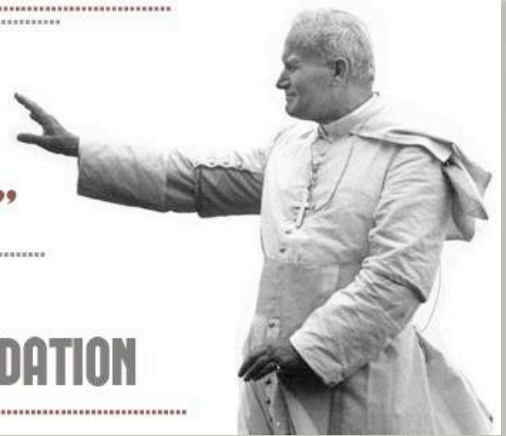


# CENTER FOR DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH OF THE PONTIFICATE

**“DO NOT TO  
*cease*  
THIS GOOD WORK”**

**THE 35th ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION**



## In memoriam

With great sadness we have received news of the death of two meritorious Polish activists from the United States, Kazimierz Cybulski and Władysław Zachariasiewicz, two pioneers of the John Paul II Foundation. Grateful for the gift of life, full of sacrifice for Polish affairs and the Church, we commended them to the mercy of God during the Requiem Masses, celebrated in the chapel of the Polish House in Rome. On our website we have included short articles about both deceased senior members of the Foundation honoring their contribution to the emergence and development of this institution.



Dear Friends, Members of the John Paul II Foundation, and all who value the heritage of the Polish Pope.

The 35th Anniversary of the John Paul II Foundation is a meaningful celebration taking all of us thru the path traveled so far with all the people associated with the Foundation and remembering all those who have since passed and gone back to our Father's house. It recalls the words of our Founder “not to cease this good work” and to see the future with hope, staying on the chosen path and taking the challenges that time brings. It is an obligation to pass on the heritage of the pontificate of Saint

John Paul II to younger generations. In this issue of the Bulletin of the Center we are looking into the past, to recall the achievements of predecessors, and we are showing our current work. While we are convinced that the John Paul II Foundation, including the Center of the Pontificate, still has a lot of work to do, we recognize that our motivation and strength stems from all your solidarity and cooperation.

## INSPIRING PAST



**Fr. Msgr. Michał Jagosz**

Among the institutions of the Polish Diaspora that were formed after the election of the Polish pope, the John Paul II Foundation is undoubtedly one of the great works created by Poles scattered around the world. Works under the aegis of the Foundation, i.e. the Polish House and the Polish Institute of Christian Culture, these institutions were to be – in accordance with the wishes of the Holy Father – centers for Polish culture, and evidence of its presence in Europe and the world. Their tasks were also to share Polish culture to the Polish Diaspora in the world and to

pass on the results of the contacts

with other people and cultures to Poland. The Institute was entrusted with a mission to collect wider-understood documentation on the person and teachings of John Paul II. However, this field of activity soon became a separate institution – the Center for Documentation of the Pontificate. For 35 years, without a break, the Center has been fulfilling its task by gathering, ordering and preparing accessible materials related, directly or indirectly, to the pontificate. In recent years, the institution has been steadily growing, enlarging its archival, library and museum collections.



**Fr. Msgr. Stefan Wylężek**

Since the beginning of the John Paul II Foundation, based on the statutes approved by the Holy Father, the Polish Institute of Christian Culture has been included in the works of the Foundation. To learn and be aware of the goals and tasks of the Institute you need to take a look at the teachings of John Paul II on culture and its relationship with faith. In a speech to UNESCO (Paris, 2 June 1980), the Holy Father raised the issue of culture as a basic factor of human life. “Culture is that through which man as man, becomes more man, ‘is’ more. ... Man,

in it and finds his own balance in it”. Faith is not suspended in the air, it is not something abstract, and it is expressed in culture. Analysis and exchange of experiences on the presence of Christian values in specific countries and the relations between faith and culture were the primary objective of the Institute.

