

FUNDACJA JANA PAWŁA II JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION



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TEL. 06-9761-7577 TEL/FAX: 0039-0668-618-44; E-MAIL: jp2f@nettuno.it

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STYPENDYŚCI FUNDACJI ROZPOCZĘLI NOWY ROK AKADEMICKI

Rozpoczął się nowy rok akademicki. Fundacja Jana Pawła II umożliwia naukę 158 osobom, które studiują w Katolickim Uniwersytecie Lubelskim na studiach magisterskich (143 osoby) i doktoranckich (15 osób). Aktualnie po raz pierwszy stypendium otrzymuje 31 stypendystów, którzy podejmują studia magisterskie, doktoranckie i podyplomowe. Na drugim roku jest obecnie 29 osób, na trzecim – 35, na czwartym – 36 i na piątym roku – 27 osób. Studenci pochodzą z 7 krajów. Najwięcej z nich jest obywatelami Ukrainy (76 osób), następnie Białorusi (45), Litwy (27), Kazachstanu (5), Rosji (2), Mołdawii (2). Po raz pierwszy w gronie stypendystów jest osoba z Turkmenistanu. Studiują na 17 kierunkach: teologii (31), psychologii (27), ekonomii (25), pedagogice (13), filologii polskiej (10), muzykologii (10), socjologii (9), zarządzaniu i marketingu (9), historii (7), filologii angielskiej (5), filozofii teoretycznej (3), prawie kanonicznym (3), filologii germańskiej (2), historii sztuki (1), dziennikarstwie (1), ochronie środowiska (1), architekturze krajobrazu (1).

9 października w kaplicy Domu Fundacji Jana Pawła II

w Lublinie została odprawiona uroczysta Msza św. na rozpoczęcie roku akademickiego. Przewodniczył jej i homilię wygłosił ks. prof. dr hab. Stanisław Wilk, nowy rektor KUL. W homilii zwrócił uwagę na postać Maryi, która wiernie słuchała Słowa Bożego i w oparciu o to Słowo kształtowała swoje życie. Ks. Rektor zachęcał stypendystów do odkrywania i korzystania z możliwości, które daje uniwersytet, do włączania się w działalność kół, stowarzyszeń i innych grup, które funkcjonują w jego ramach.

Po Mszy św. podczas spotkania była okazja do bezpośrednich rozmów i przedstawienia nowych stypendystów. Wieczór upłynął w miłej, serdecznej atmosferze, przy wspomnieniach z wakacji.

Nowi stypendyści

W Domu Fundacji Jana Pawła II w Lublinie od 15 sierpnia do końca września trwał kurs kwalifikacyjno-przygotowawczy, w którym uczestniczyli nowi kandydaci na studia w Katolickim Uniwersytecie Lubelskim. Spośród 32 osób 15 kandydatów pochodziło z Ukrainy, 8 – z Białorusi, 4 – z Litwy, 2 – z Rosji i po jednej osobie z Kazachstanu, Mołdawii i Turkmenistanu. Wybrali prawie wszystkie z wachlarza dostępnych dla stypendystów kierunków: ekonomię

(5 osób), psychologię (5), zarządzanie i marketing (4), pedagogikę (4), teologię (3), muzykologię (3), filologię angielską (2), socjologię (2), filologię polską (1), historię (1), filologię germańską (1) i filozofię (1). Kurs przygotowawczy polegał na intensywnej nauce przedmiotów obowiązkowych dla wszystkich, tzn. języka polskiego i języka obcego (angielski lub niemiecki) oraz przedmiotów związanych z poszczególnymi kierunkami studiów: biologii, literatury polskiej, historii Polski, matematyki, wprowadzenia do filozofii. Na koniec kursu przyszli stypendyści zdawali egzaminy z wiedzy, którą zdobyli w ciągu tych 6 tygodni.

W czasie kursu zorganizowano dwie wycieczki. Celem jednej z nich



była podlubelska miejscowość, a program przewidywał Mszę św. i wypoczynek przy ognisku. Druga wycieczka została zorganizowana na zakończenie kursu, a jej trasa wiodła przez Radecką (sanktuarium św. Antoniego oddalone od Lublina o ok. 100 km), gdzie kandydaci uczestniczyli we Mszy św., a następnie przez piękny zakątek na Roztoczu – Zwierzyniec i wreszcie Zamość.

Uczestnicy kursu mieli także okazję zwiedzić Lublin, zapoznać się z jego zabytkami, w tym z największym skarbem, jakim jest Kaplica Zamkowa.

