



Anna Karoń-Ostrowska

ROME'S PAPAL EVENINGS AT St. STANISLAUS

The idea of Papal Evenings, as it often happens, was developing gradually. At the time of my arrival to Rome, two years ago, when my husband was appointed as the Permanent Representative of Poland to FAO, I realized that after so many years of close, almost family, relationship with John Paul II, after my studies and many works written about His philosophy and poetry, I wanted so much over here, in Rome, this undertaking that was and still is my great fascination as well as my eternal, unpaid debt of gratitude and love for the Pope – continue.



Card. S. Ryłko

We have talked a lot about protection and cultivation of the John Paul II heritage with my friends from the John Paul II Foundation - Msgr. Stefan Wylężek and Jola Szpilarewicz. During our conversations, Archbishop Szczepan Wesoły – “mind” full of wisdom and

warm-heartedness, was for us a great inspiration and support. Broad-minded, ready to help and cooperate, with a deep understanding of John Paul II intention, accompanied the creation process of the Foundation's action. Our discussions were preceded by our weekly prayers during the Masses on every Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at the Pope's tomb.

On May 18th, 2009 passed the 89th anniversary of John Paul II birth as well as the 30th anniversary of the Encyclical “Redemptor Hominis” publication. We decided to honor this date with a Mass at St. Stanislaus Church. Archbishop Szczepan Wesoły celebrated and delivered homily along with invited bishops and priests. After the Mass, the first from the Papal Evenings series meeting dedicated to the theological and anthropological aspects of “Redemptor Hominis” was held. Msgr.

Stefan Wylężek welcomed all guests that came in numbers; the entire hall at the St. Stanislaus Church was full. Lectures were delivered by - Prof. Father Wojciech Giertych, theologian to the pontifical household and Prof. Stanislaw Grygiel – lecturer at Lateran University. I was moderating panel discussions. The Center for Research and Documentation of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II prepared a multimedia presentation, thanks to which we were able to see the encyclical script handwritten by Pope John Paul II with a pen with a black ink. The meeting was well received; the panel discussions lasted for a long time as well as discussions in lobby with a glass of wine and cookies.

In June 2009, was passing another anniversary of Pope's first pilgrim to His homeland that started all the changes. Beside the Mass that traditionally was celebrated by Archbishop Wesoły, an evening of Ann Nehrebecka's poetry and memories from those days was organized. Mrs. Anna Nehrebecka was visiting Rome at that time. Many individuals gave their testimonies during the meeting.

As both meetings were well received and appeared to be an answer to the expectations expressed by all people who were interested in John Paul II thoughts and perso-



Mieczysław Maliński

nality and also a partial satisfaction for their longing for Him, we decided to “go after the strike”. I prepared scripts for all meetings for the entire year starting from October 2009 through November 2010. I consulted my idea with Msgr. Stefan Wylężek and Andrzej Dobrzyński from the Centre for Research and Documentation of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II. The finished

proposal was presented to Cardinal Dziwisz who accepted it.

The Papal Evenings were held the entire year and, I hope, will continue to be held throughout the entire academic year, gathering faithful audience. We were discussing John Paul II personality and thoughts – His youth time, poetry, theater, mystic and beauty fascination; His vocation path and II World War experiences; His encyclicals, Apostolic Letters. We were honoring the anniversary of His death. Invitations to our Papal Evenings were accepted, among others, by: Cardinal Stanisław Ryłko, Poland's Ambassador to the Holy See Hanna Suchocka, Rev. dr Mieczysław Maliński and Prof. Danuta Michałowska from Krakow – Pope's friends from youth, also Rev. dr Hieronim Fokciński and Rector Paweł Ptasznik, Prof. Zdzisław Kijas and many, many other excellent and competent individuals whom I cannot list in this short article. However, we will pay a tribute by issuing a book that will document Papal Evenings in Rome 2009-2010. The book is right now ongoing editorial work. I hope that we will be able to issue the book in fall. At that time, taking this book into a hand, the "Biuletyn" readers will become a part of the meetings that are deepening the ideas and personality of Pope John Paul II.

Taking the opportunity, I would like to express my sincere thank you to All who contributed and still contribute to the Papal Evenings that are successful and



A. Nehrebecka, W. Ostrowski

each time gather more people. I would like to thanks to both Cardinals – Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz and Cardinal Stanisław Ryłko for their friendly support. Msgr. Stefan Wylężek and Mrs. Jola Szpilarewicz - thanks to their work and initiative the Evenings begun. I would like to express our deep thanks to Archbishop Szczepan Wesoły as well as Father dr Krzysztof Wieliczko and Mrs. Anna Kielech who took over the organizational part of the Evenings. I'm thankful to Rev. Andrzej Dobrzyński from the Centre and all Sisters from Cassi, who many times provided essential help with my preparation of various subjects for the Evenings. Last, but not least – I'm thankful to Rector Paweł Ptasznik – master of the St. Stanislaw Church for continuous hospitality and all Sisters of Sacred Heart, who are always helpful.

