

Kansas City Events

Location

The Blessing to One Another Exhibit will be presented at Kansas City's Union Station in the Arthur Stillwell room. This venue offers ample space for receptions and educational events, as well as convenient parking for visitors.

The 2009 Harry S Truman Lecture Series: February 3, 2009

Held as part of the opening night's activities, Dr. James Buchanan, creator of the exhibit, will offer the 2009 Harry S Truman lecture. Dr. Buchanan will discuss the historical themes of the exhibit and their impact on the papacy of Pope John Paul II.

Opportunities for students and teachers

Field trips

- Study guides and kits for classroom teachers
- Arranged field trips for diocesan and Hebrew school students
- Docents to guide class through the exhibit and interact with students

Coordinating theater production

- Theatrical production of "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" in conjunction with Theater for Young America
- Performed at Union Station's City Stage, March 5 – April 5
- See Web site for performance times: www.Avila.edu/blessing

Interfaith Dialogue

Avila is planning several interfaith dialogue events geared toward secondary students, university students and faculty and the wider community. Please see the website for event times and locations.



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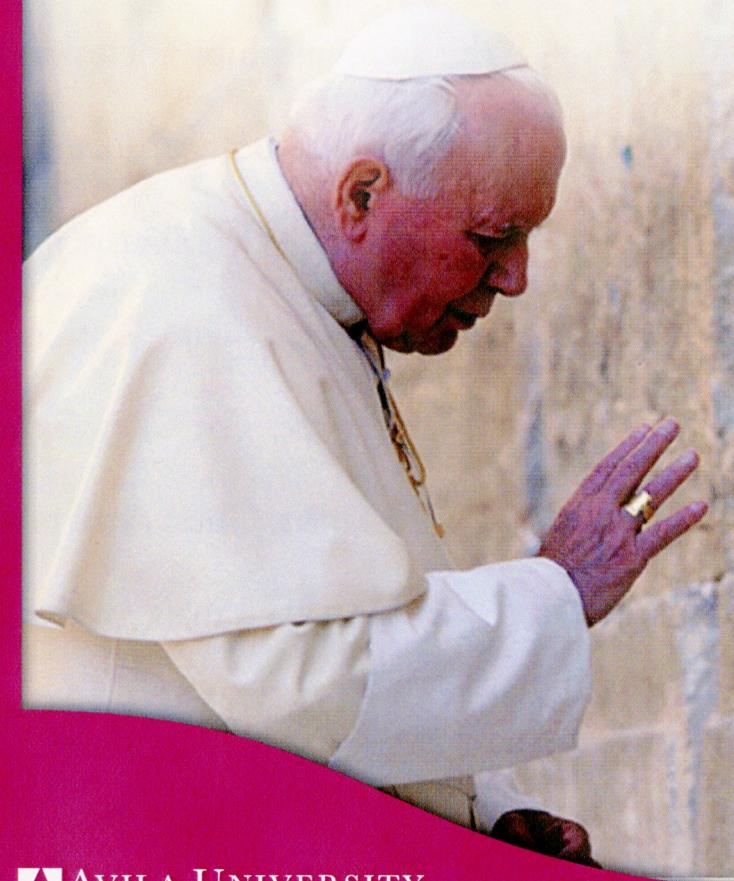
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 **AVILA UNIVERSITY**
presents

**A BLESSING
TO ONE ANOTHER**

**POPE JOHN PAUL II &
THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

THE EXHIBIT

Union Station – Kansas City, Missouri

February 3 – March 29, 2009

The Exhibit

This unique exhibit incorporates photos, video footage, documents and artifacts to celebrate the pope's extraordinary contributions to relations between the Catholic and Jewish faiths. Guests will take a historic walk through the life of this beloved pope.

Part I: 1920–1938, Wadowice

The first section of the exhibit centers on Wadowice, Poland. There, the future pope, Karol Wojtyla, grew up in an apartment owned by a Jewish family and established many friendships with Jewish children, including lifelong friend Jerzy Kluger.

Visitors view Wojtyla's baptismal certificate and school records, and see the world as it looked from his bedroom window. They also explore Jewish life in Wadowice as well as the interaction between the Catholic and Jewish communities.



Part II: 1939–1945, Occupied Poland

In the second section, visitors follow Wojtyla's path to Krakow and enter the dark years of World War II through a replica of the Krakow Ghetto gate. During the Nazi occupation, the future pope was forced to take his university studies underground while working in a factory by day. It was far worse for his Jewish friends and neighbors. Displayed in this area are somber reminders of the Holocaust, including prayer shawls and shoes from the Holocaust Museum at Auschwitz.



Part III: 1946–1977, Ministry

The third section of the exhibit traces Wojtyla's rise from priest to bishop to cardinal. During this period he participated in the Second Vatican Council's dramatic change in the Church's relationship with other religions. As bishop of Krakow he also established close and personal ties with the Jewish community. Among the artifacts in this section, visitors find the biretta worn by Wojtyla when he became a cardinal and handwritten notes for one of his books.



Part IV: 1978–2005, Pontificate

The final section celebrates John Paul II's papacy. It features a ceremonial lamp and papal vestments from the 2002 World Day of Prayer at Assisi, videos of religious and world leaders speaking with the pope, and a replica of Jerusalem's Western Wall. Visitors are encouraged to write a prayer and place it in the wall, emulating the pope during his historic visit to Israel. As they move out of the exhibit, visitors are also able to touch a bronze sculpture of the late pope's hand.

