

SAINT JOHN PAUL II



“KEEP ALIVE THIS HERITAGE”

Culture is an expression of man.
It is the affirmation of humanity.
Man creates it – and is himself
created by it . . .

Culture is above all the
common good of a nation.
The Polish culture is the value upon
which rests the spiritual life of Poles.
It distinguishes us as a nation.
It speaks about us throughout the ages.
It asserts more than all material force.
More even than political boundaries.

Polish culture from the beginning has
worn very clear Christian marks.
It is no accident that the first testament
bearing witness to culture is
Bogurodzica.

And it is so to this day. Christian
inspiration has not stopped
being the main source of Polish
artists’ creativity.

Polish culture continually flows in a wide
current of inspiration having its roots
in the Gospel.

The soul of a nation is mirrored in the
history of Polish culture.

Living in it are their annals.

It is the unceasing school of genuine
and true patriotism.

Precisely for this reason, it knows also
how to assert demands and uphold
ideals, without which it is difficult for
man to believe in his dignity and
educate himself.

These words are spoken to you by a man,
Who from the beginning, owes his
spiritual formation to Polish culture,
literature, music, art, theater – Polish
history, Polish Christian traditions,
schools and universities.

I wish above all to repay the debt
which I incurred from this superb
spiritual heritage that began with
Bogurodzica.

And I implore you:

Remain faithful to this heritage!

Make it the foundation of your
formation!

Make it the object of the greatness of
your soul!

Keep alive this heritage!

Impart it to the next generations!

Saint John Paul II
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