



*“May the joy of Christmas, which sings of the birth of the Saviour,
instil in all trust in the power of truth and of patient perseverance in doing good”*

John Paul II, Vatican, December 25, 1998

My Dear Friends of the John Paul II Foundation

Christmas leads our thoughts and feelings

to the mystery of the Incarnation.

To this holy and silent night when in the Bethlehem

stable shined the Light of the World

Everlastingly glowing on human hearts

with hope and the meaning of our existence.

Let Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word

Live among you, filling your hearts with love, peace and joy.

John Paul II Foundation Chapters in North America

In September 2010, Administrator of the John Paul II Foundation went to North America. During his trip he visited many JP II Foundation Chapters.

“I have lived in United States for 20 years, but always during my returns I meet something new” said Father Krzysztof Wieliczko OSPPE, Administrator of the Foundation. This time it was the same – for twenty days in September, Father Krzysztof visited several States in the United States and Canada. Father Krzysztof met with many members of the JP II Foundation Chapters and learned about their functions on the North America continent.

Promotion of Heritage

Usually, foundations are associated with collections of funds for their various goals. John Paul II Foundation is not an exception – without funds we could not undertake many of our projects. However, beside its charitable function, important, if not the most important, goal of the Foundation is promotion of the heritage that was left by the Polish Pope during His pontificate. For that reason, the biggest part of the visit was spent on various meetings with people who had a chance personally meet the Pope or are interested in His teaching.



“The spiritual aspect is very important in the Foundation activity” – said Father Krzysztof – “especially appealing was the idea of the Novena in the intention of the John Paul II beatification” Father added. Contrary to the other standard Novenas that last for 9 days, this would continue for 9 months. The reason is simple. Members of the Foundations live apart, far away from each other in United States and Canada. Practically, it is almost impossible to meet 9 days in a row for Novena. Therefore, this Novena will be conducted throughout the nine months on a first Sunday, so the members should not have any problems to attend Novena.



Retreats for the members of the Foundation that would intensify the spiritual life, are also planned. “It should be remembered that only united with the deep spirituality, the Foundation’s life has the meaning. If a pray will be missing, John Paul II Foundation will become another ordinary non-for-profit organization” – said Mieczysław Bokszy, president of the JP II Foundation Chapter from New Jersey. – “Beside, retreats provide a great opportunity to familiarize people with the Pope’s legacy” – he added. A retreat that will be conducted during Lent could be given as a good example. The Lent retreat for the Foundation members from the northern part of the United States will be led by Father Krzysztof in the St. Ferdinand Church in Chicago and later in the Holy Rosary Church in Passaic, New Jersey. During the retreat, members of the Foundation and parishioners will be able to learn how the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ influenced John Paul II. “I would like to avoid the situation in which, for example, meditations on the Stations of the Cross would be limited to the names of each station and paragraphs taken from the John Paul II biography readings. It should be shown how Jesus Christ sacrifice influenced Pope’s life and how it could influence us” – said Father Krzysztof.

During the trip

“If Apostles could travel in the same speed as we do conversion of the non-believers would take only half a year, the most” – joked Richard Krzyżanowski – lawyer and trustee of the John Paul II Foundation. During almost two weeks Father Krzysztof and Mr. Richard visited several States: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, South Carolina, Georgia and Texas and met with the individuals who support the Foundation. One of the meetings was held with Ms. Josephine Mandeville. The John Conelly Foundation established by Ms. Mandeville

le's father donated 2 million dollars to the JP II Foundation. Thanks to that donation, the John Paul II Foundation House in Lublin was built. The JP II Foundation House in Lublin is used by students from the former communism block countries. This way, during the academic year 2009/10, 138 students from 8 countries were supported by the Foundation. The scholarship receivers went back to their countries and found work at the institutions of higher education, schools; some of them are working for media and even are in politics. Everything thanks to the previously mentioned donation from the John Conelly Foundation as well as donations received from so many people of a good will, who for many years support Foundation. Optimistically looks Foundation's development and the new group creation process, e.g. in Chicago, "our Polish Highlands" are crating second Foundation Chapter group. In New Jersey, on the ruins of the old Foundation Chapter develops energetic new group that consist mainly from young people.

