



POPE JOHN PAUL II  
• CULTURAL CENTER •

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Contact: Sandy Peeler  
202-635-5440  
speeler@jp2cc.org

## **King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of Jordan To Receive the Pope John Paul II Peace Prize**

Washington— The Pope John Paul II Peace Prize for 2005 will be awarded to His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on November 16 at an international event honoring the late Pontiff.

“His Majesty King Abdullah II was chosen because of his efforts to broker peace and understanding and for his tireless work to peacefully settle conflicts that engender violence,” said Msgr. William A. Kerr, executive director of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, the organization making the award.

The award will be presented by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, at The Legacy Dinner: A Tribute to Pope John Paul II at the National Building Museum in Washington.

“His Majesty King Abdullah II is a moral leader of international reputation. He leads by words, but also by example. Like Pope John Paul II, he brings hope to the generations who must live in the future. Like the late Holy Father, he challenges all of us to work for justice, for peace, and for life,” Msgr. Kerr stated.

Pope John Paul II, who traveled to 130 countries and embraced all faiths and cultures, had called all peoples to work for peace and to create a culture of peace. His legacy is extended through the Pope John Paul II Peace Prize, which honors those who challenge humanity to find ways to peace.

In his November 2004 Amman Message, His Majesty King Abdullah II put forth the principles of peace shared by the Islamic Nation. “The foundation of relations between Muslims and others is peace,” he stated.

The Pope John Paul II Peace Prize will be given annually. Recipients are chosen based on the impact they have had on the minds and hearts of peoples in daily interactions at all levels: government, business, education, the arts, and religion.

His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein became Monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on February 7, 1999, the day his father, the late King Hussein bin Talal, passed away.

Since his ascension to the throne, King Abdullah II has carried on his late father's strong and positive moderating role for Jordan within the Arab region and the world. He has worked toward establishing a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Abdullah II also is continuing the late King's legacy to further institutionalize democratic and political pluralism in Jordan. He has focused on ensuring sustainable levels of economic growth and social development aimed at improving the living standards of all Jordanians and modernizing Jordan's information technology and educational systems.

His Majesty has advanced civil liberties in Jordan, making it one of the most progressive countries in the Middle East. He has also enacted legislation to guarantee women a full role in the Kingdom's socio-economic and political life. Under his reign, Jordan was admitted to the World Trade Organization, and ratified agreements for the establishment of a Free Trade Area with the United States, the European Union, The European Free Trade Association countries, and sixteen Arab countries.

His military career has included service in the Royal Jordanian Airforce and in the Jordanian Armed Forces as Commander of the Royal Jordanian Special Forces and of Special Operations. He also served his country in the official capacity of Regent in His late Majesty's absence.

King Abdullah II, born in Amman in 1962, is the eldest son of His Majesty the late King Hussein bin Talal and Her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein. He was educated at the Islamic Educational College in Amman and St. Edmund's School in Surrey, England. He attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and Oxford University in England. He completed advanced studies in international affairs at Georgetown University.

King Abdullah II and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, who married in 1993, have two sons, Prince Hussein and Prince Hashem, and two daughters, Princess Iman and Princess Salma.

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