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## **NEW ARTIFACTS FROM PAPAL HOUSEHOLD ADDED TO *A BLESSING TO ONE ANOTHER* EXHIBIT**

Three personal items which once belonged to Pope John Paul II have just been added to the landmark exhibition *A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and The Jewish People*, which is scheduled to open on May 18, what would have been the late pontiff's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. These items are being loaned directly from the papal household.

The items are:

A one-of-a-kind luxury edition of the speech Pope John Paul II made during a visit to the site of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp in June 1979, during his first pilgrimage to Poland. He said not only that Auschwitz is a place to visit, but also that "while visiting, one should think with fear about where the boundaries of hatred lie." This document is a facsimile copy of the Holy Father's handwritten draft, and only two such copies exist.

A white Zuccheto (skullcap), bearing the Pope's initials and worn during his visit to Israel in 2000. Pope John Paul II arrived in Israel March 21, 2000, for a historic five-day visit, during which he visited the holy sites of the three major religions and met with Israel's political leaders and Chief Rabbis

A walking staff used by the pope during his visit to Israel in 2000. It is the staff he used to help him approach the Western Wall in Jerusalem, where he placed a prayer of repentance in the cracks of the Wall.

In all about 70 artifacts, on loan from ten museums and ten private collections, will help chronicle the pope's associations with the Jewish community from the time of his childhood and how these lifelong associations have shaped his papacy, the Catholic Church and the future of Jewish-Catholic relations.

The exhibit is free and will be at the Xavier University Department of Art Galleries at the A.B. Cohen Center. The exhibit opens with a gala on May 18 and opens to the public on May 19. The exhibit runs through July 15 before traveling to the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.

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