This task encompasses three levels of specific activities: organizing international symposia, publishing on issues of Christian culture and scholarship activities, aiding people doing research in libraries and

and only man, is the ‘protagonist’, or ‘architect’ of culture: man, and only man, expresses himself

archives of Rome and the Vatican. The Institute, thanks to its 22-year activity (1981-2003), built the Foundation into the great process of re-evangelization of culture and wrote a beautiful page in its history. The fruits of its work remain visible signs confirming the words of the Holy Father, “there is no monument of our time, more magnificent and enduring, than this one, forged in the bronze of science and culture”. Objectives, once pursued by the Institute, are currently being undertaken by the Center of Pontificate.

# STAFF OF THE CENTER

## THE PRESENT – THIS PLACE HAS MANY FACES...

### DIRECTOR

In the Center there is a lot of material relating to John Paul II, which I use in my research, publishing and popularizing his work. While guiding this



**Fr. Andrzej Dobrzyński**

institution, it is my outmost priority to give importance to the achievements of people who worked here before me, and at the same time, continue the development of the Center, serving members of the Foundation and researchers and gaining increasing recognition in the academic and research community.

### SISTERS

Since its beginning, sisters from the Congregation of the Sisters Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus have been working in the Center of the Pontificate. With great



**S. Remigia Sawicka**

joy, we continue this mission, which not only obliges us, but also enriches us. The enthusiasm and interest among pilgrims and scholars visiting us provides an additional motivation for us.



**S. Julia Knurek**

### OUR COLLABORATORS



**Stanisława Postawa**

My collaboration with the Center for Documentation of John Paul II began on 30 November 1993. It was in response to the request of the then director of the Center Fr. Msgr. Michał Jagosz and rector of the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow – Fr. Prof. Adam Kubiś. It gave me great joy to serve the Holy Father John Paul II, helping in documentation or in preparing different works, which were fruit of his pontificate.

The library of the Center offers valuable publications in several languages related to the teachings of St. John Paul II. Cataloging of this collection of books in the international VIRTUA program allows researchers to get to know this priceless heritage. As part of my cooperation, I try to complement this database. An important task is also to continue the series “Polish Bibliography of John Paul II”, prepared by the Center in collaboration with the Library of The Pontifical University of John Paul II. In developing this series, I help as a volunteer. In the year of the canonization of the Polish Pope, I received from the hands of Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz the Gold Medal of the Pontificate of John Paul II for my long-term cooperation. It further encouraged me to support strongly the work

