JOHN PAUL II VATICAN FOUNDATION
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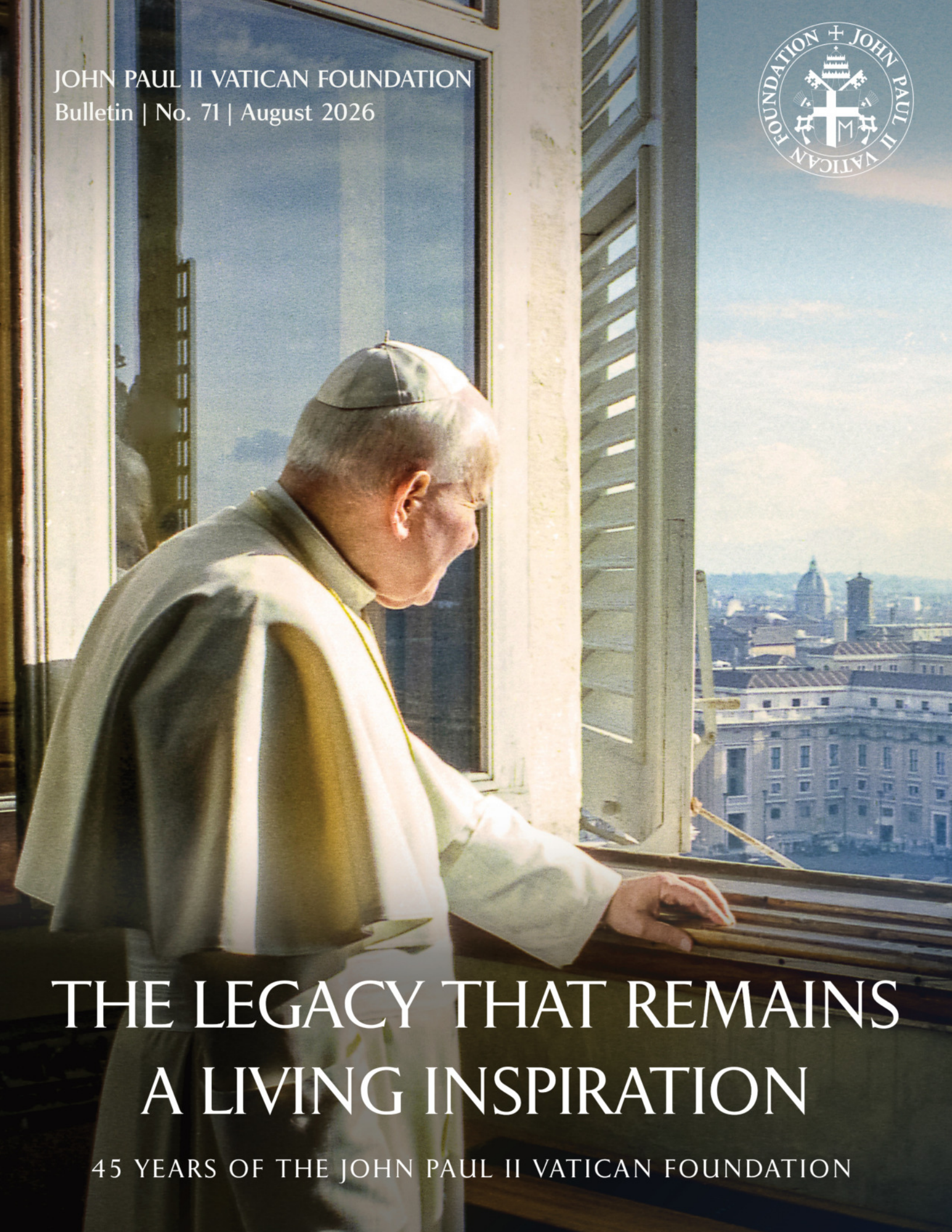

THE LEGACY THAT REMAINS A LIVING INSPIRATION

45 YEARS OF THE JOHN PAUL II VATICAN FOUNDATION

VATICANJP2.VA

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Meeting with Leo XIV and the Foundation's Board Deliberations

On February 11–12, 2026, the Board of the John Paul II Vatican Foundation met in Rome. In accordance with the Statutes, the current Metropolitan Archbishop of Kraków exercises what is known as "superior authority" over the Foundation. Accordingly, Cardinal Grzegorz Ryś, recently appointed by Pope Leo XIV as the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Kraków, participated in the meeting for the first time.

