



NEWSLETTER

Metropolitan Washington, D.C.
Winter 2021/2022

Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

Wadowice on the Potomac Celebrating Saint Pope John Paul II's 100th Birthday

On November 7, 2021, the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation celebrated its "Wadowice on the Potomac" at the Army Navy Club in Arlington, Virginia. It was a grand, long-awaited celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's birth and the 43rd year of Karol Wojtyła being elected to the Holy See. The event honored Mary Flanagan for being one of the founders of the Foundation. Flanagan recalled the cherished memories of establishing the Polish Home for the Pope in 1981. She mentioned Sir Walter Zachariasiewicz for his devoted work in establishing the Washington, D.C. Chapter as the second chapter in the United States. The past director of the Cultural Center of John Paul II, Hugh Dempsey, reminded the guests of the initial work done to support the Cultural Center by Polonia and their dedicated members. Their years-long effort helped to build and dedicate the building as a museum in honor of Pope John Paul II and for the remembrance of his time spent with chapter members.

From the founding members to a time when all are now sharing his legacy, the chapter is so proud to have a tradition of honoring the past. Father James McCormick of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Foundation addressed the attendees on how John Paul II believed in the visionary Sister Faustina and proceeded with the process of beatification and canonization. He explained the history of how Divine Mercy was sanctified through the early years of John Paul II's pontificate. Guests were entertained with the Skrypczuk Duo, who serenaded the attendees with the Pope's most cherished musical melodies. The guests enjoyed singing along with Stasia and Olek in singing his favorite folk song, Barka.

All the guests were also given gifts to remember his legacy. The DVDs of "Nine Days that Changed the World" by the Gingrich Foundation and "The Second Greatest Story Ever Told" by Michael Gaitley were among the favorites. Leaflets about Pope John Paul II were distributed as an example of how we spread the legacy to three diocesan Catholic school systems in the greater Washington, D.C. area - Arlington, Washington, and Baltimore. These educational leaflets were developed for school children in elementary through high school. Polish fabric motif face masks were given as a special gift to instill pride in Polish heritage. "Poland" - a children's book - described the accomplishments of John Paul II and the book's illustrations shared many favorite Polish traditions. Marianna Eckel and Cecilia Glembocki presented to Father McCormick an American flag that was flown over the United States Capitol on October 16, 2020, in honor of the Pope's 100th birthday and the anniversary of his election to the Holy See at St. Peter's Basilica.

The guests were so pleased to finally have a chance to mingle and celebrate the Pope's legacy. Today, more individuals continue to join the Foundation in hopes of carrying on this legacy and the memory of a great man who was so beloved. John Paul II said it was important to keep our heritage alive and to open our hearts in order to love life itself.

Photos from this event can be found on Page 6

**Marianna Eckel
President**

Greetings to all Members and Friends,

As we celebrate the life of Pope John Paul II, let us take pride in our service and support of the Foundation established by him, and in continuing his saintly legacy. During the Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, held October 30 to 31 this year, the Fidelity to the Legacy of Saint John Paul II Award was presented to our founding member of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Chapter, Mary Witkowska Flanagan. The FJPIIF D.C. Chapter was founded and accredited with the Washington Archdiocese on November 5th, 1985 by John Paul II together with Mary Flanagan and Walter Zachariasiewicz. Mary has previously been honored as a Knight Commander of St. Sylvester by John Paul II. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Mary - sto lat!



While continuing to celebrate our traditions, many of our members joined us on November 7th, 2021, at the Army Navy Club in Arlington, Virginia to celebrate a 100th birthday remembrance and the 39th anniversary of the foundation established by our beloved Pope St. John Paul II. The guest speaker was our newest board member, Fr. James McCormack, MIC, local Superior at the Marion Scholasticate and at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. - the subject was John Paul II's connection with Divine Mercy.

A celebration of the legacy of Saint Pope John Paul II was held on November 20th, 2021, at the Arlington Diocesan Catechetical Teachers Conference, where our Foundation promotes the legacy of this great saint and his influence for both teachers and students.