Codzienna Msza św. z katechezą na temat chrześcijańskiej dojrzałości w wierze pozwalała kształtować przez ten czas także ducha przyszłych stypendystów Fundacji.

Ostatecznie stypendium otrzymały 23 osoby. 12 z nich pochodzi z Ukrainy, 6 z Białorusi i po jednej osobie z Kazachstanu, Litwy, Mołdawii, Rosji, Turkmenistanu. Będą studiować następujące kierunki: ekonomię (4 osoby), pedagogikę (4), muzykologię (3), psychologię (3), socjologię (2), filologię angielską (2), teologię (1), zarządzanie i marketing (1), filologię polską (1), filologię germańską (1), filozofię teoretyczną (1).

SPOTKANIE PRZYJACIÓŁ FUNDACJI JANA PAWŁA II W TORONTO

The Friends of John Paul II Foundation Inc., działa w Toronto od 1998 roku. Co roku coraz więcej osób włącza się w działalność Fundacji Jana Pawła II poprzez przynależność do Koła Przyjaciół Fundacji w Toronto. W 1998 roku Koło liczyło 18 członków, dzisiaj 150 osób z radością angażuje się w działalność Fundacji Jana Pawła II wspierając również finansowo stałe kierunki jej pracy.

Coroczne zebranie Koła Przyjaciół Fundacji miało miejsce 20 października w sali parafialnej przy Kościele św. Kazimierza. Rozpoczęło się Mszą św. w intencji wszystkich członków Koła, tak żywych jak i zmarłych. Stanowiło również okazję, by w szczególny sposób modlić się w intencji Ojca Świętego z okazji zbliżającej się 26. rocznicy Jego pontyfikatu.

Uczestników zebrania przywitała pani Danuta Warszawska, prezes Koła Przyjaciół w Toronto, i przedstawiła sprawozdanie z działalności za rok 2004. Specyfiką Koła jest wieloetniczność jego członków. Są wśród nich Polacy, Ukraińcy, Kanadyjczycy tak z Toronto jak i z innych części Kanady: Vancouver, Saskatchewan, Edmonton. Wszystkich łączy przywiązanie do osoby Ojca Świętego i Jego nauczania, które jest punktem odniesienia dla Papieskiej Fundacji. To sprawia, że wielu ludzi nie związanych z kulturą polską tak chętnie włącza się w działalność Fundacji. Pani Prezes podziękowała panu redaktorowi «Związkowca» Stanisławowi Stolarczykowi, panu Markowi Kornasiowi, mecenasowi Walterowi Lalka, panu Henrykowi Słabemu, pani Elżbiecie Wolskiej, ks. Zygmuntowi Musielskiemu, Księdzu z parafii św. Kazimierza oraz wszystkim członkom Koła za miłą współpracę.

Szczególne słowa uznania za stały kontakt z Kołem w Toronto skierowała do ks. prałata Stefana Wylężka i pani Jolanty Szpilarewicz. Podziękowała ks. Prałatowi za przybycie do Toronto. Obecni przyjęli jednogłośnie sprawozdanie pani Prezes jak również zaaprobowali stan finansowy Koła przedstawiony przez pana Henryka Słabego, który jest głównym księgowym Koła i przygotowuje sprawozdania finansowe dla Rządu kanadyjskiego, gdyż Koło Przyjaciół Fundacji w Toronto posiada numer charytatywny pozwalający na odpis podatkowy dla osób, które pomagają finansowo Fundacji Jana Pawła II.

Pan Mecenas Walter Lalka przedstawił sytuację prawną Koła Przyjaciół oraz jego statut na tle systemu prawa kanadyjskiego.

Ks. prałat Stefan Wylężek, administrator Fundacji Jana Pawła II w Rzymie poinformował o bieżącej działalności Fundacji oraz jej planach na przyszłość. W ramach Fundacji działa 40 Kół Przyjaciół w 17 krajach. W 2006 roku Fundacja Jana Pawła II obchodzić będzie 25. rocznicę powstania. Będzie to okazja by przedstawić jej cele i konkretną codzienną pracę różnym środowiskom.

Jednogłośnie przyjęto wnioski, by ten sam Zarząd kierował działalnością Koła, a wybory nowego Zarządu przesunięto na przyszły rok.