Among many others, presidents of the Foundation Chapters from the Eastern part of the United States met at the President Mieczysław Pająk house. "John Paul II message shouldn't reach only older people, it must be handed down to young people who were born at the end of the Pope's pontificate" – underlined Father Wieliczko. "For that reason, the work with young generation using modern ways of communication is so important. And, it doesn't mean to organize heavy metal Masses or to sing rap Encyclicas. It means - to send a message of the Polish Pope's teachings in an accessible and easy way to understand. Therefore, it is so important to get all generations into the Foundation life, including young people" – added. Luckily, young people are eager to act. In New York, a group of young people from various backgrounds and laic organizations wants to create a prayer and discussion John

Paul II group. The subjects of their meetings would involve John Paul II writings. One person from that group said, "JP II generation should not be omitted; generation for which Pope's message was very important and attractive. That message should be; however, delivered to these young people." Worthy of mentioning is the message of the John Paul II Foundation Chapter group in Phoenix, Arizona. This active group consists mainly doctors and lawyers. They would like to send a message to their co-workers and friends; the message that was said by John Paul II – not only money counts in live, but the immaterial heritage that we will leave behind counts the most. They are planning to organize a retreat to spread out that idea.

In a distant Canada

In the north, Father Krzysztof met with Mrs. Danuta Warszawska who coordinates functions of many Foundation Chapters in Canada. The meeting was held in Toronto, where one of the Foundation Chapter group has its location. Others are located, e.g. in St. Andrew Bobola Church in Winnipeg, in Montreal and Hafford Saks. In the St. Stanislaus B. & M. Church, Father Wieliczko celebrated a Mass and delivered homily during which he pointed out the meaning of the John Paul II pontificate and encouraged to actively participate in the JP II Foundation. Later, a meeting with parishioners and attendees was held during which the Administrator answered all the questions related to the JP II Foundation life. Many questions were related to the Foundation functions and opportunities to join the JP II Foundation. "That trip to the North America was very important for me – said Father Krzysztof Wieliczko- most of all I was able to personally meet people with whom I have an email or phone contact. I was able to see that the Foundation functions provide real effects. It gave me a new portion of energy for my future work."



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VISIT ON GREENPOINT

Another fruitful year of the John Paul II Foundation Friends in New York activities is coming to the end.

One of the most important events of this year was the visit of the distinguished guest from Rome – Father Krzysztof Wieliczko. The meeting was held on September 15, 2010 at the John Paul II Foundation Friends site in Greenpoint, New York. Almost all the board members were present during the meeting. The meeting was opened with a pray for the Foundation and in the intention of all benefactors. After the pray, the president of the JP II Foundation Friends in New York – Mr. Mieczyslaw Pajak – warmly welcomed the new Administrator of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome.

The president brought back the memories from the time when the Foundation Chapter in New York originated. Memories are tightly related to the distinguished guest. Thirteen years ago (in October 1997), as the pastor at the St. Stanislaus B. & M. Church, Father Wieliczko initiated our John Paul II Foundation Friends Chapter and created its statutes.

Mr. Pajak presented to the new Administrator a short coverage of this year activities. We were able to successfully organize many events, for example our yearly Wafer-“Oplatek” for our members and friends, Lent vigil organized by young people at the St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Greenpoint at the 5th anniversary of the John Paul II death, or a banquet in the honor of the great Polonia’s priest – Rev. Tadeusz Maciejowski. Other events that are held on a yearly basis also took place – occasional thanksgiving Masses for the John Paul II pontificate and in the intention of the prompt beatification were celebrated at various churches in New York. We couldn’t miss the winter trip to a theater to see the biblical story show, spring trip to Verona at the Divine Mercy Sunday, summer picnic and the Pulaski Parade at the 5th Avenue in

Manhattan. Participation at the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko relic’s installation at the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Greenpoint and a pilgrim to Fatima and Santiago de Compostela Church are planned.

After giving an account of the last year - 2009/2010 events, the president handed down a \$10 thousand dollars check for the John Paul II Foundation in Rome.

Then, there was a turn for Father Krzysztof Wieliczko who described John Paul II Foundation plans for the coming year. Father invited us to Rome on October 21-23rd, 2011 for the 30th JP II Foundation anniversary celebration. The John Paul II Foundation was established by our great Polish-Pope in 1981. Father mentioned that for all Foundation members it will be to attend a general audience with the Pope Benedict XVI. Father Wieliczko provided also an update on the beatification process of our beloved Pope and assured us that every Thursday at the Pope John Paul II tomb in Vatican a Mass is celebrated in the intention of all the Foundation

benefactors. At the end Father expressed His gratitude for the gift and our hospitality.

Members of the board were thankful for Father Wieliczko’s visit, memorable rosaries, encouragement words for the upcoming Foundation events and Father’s invitation to Rome. The meeting ended with a pray and wishes of the God’s blessing for Father Krzysztof Wieliczko

and His work as the Foundation’s Administrator.



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**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.**