



## EMBLEM OF THE ORDER

The Emblem of the Order features the colors white (purity), blue (holy service) and gold (glory of God).

The outer double circle of blue and gold, coupled with the central blue map of the world, represents man's desire to move closer to God (encompassing outer circle of gold) through holy service to all of God's creations (inner circle of blue).

Enclosed within the double circle is a gold and blue shield. The shield represents God defending his people. The colors selected are those of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for whom St. John Paul II had a strong devotion.

Overlaid upon the shield is the Cross of Christ. The Bible acknowledges an important truth: God is just, and justice requires wrongs to be punished. God has given man a set of Holy laws (called "Commandments"). When we violate these laws, we offend the greatest of all authorities. Justice must be satisfied if God is to remain just, and the Bible reminds us of the gravity of our violation: our sin is punishable by

death. The cross of Christ provides a solution, and demonstrates the *mercy* of God, even as it accomplishes His *justice*. The cross is the place where Jesus (God) paid the price for us, as a free gift. He accepted our punishment for sin as his own, and in doing so, He offered us salvation, a way to be united to God.

Behind the Cross is a circle that represents the rising (or setting) sun. The ambiguous sun reminds us that we are responsible to follow the Cross of Christ at all times.

The radiant beams that emanate from the Cross, remind us that the glory of Christ, the Glory of God, is brighter than even the sun.

The map of the world represents the totality of creation and our responsibility as Catholics to help spread the Good News of the Gospel to all people. It further represents our responsibility to respect the dignity of all human life in all of its stages. Finally, it represents that the reach of the good works of the Order of St. John Paul II extends to all people everywhere on earth.