



NEWSLETTER

Metropolitan Washington, DC
Winter 2020/2021

Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

A Little Background History

The Friends of John Paul II Foundation has displayed a Polish Christmas tree at the John Paul II Center (now the John Paul II Shrine in Washington, DC) since the building was built in 2001. That first Christmas, letters were sent out to Polish-American organizations requesting Polish hand-made or bought decorations for the Polish Christmas tree. The list of donors was at the base of the tree and is listed here:

Polish Christmas tree decorations Courtesy of:

Christine Gronet Burns
Polish American Society of Virginia

Irena Mirecki
McLean, Virginia

Polish Club of Greater Hartford
Hartford, Connecticut

Robert and Mary Flanagan
Friends of John Paul II Foundation

Jean Nosek
Alexandria, Virginia

Christine Sadowski
Alexandria, Virginia

Irene Jakubowski
Stephanie Matula
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Anna Szczepanski
Polish American Arts Association
Washington, DC

This year, because of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the usual trees will be on display differently at the John Paul II Shrine. The Polish tree can be seen through the windows from the front plaza. The building is illuminated from 4pm until 11pm each evening during the holiday season:

John Paul II Shrine
3900 Harewood Road NE
Washington DC 20017



Marianna Eckel
President

Dear Members and Friends

Season's Greetings!

Christmas is the time of year when we are called to reflect on everything for which we are grateful. This year has challenged all of us and has highlighted for many what is really important in our lives. Special gratitude goes out to our many members, friends, and supporters who have been essential in keeping our mission moving forward, even in difficult times. I hope that this message finds you well and that you enjoy this issue as much as our editorial team enjoyed putting it together.



This year, despite the pandemic, many of our members have been able to connect virtually; however, we have still had to put many of our events and workshops on hold until next year. My congratulations go out to Rev. Cannon Philip Majka on his 55th Anniversary of Priesthood, which many of our members attended and celebrated on September 13th, 2020.

Our annual event celebrating the birthday of John Paul II is currently rescheduled for May 2021 and "Wadowice on the Potomac" is planned for October 2021. We look forward to the new year and to continuing to celebrate the many blessings in our lives.

We welcome to our Board of Directors Chaplain Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, Pastor of the Polish parish at Our Lady, Queen of Poland in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Polish parish owes its existence to our beloved St. John Paul II. We would also like to welcome Chaplain Fr. James McCormack MIC, who will be joining our Board of Directors. He now serves as Novice Master, Prefect of Formation, and Local Superior at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Our annual FJPIIF Christmas tree is displayed at the St. John Paul II Shrine in Washington, DC, as The National Shrine is not open. For those that would like to see it, there is a nice view of the decorated Polish Christmas tree that can be seen through the window in front of the shrine, at the end of the ambulatory.

We truly appreciate all of your continued support and are looking forward to seeing you again at our events in 2021.

Marianna Eckel
President

"Every day is Christmas in the hearts of Christians. And every day we are called to proclaim the message of Bethlehem to the world: 'good news of great joy.' The Eternal Word, God from God, Light from Light," has become flesh and has made his dwelling among us."
Saint John Paul II



Father James McCormack, MIC
Novice Master/Prefect of Formation/Local Superior
Marian Scholasticate of Washington, DC
John Paul II Foundation Chaplain
Washington, D.C.

Father Jim McCormack, MIC, was ordained to the priesthood in July 2010 at his home parish, St. Patrick's, in Burlington, Connecticut. He offered his first Holy Mass the next day at the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy on Eden Hill in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Father Jim received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Yale University and his master's at Stanford University. Following graduate school, he worked in Colorado for seven years designing microprocessors for Hewlett-Packard.

It was during graduate school when Fr. Jim had his first sense of a calling to the priesthood, "but I did my best to ignore it," he says with a smile. After he broke up with his fiancée, he decided to take God's call more seriously.

Father Jim was given the grace to follow the Lord's call during a pilgrimage to Italy in 2002. "Due to Mary's help, I came away from that pilgrimage with a deep sense of peace about becoming a priest," he says. He joined the Marians in 2005 because of their devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Mary Immaculate, their active apostolic spirit, and their desire to spread devotion to Jesus, the Divine Mercy.

