



### Skeptical but Hopeful

Palestinian Christians are caught in the middle between two opposing Muslim factions.

**World, page 4**



### Two New Saints

Prayer vigils were held at 11 churches in Rome prior to the canonizations of Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII.

**Vatican, page 5**



### Commencement 2014

Graduation ceremonies featured some of the most prominent Catholic leaders in the world.

**Education, page 11**

# Four Popes, Two Saints

A Pictorial Look at the Canonizations of Sts. John XXIII and John Paul II

BY FATHER JOHN PAUL MARY ZELLER, MFVA  
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

**O**n the Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, in the Year of Our Lord 2014, two great men were raised to the honor of the altar and were canonized saints.

There is no Catholic alive who has not been directly affected by the decisions, teaching or holiness of St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II. Perhaps we can say that these two men influenced the Church far more than anyone in our time.

This day will always be remembered as the day of the four popes — Francis, Benedict XVI, John Paul II and John XXIII. All four of these men were alive together at a particular moment in history. It is the first time ever in Church history that two popes were canonized together. It is also the first time in Church history where a current pope and his predecessor celebrated Mass publicly together.

St. Paul's saying proves to be absolutely true: "With men, this is impossible; but with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

*A longer version of this column appeared at NCRegister.com.*



**FILLED TO THE BRIM.** A helicopter's view of the canonization Mass for Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII April 27 at the Vatican. ANSA/Massimo Sestini/Italian National Police



**HOLY HEROES.** Seminarians hold photos of the new saints at the canonization Mass. ANSA/Riccardo Antimiani/Eidon



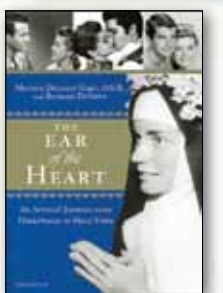
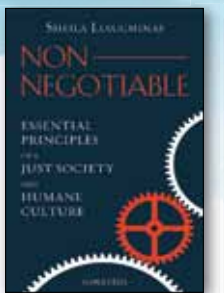
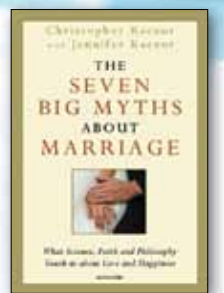
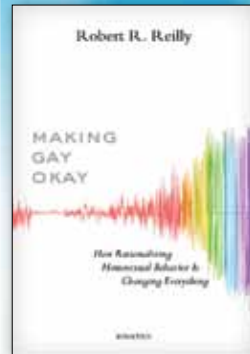
**POPE AND FRIENDS.** Pope Francis embraces his predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, during the canonization ceremony. Benedict beatified his predecessor, John Paul II, in 2011. AP photo/L'Osservatore Romano



**PATIENT PILGRIM.** A woman prays and waits for the canonization Mass to begin in St. Peter's Square. ANSA/Angelo Carconi

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RIS-H... Hardcover, \$19.95



**MIRACLE RECIPIENT.** Costa Rican woman Floribeth Mora, who was cured of a serious brain condition by a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II's intercession, presents his relic to Pope Francis during the canonization Mass. Dan Kitwood/Getty Images



**REST STOP.** A pilgrim awaits the canonization Mass as St. Peter's Square fills up. Giorgio Cosulich/Getty Images

### WORLD EVENT.

Pilgrims from around the world gather in St. Peter's Square for the canonizations of two beloved popes of the 20th century.  
Daniel Ibañez/CNA



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