Koło Przyjaciół Fundacji Jana Pawła II w Toronto w różny sposób stara się przybliżyć działalność Fundacji Jana Pawła II. Temu też służyła inicjatywa dr. Tomasza Jaskota i jego żony Haliny oraz dr. Steve Szarka i żony Małgorzaty, polegająca na zorganizowaniu bankietu, z którego dochód miał być przeznaczony na działalność Fundacji Jana Pawła II. Spotkanie to okazało się nadspodziewanie udane i zgromadziło ponad 50 osób z których większość nie była członkami Koła Przyjaciół. Ks. prał. Stefan Wylężek przedstawił wszystkim cele Fundacji, akcentując przede wszystkim jej program edukacyjny obejmujący młodzież z krajów Europy środkowowschodniej. Świadectwa osób, które były w Rzymie i spotkały się z Ojcem Świętym oraz zapoznały się z działalnością Fundacji wzbudziły wielkie zainteresowanie obecnych. Dr Tomasz Jaskot przekazał czek na działalność Fundacji od wszystkich obecnych oraz prezent dla Ojca Świętego w postaci krzyża zamówionego u artysty Mariana Owczarskiego, z okazji 26. rocznicy pontyfikatu. Wysłano również okolicznościowy list z życzeniami dla Ojca Świętego.

Pani Prezes Danuta Warszawska podziękowała organizatorom tego wieczoru: dr. Tomaszowi Jaskotowi i jego żonie Halinie oraz dr. Steve Szarka i jego żonie Małgorzacie za zorganizowanie bankietu oraz wszystkim obecnym za poparcie tej inicjatywy.

Łączność z Fundacją Jana Pawła II jest równocześnie łącznością z Ojcem Świętym i Jego nauczaniem. Zapraszamy do włączenia się w to dzieło, które jest jednym z owoców pontyfikatu Jana Pawła II.

Danuta Warszawska

TORONTO FOUNDATION FRIENDS HOLD MEETING

The Toronto Chapter of Friends of the John Paul II Foundation was founded in 1998 at which time it had 18 members. Today it boasts a total of 150 members who are active in supporting the work of the Foundation through their financial gifts as well as Chapter activities and projects.

The annual meeting of the Toronto Chapter took place on October 20th at the Parish Hall of St. Casimir Parish. The day's activities began with the celebration of Mass offered for the intentions of the members, both living and deceased, as well as for the intentions of the Holy Father on the occasion of his 26th anniversary of election.

Ms Danuta Warszawski, president of the Toronto Chapter, greeted the guests and then presented a report on the activities of the past year. The Chapter is known for its multi-ethnic composition. It includes Poles, Ukrainians, and Canadians from Toronto and other places in Canada: Vancouver, Saskatchewan, Edmonton. The bond among all of the members is their attachment to the Holy Father and his teaching. This is the reason why many non-Poles are willing to be members of the Foundation and work for its purposes. President Warszawski expressed gratitude to the following for their exemplary cooperation: Stanislaw Stolarczyk (editor of the «Związkowiec»), Marek Kornas, Walter Lalka, Henryk Slaby, Elzbieta Wolski, Rev. Zygmunt Musielski, St. Casimir's Parish, and all of the members of the Chapter.

The President directed special words of gratitude to Msgr. Stefan Wylezek and Jolanta Szpilarewicz of Rome. She thanked the Monsignor for coming to Toronto for the meeting. The membership accepted her report unanimously, as well as the report of the treasurer, Henryk Slaby, who prepares the reports submitted to the Canadian government in order for the Chapter to have a tax-exempt status for charitable gifts from those who assist the Chapter financially.

Mr. Walter Lalka, an attorney, explained the legal status of the Chapter as well as its statutes in the context of Canadian law.

Msgr. Stefan Wylezek, administrator of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome, informed the members of the current activities of the Foundation and its plans for the future. The Foundation currently has 40 Chapters in 17 countries. The Foundation will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2006. This will be an excellent opportunity to give publicity to the Foundation about its goals and activities.

A unanimous motion declared that the same officers will serve for the next year, and elections were postponed to the following year.

The Toronto Chapter of Friends continues to support the work of the John Paul II Foundation. To this end Dr. Tomasz Jaskot and his wife, Halina, together with Dr. Steve Szarka and his wife, Malgorzata, arranged a banquet whose profits were designated for the work of the Foundation. The banquet, which drew more than 50 persons, was most success-

ful and was attended by many non-members of the Chapter. Msgr. Wylezek spoke about the educational activities of the Foundation for the youth of former Soviet countries. Some of those present at the meeting shared their own experiences of visits to Rome during which they learned more extensively of the work of the Foundation. Dr. Tomasz Jaskot presented a check for the program of the Foundation from all those present as well as a crucifix executed by Artist Marian Owczarski, Director of the Galeria at the Orchard Lake Schools, on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the papal election. Special greetings were also sent to the Holy Father for the anniversary.

