

April 15, 2005

Fr. Edward Prus, retired priest

“He was a true pastoral person. He went where the people were – and he went to be with them. He was a person of integrity and he died the way he lived knowing a person had value up to the end. Even when he couldn’t say anything, he still showed his love for the people. He was giving to the end. Fr. Prus saw Pope John Paul II a number of times and when he met the pope, greeted him in Polish. “Ah, an American Pole,” was the pontiff’s reply, Fr. Prus recalls and laughs. He last saw the pope in Lourdes in 2004. Fr. Prus was there celebrating his 75th year volunteering a week as a confessor.

“Growing up, the pope was a name. Pope John Paul II put flesh and blood on the papacy. He celebrated the funeral Mass for my Dad’s brother, a Carmelite priest, when he was the archbishop of Krakow. The only sad thing was that my parents (from Poland) were not alive when he was the pope. They would have loved that.”