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From the Academia

Thinker, Teacher, Professor

"When a person thinks, experiences his own limitations, he realizes that he himself is not the truth, but rather has to seek it, indeed as if groping blindly. At the same time he senses that his searching cannot and should not be limited to insignificant and restricted objectives, since a powerful force drives it ever upwards, towards the infinite."

(Pope John Paul II, address to people of science and culture,
Vilnius University, 05 September 1993)

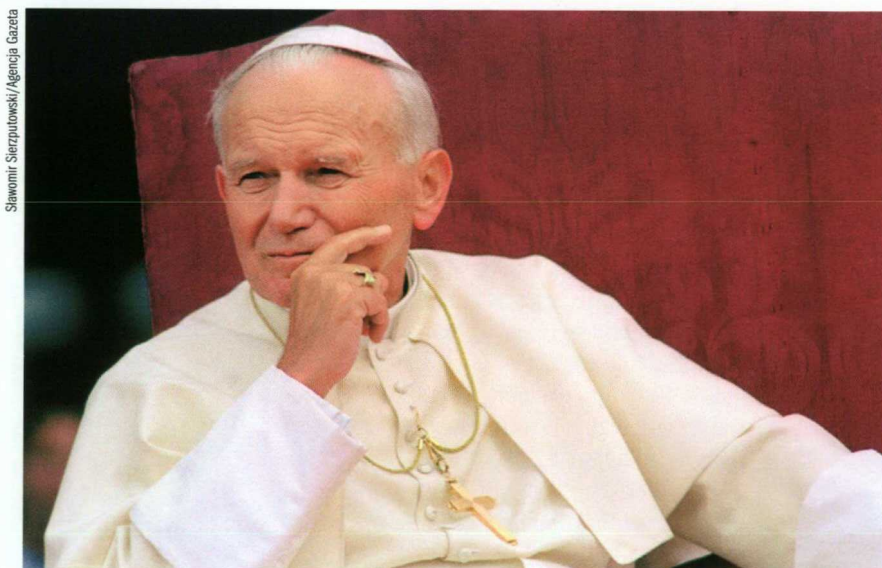
We are all now contemplating the completed life and work of John Paul II, Bishop of Rome, the spiritual leader and father of many people. As people of science we feel particularly indebted to him for the bond he shared with the world of our own searching, with our own questions, thoughts, and words. It is with humility and at the same time pride that we venture to state that John Paul II was one of us as well. We wish to express our gratitude to him for the understanding and devotion he showed throughout his life for science and for those who serve science.

Among the many appellations and titles used to describe the life of Karol Wojtyła, Pope John Paul II, there are some – thinker, teacher, professor – which are particularly dear to us, both in light of his deeds and in light of the authority he garnered, and which indeed constitute a huge obligation for us.

Within the life and work of John Paul II, each of these words took on a sense and depth that we cannot fail to take note of, cannot fail to contemplate, and cannot fail to seek within the bounds of our own life's calling. He was also professor universitatis studiorum – a person who gathers together people seeking the truth, and gathers thoughts together with them. A professor, meaning one who testifies, professes, and expresses to others the truth he himself has found, discovered, experienced, and come to love.

"One makes one's way to the truth thanks to others as well, through dialogue with others and for others." (John Paul II to scientists in Toruń, 07 June 1999). We thank Divine Providence for the chance to have sought the truth through dialogue with John Paul II, and to continue to participate in the dialogue that he initiated.

Reverend Professor Tomasz Węclawski
Committee on Theological Studies, PAN



Sławomir Sierzputowski/Agencja Gazeta