Also in attendance were Msgr. Paweł Ptasznik (chairman), Bishop Sławomir Oder (vice-chairman), attorney Marek Markiewicz (secretary), Bogdan Chmielewski (council member from the U.S.), Wojciech Halarewicz and Fr. Michał Wilkosz (council members from Germany), Henryk Rogowski (council member from France), and Fr. Tomasz Szopa (council member from Poland).

The meeting began on Wednesday, February 11, with Mass at the tomb of St. John Paul II in the Vatican, presided over by Cardinal Ryś. Among those concelebrating were Cardinal Dziwisz, Bishop Oder, priests associated with the Foundation, and the rectors of KUL and UPJP2, two universities with which the Foundation has collaborated for many years. Also present at the Mass were members of the Council, employees and friends of the Foundation, as well as the Sisters of the Sacred Heart involved in its activities in Rome.

> Later, during the general audience in the Paul VI Hall, the participants met with Pope Leo XIV, who expressed his gratitude for the Foundation's work and blessed its future activities.

In the afternoon, the directors of the five units operated by the Foundation presented reports on their activities and plans for the coming year: Msgr. Dariusz Giers (Administrative Secretariat), Fr. Mateusz Wójcik (John Paul II Polish House in Rome), Fr. Jan Strzałka, SCJ (Student House in Lublin), Fr. Mirosław Cichoń (Center for Documentation and Research on the Pontificate of John Paul II in Rome), and Fr. Tomasz Podlewski (Office for Media and Events).

The second day of the meeting began with a morning Mass at the Church of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, in Rome, followed by a review of the reports and a discussion on the future direction of the Foundation's activities. A key topic was the upcoming celebrations of the Foundation's 45th anniversary, which will take place in Rome from October 19 to 22, 2026. Another important issue was the upcoming third edition of the St. John Paul II Award ("Premio San Giovanni Paolo II"), which the Foundation has presented annually since 2024 to a person or institution that puts the teachings of St. John Paul II into practice and thereby makes a tangible contribution to improving conditions in the world.

A Feature Film on St. John Paul II's Relationship with the Mother of God

On Wednesday, April 8, 2026, on the 21st anniversary of St. John Paul II's funeral, the Wisła Cinema in Warsaw hosted the gala premiere of the film "Mary: Mother of the Pope," directed by Jan Sobierajski. This is the first film about the mystical bond between Karol Wojtyła and the Mother of God.

> One of the project's main sponsors was the John Paul II Vatican Foundation. The premiere was attended by the filmmakers, the film's cast, invited guests, hundreds of viewers, and representatives from the worlds of culture, academia, the media, and the Polish Church.

The film was shot in places where St. John Paul II's life and spiritual journey were closely connected with the presence of Mary: in Fatima, the Vatican, Rome, and Mentorella, as well as in Poland—in Gietrzwałd, Częstochowa, Wadowice, and Ossów, the site of the Miracle on the Vistula.The film features experts, rectors of Marian shrines, members of the Polish Pope's inner circle, and scholars and experts on his pontificate, including two priests from our Foundation: Msgr. Paweł Ptasznik, chairman of the Foundation, and Fr. Tomasz Podlewski, director of the Office for Media and Events, both of whom also traveled to Poland for the gala premiere.Following an address by Bishop Romuald Kamiński, Msgr. Ptasznik, a longtime close collaborator of St. John Paul II, spoke on behalf of the patrons, sponsors, and those featured in the film. The film was screened in over 180 theaters in Poland, Canada, and the U.S. and had attracted more than 70,000 viewers by the end of June 2026. It is currently available online on the TVP VOD platform.

The Second Edition of St. John Paul II Days at Universities of Rome

The "St. John Paul II Days at the Pontifical Universities in Rome" were held for the second time. From April 20 to 24, 2026—Monday through Friday—lectures dedicated to the teachings and works of the Polish Pope were held at three pontifical universities in the Eternal City. This year's edition was held under the theme "Solidarity and Identity in the Teachings and Works of Karol Wojtyła—John Paul II." "St. John Paul II Days at the Pontifical Universities in Rome" is a joint initiative of the Church of St. Stanislaus BM in Rome, the John Paul II Vatican Foundation, and the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków. The inaugural edition, held under the theme "Faith and Reason in the Thought of St. John Paul II," took place in the fall of 2024. Since its inception, the event has been organized in collaboration with three Roman universities: the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), the Pontifical Gregorian University, and the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. In addition to academic conferences at the three pontifical universities, participants were also able to attend a theatrical performance titled "John Paul II: The Roman Triptych—Meditations," directed by Prof. Jarosław Kilian and presented at the Basilica of Our

Lady of Trastevere. The prizes for the winners of the student competition were also presented there. Competition participants were tasked with writing an academic paper related to the theme of this year's edition. The organizers received several dozen entries, from which a committee composed of professors from Rome's pontifical universities selected three winners. The prizes, funded by the Foundation, were awarded to Fr. Elia Coviello of Italy (2,000 euros for first place), Fr. Sudhakar Yellapu of India (1,500 euros for second place), and Fr. Jorge Alonso Tello Calmet of Peru (1,000 euros for third place).