In conclusion, President Warszawski expressed gratitude, once again, to Dr. and Mrs. Tomasz Jaskot as well as to Dr. and Mrs. Steve Szarka for their promotion of the banquet, and to all of the members present at the meeting.

Ties with the John Paul II Foundation are ties with the person of the Holy Father and with his teachings. We invite all to join in this work, which is one of the fruits of the pontificate of John Paul II.

Danuta Warszawski

**Translated by Rev. Walter Ziemia
Orchard Lake, Michigan**

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS IN LUBLIN

For the new academic year 2004-2005 the John Paul II Foundation is offering scholarships to 158 persons at the Catholic University of Lublin. Of these 143 are pursuing master's degrees and 15 doctoral degrees. There are 31 new scholarship students pursuing master's, doctor's and post graduate degrees. There are 29 students in their second year of studies, 35 in their third year, 36 in their fourth, and 27 in their fifth. Students come from 7 countries: Ukraine (76), Belarus (45), Lithuania (27), Kazakhstan (5), Russia (2), and Moldavia (2). For the first time, there is one student from Turkmenistan. Students are enrolled in 17 different areas of study: theology (31), psychology (27), economics (25), pedagogy (13), Polish philology (10), musicology (10), sociology (9), business and marketing (9), history (7), English philology (5), philosophy (3), Canon law (3), German philology (2), history of art (1), journalism (1), public safety (1), and landscape architecture (1).

Rev. Prof. Dr. Stanislaw Wilk, the new Rector of the Catholic University, offered the opening Mass and delivered the homily on October 9th in the John Paul II Foundation Home in Lublin. In his homily he called attention to Mary, who faithfully listened to the word of God and led her life according to it. The Rector urged the students to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the University, to become involved in its activities, and to join the various social groups at the University.

After Mass, there was opportunity for all present to mingle, to come to know the new students, and to share vacation experiences.

New Foundation Scholarship Students

A special preparatory summer session was conducted for new scholarship students at the John Paul II Foundation Home in Lublin from August 15th to the 30th. Among the 32 students, 15 were from the Ukraine, 8 from Belarus, 4 from Lithuania, 2 from Russia, and 1 each from Kazakhstan, Moldavia, and Turkmenistan. The areas for study they chose were: economics (5), psychology (5), business and marketing (4), pedagogy (4) theology (3), musicology (3), English philology (2), sociology (2), Polish philology (1), history (1), German philology (1), and philosophy (1). The summer program included intensive study of required courses in the Polish and English or German languages by all, as well as other selected courses: biology, Polish literature, Polish history, mathematics, and introduction to philosophy. At the end of the six week session, the students took exams in their respective courses.

During the summer session the students went on two outings – one to a park near Lublin to rest, participate in a Mass, and enjoy a campfire; the other to the Sanctuary of St. Anthony at Radechnica (about 100 km. from Lublin), where they participated in a Mass, and then visited beautiful places in Roztocze region: Zwierzyniec and Zamosc.

The participants also visited the city of Lublin with its highlight – the Castle Chapel.

The program also provided an opportunity for catechizing the students about Christian maturity and faith.

Of the 32 enrolled for the summer session, 23 were awarded scholarships – 12 from the Ukraine, 6 from Belarus, and one each from Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldavia, Russia, and Turkmenistan. They will pursue studies in: economics (4), pedagogy (4), musicology (3), psychology (3), sociology (2), English philology (2), theology (1), business and marketing (1), Polish philology (1), German philology (1), and philosophy (1).

**Translated by Rev. Walter Ziemba
Orchard Lake, Michigan**

LES BOURSIERS

DE LA FONDATION JEAN-PAUL II à LUBLIN

En cette année universitaire 2004-2005, l'Université Catholique de Lublin a une nouvelle fois ouverte ses portes aux boursiers de la Fondation Jean-Paul II.

Ils sont au nombre de cent cinquante huit, soit une trentaine de jeunes par année universitaire; quinze d'entre eux préparent un doctorat.

Ces étudiants sont originaires de sept pays. Les plus nombreux viennent d'Ukraine (76) et de Biélorussie (45); les autres, de Lituanie, Kazakhstan, Russie, Moldavie, ou encore du Turkménistan. Ils étudient dans dix-sept domaines différents: théologie, psychologie, économie, pédagogie, philologie, musicologie, sociologie, gestion et marketing, philosophie, histoire, droit canon, journalisme,

et autres.