Through the month of December 2021, the Polish Christmas tree will be displayed at the John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C. This year we are looking forward to being able to go inside and view all the beautiful Polish decorations up close. Let us continue to support one another in the celebration of the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022.

Życzymy Wesołych Świąt Oraz Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku 2022

Mrs. Marianna Eckel
President



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

In the upper church of the St. John Paul II Shrine in Krakow, Poland, there is a large bas relief - not of JPII, but of another Polish Saint, one who is far lesser known. His name is St. Stanislaus Papczyński, and, in 1670, he founded the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. He was canonized in 2016. The bas relief in the JPII Shrine was added a few years later, and it contains a first-class relic of the Marian founder.

It may seem rather unexpected to find the image and relic of St. Stanislaus here in a shrine dedicated to the saintly pope. After all, there are apparently no other carvings or relics of other saints besides those of St. John Paul II. So, the natural question we might ask ourselves is, why is St. Stanislaus honored in such a special way in this shrine? What is the connection between the Polish pontiff and the founder of the Marians?

As it turns out, the primary connection is geographical. Both saints called Kraków “home” at various times in their lives. The young Karol Wojtyła was raised in Wadowice, some 30 miles southwest of Kraków. In 1938, at the age of 18, he moved to the city to enroll in the Jagiellonian University. In 1942, he entered the underground seminary there and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Kraków in 1946. It was during his time in the underground seminary that he worked at the Solvay Chemical Factory in the area of Łagiewniki on the outskirts of the city and would frequently stop by the chapel of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy where St. Faustina is buried.



St. Stanislaus Papczyński was born in 1631 in Podegrodzie, Poland, which is located about 50 miles southeast of Kraków. After completing his secondary education, he entered the seminary for the Piarist Order and was ordained to the priesthood in 1660. In 1670, the Holy Spirit moved the saintly founder to leave the Piarist congregation and to found the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. He was living in Kraków at the time. When the moment came for his release from his vows as a Piarist, St. Stanislaus expressed his intention to found his new order.

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This act is known as his Oblatio, which means “self-offering.” This dual act - the release from his former vows and the expression of a new self-offering - took place at the Piarist house in Kraków. St. Stanislaus’ Oblatio is recognized as the origin of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Thus, St. Stanislaus founded his new order in Kraków, which geographically links him and the Marian Fathers to the man who would become St. John Paul II.

Another connection is that the two saints also shared a tender devotion to the Blessed Mother. Among the many expressions of his Marian piety, JPII promoted the Rosary, Marian entrustment, and his famous papal motto “Totus Tuus,” which means “all yours.” For his papal crest, he placed an “M” at the foot of the cross to one side, representing the Blessed Mother who faithfully remained with her son as He offered His life for our salvation. JPII’s sixth encyclical was titled *Redemptoris Mater*, Mother of the Redeemer.

St. Stanislaus Papczyński, although he lived 150 years prior to the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, had such a firm conviction of the truth of this title of Our Lady, that, at one point, he made a private oath to defend this title, even at the price of his blood. He also asked the superiors in the Piarist order to change the name of the institute to include the title “Immaculate Conception.” A few years later, after having left the Piarist congregation, St. Stanislaus founded the first-ever male religious order dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. He also had his own unique invocation, “Immaculata Virginis Mariae Conceptio sit nobis salus et protectio,” which means, “May the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary be our salvation and our protection.” Thus, there are several points of overlap in the lives and devotion of these two Polish saints. Fittingly, St. Stanislaus Papczyński was canonized in June of 2016, and, eight months later, members of the Marian Fathers decided to adopt St. John Paul II as one of the key patron saints of the Congregation. So, it seems perfectly providential - given the connections between these two saints - that a special place of honor be given to St. Stanislaus Papczyński in the St. John Paul II Shrine in Kraków. May these great saints intercede for us and our families.

