

Legacy of Pope Saint John XXIII

Pope Saint John XXIII, affectionately known as "the Good Pope" was a humble shepherd who quietly transformed the Church and the world.

As pope, he surprised many with his warmth, zeal, and, above all, his courageous vision—most notably, the call to convene the Second Vatican Council. It was an act of trust in the Holy Spirit and the People of God. By opening the windows of the Church, he allowed the fresh air of the Gospel to breathe more freely into the modern world.

His words were gentle but bold. His actions revealed a Church not of fear, but of mercy, dialogue, and hope.

Pope John XXIII taught us that true reform begins with compassion—the willingness to listen, to reach across divides, and the courage to see beyond our walls. His legacy is not confined to documents and decrees, but lives on in every act of welcome, every word of peace, and every step toward unity in the Body of Christ.

As we unveil this sculpture, may we be inspired to carry forward his spirit of openness and joy, trusting always in God's renewing grace.

Sculpting the Spirit of Pope Saint John XXIII

This sculpture invites viewers to contemplate Pope Saint John XXIII—a servant who listened deeply to God and a courageous leader of the Church. His openness, discernment, and pastoral care are expressed through the sculpture's dynamic composition in its posture, garment, gestures, and spirit.

The posture

The Holy Father is depicted leaning forward into the wind, his left foot firmly grounded—a posture of trust, momentum, and readiness to respond to the call of the Spirit.

The Cloak

His cape, symbolizing the church, flows visibly on the Pope's shoulders in the breeze, like the Holy Spirit actively moving within the Church and guiding it into a new era.

The Hands

His left hand holds and pulls the cape forward. His right hand extends outward in a gesture of welcome—inviting the faithful to walk alongside him.

The Head

His head is gently tilted, with a warm, tender smile—a sincere invitation from the heart.

The Back

Though his smile radiates gentleness and light, his back tells another story. Broad and steady, it bears the silent weight of the Church. Like a shepherd carrying his flock, he holds the burdens of the People of God with quiet strength. In the curve of his shoulders, we glimpse the cost of love, the weight of service, and the grace of one who walks faithfully in the footsteps of Christ.