

## United Press International

### John Paul's beatification opposed

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Opponents of Pope Benedict XVI's plans to beatify the late Pope John Paul II are calling for others to join them in discounting John Paul's work.

Eleven prominent theologians argue the Catholic Church should take into account what they call a "negative evaluation" when considering whether to make John Paul a saint, The Scotsman reported.

Jose Maria Castillo, a Jesuit theology professor at the University of Granada in Spain, and Italian theologian Giovanni Franzoni said there were positive parts of John Paul's 27-year papacy, but there were also negatives.

They point to his opposition to contraception and to an increased role for women in the Church, as well as a number of scandals -- especially the handling of the pedophile priest crisis in the United States which gained worldwide attention in 2002.

Opponents say the pope should not have disciplined church members who promoted a method of helping the poor in Latin America called "Liberation Theology." That approach encouraged people to link political activism to their religious beliefs.

Monsignor Slawomir Oder, the person in charge of John Paul's beatification case, said all views would be taken into account.

John Paul died in April. Pope Benedict XVI has waved the customary 5-year waiting period before beatification can begin.

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