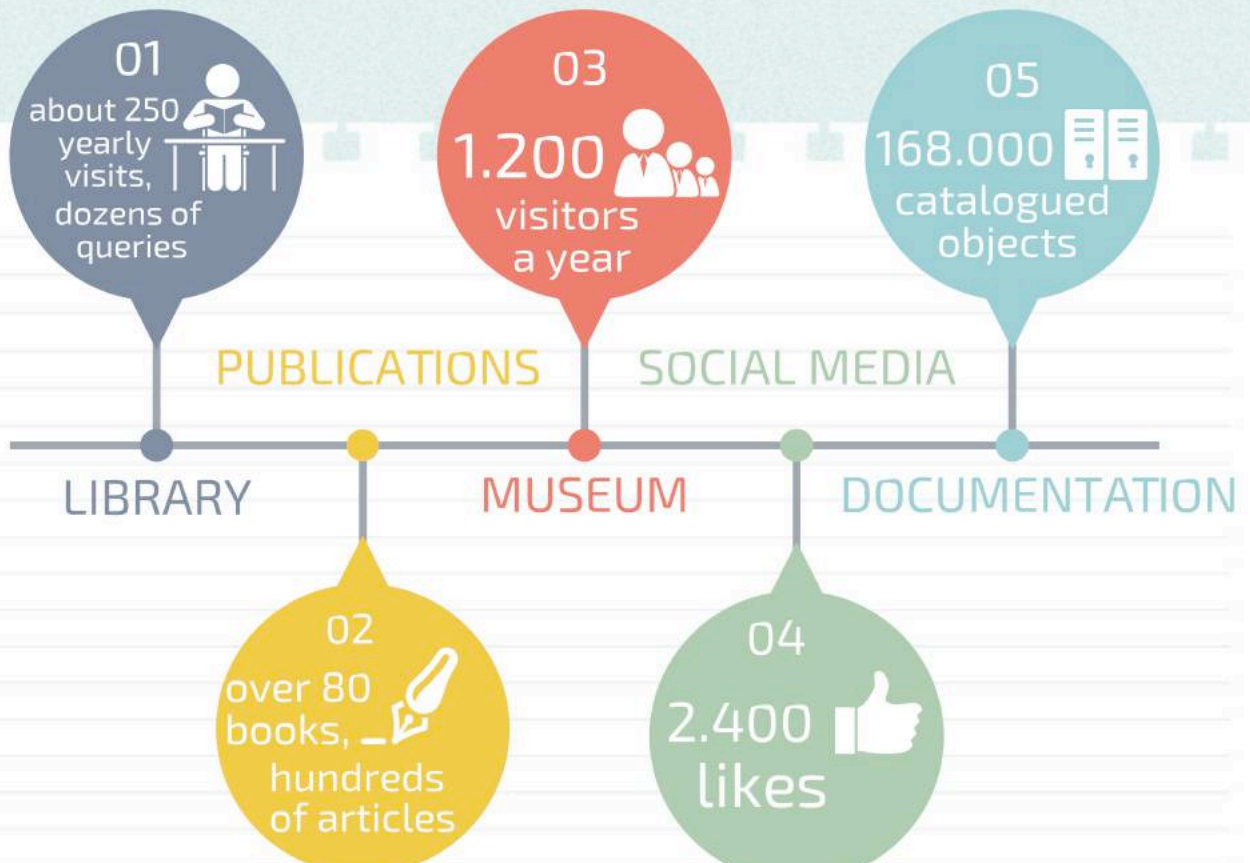


**Magdalena Olszewska**

For almost twenty years I have been working in the Library of The Pontifical University of John Paul II, where I have been responsible for the subject description of books in the catalogue. I also took part in the creation of the classification library, according to which, in our library, books collections are placed in the open access area. Now it is time for a new challenge that I take with optimism and enthusiasm. Thanks to a proposal made by the Center for Documentation and Research of the Pontificate in Rome, currently I collect materials for the tenth volume of the “Polish Bibliography of John Paul II” for the year 1998, which gives me great satisfaction. The Holy Father has always been very important in my life, coincidentally the year 1998 was the first year of my “adult” life, the year when I finished my studies

and became a librarian. Since the beginning of my work on the bibliography, I have met so many wonderful people who are happy to share their knowledge and enthuse with passion. This collaboration with so many friendly people has been of great value to me. I must express my thanks to all of them. . Here, special thanks should be given to the staff of the Center for Documentation of the Pontificate, first of all to Fr. Director Andrzej Dobrzyński, to Ms. Danuta Jabłkowska-Gułajewska, a co-creator of the previous volumes of the bibliography, to Mr. Piotr Boczkowski, the person previously responsible for the technical side of these works, and to Ms. Stanisława Postawa, with whom I had the opportunity to work for over 12 years in the Library of The Pontifical University of John Paul II.

