



*Prophet
and Pilgrim
of Peace*

99 Sayings
by Pope St. Paul VI

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edited by
Karl Schultz



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“99 Words to Live By”

A series of fine gift books that presents inspirational words by renowned authors and captivating thinkers. Thought-provoking proverbs from many peoples and traditions complete each volume’s collection.

“99 Words to Live By” explores topics that have moved and will continue to move people’s hearts. Perfect for daily reflection as well as moments of relaxation.

Foreword

On June 21, 1963 I stood in St. Peter's square, seeking a sliver of shade beneath the obelisk at the center of the piazza. With the gathered throng, I saw Giovanni Battista Montini crowned as Pope Paul VI with a tiara which he strongly disliked and immediately gave up for the poor. I wondered—what kind of pope this fragile, scholarly, and quiet man would be? Would he continue as the secretive, behind-the-scenes diplomat of his earlier years? What would he do about the contentious Second Vatican Council, already underway? How would he confront the turmoil of the 60's? The name he chose – Paul, the apostle, the great preacher of the crucified Christ to the whole world, provided the answer. And yes, the Council would continue!

Paul VI entered a world of radical revolutions. The cold war was at its most perilous. Africa exploded as colonial powers fled. Asia writhed with genocide and communism. South America sought liberation from corrupt governments and rich nations greedy for oil, minerals and produce. The USA faced enormous moral and societal changes. The first session of the Council exposed a Church immersed in all these changes, externally and internally.

How did Paul VI confront this cauldron? By assembling 99 sayings of this pauline pope, Karl Schultz refreshes our memories about the breadth of Paul's response. In these sayings we can savor the wisdom and prophetic insight of this remarkable pope We are still saddened by his piercing words "No more war!" We are haunted by the refrain: "If you want peace, work for justice!" We strive to understand "He, Jesus is with those who suffer ... He listens to the groans of the soul."

Schultz has spent his life as a writer, lecturer, debater illuminating the life, work, and impact of Paul VI. He shows us that Montini is not canonized because he was a pope, but because he is a saint. We need saints who have been evangelized by God's grace and proclaim Spirit-driven wisdom in a persuasive, prophetic and challenging way. Every one of these sayings culled from Pope Paul's work are as pertinent today as they were in his lifetime.

These sayings reveal the tears Paul shared as he witnessed the poverty and squalor of the poor in Calcutta. They reflect his total dependence on the truth of the Gospels. Over and over, he speaks of "dialogue." Paul urged peaceful conversation within the Church; then, within the whole Christian community; and moving out to other religions, to unbelievers, even to the marvelous cosmos we all care about and enjoy. Paul saw dialogue as the warp and woof of human life. It is woven into

the intimacy of prayer, into God's love for us shown by Christ's death on the cross, into Mary's place in our lives, into the communion of saints. Dialogue connects evangelization, the development and progress of peoples, politics, family, peace and joy. Dialogue stitches all God's creation into a lovely tapestry.

We can never know the interior darkness this gentle Pope suffered from misunderstanding, ridicule and dissent. He felt the pain of the world. These 99 sayings compel us to go back to his original works with surprise and wonder at his prophetic soul. He was a true, determined follower of the Crucified. With St. Paul VI, we can shout that, at base, all things are sacred, that all is gift, and, above all, that Jesus reveals to us that God is love!

Rev. Timothy Fitzgerald, C.P., S.T.D.
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Never again war, never again war. It is peace, peace that has to guide the destiny of the nations of all mankind.

Christ in His Gospel has spelled out for the world the supreme purpose and the noblest force for action and hence for liberty and progress: love. No goal can surpass it, be superior to it, or supplant it.

The only sound law of life is His Gospel.

The Virgin Mary has always been proposed to the faithful by the Church as an example to be imitated, not precisely in the type of life she led and much less for the socio-cultural background in which she lived and which today scarcely exists anywhere. She is held up as an example to the faithful rather for the way in which, in her own particular life, she fully and responsibly accepted the will of God (cf. Lk 1:38), because she heard the word of God and acted on it, and because charity and a spirit of service were the driving force of her actions. She is worthy of imitation because she was the first and the most perfect of Christ's disciples.

Blessed are we, if, having acquired the meekness of the strong, we learn to renounce the deadly power of hate and vengeance.

Blessed are we, if we do not make egoism the guiding criterion of our life, nor pleasure its purpose, but learn rather to discover in sobriety our strength, in pain a source of redemption, in sacrifice the very summit of greatness.

Blessed are we, if we prefer to be the oppressed rather than the oppressors, and constantly hunger for the progress of justice.