

# Venice bishop remembers the pope

Pope John Paul II dies at 85 years old as world mourns.

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Bishop John Nevins, a founder of the Venice Diocese, joined the world in mourning and remembering the legacy of Pope John Paul II, who died Saturday.

Pope John Paul II was 85 and had served as pope since 1978.

"With the death of the Holy Father, we mourn the loss of our friend, our teacher, our pastor, our Pope, John Paul II," Nevins said through a press release. "I know that his passing is a great loss to the world. I know his death is a loss to me, for he appointed me as bishop early in his pontificate and he has been a source of surety and strength throughout my life as a bishop."

During a press conference Friday, Nevins talked about how the pope was like a brother to him. Diocese of Venice was the second diocese established in Florida, and Nevins has appointed by the pope as its first bishop.

Nevins expects to step down when he turns 75 years old in two years after 20 years.



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Bishop John J. Nevins, Bishop of Venice, and Pope John Paul II are pictured in March 2004 during the bishop's ad limina visit to Rome. The bishop of a diocese is required to make this visit every five years, as a sign of his communion with the Holy See and in order to report on the condition of his diocese.

"He means very much to me," Nevins said Friday. "He's like a brother to me, really, and I pray that all God's people will pray for him."

Nevins said he'd learned so much from this man, especially with the Pope's approach to accuminism,

which means respect to the other Christian faiths. Nevins was taught they all love the lord, and also to respect interfaith, which means Jewish people or people of other faiths.

Please see POPE, 6A