## The Center in Figures



## NEWS

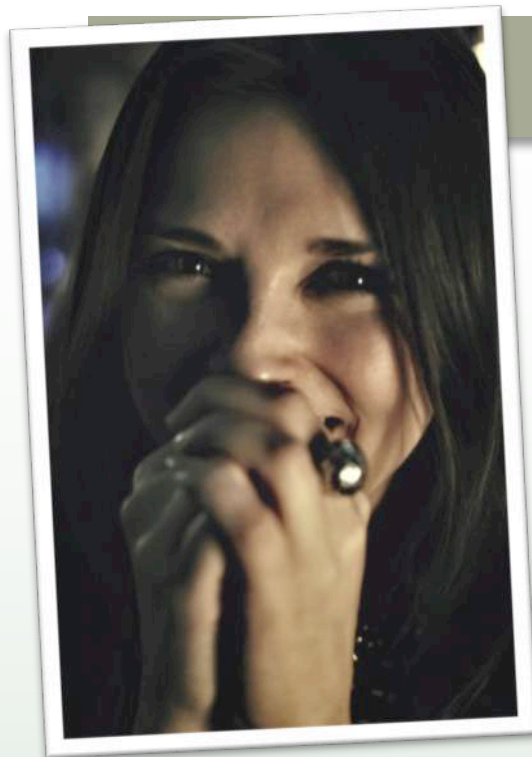
From the 5th to the 15th of July, a query on the project of critical editions of literary works of Karol Wojtyła – Pope John Paul II, as well as of his writings related to theater and art, was raised in the archives of the Center of the Pontificate. Three-volume editions will be published in 2020, in the centenary of the birth of Karol Wojtyła, and will be prepared by the research committee chaired by Prof. Jacek Popiel, Vice-Rector of the Jagiellonian University. The project is under the patronage of Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz and Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz and the presidents of Cracow and Warsaw. The research in the Center was conducted by Dr. Anna Karoń-Ostrowska and Dr. Marta Burghardt.



On 4 September this year, in the Hall of John Paul II at via delle Botteghe Oscure in Rome, the formal opening of the exhibition “Mother Teresa – Saint from Skopje, Saint of the World” took place. The event was organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of Macedonia to the Holy See, the Memorial House of Mother Teresa in Skopje and the ministry for Poles at the St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church in Rome. The exhibition, devoted to the life and work of the new Saint, included unique photos, copies of documents and manuscripts. Included among the exhibits, a painting of Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul II with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the background, borrowed for this occasion from the Center of the Pontificate. It is a gift offered to the Pope by Mexican Indians during the beatification Mass, which took place on 19 October 2003 in Rome.

On 14-18 September this year, the 38th session of the Standing Conference of Polish Museums, Libraries and Archives in the West was held in London. It was attended by representatives of the Institutions of the Polish Diaspora, preserving the national heritage, as well as government and academic institutions from Poland. During the academic symposium that accompanied the conference, materials for biographies of Polish immigrants from the collections of MAB member institutions were presented. Lives of politicians, writers, artists, diplomats and scholars were included in the presented papers. In this prominent group there was also Sr. Dr. Emilia Ehrlich OSU, a biblical scholar, who was among the closest collaborators of John Paul II. A paper on her cooperation with the Holy Father, prepared on the basis of materials stored in the Center of the Pontificate, was presented by Sr. Julia Knurek SSCJ.





## A SUMMER INTERNSHIP – Justyna Staroń

I am a doctoral student of literary studies in the Department of Textology and Editorship of the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin. During my vacation this year, within the framework of the Erasmus Plus Program, I took a two-month internship at the Center for Documentation and research of the Pontificate of John Paul II in Rome. In carrying out the duties entrusted to me, I tried to make the best

use of the knowledge I acquired during my studies. In connection with the upcoming celebration of the 35th anniversary of the John Paul II Foundation, I had an opportunity to help in the preparations. I worked mainly on the volume of poetry dedicated to the Pope (with invaluable help from Ms. Bożena Pawłowska-Kilanowski, from Canada, president of the Circle of the John Paul II Foundation in Saskatchewan), on the second edition of the volume of speeches of the Holy Father to the Foundation of his name as well as working on the English version. In addition to normal day to day troubleshooting, I also participated in preparing materials published in the Center’s social media, writing emails etc. I also had an opportunity to work on extensive research based on the life and work of the patron of the Foundation, as well as the patron of my Alma Mater, St. John Paul II. In this area The Center fulfills a very important role: collects materials, owns an extensive collection of books

and countless exhibits. I must add that my time spent at the Polish House in Rome is an extremely valuable experience – the opportunity to reside and work with such knowledgeable people where goodness surrounds me every day, and with whom I share a passion for our Polish Pope is a time I will never forget. I must also add that the Foundation building is surrounded by beautiful gardens, where the music of cicadas fills the air. This is a wonderful work place surrounded by fantastic collections of items of such importance wonderful testimony to the pontificate of John Paul II. This time is one that will remain in my memory forever. My stay at the Center was not only work, but also a spiritual formation and for this I thank with all my heart my caretakers: Sister Remigia, Sister Julia and Father Andrzej.

