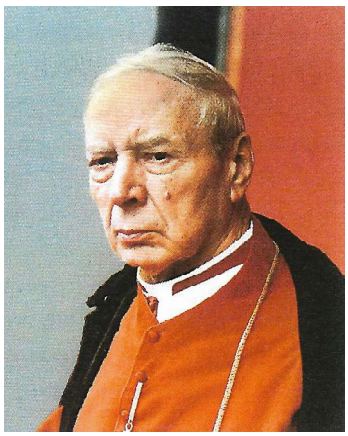
NEWSLETTER
Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

Metropolitan Washington, DC
Spring 2018

Pope Declares Cardinal Wyszynski and Father Peyton "Venerable"



Cardinal Stefan Wyzynski

In June 2017, Pope Francis recognized Cardinal Stefan Wyzynski and Father Patrick Peyton as "*Venerable*", setting them on the path towards beatification and eventual canonization. Cardinal Wyszynski was a mentor to Pope John Paul II and Father Peyton is a relative of out board member Mary Lou Karch.



Father Patrick Peyton

In March 1946 Pope Pius XII named Wyszynski the Bishop of Lublin. Just two years later he named him Archbishop of Gniezno and Warsaw and Primate of Poland. In the preface to the "Deeds of Faith" by Cardinal Wyszynski, John J. Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia writes in 1966 "The Primate of Poland, Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski is one of the most attractive churchmen of our generation.....To his flock, he is a gentle and loving spiritual father. To millions in the world who trace their ancestry to Poland, he is the staunch defender of Poland's religious and cultural heritage. To the academic world, he is a brilliant professor and author in the field of social sciences. To his fellow bishops, he is an amiable, calm and humble Prelate who radiates deep faith, manly piety and Christ-like charity. To the Polish (Communist) Regime he is a severe critic and opponent of many of its plans and the target of its bitter attacks.

In 1948, when the Cardinal became the Primate of Poland with the responsibility of defending the freedom and life of the Church, some 700 priests and even more religious were imprisoned. In 1950, the Cardinal helped negotiate an agreement whereby...

Continued on Page 2...

Father Payton was born in Ireland on January 9, 1909 the 6th of nine children. The family grew up working on their farm and praying the rosary nightly, led by their father. At age 18 he came to the U.S.. His first employment was that of sexton (janitor) at the Cathedral. The peaceful surroundings where he experienced a sense of being at home and a place of happiness, awakened his earlier dream of becominga missionary priest..

He then studied at Holy Cross Minor seminary at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Having completed his bachelor degree, he began Theological training at Holy Cross on the campus of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

In October, 1938 he was diagnosed with advanced tuberculosis. After praying to Our Blessed Mother. A year later, on October 31, 1930 he knew he was cured. That caused him to see Our lady as human, approachable and sensitive to our needs. He also felt that his recovery was for a specific purpose. His first steps were to organize a Rosary Campaign.

Realizing that he needed to reach millions of people with his message of the importance of...

Continued on Page 3...

From the President



Dear members and friends,

Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected by Pope John II in 1978. He became the first non-Italian Pope in more than 455 years. Our group of friends strives to KEEP ALIVE HIS HERITAGE!

"BE NOT AFRAID" to welcome Christ and accept his power.

It has been three months since I was elected president of Friends the Foundation. Meetings have been held, assignments made. I am pleased with individuals who stepped forward to help me with this task.

The committees have a great task ahead, one being to engage more young people to be involved. There is much for them to learn from us and we from them. We encourage all of our members to help in this endeavor.

At the Rome meeting of Friends groups, April 22, 2018, Mariana and John Eckel will attend as our representatives.

I send you my best and thank you for all your conributions.

Have a Blessed Easter!

Richard M. Wiermanski

Continued from Page 1 (Cardinal Wyszynski) ...

