

5 Things You Don't Know About the Vatican I

1- Why was Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger elected Pope in 2005?

Quite simply, because John Paul II chose him. The conclave of 2005 was only a confirmation of the former Pope's will. John XXIII did the same when he chose Giovanni Montini to succeed him as Paul VI. The usual procedure is for the former Pope to select his successor so that power transfers smoothly. Sometimes, however, this doesn't go as planned—the elections of both John Paul I and John Paul II were unexpected.

2- Does the Pope go to confession?

Yes, the Pope confesses every week to a Jesuit priest. Why a Jesuit? Well, the fact that Jesuits introduced confession in the 16th century is one of the reasons, but the main reason will be revealed in my third novel.

3- Did any Pope have children?

Yes. Several Popes had children. St. Innocent I was Pope and son of the Pope Anastasius I, back in the 5th century. Alexander VI, in the 15th century, holds the record—he had four acknowledged children and three others who were likely his. Paul III, in the 16th century, also had four children. What most people don't know is that a 20th century Pope had a daughter named Anna, who is still alive. You'll hear more about her in my third book.

4- By what name did friends and family address to John Paul II?

Karol Wojtyla nickname to his closest friends and family was Lolek.

5- Why didn't John XXIII close the Second Vatican Council, which he had ordered?

John XXIII was diagnosed with stomach cancer on 1962. but his physicians were ordered by Vatican Curia not to administer any medicine. The Second Vatican Council was just starting, and the Curia considered John XXIII too unpredictable and liberal. The lack of proper medical treatment ensured that the Pope would only another nine months, and that the Council would be concluded by his successor.

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