The New Website for the John Paul II Vatican Foundation

The John Paul II Vatican Foundation has launched a new website. For the first time in its history, the Foundation is now using the official Vatican domain ".va." The website, hosted on the Holy See's servers, underscores the Foundation's institutional affiliation with and direct connection to the Vatican. This marks another step in strengthening the Foundation's presence in the digital world and is a natural result of the expansion of its activities in recent years. The website, located at www.vaticanjp2.va, offers many new features. In addition, the new address has been aligned with the Foundation's social media profiles, creating a consistent and easily recognizable digital identity: @VaticanJP2. The new website also features a brand-new section entitled "Reading Room." There, users will find regularly published articles prepared specifically for the VaticanJP2 website by leading authorities and experts.A newsletter has also been launched, along with an online payment system through which donors can now conveniently support the Foundation's activities. The website www.vaticanjp2.va is available in four languages: Polish, English, French, and Italian. It has been designed with a responsive layout optimized for use across a variety of devices. The redesign also introduces an additional graphic symbol alongside the existing logo, as well as a completely new visual identity. These changes are accompanied by the introduction of new email addresses within the Vatican domain, enhancing both security and the direct institutional character of the Foundation's communications.

> We want to follow the far-sighted vision of recent popes, who encouraged active engagement with and co-creation of the digital world. This is precisely the purpose of the changes we have introduced to our communications. The new VaticanJP2 website represents much more than a new address or refreshed graphics. Above all, it represents a completely new communications policy and a new understanding of the role of our media presence. The VaticanJP2 website is intended not merely as a digital showcase for our institution, but as an active tool for encouraging reflection, fostering interaction, and sustaining a community united around the values that guided our Founder, St. John Paul II.

– said Fr. Dr. Tomasz Podlewski, director of the Foundation's Office for Media and Events and the person responsible for its media transformation, in an interview.

Rome Marks Three Anniversaries of John Paul II

On Monday, May 18, 2026, at St. Peter's Basilica, members of the Polish community and Polish pilgrims commemorated the 106th anniversary of Karol Wojtyła's birth. In the morning, a Mass was celebrated at the tomb of St. John Paul II, presided over by Bishop Jan Ozga of Cameroon. The homily was

delivered by Msgr. Paweł Ptasznik, president of the Foundation. After the Mass, flowers were laid on behalf of the John Paul II Vatican Foundation by its administrator, Msgr. Dariusz Giers. A short time later, President of Poland Karol Nawrocki, who was on an official visit to the Vatican that day, laid a wreath in honor of the Polish Pope. On May 13, 2026, shortly after 5:00 p.m., in St. Peter's Square—at the very spot where the attempt on the Polish Pope's life had taken place 45 years earlier—the Polish community in Rome, together with the Polish Ambassador to the Holy See, Adam Kwiatkowski, gathered to pray together. Among those attending the event, organized by the Church of St. Stanislaus BM in Rome, were the president and administrator of our Foundation, Msgr. Paweł Ptasznik and Msgr. Dariusz Giers. Earlier that day, during the general audience, Pope Leo XIV prayed at the site of the assassination attempt. Meanwhile, April 2, 2026, marked the 21st anniversary of the death of St. John Paul II. Since the Easter Triduum began on that day, the traditional prayer vigil in St. Peter's Square took place a day earlier, on April 1. The event was organized by the Church of St. Stanislaus BM in Rome, the Polish Pastoral Ministry in Ostia, and our Foundation. Participants prayed for peace in the world, entrusting to God all nations affected by war and unrest. The Rosary meditations were based on John Paul II's 1980 Message for the World Day of Peace. The prayer was led by Msgr. Paweł Ptasznik, president of the Foundation. Among those present were representatives of the Polish authorities in Rome, led by the Polish Ambassador to the Holy See and the Polish Consul in Rome.