...the Church recognized the Communist Regime in exchange for guarantees of its rights in worship, religious education and the press. Three years later the Cardinal was arrested and placed under detention.". In 1956 following riots by students and workers in Poznan, he was released by the new regime of Gomulka.

"Throughout the continued struggles in defense of the rights of men and the rights of the Church, the Cardinal calls for trust in God and endless optimism." Wyszynski possessed extraordinary personal authority, physically imposing, he was a master at appealing to popular religious sentiment. He coould appeal for unity within the Church and spoke with the authority of a man who defied the regime. Cardinal Wojtyla admired Wyszynski's rocklike stance, his incorruptibility, his devotion to duty and his longstanding committment to social justice. He saw him as a "Pater patriae' in hard times.

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Continued from Page 2 (Cardinal Wyszynski) ...

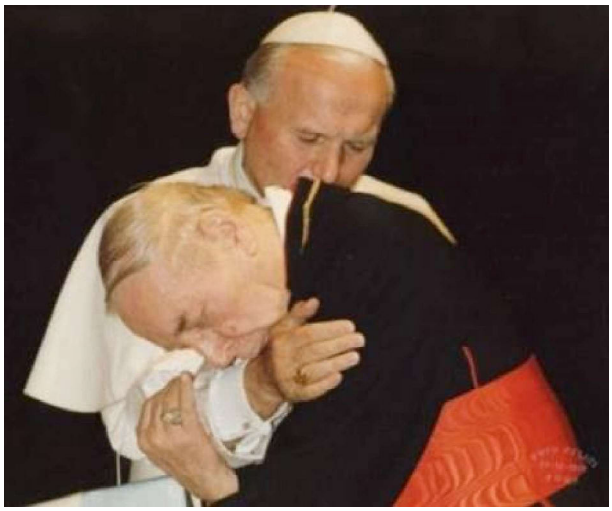
From the moment John Paul II said "I accept", the College of Cardinals led by its Dean, Cardinal Confalonieri lined up to pledge their fidelity. First, the dean genuflected before the seated Pope and made his obeisance, then a precedent was broken, for the next in line, not the most senior but the Primate of Poland Stefan Wyszynski. As he began to genuflecct John Paul II rose from his throne, bent down and locked the old man in a long embrace. After his election, the Cardinal advised Pope John Paul II that he must "lead the Church into the third millenium, words which the Pope heeded.

When Cardinal Wyszynski was dying in May 1981, John Paul II sent Monsignor Dziwisz to Warsaw to visit the Cardinal on May 11 and 12.

Their communication continued by phone, the last took place after noon on May 25. In great pain, the Cardinal asked for the Pope's blessing. John Paul II blessed the Primate's mouth and hands as though in homage to what the Cardinal had said and done.

Cardinal Wyszynski died on May 28.

Editor's Note: *For this and other articles, I am indebted for information found and some quoted from the book "Witness To Hope" by George Weigel, and research done by Fr. Canon Majka and Br. L. Konopka*



Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski embraced by Pope John Paul II at his investiture

Continued from Page 1 (Father Peyton) ...



Father Patrick Peyton and Pope John Paul II

...Family Rosary Prayer, and that was through mass media on a national level. This meant Radio (at that time). On May 13, 1945 families all over the country heard a program like no other featuring Archbishop Spellman, Harry Truman, Bing Crosby, and the parents and sister of the Sullivan brothers who had died together in the war when their ship was sunk. The program closed with an impassioned speech by Fr. Payton pleading for families to pray to the Rosary together.

The great success of the program was followed by "Family Theater Productions" with Hollywood stars and the motto "The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together". Further initiatives of Father Patrick were a billboard campaign "A World at Prayer is a World at Peace"and rallies across the world beginning in Canada.

He died peacefully on June 3, 1992. His final words "Mary my Queen, my Mother". The cause of Canonization with the approval of the Vatican was officially opened on June 1, 2001.