Du 15 août à la fin septembre, la nouvelle promotion a bénéficié d'un cours de préparation et de sélection. Les jeunes y ont ainsi reçu un enseignement intensif de la langue polonaise et d'une autre langue (anglais ou allemand). En outre, il leur a été proposé un approfondissement dans certaines des matières liées directement au domaine d'étude choisi.

Pour leur culture spirituelle, les candidats à la bourse de la Fondation ont pu participer à une messe quotidienne avec catéchèse concernant la maturité dans la foi chrétienne.

Quelques moments de détente ont été prévus, et notamment des visites touristiques de Lublin et de sa région.

Après ces six semaines de travail intensif, un examen a permis de garder les meilleurs éléments, soit vingt trois parmi les trente deux candidats.

La messe inaugurale de l'année universitaire a été célébrée le 9 octobre dernier à la chapelle de la Maison Jean-Paul II par le nouveau recteur de l'Université Catholique, le Père Professeur Stanislaw Wilk. Dans son homélie, ce dernier a attiré l'attention de l'auditoire sur la Vierge Marie et sa foi en la parole de Dieu, cette foi ayant dirigé sa vie. Le recteur a également encouragé les boursiers à profiter de toutes les opportunités offertes par la vie universitaire, tout en les incitant à s'engager dans les associations, cercles et autres groupes d'activité.

Des présentations, échanges d'impressions et de souvenirs de vacances ont suivi la messe dans une ambiance très cordiale.

A TOUCH OF HEAVEN

Many of the Friends of the John Paul II Foundation had a chance and privilege to meet personally with the Holy Father and they treasure this moment as a special, unique experience.

Jeannie Taylor, an American had this opportunity, too and she shared her personal thoughts and emotions because of - as she writes - «my desire to give of my heart and soul for the glory of God».

I stood upon the dome of St. Peter's Basilica overlooking Rome. I felt connected to the city, to the world, to my ancestors, to history. I was standing on holy ground. I looked at the many saints around of St Peter's Square and I knew that I was among friends. The columns they stood on embraced me in my soul. Then the suffering in my soul cried out to God «Why am I here, at this time in my life?» It would take many months of reflection and prayer after my return from Rome to understand the answer.

I was in conflict, trying to balance great joy and great sorrow. I accepted that it was my Lenten journey. I had started asking God for strength a month before March of 2004. I had gone on a spiritual retreat to prepare for the first anniversary of my son Anthony's death. I was afraid that the

grief was too much to bear. I didn't ask God to take my pain away; I wanted it to be a Lenten offering, my sacrifice on the altar. I asked him to help me unite my suffering to Christ, that it might have a purpose. On Ash Wednesday, I watched the Passion of Christ film. I identified with Peter's denying Christ three times. Three times during the movie, I cried in denial of the pain. My Savior showed me how he accepted his cross with love. My faith was renewed. I looked to Mary, the Blessed Mother as my example of how to go on as a woman of faith. In my heart I knew that my faith was for more than comfort during grief, it was for living in hope and love. I was given the grace to feel, in my spirit, the faith of those who were praying for Anthony and me. Their faith and love helped me to celebrate Anthony's first year in heaven on March 20th.

Only heaven could have arranged the circumstances that brought me to Rome a week later. I had been invited to join a group of my parent's friends to have a personal audience with Pope John Paul II. I knew it would be one of highlights of my life, a sacred experience. I respected and admired His Holiness as the leader of our Church. I often reflected on his message «Be not afraid». Everyone asked me what I would say to the Pope. I would answer that I was still working on what to wear. I didn't really care if I said anything to him; I just wanted to join my prayers with his. I believe in the power of prayer and scripture says «Where two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst». I felt praying with the Holy Father would be as close as I could get to heaven on earth. I knew that Pope John Paul II prayed for peace in the world and for families. I hoped that being in the presence of a living saint would help me to feel closer to Anthony, my sister Susie, my Mema and all the rest of my family and friends who have died.

We were given a tour to the Vatican Museum. The art and history evidenced God's inspiration in the world. The magnificence of each room with all the treasures and masterpieces is overwhelming. (...) We finished the tour with the Sistine Chapel. I stared at Michelangelo's creation and the hand of God reaching for Adam. This image was the perfect expression of how I felt about seeing the Pope. I gave praise to God for the grace to be touched by heaven. (...)

