Pope John Paul II (Latin: Ioannes Paulus II; Italian: Giovanni Paolo II; Polish: Jan Paweł; born Karol Józef Wojtyła [ˈkarɔl ˈjuzɛf vɔjˈtɨwa]; 18 May 1920 – 2 April 2005) was the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 1978 until his death in 2005. He was elected pope by the second papal conclave of 1978, which was called after John Paul I, who had been elected in August to succeed Pope Paul VI, died after 33 days. Cardinal Wojtyła was elected on the third day of The End and the Beginning: Pope John Paul II—The Victory of Freedom, the Last Years, the Legacy Hardcover – 14 September 2010. by George Weigel (Author). 4.6 out of 5 stars 39 ratings. See all formats and editions Hide other formats and editions. Amazon Price. An excellent portrayal of the life and work of the Polish Pope John Paul II who helped to bring about the fall of Communism. Highly recommended. Read more. Arturo E Ceron. 5.0 out of 5 stars The end and the beginning. 3 May 2016 - Published on Amazon.com. Verified Purchase. I liked the book very much and I enjoyed it too, I would recommend this book to any one, I am sure they would like it. Read more. Go to Amazon.com to see all 34 reviews 4.6 out of 5 stars. More than ten years in the making, The End and the Beginning: Pope John Paul II—The Victory of Freedom, the Last Years, the Legacy tells the dramatic story of the Pope's battle with communism in light of new and recently disclosed information and brings to a close Weigel's landmark portrait of a man who not only left an indelible mark on the Catholic Church, but also changed the course of world history. As March gave way to April in the spring of 2005 and the world kept vigil outside the apostolic palace in Rome, the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, then drawing to a poignant end, was already being described as one of the most consequential in two millennia of Christian history. There are no customer reviews for this item yet. Limited Edition Shirts & Totes. Available in a variety of colors and styles, for a limited time. This fundraiser supports the future of Harvard Book Store! Learn More. Shipping & Curbside Pickup. We ship anywhere in the U.S. and orders of $60+ ship free via Moreover, Weigel recounts the tumultuous last years of John Paul II's life as he dealt with a crippling illness as well as the "new world disorder" and revelations about corruption within the Catholic Church. Weigel's thought-provoking biography of John Paul II concludes with a probing and passionate assessment of a man who lived his life as a witness to hope in service to the Christian ideals he embraced. Product Identifiers. Publisher.