Brother Leonard Konopka, MIC
Chaplain: Diocese of Washington, DC



Dear friends of the St John Paul II Foundation:

Prior to becoming a bishop, Cardinal, then Pope, Fr. Karol Wojtyla was a seminary professor in Lublin Poland. Many did not know at the time, that he would often give his salary to pay for the education of various seminarians.

Among the many Marian seminary students, there was one in particular, Fr. Andrew Szostek MIC a Marian Father priest in Poland. He eventually became the assistant professor to Fr. Wojtyla and Fr. Szostek would often encourage him to visit our seminary if there ever was an opportunity to do so in the many times that Fr. Woytyla visited Wash DC.. (Incidentally, the Marian Fathers have a residence for our Seminarians on Harewood Rd across the street from the St. John Paul II Shrine.)

When Cardinal Karol Woytyla, had an opportunity to visit our seminary in Wash DC, it was both coincidentally and unfortunately a day that the Superior and all the seminarians left the seminary for a one day excursion. The Superior told the Brother who remained on the premises, in passing, that he should not allow anyone to enter, "…even if the President of the United States came." The Brother took this command literally, so that when the future Pope rang the bell and wanted to enter for a visit, the Brother denied him entrance even to pray in the chapel.

Cardinal Wojtyla totally understood the situation and gave the Brother his calling card to let the Superior and other Marians know that he wanted to visit and pay his respects to the Community. When the Superior returned later that evening and was told about the visit he was totally embarrassed and deeply disappointed to think that he had a part in not allowing him entrance to the seminary, because the Superior also had great regard and admiration for the great reputation of Cardinal Wojtyla.

Although we were delighted to think that we had such a noteworthy visitor, for the rest of his life, that poor Brother had to live with hearing this story retold many times about how he refused entrance to Cardinal Karol Woytyla the future Pope of the Catholic Church. It's almost like being notorious for the wrong reasons.

After several years this occasion finally was communicated to Fr. Andrew Szostek in Rome, In order to verify the veracity of the story, he asked the Holy Father if the story was true. Pope John Paul II replied: "Yes, it's true, but I had to admire that kind of obedience. "

This event reminds me of Mary and Joseph being refused entry when they came to Bethlehem, because: "…there was no room for them in the inn." LK. 2:7

There seemed to be no room for future Pope of the Church to visit our Seminary. Yet, many years later, in the year 2000, his holiness Pope John Paul II established the feast of Divine Mercy and it almost appears that God in His mercy, used Pope John Paul II to enter most profoundly into the spirit of our Marian Community since the message of Divine Mercy has become the Marian Fathers and brothers most significant ministry. God continues to motivate the Marian Community to spread the message of Divine Mercy throughout the entire world. It's been our legacy ever since.

Continued on Page 5...

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Out of all the occasions that we had the privilege of personally meeting the Holy Father, our profoundest moment of affirmation was at a large gathering of Marian Fathers and Brothers in Rome on June 22, 1993.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II gave a lengthy reflection and completed it by challenging all of us in attendance:

"Therefore, be apostles of Divine Mercy under the motherly and affectionate guidance of Mary – confirming this always, in the words of St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, "…by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God…" (2 Cor. 6,6-7) (Complete text available at Padrimariani.org) For his efforts in spreading the message of Divine Mercy, Pope John Paul II is remembered as "The Great Mercy Pope."

In this Lenten season we can pray for each other, that we may try something different and be open to the symbolic "inn" of our hearts, minds and spirits; we can fast from a variety of thoughts and in their place we can focus on the cross of Jesus Christ and give Him permission to perfectly fulfill His will in our lives. This may just be the gift Our Lord has been waiting to give us all of our life. What a challenge it may be for many of us, to accept this principle of our Faith. May we all be made more worthy by Our Lord and His Mother for a "spiritual resurrection" so that our Easter may be the best ever.