Fr. Jim McCormack, MIC



Saint Pope John Paul II



Saint Stanislaus Papczyński

Celebration at Our Lady of Częstochowa Shrine in Doylestown, Pennsylvania

An inaugural event of the Eastern Regions of the United States Chapters of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation met at Our Lady of Częstochowa Shrine in Doylestown, Pennsylvania on October 30 and 31, 2021. Five organizations representing 17 chapters in the USA attended. The event was a pilgrimage to the shrine to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the pope's birthday and the 43rd anniversary of the election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła to the Holy See at St. Peter's.

An elaborate banquet was held, with decorations honoring our beloved Pope John Paul II. Guests were presented with many memorable gifts, such as the DVD of "Nine Days that Changed the World," holy cards, and "Keep Your Heritage Alive" bookmarks. The guests delighted in receiving face masks with a Polish folk art print design to show off their Polish heritage. "Poland" – a children's book - was distributed to all guests to share with their families in remembering the customs and traditions of Poland.

Raymond Glembocki and Mieczyslaw Bokszy were the masters of ceremonies and Father Krzysztof Wieliczko, OSPPE, was the keynote speaker. Presidents of the New England, New York, New Jersey, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. chapters were presented with American flags that were flown over the United States Capitol on October 16, 2020, in commemoration of the 43rd year of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła's election to the Holy See and the anniversary of his 100th birthday. Father Lizinczyk, Michael Blichasz, and Bogdan Chmielowski were presented with flags as well.

Mary Flanagan, a founding member of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. chapter, reminisced about the founding of the Dom Polski in Rome, Italy. She was presented with the Fidelity to the Legacy of Saint John Paul II Award as a founding member of the Foundation. Flanagan noted that it was through the efforts of Sir Walter Zachariasiewicz that chapters were established in the United States. As of today, there are 47 chapters of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation in the world across 13 countries and on five continents. There are 17 chapters in the United States.

The Pope's favorite musical selections, such as Barka, were sung by the Skrypczuk Duo of Washington, D.C. The following day was filled with a discussion of all the chapter presidents and their members to share what various chapters are doing for fundraising, programming, and membership. It was a productive and inspirational event which will be repeated in Washington, D.C. in 2022.

Special Occasion and Memorial Donations from January 2021 to Present

In Memory of Mary Lou Karch

Dr. Hugh Dempsey

In Memory of Patrick Andonie

Raymond and Cecilia Glembocki

In Memory of Stefan Rafalski

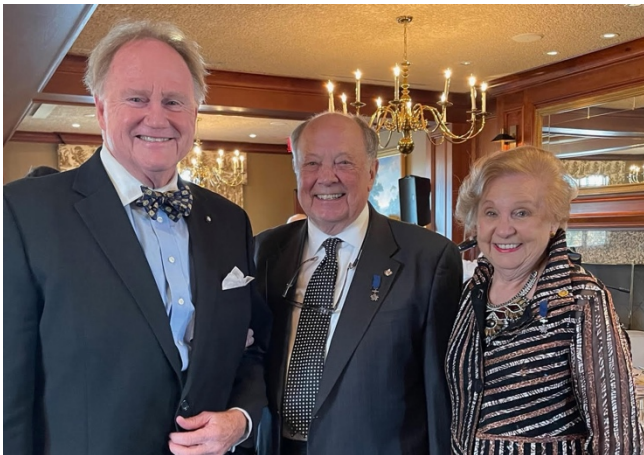
Marianna R. Eckel

Special Intentions

Marek Walicki

Two Special Intentions for Renewed Health

Raymond and Cecilia Glembocki



MEMORIAL AND SPECIAL OCCASION DONATIONS

Memorial 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 a card notifying the family or honoree of the donation and intention. 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 and Address): _____

Your name: _____ Your E-mail or Phone _____

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Mail form and check made payable to "Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc."
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Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

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January 2022 - 2023**

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

All gifts including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and 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.

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

Make checks payable to:
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Mail to:
Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.
c/o Roza Pace, Membership Chairman
8463 Holly Leaf Drive
McLean, VA 22102

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Visit us at jp2friends.wordpress.com

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



May the Christ Child
bring peace and joy to
the world.
We the Board of the
Friends of the John
Paul II Foundation
wish this and God's
blessings to all.



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