An Extraordinary Gift for the John Paul II Polish House in Rome

On Monday, May 18, 2026, on the 106th anniversary of Karol Wojtyła's birth and the 82nd anniversary of the Polish victory at Monte Cassino under the command of General Władysław Anders, President of Poland Karol Nawrocki honored the John Paul II Polish House at Via Cassia 1200 in Rome with a special gift. Our pilgrim house thus became another institution to receive a Polish flag that had previously flown over the Presidential

Palace in Warsaw. on January 1, 2026, President Nawrocki initiated a tradition whereby the white-and-red national flags that had previously flown over the Palace are ceremoniously presented to local communities, educational institutions, state institutions, and Polish diaspora organizations. Since January 3, 2026, the flag-changing ceremony at the Presidential Palace has taken place every Saturday. The flags removed from the flagpole serve as an important symbol of the continuity of state authority and national identity, and the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland presents them as tokens of recognition and respect for the communities and institutions that receive them. The flag presented to our Pilgrim House flew over the Presidential Palace in Warsaw from May 9 to 16, 2026, a period that included May 13—the anniversary of the attempt on the Polish Pope's life and, at the same time, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, to whose intercession St. John Paul II attributed his survival.

This exceptional gift from President Nawrocki was accepted on behalf of the John Paul II Polish House by its director, Rev. Dr. Mateusz Wójcik, at the Polish War Cemetery at Monte Cassino. Fr. Wójcik has directed this important Polish institution in the Eternal City for the past three years.

A New Series of Meetings: "A Decade at the Saint's Side"

The John Paul II Vatican Foundation has launched a new series of public commemorative meetings with its president, Msgr. Paweł Ptasznik, a firsthand witness to the life and holiness of John Paul II, who, as one of the Pope's closest collaborators, accompanied him throughout the final decade of his pontificate. The first of these meetings, titled "A Decade at the Saint's Side," took place on May 25, 2026, at the St. Irenaeus BM Academic Church in Częstochowa, and the next was held on June 3 at the Holy Spirit Parish Church in Szczecin. Further meetings in Warsaw, Kraków, Wrocław, and Germany are already being planned.

> Every day, I thank God for this great and undeserved gift. I feel compelled to share the testimony of John Paul II's holiness. I firmly believe that he has not ceased to pray for us. Just as he entrusted our sufferings, joys, and concerns to God during his lifetime, so he continues to do so today. Remembering St. John Paul II is not merely a matter of looking back, but also of relying on his effective intercession for us before God and drawing inspiration from his message in our daily lives.

– says Msgr. Ptasznik.

The initiative of our Foundation, aimed at preserving the memory of the Polish Pope and his pontificate and passing that legacy on to the younger genera-

tion. The meetings begin with Holy Mass and a homily delivered by Msgr. Ptasznik, followed by a conversation conducted in the form of a live interview. At the end of each meeting, attendees have an opportunity to ask questions of their own. This initiative, along with many other projects, is also part of our spiritual preparation for the 45th anniversary of the Foundation's work, as well as for the 50th anniversary of Karol Wojtyła's election to the See of Peter, which will be celebrated in 2028..

> A Decade at the Saint's Side' is not simply another academic lecture. It is a vivid and personal testimony from one of John Paul II's trusted collaborators, who, for ten years and right up to the final moments of the Pope's earthly life, was able to observe him from close at hand: in everyday life, at moments of important decision, in the silence of prayer, and in moments never recorded in biographies.

– says Fr. Tomasz Podlewski, spokesperson for the Foundation, as well as the initiator of the meetings..

Another Group of Our Scholarship Recipients Has Graduated in Lublin

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, a farewell ceremony was held at the John Paul II Vatican Foundation Student Residence in Lublin for the fifth-year scholarship recipients who had completed their master's degree programs at the Catholic University of Lublin as part of our scholarship program. The event began with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m., presided over by Fr. Jan Strzałka, SCJ, director of the Student Residence. In his homily, he encouraged the graduates to express their gratitude to God, as well as to the Foundation's donors and staff, for the years of formation, study, and friendship they had experienced.

After the Mass, the participants proceeded to the auditorium, where, in keeping with tradition, the fourth-year students had prepared an artistic program dedicated to their graduating classmates. The auditorium was decorated with childhood photos of the evening's honorees, giving the gathering a particularly personal and nostalgic atmosphere. The evening was filled with memories, smiles, warm words, and expressions of gratitude for the years spent together. It was also an opportunity to reflect once again on the journey the graduates had shared as part of the Foundation community.