Brother Leonard Konopka, MIC
Marian Fathers & Brothers
Washington, DC



Father Canon
Philip S. Majka
Chaplain:
Diocese of Arlington

The Legend of the Red Egg

Legends convey a concept to be pondered. St. Mary Magdalene went to Christ's tomb that first Easter morn to anoint His body, bringing along a basket of food which contained some boiled eggs to eat. When she arrived at the tomb, the stone was rolled away and looking in her basket she saw them blood red. The custom of the blessing of baskets of food, began! We find that the contents of our Easter baskets do have meaning. The egg, a symbol of new life, creation and new birth. The Easter bread ...Christ, the bread of life. The bottle of wine.. the blood of Christ. The blessed salt...we are challenged to be the salt of the earth. The Candle...we are to be the Light of the World.

The main item in our basket is the Lamb...molded from butter to be the symbol of Christ, the Lamb of God...We also find a bottle of water to be blessed. This is a symbol of our Baptism in Christ, to rise with Him to eternal life at His second coming.

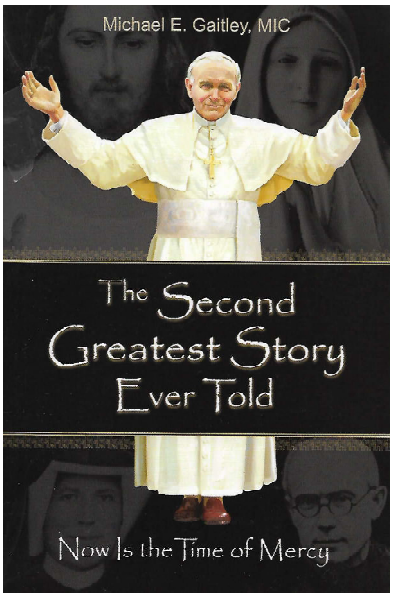
Easter 2018

Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka
Duszpasterz Polski

Book Review

by Mary Flanagan

The Second Greatest Story Ever Told
Now is the Time of Mercy



Michael E. Gaitley, MIC

Assoc. of Marian Help
Eden Hill
Stockbridge MA.

Soft cover, 240 pages - $14.95
Ebook - $9.95
EM: Shopmercy.org

In his introduction, Fr. Gaitley gives us the biblical background for Pope John Paul II's quote "Be Not Afraid". He tells us that from the time of Adam and Eve mankind has feared God because they did not have faith in His extreme mercy and love. If we believe and recognize His love and mercy, in His many ways including sending His son to die on the cross for us, then we can always turn to Him and love Him as He wishes.

The author believes that God used Poland several times TO SAVE THE WORLD, or at least Europe. He cites several historic examples i.e.Battle of Vienna, Miracle of the Vistula, Solidarity etc. Now more than ever, the world needs mercy. John Paul II, in his second encyclical defines mercy as 'love's second name. It is the power of love to bring good out of evil. John Paul II felt that God had entrusted him with the message of Divine Mercy as a special task for our time, when he spoke at the dedication of Poland's Mercy Shrine in 2002, Divine Mercy Sunday. It was his last visit to Poland.

Fr. Gaitley concludes that some of Pope John Paul's first words "Be not afraid, and his final message "Jesus I trust in You", are two sides of the same coin. "Trust in Jesus", "Jesus I trust in You".

The second part of the narrative, covers many incidents relating to the Second Greatest Story - Fatima, Divine Mercy, etc. All stress the need for Divine Mercy which is available to all who consecrate them selves to Jesus through Mary. During these troubled times, we are called by John Paul II to keep alive the message that has been given to us through Pope John Paul II, Divine Mercy and the inetercession of Mary. No matter what the future holds, we will be given mercy through prayer and Mary.



Callista Gingrich meets with Pope Francis at a private meeting in the Vatican on December 22

On December 22, 2017, Callista L. Gingrich presented her credentials to Pope Francis and officially assumed the duties of U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. Ambassador Gingrich is the 11th U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See since formal relations were established in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan and a long-time friend of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation.