Danuta Warszawska

APRIL 2ND JOHN PAUL II DAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO IN CANADA



D. Warszawska,

Ch. Korwin Kuczynski, J. Yakabuski

Frank Klees was the first Member of Parliament who initiated a plan to establish the 2nd of April as John Paul II Day. His idea was met with great approval of all members of Parliament. This information was given to all in the Biuletyn/Newsletter in June 2009.

This year Tony Ruprecht once more tabled his private member's bill, An Act to declare John Paul II Day in the Province of Ontario on 2nd of April. Tony Ruprecht and many other members of Parliament gathered on May 18th to commemorate 90th Birthday of the late Pope John Paul II. It was a gathering reminiscing His great-

ness throughout His 27 years of the Great Pontificate. I wish to quote Tim Hudak, MPP and Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader who in his Statement wrote: On behalf of the Ontario PC Party - I want to join you in celebrating the life of one of the great leaders of modern times - HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II.

During his more than quarter century a pontiff, Pope John Paul II provided resolute, compassionate and courageous leadership for Catholics during a time of tremendous challenge and change.

His accomplishments as a theologian and defender of Christian values and principles have secured his place as one of the most influential spiritual leaders of all time. Pope John Paul II should be commended for his tireless efforts to build bridges of tolerance and understanding between the Catholic Church and other religions worldwide.

As a steadfast defender of freedom and peace, Pope John Paul II also played an inspirational role in the liberation of Eastern Europe from Communist tyranny. As it was for millions of other families worldwide, the fall of communism was a special occasion in my family. My

own grandparents were Catholic immigrants from then - Czechoslovakia who came to Canada to ensure that their children and grandchildren would grow up knowing freedom. Pope John Paul's dream - was our dream. A world unified in liberty and peace.

Please accept my warmest regards as we celebrate the life and accomplishments of this truly remarkable man. Among the invited guest were: John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke, Tony Ruprecht, MPP for Davenport, Muriel Alvares from the Office of the Minister, and many others.

The Friends of John Paul II Foundation of Toronto represented Danuta Warszawski. Once more all members of the Toronto Chapter are very anxious to see this Bill passed as soon as possible. Polish Combatants' Association, Branch No. 20 Toronto was represented by Adam Kreutzer - the president. Invited guests were: Chris Korwin - Kuczynski, Zygmunt Warszawski, Dr. Russ, Margaret Maye with her son and numerous guests for this very special Birthday of the incredible individual.

Margaret Maye paid her tribute the way she knows best with her beautiful mezzo soprano voice by singing on this special occasion with a carefully chosen hymn.

Danuta Warszawski was introduced by Tony Ruprecht and was asked to say a few words not only about the John Paul II Foundation but also about The Friends of John Paul II Foundation of Toronto and her many personal meetings with the Great Pope John Paul II. President of the Chapter did not forget to extend the special



Z. Warszawski, D. Warszawska, Ch. Korwin Kuczynski

invitation to all in attendance to become members and help us in accomplishing and propagating the aims of the Foundation that were set up by our beloved Pope John Paul II. The funds from our Chapter go for educating the youth from Middle and Eastern Europe.

Chris Korwin Kuczynski spoke about meeting Pope John Paul II and of treasuring the pictures and memories that will live forever in his family.

Tony Ruprecht proudly displayed on the easel his big picture with Pope John Paul II from His first visit to Toronto and spoke fondly of the Man who was instrumental in all the changes that took place in Europe.

Now, we all hope and pray that soon the 2nd of April will be JOHN PAUL II DAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, so help us God.

Władysław Zachariasiewicz

Memories of the John Paul II Foundation and the John Paul II Foundation Home

continuation from the previous Bulletin

The day of November 7, 1981 was a solemn ending of all the Committee efforts. Committee members could have celebrated with a feeling of fulfilled duty. Auditorium of the Pontifical was filled with more than 2 thousand Polonia representatives from all almost any place in the world. Congressman Zablocki, an American with a Polish origin, holding one of the most important positions in the House of Representatives, simultaneously proud of his Polish roots was the main speaker. He had the well deserved honor of handing to the Holy Father symbolic keys to the Home that from this moment was called with John Paul II name. Accepting the gift from his faithful compatriots, Pope John Paul II blessed the Home on the next day. In His broad, thoughtful speech, Holy Father delineated purposes of this Home and its service. Both texts of the Zablocki's and Pope's speeches were



Card A. Cacciavillan

W. Zachariasiewicz

published entirely in my book "Etos Niepodleglosciowy Polonii Amerykanskiej" (The Independent Ethos of American Polonia).

