

A Shepherd for God's People – April 7, 2005
Sherry Showers, Parish Secretary, St. Benedict Church, Waterford, MI

I had no opportunity to meet the Pope, however, he was dear to my heart in a very spiritual way. I was so very proud when he was elected Pope being that I am of Polish descent. It was wonderful to see such a holy man, of our nationality, be given the opportunity to lead our Church. He inspired me to always live life by your heart and conscience as it is by these from which love and goodness are kept. I was very sad upon his passing; however, I am delighted to have him as an intercessor for my prayers to the presence and throne of God. He not only was a shepherd for God's people, but a proud representation for the Polish people.

Following is my loving farewell I wrote to our beloved Pope:

A SHEPHERD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

The pastures were both far and wide
But travel you must for there was no where to hide
God's people you promised to father them home
No matter how far you had to roam

You gently guided them on their way
Lovingly teaching them all God had to say
You never faltered in changing His plan
But was guided and inspired by His loving hands

"Do not be afraid" is what you taught
Remembering to forgive each other's faults
This is the motto by which you lived
For you had so much love to give

You gathered your sheep, though many they were
Teaching them that their hearts must remain pure
Amazingly they anxiously followed you home
Inspired with the Spirit, they followed you to Rome

The sheep have now lost the shepherd they loved
For God has called you to His home up above
We know that you will look down and continue to guide us to God's pasture
We hope to lovingly see you again in the mighty hereafter

We thank you for all your constant care
For you chose to love us, whether dark or fair
You left your mark upon the world forever
May you rest in God's heavenly pasture and forget us never