

"Papa" to us – April 9, 2005
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I was one of thousands in the Silverdome in September 1987 who longed to see this leader of our Church who awed us with his love, which seemed directed personally at each and every one of us. Along with family and friends from St. Rene Goupil, I held in my arms my son Jonathon, who had just been born on the 2nd; he was thus just over two weeks old. I remember feeling how wonderful for him, as for all of us, that "Papa" was just that... like a "daddy" to a child... one who made us feel loved with all our faults and failings. He had come down off the throne of St. Peter to be among us. There seemed to be no concern with pomp and circumstance; rather, he walked among us, touched us, hugged us, spoke to us, listened to us, loved us. He made us proud to be Catholics; even at times when our local leaders may have failed us, he was there to hold onto us with his loving embrace which could be felt the world over. Every time I saw him on the television, visiting people around the globe, I was proud. I knew that in his love for all of us, we were witness to the kind of love our Lord gives us... I pray our new "Pope" will be our "Papa" too...