

Karol Wojtyla: Polish Pope

**In St Peter's Square,
Presidents and Prime Ministers,
Princes and people gather.
A simple cyprus-wood coffin
Is surmounted by the gospel book.
He said he lived his life
Under the word of God.
The ruffling wind of the Spirit
Bears witness, turning its pages.**



**A previous Pope,
John the Twenty-Third,
The great caretaker,
In surprising wisdom
Opened the windows of the office.
The rushing wind of the Spirit
Blew piles of paper in the air,
Upturning, updating, unfolding
The church.**

**John Paul the Second,
The great survivor
Of Nazi invasion and
Communist constriction.
The poet and playwright,
Priest and professor:**

Polish Pope.

In theology:

**Restressing of tradition,
Regression of liberation,
Redressing of primacy.**

In politics:

**Solidity of Petrine rock,
Solidarity of Polish stock,
Stumbling of Soviet bloc.**

Karol Wojtyla,

**More alive than ever,
Witness to the watching world.**

Graham Kings 8 April 2005