We looked at the hills of Rome from the top of a hotel, I thought, I am not worthy to be here. The group I traveled with was special and I enjoyed every conversation with each person. I prayed for their prayers and thanked God for the honor of sharing their company. The hotel staff and taxi drivers asked where we were going so dressed up; we excitedly explained we were going to see the Pope. They said that the Pope's Wednesday audience was the next day and it was only Tuesday. We said we were going for a personal audience and everyone told us "It was not possible". Again, I felt unworthy. I thought of scriptures, "The things that are impossible with man are possible with God". We had gone to mass that morning, I asked God to prepare my heart for such great grace. I prayed at an altar dedicated to St Anthony for all the prayers in my heart and for all the prayers entrusted to me by others. I lit candles for us and I asked my son Anthony to carry the prayers to the Holy Father for me, so that I would not forget them in my nervousness. With a mother's heart, I lit candles at an altar in honor of the Blessed Mother, I entrusted the prayers for our children to her special intercession. (...)

The Swiss Guard escorted us into the papal residence. (...) We climbed floors of marble staircases passing rooms that rivaled the Vatican museum in splendor. I was in awe as we waited in a throne room outside the library.



The throne had Moses and Elijah standing on each arm of the chair. Life size statues of the gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John stood on the sides of the room. On the ceiling was a crest with the keys to the kingdom.

We walked into the library and my first sight of Pope John Paul II was reassuring. He looked well and was watching us enter. My nerves relaxed as I giggled to myself that he was wearing those funny red slippers. I watched him delightfully receive a little girl giving him a poster from her kindergarten class. I watched him bless my parents, a memory I will always treasure. My mother showed him a picture of our Franciscan priests and he blessed them.

I knelt before the Pope and he handed me a rosary, his hand touched mine and my heart trembled at the gift. I said, «Holy Father, I love you» and as if he was saying with me, he finished «very much». He lifted his head and looked into my eyes. I felt a spirit of joy flow through my entire body. He reached for my face and I bowed my head at his touch. He made the sign of the cross on my forehead in blessing. I said, «pray for my family and friends» as I rose to leave. (...)

The rest of my week in Rome, I floated on a spiritual high, recalling that looking his eyes, the touch of blessing, and being filled with joy. (...) I could only describe looking into Pope John Paul II's eyes as comparable to the first time of looking into the eyes of my newborn sons. (...) My understanding came as I trusted Jesus and let that joy fill the spaces of my broken heart. It was a glimpse of the joy of heaven that Anthony experiences in his eternal life. In my joy and in my sorrow, I experienced heaven on earth.

I share with you, the readers of my words, these personal thoughts and emotions because of my desire to give of

my heart and soul for the glory of God. My prayer for you is that you will open your hearts to God and that he will help you see your glimpses of heaven.

Jeannie Taylor

26 ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN PAUL II PAPACY CELEBRATED

The third longest Papacy in the history of the Catholic Church was beautifully celebrated by the Friends of John Paul II Foundation on Saturday evening, October 16 in the Officers Club at Fort Myer, Virginia. It was the twelfth such celebration by the group under the banner, WADOWICE-ON-THE-POTOMAC.

The hundred participants not only enjoyed a gourmet dinner, musical accompaniment by the Strolling Strings and a piano concert of Chopin compositions favored by the Polish Pope, but an incisive interpretation of Pope John Paul's role in 20th century history. The program was opened by the current President of Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Mrs. Bernadette Wiermanski who introduced the Event Chairpersons, Doctors Edwarda and Richard Okreglak. Dr. Edwarda Buda then introduced the honored guests at the head table including Counselor - Minister of the Republic of Poland, Miroslaw Luczko.

Mr. Walter Zachariasiewicz, a Knight Commander in the Order of Saint Gregory the Great and a founder of the Friends was, in turn, the presenter of Mr. George Weigel, author of "Witness to Hope", a definitive biography of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The biography, first published

in 1999, is now available worldwide translated into most of the major languages.

At the outset of this introduction of the honored guest, Mr. Zachariasiewicz noted that even as we joyfully and prayerfully celebrate in Washington the historic Pontificate of John Paul II, the entire Polish nation is now observing a newly proclaimed "Papal Day" in honor of the country's favored son.

Zachariasiewicz then recalled that our close relationship with the guest of honor goes back to the year 1996 when the Friends sponsored a most successful observance of



Head table «Wadowice 2004» (from the left to the right): Rev. Canon Philip Majka, Mrs. Luczka, Mr. George Weigel, Pres. Bernadette Wiermanski, Walter Zachariasiewicz, KCSG, Mrs. Weigel, Hon. Miroslaw Luczka, Counselor Minister, Embassy of Poland

John Paul II's 18th anniversary as Pope as well as His 50th as a priest. That celebration held at the Catholic University's Hartke Theatre included then-Cardinal James Hickey and Papal Nuncio, cardinal Agostino Cacciavillan – both great supporters of our organization. The main speaker on that occasion was Mr. Weigel.

