

A Note from Janet

The Poet, the Professor, the Pastor – these titles can be used to characterize the popes of the last 35 years: John Paul II (1978-2005), Benedict XVI (2005-2013), and Francis I (2013-).

Pope John Paul II studied drama and wrote poetry during university days in his native Poland. As a Catholic priest he served during both the Nazi and Soviet occupations of his country and led the world in a Crusade against Communism. When he was shot by an enemy of Christianity, he thanked the Blessed Virgin Mary for saving his life.

Pope Benedict XVI was a university teacher in his native land of Germany. His linguistic studies convinced him of the importance of accuracy in the translation of ancient texts. His work contributed to the revisions in the language used in the celebration of the Mass today. Another challenge Benedict faced during his papacy was having face-to-face meetings with those who had suffered clerical sexual abuse. Ill health led to Benedict's early retirement.

Pope Francis' focus on Social Justice was illustrated in his concern for the poor during his work in Argentina and has been communicated in words and actions during these early days of his papacy. He demonstrated the love God shows to all people when he washed the feet of both Christians and non-Christians during his first Holy Thursday observance in Rome. He is often seen embracing young children during public appearances. He has shown the importance of the image of the Church throughout the world by monitoring the Vatican Bank and reopening the case of the beatification of Bishop Romero, a Salvadoran Martyr who was murdered while celebrating Mass.

These three Popes have had an important effect on the Roman Catholic Church today, each bringing their unique strengths to the work of the Church in the world.

Janet O' Keeffe

Calendar

September 1

Rosary for the Unborn- After 8:15 AM Mass

September 7

Tailgating Treats-after 5:30PM Mass- Rowland Education Building

September 8

Community Sunday- After all Masses- Rowland Education Building

September 15

SJWS Monthly Meeting-After 12:15PM Mass- Pastoral Life Center-- Lower Level

September 27

USC International Students Lunch – 10AM- 2PM

September 29

Columbia-Midlands Deanery Meeting at St. Martin de Pores-12Noon

October 5

Women's Retreat – 8AM – 12 Noon
Church & Blossom Street House

October 20

SJWS Monthly Meeting - After 12:15PM Mass- Pastoral Life Center--Lower Level

November 2

First Saturday—Rosary and Mass at St. Joseph's followed by Breakfast- 8AM-10AM

November 17

SJWS Monthly Meeting - After 12:15PM Mass- Pastoral Life Center-- Lower Level

November 24

Annual Food Sale – After all Masses

December 6

Christmas Luncheon - 11:30AM