

Time with the Pope

Few people had the privilege of a private audience with Pope John Paul II. One who did was journalist Tim Russert, NBC News Washington bureau chief, *Meet the Press* moderator, and former altar boy. He relates:

I'll never forget it. I was there to convince His Holiness it was in his interest to appear on the Today Show. But my thoughts soon turned away from NBC's ratings toward the idea of salvation. As I stood there with the Vicar of Christ, I simply blurted, "Bless me, Father!"

He put his arm around my shoulders and whispered, "You are the one called Timothy, the man from NBC?"

I said, "Yes, yes, that's me."

"They tell me you're a very important man."

Taken aback, I said, "Your Holiness, there are only two of us in this room, and I am certainly a distant second."

He looked at me and said, "Right."

Russert's account demonstrates that it is always wise to know your place.

As important a figure as was Pope John Paul II, however, there is One far greater than he, and each of us can have an audience with Him. Christ puts His arms around us and whispers to us how important we are to Him.

With that knowledge – and the understanding that Christ loves us – we should approach each new day with confidence and power. We are someone important.

--Beecher Hunter