## OUR GUESTS

My name is Karolina, I am a high school student and one of the ten winners of the 12th edition of the “Pontifical Competition” organized by the Institute Tertio Millennio. The main prize of the competition was a trip to Rome. At the end of our stay in the Eternal City, many of us admired its beautiful architecture, others were impressed by paintings of Italian artists and exhibits of the Vatican Museum, others still remembered the taste of local food. I was most impressed by visiting the Center for Documentation and Research of the Pontificate of John Paul II. Its collections include memorabilia of John Paul II, gifts received from pilgrims, and objects bearing witness



to the extremely difficult history of Poland, and many others. Great stories are connected with many exhibits. The stories of healing through the intercession of the Holy Father brought many tears to my eyes. I was also moved tremendously by the story behind the picture “A Witness of the Assassination Attempt” to

which crowds of the faithful prayed on 13 May 1981. I still have in my memory: a turtle, carved from bone by a concentration camp prisoner, an unfinished Litany of Loreto, embroidered on a piece of cloth in the Lviv prison, a tile with the image of Our Lady from an oven in a Basilian monastery, papal hiking boots, a shelf with the relics of saints where the Pope

prayed, and also his zucchetto, cassock and ring. During the tour the most important moment for us was the worship of the relics of St. John Paul II and a common prayer for his intercession. In this one moment we experienced a special closeness to the Pope. The atmosphere provided by Sr. Julia, from the beginning of our meeting, surrounded us completely. The stories she told, closely attuned to the context of the upcoming Jubilee of Mercy, a time very dear to me. It was not

until returning home that we realized how much we were absorbed by her words. We even forgot about taking commemorative photos, which we took in so many other places we were visiting. I am glad that this point of the program was only on the last day of our trip. After visiting this place so imbued with the presence of John Paul II, nothing would have evoked in me deeper emotions.

**Karolina Szabat**

## OUR FUTURE

I have been working in the Center of the Pontificate for more than nine years. This is sufficient time to feel a special sense of responsibility for this institution and to go over its history and make plans for the future, although some may remain a dream... But I am deeply convinced that the Center of the Pontificate, following the direction of the current activity, can continue to creatively evolve.

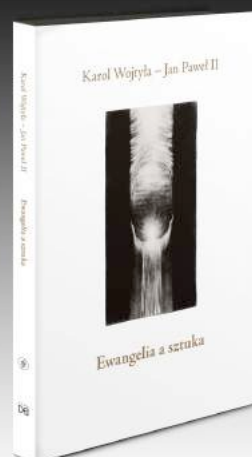
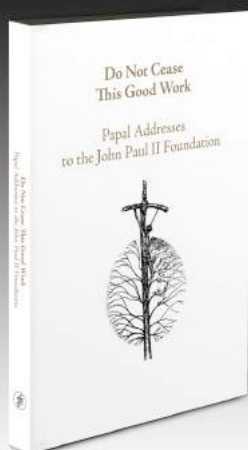
First of all, as the staff of the Center (Sister Remigia, Sister Julia and Father Andrzej), we can serve the members of the Foundation, helping them to spread the teaching of St. John Paul II, or support in this task ministries of the Polish Diaspora. Many concrete ideas arise... Their implementation depends mainly on the awareness of the goal we set ourselves. Our principal objective is to arrange that St. John Paul would accompany people in their lives, serve them with his wisdom, direct them with his personal example to God, point them a way to a more just



world. We can make it by the collected documentation, books and souvenirs of the pontificate, the daily work in the Center and the cooperation with our friends. Is the goal too ambitious? Perhaps Yes! But such a purpose, such a future! We are confident that St. John Paul II still has a lot to say to all of us now and to future generations.

**Fr. Andrzej Dobrzyński**

## NEW PUBLICATIONS



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