The theme of Weigel's speech on that occasion was "John Paul II's Leadership for the 21st Century". It was in effect a preview of his forthcoming crown-jewel publication, WITNESS TO HOPE. Pointing out that in addition to the four years of commuting to the Vatican (where we had unprecedented access to the Vatican's treasured archives), Weigel made many visits to Poland in order to understand and convey the full measure of His Holiness' Magisterium. His interest in Poland continues and he is now conducting every summer an ambitious academic seminar in Krakow labeled "Terzo Millenio on Free Society".

Concluding, Zachariasiewicz noted that Weigel has earned a special place in the hearts of our organization for being such an effective messenger of our beloved Holy Father and His teachings of love and respect for every human being.

Mr. Weigel followed upon that, and by questioning the various views which have been advanced worldwide regarding the fall of communism. There are, he stated, three conventional views in explaining the collapse of the communist empire: 1/ Gorbachev 2/ the failure of the communist economic structure and 3/ President Reagan. In Weigel's view however, the process began with the election of the man "whose election to the Papacy we celebrate tonight". That election he feels signalled the introduction of a "Revolution of Conscience" which preceded the political revolution of 1989.

While few in the world might have recognized this development as it happened, Weigel pointed to two prominent individuals who did. One was Alexander Solzenitzen the famed Russian novelist who was living at the time in rural Vermont. When he heard in 1978 about the election of Cardinal Wojtyla as the successor to the throne of Saint Peter, Solzenitzen stated very positively that this was the most important development since the first world war and that it would lead to the reversal of the process begun in 1914 – namely the birth of communism.

The other, according to Weigel, was another Slavic leader (though a much less admirable figure) namely, Juri Andropov the head of the Soviet secret police K.G.B. Andropov, he feels, set into motion the process of reaction to the John Paul II Papacy which led eventually to communism's collapse.

"I first went to Poland in 1991 because I had the intuition that Pope John Paul II would have something to do with the collapse of communism and I hoped to write about it. Over the course of many weeks, I spoke to several hundred people; Catholics and non-Catholics, the young and older, leftists and rightists. Without exception, all to whom I spoke and to whom I addressed the question "when did this remarkable movement start and when did it begin to

achieve such a critical mass?" All responded that it was in 1979 when the Polish Pope made his first trip to his homeland. It was, all agreed, a remarkable nine days in which the history of the 20th century was changed in a dramatic way".

Weigel stated that he has repeatedly asked himself – what did John Paul II do during those nine days. In search of an answer, he has researched the 65 or so spontaneous talks, speeches, lectures etc. that the Pope made in that nine day visit to Poland. "There was not a single mention of the then Polish communist government in those addresses except for the necessary proprieties such as those at the Krakow airport on his arrival and at the Warsaw airport on his departure. There was also absolutely no mention of the "fraternal" socialist neighboring state to the East.

There was also no discussion of politics in those nine days. Weigel states that he has been left to answer himself the question, "What therefore did John Paul II do to have provoked such a world-shaking event". In his personal opinion, Weigel feels that the Polish Pope reminded the Polish people about the authentic history of the Polish nation and, in particular, how it had been distorted, rewritten and besmirched during the communist era.

Much of what the Pope did say in one way or another to those with whom he met and to whom his remarks were directed can be generalized as "You are not who they say you are. Let me remind you that you are a proud, worthy people and a nation celebrating a millennial history of which you can well be proud."

Mr. Weigel was quite fittingly designated an honorary member of the society of Friends of the John Paul II Foundation and presented by the organization's President, Mrs. Bernadette Wiermanski, with a handsome Polish crystal vase bearing the inscription:

From the
Friends of John Paul II Foundation
to
George Weigel, October 16, 2004

There followed an excellent concert of compositions by Chopin, performed by Mr. John Gardecki who with his wife, Chateau, has recently founded the Washington International Piano Arts Council.

The celebratory evening also included a formal recognition of a major honor bestowed upon one of the organization's former Presidents, Colonel Thaddeus Nosek, USA Retired who recently returned from a visit to France at the invitation of the French government. Colonel Nosek was awarded the highest French award for his participation in the Normandy invasion.