When he was a seminarian, Fr. Jim reflected on his future priesthood: "I look forward to being a spiritual 'Father' for souls. My awareness of my own need for God's mercy has led me especially to appreciate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I want to be a merciful father, similar to the one in the parable of the Prodigal Son, who welcomes back with love and even runs to meet his wayward son."

Father Jim professed his perpetual vows in the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 16, 2009. Following his priestly ordination on July 10, 2010, he was sent to Rome, where in 2013 he earned his Licentiate degree in the Theology of the Consecrated Life. He now serves as Novice Master, Prefect of Formation, and Local Superior at the Marian Scholasticate in Washington, D.C. He regularly teaches classes on spirituality to the Marian novices.

Father Jerzy Frydrych
Our Lady, Queen of Poland
and St. Maximilian Kolbe
Silver Spring, Maryland
John Paul II Foundation Chaplain
Maryland



Rev. Jerzy Frydrych was born in Suwałki, Poland, in 1958. He attended the seminary of the Society of Christ in Poznan, Poland.

The Society of Christ was founded in 1932 by the Primate of Poland, Cardinal August Hlond, who had received pleas from Polish immigrants around the world for priests to serve their communities. They longed to worship in their own language and to maintain and pass on the Polish language and culture which was so deeply ingrained in their hearts. Priests from this Society now serve in Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Ukraine, and throughout North America and Western Europe.

Father Jerzy was ordained a priest on May 21, 1985. After serving in Poland for two years, he came to North America, where he spent six years carrying out the mission of the Society of Christ in Canada (in Toronto, Ontario and Regina, Saskatchewan.) He was then sent to the United States, where he worked in parishes of the Society of Christ in Houston, Texas; San Francisco, California; and San Diego, California.

In 2015, Father Jerzy came to the Archdiocese of Washington and became the pastor of the parish at Our Lady, Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe, in Silver Spring, Maryland. This parish was established as a mission in 1976 through the intercession of St. John Paul II, then Cardinal Karol Wojtyła. He had met with members of Washington Polonia on two visits to the United States and advocated for the pastoral needs of the Polish immigrants with Cardinal William Baum. The mission became a parish in 1983 and is under the care of the Society of Christ.

Father Jerzy is especially honored by the privilege of serving in this Polish parish, which owes its existence to our beloved St. John Paul II. He is also grateful to the Polish community he serves throughout the Washington area for their participation, support, and prayers for God's blessing on all of Polonia.



Margaret Kathleen "Peggy" Nedzi
March 4, 1925 – November 1, 2020

Margaret Kathleen Nedzi was born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin on March 4, 1925, the sixth of eight children of Francis and Elizabeth Garvey. She died suddenly, but peacefully, on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, 2020 at age 95 while recovering from an acute rheumatologic vasculitis earlier in the fall.

Peggy, as she was affectionately known to so many loving family and friends, grew up in Seneca, Wisconsin, attended a one-room secondary school there and graduated from St. Theresa's College in Winona, Minnesota in 1947 with a bachelor's degree in dietetics. She served her dietetic internship at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, during which time she met her future husband, Lucien N. Nedzi, on a blind date. They married on January 28, 1952 in Laredo, Texas, officiated by Peggy's eldest brother, Father Francis Garvey, then a Maryknoll missionary in Mexico City.

She and her husband, then an attorney in Hamtramck, were politically active in the young Democrats of Detroit in the 1950s. Peggy supported him as congressional district chairman for President John F. Kennedy in the historic election of 1960.

Peggy greatly supported the candidacy of her husband in the special election of 1961 to fill the U.S. Congressional seat left vacant upon the elevation of the Honorable Thaddeus Machrowicz to the federal judiciary. From a crowded field of candidates, her husband, the Honorable Lucien N. Nedzi, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives on October 17, 1961.

Over the next twenty years, Peggy was mother to five children and the woman behind the man, who together served the constituents of the 1st and 14th districts of Michigan in Washington until her husband's decision not to seek re-election in 1980. The annual visit of the local district Chamber of Commerce for whom Peggy personally cooked and, together with her husband, hosted at their home in McLean, Virginia became a tradition.