During her credentialing ceremony, Ambassador Gingrich also gave Pope Francis a donation for the charity of his choice and a collection of sacred music recorded by the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception choir in Washington, D.C of which the Ambassador is a longtime member.

Following the meeting with the Holy Father, Ambassador Gingrich met with Cardinal Parolin, the Vatican's Secretary of State. She looks forward to working with the Holy See to defend human rights, advance religious freedom, combat human trafficing, and seek peaceful solutions to crises around the world.



St. John Paul II - His Legacy

St. John Paul II left us a huge legacy to follow and keep alive. In this and future issues we will bring to your attention one of a timely legacies he left us.

The issue, at present, Prejudice. so much of the problems facing the world today, is prejudice. The dictionary description of prejudice is quite lengthy but for our purposes I quote a part of the list.i.e.,"any preconceived unreasonable opinion or feeling or attitudes especially of a hostile nature directed against a racial, religious or national grooup."

Presently, there is a bitter controvesy about the Holocaust. Blame iis being put on the Poles becausesome of Hitler's death camps were located in Poland. This too, is an example of extrreme prejudice and certainly negates the extreme sacrifices made by Poles in assisting their Jewish neighbors. The Nazi death camps were built in a conquered Poland - the Poles had no say in them and many perished in them along with the Jews.

As in any country of the world, prejudice exists but blame for the terrible Holocaust cannot be placed on the Poles for something done without their consent. They too were victims.

Pope John Paul II recognized that prejudice existed in Poland and called for a change but in no-way would he have allowed placing blame for Hitler's plan of extermination of the Jews on the country where he was born, grew up and knew the his fellow countrymen.

Pope John PaulII spoke out against prejudice and called us (all mankind) to love one another in many of his addresses. On September 18, 2000 he inferred tht the only way toovercome theyprjudices of the past and to raise a barrier against the forms of anti-semitism, racism, and xenophobia (which are appearing in some places today) is to make a sincere attempt to know, respect and esteem more fully each others beliefs and traditions, and to lover our neighbors as ourselves.

To fulfill this pat of his legacy, we ourselves, must first practice what he preached. Then pass it on.

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Friends of
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Visit us at www.jp2friends.org

The John Paul II Foundation was established in Vatican City in 1981 .

Wishing You a Joyous Easter, May the Risen Christ Bless You and Your Loved Ones

The Board of Directors of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation



Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.
NEWSLETTER
1733 Kirby Road #1109, Mc Lean VA 22101

WANTED -Workers in the Vineyard!

The Friends of John Paul II Foundation are working diligently to support the Foundation in Rome and to promote the legacy of St. John Paul II We need all the dedicated members and friends to help in any way. Your membership is an important step, besides monetary contributions we need assistance on all our committees.

Listed here are our present committees, some may be formed if a certain need arises. At present there is one committee that is elected at the November General Meeting, the Audit Committee.

Standing committees are:

Finance, Budget, Legacy Membership, Events, Website, and Newsletter

Ad Hoc Committee - By-Law Revision

If you are willing to participate in any of these committees, please let us know.

You will be most welcome!

Contact our President, Richard Wiermanski

Tel: 703-891-8322

Email: richard.wiermanski28@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION, INC.

MEMBERSHIP - 2018

❑ $10-Student ❑ $25-Individual ❑ $35-Couple ❑ $100-Supporting ❑ $2,500-Life Benefactor

I am a Life Benefactor and wish to make an additional gift $_____

All gifts including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, last wills and testaments are always welcome.
The Friends of John Paul II Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

$_____ Memorial or Special Occasion Donation for_____

❑ I would like to participate more actively. Please send me information about your committees.

Enclosed is my check made payable to:
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Please mail with this form to
Gloria Klepczynski
1201 Whetstone Drive
Arnold, MD 21012

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