



IKAW Ay Minahal  
You Are Loved

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One day in class a teacher was telling her children that everyone of them are unique. "Remember that God made you for a special purpose," said the teacher. "Oh, yes," said Nathan, "my dad told me the Pope was created so he could help people to know and love God." "Very good, Nathan," said the teacher. She then suggested that perhaps the children may want to write to the Pope. She said the Pope celebrated his birthday in May and in October, his anniversary as Vicar of Christ.

"What is a Vicar of Christ?" asked Juliana. "The Pope is called the Vicar of Christ because he represents Jesus Christ here on earth," said the teacher.

While the children were writing their letters, the teacher smiled as she looked at each one. She thought how her class was an international one and how the children adapt to each others cultures so quickly.

Just then the bell rang for dismissal. The children were reminded to finish their letters at home so they may be mailed next week to the Vatican.

## The Message

The following week all the letters were neatly written and returned to class except Ato's letter. "Oh Ato, this is not a letter," said the teacher. With a little twinkle in his eye, Ato asked if he could please explain. He said his parents always took him to the park in the Phillipines. They would look for various colors and shapes of leaves. His father would say that looking at a pretty leaf was like touching the loving hand of God.

"Today on my way to school , I stopped near a fire station to look at this huge oak tree. The wind was blowing so hard that it blew my cap and letter away. A fireman saw how disappointed I was and he even tried to catch the letter."

"Just then this beautiful big oak leaf blew near me and I decided to write on it. I wrote IKAW AY MINAHAL the same message my father writes to my mother before he goes to work. When my mother reads it she smiles and says "Praise Jesus". If my dad makes my mother so happy, then I want to make the Holy Father happy too."

"Yes, Ato, you will make the Holy Father happy because he needs our prayers and encouragement. What a nice idea," the teacher said as the children gathered around to look at the leaf.

Dear Holy Father,

My family always prays for you, the Bishops, and the priests. When I receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, it makes me so happy.

Happy 17th Anniversary.

We love you.

Love,

Mark

Dear Holy Father,

Do you feel alright? When I'm sick, I always think about how Jesus suffered. I tell Jesus I love him.

Happy 17th Anniversary.

Love,

Mike

Dear Pope Paul John,

Happy 17th Anniversary.

I always ask Jesus, Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph to watch over you. I pray for you and all the people of the world.

Love,

Athena

Dear Holy Father,

Happy 17th Anniversary.

I bet you are happy because you look like you are. Do you like to ski? I bet the mountains are high where you live. Be careful when you climb the mountains.

I pray for you.

Love you,

Robert

Dear Holy Father,

Did you have a nice birthday? I got a puppy for mine. My mom said I have to treat him with tenderness. Mom also said the world needs to respect life because God says so. Have a nice 17th Anniversary.

I love you,

Angela

Dear Pope John:

I planted a flower and it bloomed ever so nice. I called the plant the Pope's sunflower because it spread its petals in all directions to express LOVE. People who love Jesus have respect for life. Be careful when you ski.

Happy 17th Anniversary.

God loves you and so do I,

Ine

Dear Holy Father,

Did you enjoy your birthday?  
My birthday is in May too. I love  
Jesus and I am good to all the people  
He created.

God bless you,

Mary Ann

P.S.

Happy 17th Anniversary.

Dear Pope John Paul II,

Happy 17th Anniversary. I am  
Sarah Ann and I am 8 1/2 years old.  
I have blonde hair and blue eyes.  
I think you have blue eyes too. Do  
you like being Pope? You always smile  
alot.

Love,

Sarah Ann

Dear Holy Father,

I wish you a Happy 17th  
Anniversary because your the nice  
pope in the world. I know you  
love God alot.

Love,

Jessica

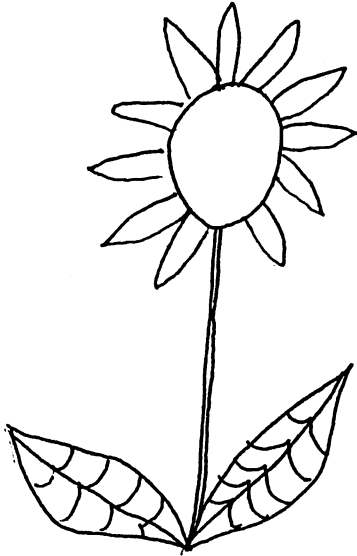
**Happy 17th Anniversary**  
**to our dear Pope and friend.**

**We love you,**

**The Children of the World**







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