES IN MISERICORDIA

The Gospel is certainly demanding. We know that Christ never permitted His disciples and those who listened to Him to entertain any illusions about this. On the contrary, He spared no effort in preparing them for every type of internal or external difficulty, always aware of the fact that they might well decide to abandon Him. Therefore, if He says, “Be not afraid!” He certainly does not say it in order to nullify in some way that which He has required. Rather,

by these words He confirms the entire truth of the Gospel and all the demands it contains. At the same time, however, He reveals that *His demands never exceed man's abilities*. If man accepts these demands with an attitude of faith, he will also find in the grace that God never fails to give him the necessary strength to meet those demands.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE

The way Jesus shows you is not easy. Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises toward ever wider horizons.

MESSAGE FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY, 1996

It is true: Jesus is a demanding friend. He points to lofty goals: he asks us to go out of ourselves in order to meet him, entrusting to him our whole life: "Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it" (Mk 8:35). The proposal may seem difficult, and, in some cases, frightening. But—I ask you—is it better to be resigned to a life without ideals, to a world made in our image and

likeness, or rather, generously to seek truth, goodness, justice, working for a world that reflects the beauty of God, even at the cost of facing the trials it may involve?

MESSAGE FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY, 1996

*I*n order to hold fast to the fundamental values which keep them sinless, Christians sometimes have to suffer marginalization and persecution—at times heroically—because of moral choices which are contrary to the world's behavior.... This is the cost of Christian witness, of a worthy life in the eyes of God. If you are not willing to pay this price, your lives will be empty....

HOMILY AT CAMAGÜEY, CUBA, 1998

*C*hristians, like all people of good will, are called upon under grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law.

EVANGELIUM VITAE