The opening Invocation and closing Benediction were offered by the Reverend Canon Philip Majka, Chaplain of the organization and a pastor of the Arlington, Virginia diocese.

Carl Sharek, KCSS

UNIWERSYTET LETNI KULTURY POLSKIEJ
RZYM 13 czerwca — 2 lipca 2005

1. *ORGANIZATORZY* — Fundacja Jana Pawła II oraz Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski.
2. *TEMAT OGÓLNY: WKŁAD KULTURY POLSKIEJ W KULTURĘ EUROPEJSKĄ I AMERYKAŃSKĄ*
3. *PROGRAM* — Wykłady i seminaria z następujących przedmiotów: dawna i najnowsza historia Polski, myśl religijno-moralna Jana Pawła II, społeczno-gospodarcza sytuacja Polski, literatura polska, sztuka polska, polski film i teatr, muzyka polska, polska literatura i sztuka na emigracji, Kościół na emigracji, wkład polskiej emigracji w kulturę światową.

Wykłady w języku polskim i angielskim.

Studenci mogą uzyskać 5 punktów – credits; po 1 punkcie (15 godzin wykładowych + zdany egzamin) z następujących przedmiotów: historia Polski, literatura polska, sztuka polska, społeczeństwo polskie po II wojnie światowej, polski film i teatr.

WYCIECZKI: zwiedzanie Rzymu i Muzeów Watykańskich, Asyżu, Orvieto, Monte Cassino i Pompei.

Przewidziana audiencja z Ojcem Świętym.

4. *ZAKWATEROWANIE, POSIŁKI, WYKŁADY* – DOM POLSKI JANA PAWŁA II, Via Cassia 1200, 00189 Roma, tel. 39/06-303-651-81; 06-303-103-98; fax: 39/06-303-104-46 /zakwaterowanie w pokojach dwuosobowych/
5. *KOSZT* – Opłata za uczestnictwo w zajęciach, mieszkanie i wyżywienie w Domu Polskim oraz udział w wycieczkach wynosi 1350 dolarów USA (dla studentów 1200 dolarów). Przejazd do Rzymu oraz bilety wstępu do muzeów opłaca uczestnik.

THE SUMMER UNIVERSITY OF POLISH CULTURE
ROME, June 13 — July 2 2005

1. *ORGANIZERS* — The John Paul II Foundation and The Catholic University of Lublin.
2. *GENERAL TOPIC: CONTRIBUTION OF POLISH CULTURE INTO EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN CULTURES*
3. *PROGRAM* Lectures and seminars on: the old and recent history of Poland; the social and moral teachings of John Paul II; Polish literature; social and economic issue in present-day Poland; Polish art; Polish film and theatre; Polish music; Polish art and literature abroad; the Church and its role in the Polish communities abroad; Polish emigrants contribution in the world's culture.

Lectures will be held in Polish and in English.

Students may obtain 5 credits; 1 credit (15 hours of lectures + passed exam) from the following subjects: History of Poland, Polish Literature, Polish Art, Polish State and Society after WWII, Polish Film and Theatre.

SIGHTSEEING TOURS of Rome with a visit to the Vatican Museum and side trips to Assisi, Orvieto, Monte Cassino and Pompei.

An audience with the Holy Father.

4. *ACCOMMODATION, BOARD, LECTURES* — The Polish Home of John Paul II, located at Via Cassia 1200, 00189 Roma, tel. 39/06-303-651-81; 06-303-103-98; fax: 39/06-303-104-46.

5. *COST*: The entire cost of the course including lectures, room, board and side trips is 1350 US dollars (1200 dollars for students). The cost is based on double room occupancy. Travel to Rome as well as entrance fees to museums are not included.

ZGŁOSZENIA – do 15 maja 2005 roku. Przy zapisie obowiązuje przedpłata w wysokości 300 dolarów lub równowartość w innej walucie, którą potrąca się od kosztów uczestnictwa. Zgłoszenie wraz z czekiem lub M.O. prosimy przesłać pod podany adres:

ENROLLMENT – Before May 15, 2005. Please send a deposit of \$ US 300 (or exchange value of other currency) which will be deducted from the total cost of participation. Make your check or money order payable to the following address:

FUNDACJA JANA PAWŁA II
JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

Via di Porta Angelica 63 00193 Roma ITALIA

tel. 39/06-9761-7577; tel/fax 39/06- 686-1844; e-mail: jp2f@nettuno.it [http:// www.jp2f.opoka.org.pl](http://www.jp2f.opoka.org.pl)