



## *Jimmy Carter Library & Museum* **News Release**

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

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**Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109**

[Tony.Clark@NARA.gov](mailto:Tony.Clark@NARA.gov)

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### **Pope John Paul II Items on Display at Carter Presidential Library & Museum**

*Gifts and the First Official Letter from the Pope to President Carter on Display Through April*

**ATLANTA, GA.** - Gifts from Pope John Paul II to President and Mrs. Carter and Amy Carter are on display at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. The historic mementoes are from John Paul's first visit to the United States as Pope in 1979, as well as the Carters' visit to the Vatican the following year.

Upon learning of the Pope's death, President Carter said "Rosalynn and I are saddened by the passing of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. A man shaped by his own experience under Nazi occupation during World War II, he dedicated his life and vocation as instruments of peace throughout the world. His was a constant voice for justice, nonviolence, and reconciliation for both individuals and nations. As a spiritual leader, he emphasized the common humanity of people of all faiths. His advocacy for the poor and oppressed will prevail as a source of hope and inspiration for others to follow. We will remember him with love and gratitude for his faithfulness to peace and human rights."

Less than a month after being selected Pope, John Paul wrote President Carter saying, in part, "I take this occasion to extend my cordial greetings and good wishes to the people of the United States of America. I wish also to express my admiration and deep esteem for your country's history, culture and continued striving for human betterment." This November, 1978 letter is among the items on display at the Carter Presidential museum.

Pope John Paul II spent seven days in the United States in October, 1979, visiting Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Des Moines, Chicago and Washington D.C. During his stop at the White House, Pope John Paul gave President Carter a medal bearing the pontiff's image. The following June, President and Mrs. Carter, along with daughter Amy, visited the Pope in Vatican City. At that time, the Pope gave President Carter a three-piece medallion set and presented Amy with a head of Christ carved in coral. Those gifts are included in the new display. In addition, photographs from Pope John Paul II's 1979 White House visit are on display at the museum.

The Carter Presidential Library & Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. and on Sunday from noon until 4:45 p.m. For more information, call 404-865-7101 or visit [www.jimmycarterlibrary.org](http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org).