Accepting the gift from our Polish hearts, Holy Father concurrently established in His decree a Foundation under His name with abode in Vatican. On the top of the Foundation there is Administrative Council nominated by the Pope Himself that has authority over the daily functions of the Foundation in His name. The first members were: Cardinal Wladyslaw Rubin (President), Bishop Szczepan Wesoly, Prelate Stanislaw Dziwisz (Personal Secretary to the Holy Father), Prelates from Secretary of State: Fr. Jozef Kowalczyk, Fr. Tadeusz Rakoczy, Fr. Ksawery Sokolowski (director of the Home), Sister Emilia Ehrlich (Secretary), as well as two laic people: Jerzy Turowicz, "Tygodnik Powszechny" editor-in-chief and

Congressmen Zablocki. Soon after His unexpected death, I was nominated on His place. On the place of Cardinal Rubin, who was nominated as the Leader of the Easter Churches Congregation, Archbishop Szczepan Wesoly was nominated. Archbishop Wesoly held this function for many years. For the council meeting Maecenas Maciej Bednarkiewicz was invited as a Foundation's leader advisor in Warsaw. The first Foundation's employees were Prelate Ksawery Sokolowski Secretary and Administration; Prelate Michal Jagosz, John Paul II Pontificate Documentation Centrum and the Home Director. Prelate Michal Jagosz was replaced with Prelate Niepsuj who is holding that position until this day. The Administrative Council composition with passing years was changing. Among others, the following individuals become a member of the Administrative Council: Prelate Walter Zieba meritorious rector at Polish Seminary in Orchard Lake; Cardinal Adam Majda; dr Alicja Grzeskowiak, Marshall of the RP Senate; Prelate Pawel Ptasznik from Secretary of State; dr. Stefan Olgierd from London; dr. Krystyna Tomkiewicz from Paris; dr. Jan Krasnodebski from London; Fr. Sciera from Buffalo; Monsignor Antoni Czarnecki and Ewa and Maciej Bednarkiewicz who rendered services to the precious Foundation's place in Lublin that enabled for education of the intelligent young people from the former Soviet Union. Responsible for this action is from the beginning Fr. Ryszard Krupa. The John Paul



Władysław Zachariasiewicz

II Home in Lublin was erected thanks to generosity of the Connelly Foundation from Philadelphia, USA. On the one of the first Council meetings an issue of the financial support emerged. I suggested a project - to establish Foundation's Friends in each Polonia's communities, especially on those that had the best or good results of the campaign. Among those people who distinguish themselves during the campaign, were the best candidates to continue the cooperation with Foundation. Hand in hand with this idea was another initiative of funding perpetual plates with the names of the most generous

J.P. II Foundation Home benefactors. This action brought exceptional results and maybe it is worth to consider its continuation with any necessary adjustments to the current J.P. II Foundation needs.

Relatively short liveliness had Foundation Advisory Committee for which the members' terms expired. The Foundation Advisory Committee consisted of: Władysław Zachariasiewicz (President), Prelate Zieba, Fr. A.Czarnecki, Olgierd Stefan and Mec. Ryszard Chrzanowski.

If accidentally I omitted anybody in my J.P. II Foundation memories or if I did not duly evaluated according to the contribution that was given – please excuse me as my memory with the passing years is failing.

Editorial footnote: Mr. Władysław Zachariasiewicz - born on November 7, 1911 in Krakow. Graduated from the Jan Kochanowski V Gymnasium in Krakow; finished law studies at Jagiellonian University; one of the YMCA leaders; in 1932 and from 1934 through 1935 president ZPMD in Krakow; active in the Polish Academic Association of the International Cooperation "Liga"; at the summer time, apprentice at the Consulate RP in Germany and Latvia; after graduation from the University in Warsaw, the director of Youth Association of Poles from Abroad "Swiatopol"; military service at Divisional School of Infantry in Grodno; in the last years before the WW II, an employee of the training centre for "Young Poles Abroad" in Grodnik, near Zakopane; participant in the September Campaign - 2 Armored Battalion; in October 1939 arrested by Soviets during an attempt to cross the Rumanian border; Soviet prisoner in Stanislawow, Chernigov, Kiev, Kharkov, and Arkhangelsk; after the release in March 1942, nominated by the Polish Embassy in Kuibyshev as the head of the Polish Social Welfare facility in Chelyabinsk in the Urals, later transferred to the Polish Embassy in Kuibyshev; after the next NKVD arrest dismissed from the Soviet Union; worked at the Outpost Communication at the Polish Consulate General in Constantinople; later cooperated with the 2nd Polish Corps. After 1945, organizer of Polonia in the western countries; in USA as an Executive Director Polish Immigration Committee; a member of SPK in Washington D.C.; American administration employee - among others Assistant to John Gronousk, United States Postmaster General; exceptionally meritorious for the J.P. II Foundation. Decorated with numerous awards and medals that include, among others: the Commander's Cross with Star of the Order "Polonia Restituta", the Commander's Cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great Star, the "Laurel Polonia" from the Association "Polish Community", the gold medal from the Association "Polish Community", the "Glory of Polonia" (Polish Apostolate in the US award); Siberian Badge of Honor; Gold Badge of Honor Combatants Association and many other awards from various Polish organizations. He is the author of the "The Independent Ethos of American Polonia", many articles for Polish newspapers and magazines as well as letters to American press to defend the good name of Poland.

**My Dear John Paul II Foundation Friends,
we would like to present our new website:**

www.fjp2.com

**It has a lot of interesting articles, news,
on-line library, prayer request, and a lot more.**