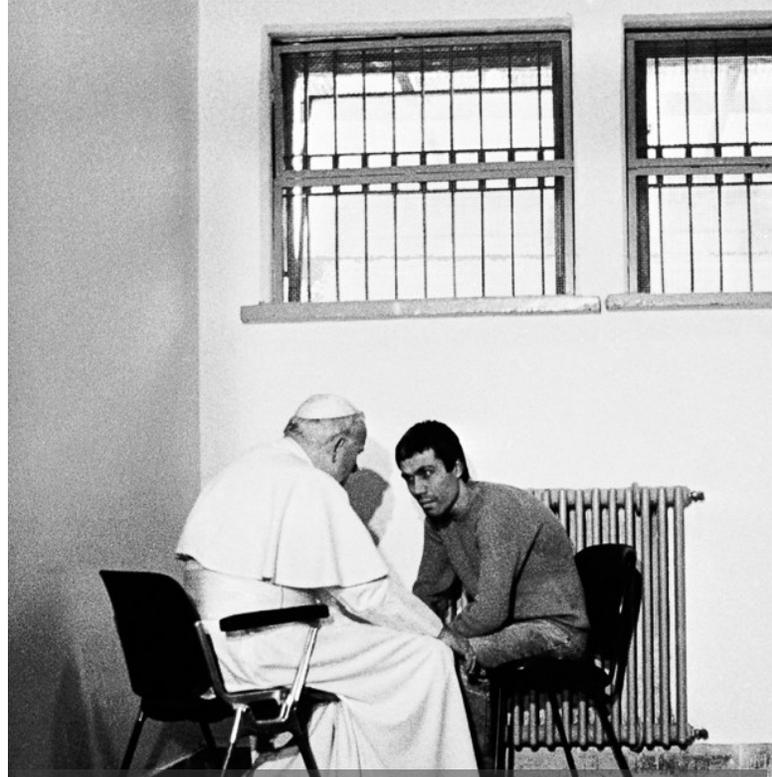
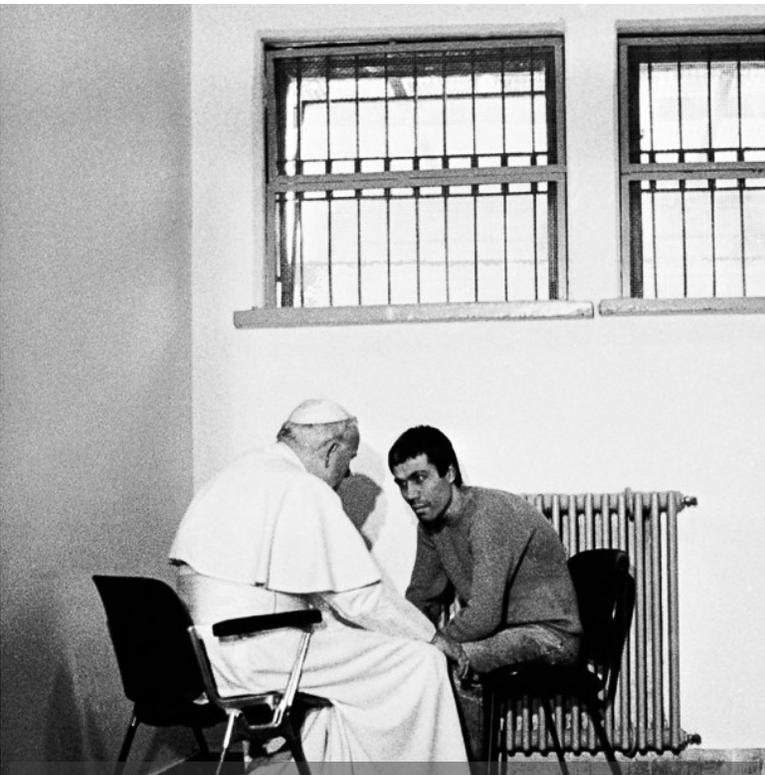


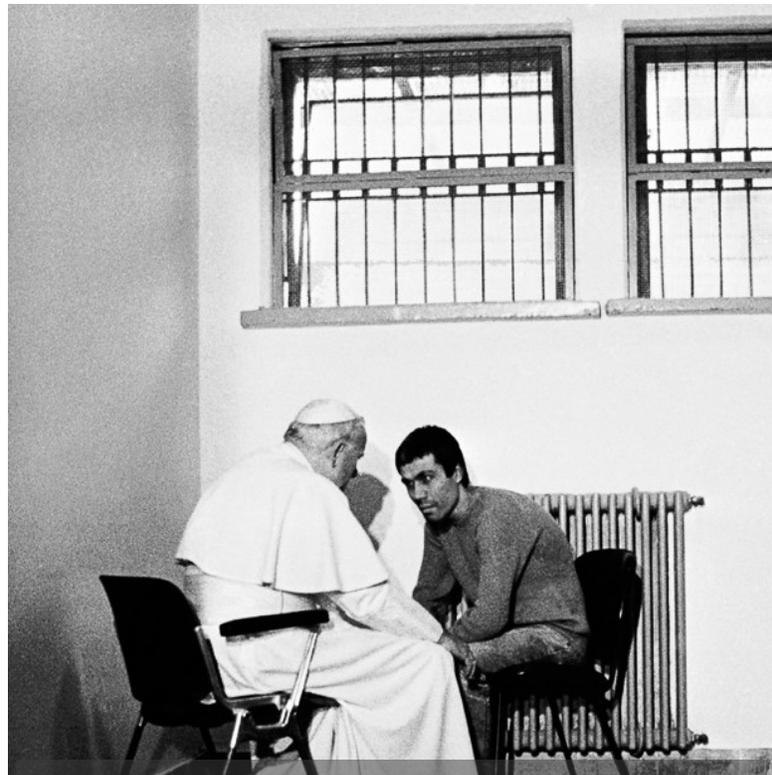
On May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, Mehmet Ali Ağca attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II. Later, from his hospital bed, Pope John Paul II asked people to "pray for my brother [Ağca] ... whom I have sincerely forgiven." On Dec. 28, 1983, he and Ağca met and spoke privately at Rome's Rebibbia Prison, where Ağca was being held.



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Prayer for Peace by St. John Paul II

O God, Creator of the universe,
who extends your paternal concern over every creature
and guides the events of history to the goal of salvation,
we acknowledge your fatherly love
when you break the resistance of mankind and,
in a world torn by strife and discord,
you make us ready for reconciliation.

Renew for us the wonders of your mercy;
send forth your Spirit that he may work
in the intimacy of hearts,
that enemies may begin to dialogue,
that adversaries may shake hands
and peoples may encounter one another in harmony.

May all commit themselves to the sincere search
for true peace which will extinguish all arguments,
for charity which overcomes hatred,
for pardon which disarms revenge.

Amen.

Front Image: Keystone-France/Getty Images

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