

May 18 2020-Monday, the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Pope John Paul II

Today would have been Pope John Paul II's 100th birthday. He was born Karol Wojtyla on this day in 1920 in Wadowice, Poland

Before becoming a priest, Karol Wojtyla worked as a boiler cleaner at a chemical plant, a member of an experimental theater group, a stonecutter, and a published poet. He also helped smuggle Jews to safety during the Holocaust.

In 1958, Karol Wojtyla was on a kayaking trip when he learned he was named a bishop, the youngest bishop in Poland's history. In 1967, at age 47, he became one of the youngest cardinals in modern times.

On October 16, 1978, at age 58, he was elected pope and took the name John Paul II. He became the first Polish pope in the history of the Catholic Church, and the first non-Italian pope in 456 years.

Jesus said: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)

During the Easter season, we celebrate the gift of the Spirit.

It is a gift that changes everything.

The reading for today suggests that there should be a difference between someone who has received the gift of the Spirit and someone who has not. How can you tell the difference?

You can't tell whether an egg is raw or hard-boiled just by looking at it. They all look the same. But if you spin an egg on a table, the raw egg will spin slowly and stop quickly. The hard-boiled egg will spin fast and keep on spinning.

We all look that same from the outside. But just as there is a difference in the way the hard-boiled egg and the raw egg spin, there should be a way to tell the difference between the Christian who has received the gift of the Spirit and the non-Christian.

Could anyone tell the difference in me?

Spend some quiet time with the Lord