Peggy joined her husband, a member of the Armed Services Committee, in fulfilling his Congressional responsibilities around the world. Peggy is the proud matron of the US Navy supply ship the USS Detroit which she christened in Bremerton, Washington in 1968 and the nuclear ballistic missile submarine the USS Michigan which she christened in Groton, Connecticut in 1980. Peggy was an honored guest at the launching of the USS Michigan upon its re-fitting as a nuclear guided missile submarine in 2007 at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

As her five children went off to college, Peggy re-entered the United States work-force, first as a consultant for Creative Parties, having honed her consummate skills as a hostess, and later as a bank administrative assistant until her retirement in 1990. *continued on page 6...*

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Peggy was active in many local civic and community organizations including the Friends of John-Paul II Foundation, the McLean Women's Club, and the Congressional Club, all of which will miss her bountiful energy, selfless compassion and enduring smile. The Congressional Club Cookbook included many of Peggy's personal recipes. For almost sixty years Peggy graciously and memorably hosted friends and relatives at the annual First Lady's Luncheon sponsored by the Congressional Club each spring.

Peggy is pre-deceased by her parents, Francis and Elizabeth Garvey; brothers, Father Francis Garvey, Thomas, Bernard, and Lawrence; sisters Mary Tafelski and Sister Stephana Garvey. She is survived by her husband, the Honorable Lucien N. Nedzi of McLean, Virginia; children Lucien A. Nedzi, MD of Dallas, Texas; Bridget K. Nedzi, LCSW of Acton, Massachusetts; Brendan T. Nedzi of Montclair, New Jersey; Gretchen T. Nedzi of Reston, Virginia; and Eric F. Nedzi of Belmont, California; nine grandchildren; older brother, Kay Garvey; seventeen nieces and nephews and countless loving friends and neighbors.

Interment in the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery is planned at a future time to await the arrival of her husband, per their expressed wishes.

Before her death, Peggy asked that any expressions of sympathy be made in her name to the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa in Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, her younger sister's order:

<https://www.sinsinawa.org/forms/p/donation/>

Father Canon Phillip S. Majka
John Paul II Foundation Chaplain
Northern Virginia

Dear Friends:

Just before Thanksgiving I was thinking about the Holy Days which are coming. My thoughts turned to the youthful times at home, mass at my home parish, the great food, and I started to remember to count my blessings. Then I recalled that song "Count Your Blessings" so I started to count!!! I remembered a great number of blessings... This put me at peace! That was Christmas past; Christmas is coming, but it cannot be as it was in the past. We are older, wiser. The spirit is in us! That is what matters! Counting the past blessings can make us accept Christmas as it will be this year! May the grace and peace of Christ be with you and yours is my prayer this Holy Season.



Father Majka

MEMORIAL AND SPECIAL OCCASION DONATIONS

Donations in memory of your loved ones or donations honoring special occasions (anniversaries, birthdays, etc), can be made to support the goals of the John Paul II Foundation. In appreciation for your donation, the Foundation in Rome will have a special Mass and prayers offered for that intention at the Tomb of Pope Saint John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica. The Washington, DC Chapter will mail cards acknowledging the donor and notifying the family or honoree of the intention and donation. The Friends of John Paul II Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

\$ _____ () Memorial or () Special Occasion of _____
for _____

Please inform family or honoree (Name) _____

(Address) _____

Your name: _____ E-mail or Phone _____

Your address: _____

Mail form and check made payable to "Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc."
to Constance R. Donnelly, 300 Kent Street, Falls Church, VA, 22046.

Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc. Membership Form (March 2021-February 2022). New and Renewals

Yes, please count on me to support the John Paul II Foundation that was established by John Paul II as a religious, educational, charitable and non-profit organization.

\$10 Student \$25.00 Individual \$35.00 Couple \$100.00 Supporting \$2,500 Life Benefactor

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) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

NAME (Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.) _____

ADDRESS _____

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: "**Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.**"

AND MAIL TO: Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc. c/o Roza Pace: Membership Chair: 8463 Holly Leaf Dr. McLean. VA 22102

Website: jp2friends.org/
Tel:(703) 300 3495
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I would like to receive the newsletter by mail.

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Visit us at www.jp2friends.org



Wishing all of our readers joy,
safety, and God's blessings
during this holiday season

*Friends of John Paul II
Board of Directors*

*'Most charming and saintly
Physician, you were animated by the
heavenly Spirit of love. In faithfully
detailing the humanity of Jesus, you
also showed his divinity and his
genuine compassion for all human
beings. Inspire our physicians with
your professionalism and with the
divine compassion for their patients.
Enable them to cure the ills of both
body and spirit that afflict so many in
our day.'*

Prayer to Saint Luke the Evangelist



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