Representatives of the graduating students expressed their gratitude, offering heartfelt thanks to the Residence's administration and the entire Foundation. They emphasized that, thanks to the support they had received over the past five years, they had been able to grow intellectually, spiritually, and in their faith. The celebration concluded with a shared barbecue.

Foundation Administrator Visits the New York Chapter

From June 2 to 10, 2026, Msgr. Dariusz Giers, administrator of the John Paul II Vatican Foundation, visited the Foundation's New York Chapter. During his visit, he was hosted by Auxiliary Bishop Witold Mroziewski of the Diocese of Brooklyn, who actively supports the Chapter's activities. At the bishop's request, on Sunday, June 7, Msgr. Giers presided over Mass and the Corpus Christi procession and delivered the homily. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Andrzej Salwowski and Fr. Dariusz Strzelecki, who serve at Holy Cross Parish. Among those present were members of the Foundation's New York Chapter, led by Chapter President Jan Grabiński. In the afternoon, Msgr. Giers attended the annual banquet of the New York Chapter at Terrace On The Park. In addition to Chapter members, attendees included the Polish Consul, local businesspeople, and individuals wishing to provide financial support to the Foundation, its scholarship

programs, and the upcoming jubilee celebrations in Rome. Chapter President Jan Grabiński welcomed the guests, and Msgr. Dariusz Giers thanked the organizers and participants for their time and generosity. He noted that this year the Foundation is celebrating its 45th anniversary and that the main celebrations will take place in Rome from October 19 to 22, beginning with a meeting with Pope Leo XIV, the first pope in history to come from the United States. The Chapter's new chaplain, Fr. Dariusz Blicharz, encouraged those present to support the Foundation, preserve the legacy of St. John Paul II, and pass on his teachings to future generations. During the banquet, Fr. Grzegorz Merkulak, pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in Greenpoint, received the annual award of the Friends of St. John Paul II Society in New York. Also present was Fr. Krzysztof Wieliczko, OSPPE, former administrator of the Foundation and current provincial of the Pauline Fathers in the U.S. Before returning to Rome, Msgr. Giers met with the Chapter's board of directors.

Collaboration Between the Pontificate Center and the Ossolineum

In June 2026, the Center for Documentation and Study of the Pontificate of John Paul II in Rome, run by our Foundation, welcomed a team of conservators from the Ossoliński National Institute in Wrocław. The study visit by experts from the Ossolineum provided an opportunity to exchange experience and engage in in-depth discussions and, above all, to further develop the expertise of our Center's staff in the preservation and care of valuable collections.

Earlier, from April 30 to May 31, 2026, the Pan Tadeusz Museum in Wrocław—operated by the Ossolineum—presented an exhibition titled "Before Pan Tadeusz Became an Epic." Our Center had the honor of contributing to the exhibition by lending one of the most valuable items in its collection. Among the items on display in Wrocław was an original fragment of Adam Mickiewicz's draft manuscript of "Pan Tadeusz," which is normally held in our Center's collection in Rome. The Center's director, Fr. Mirosław Cichoń, Ph.D., attended the exhibition's opening in Wrocław.

Three Papal Competitions Co-organized by Our Foundation

In June 2026, Warsaw hosted the finals of three different papal competitions supported financially and organizationally by the John Paul II Vatican Foundation. The first of these was the Papal Competition for secondary schools, whose 22nd edition attracted more than 1,800 participants this year. From the very beginning, the competition has been organized by the Tertio Millennio Institute, and our Foundation joined the group of organizers last year. The finals took place on Saturday, June 13, at the House of the Archbishops of Warsaw. Prior to that, for several months, the participants studied writings by St. John Paul II related to this year's theme, "Words Make a Difference," reflecting on the role of words in the modern world. To qualify for the final, the participants completed two stages: an online test based on the writings of St. John Paul II and an original essay. The top candidates appeared before the competition committee in Warsaw to defend their theses orally. For the second time, Fr. Dr. Tomasz Podlewski, director of the Foundation's Office for Media and Events, served as a member of the jury. The winners received, among other prizes, "golden student IDs" granting admission to selected degree programs, as well as a trip to Rome, which took place in July and included a meeting with Fr. Podlewski. Our Foundation supported the competition with a grant of PLN 10,000.

On Friday, June 19, the Belvedere Palace in Warsaw hosted the finals of the second edition of the nationwide art and film competition "Lead Us, St. John Paul II" for elementary school students, organized by the Parliamentary Group for the Legacy of St. John Paul II. Our Foundation joined the group of sponsors this year, supporting the initiative with a contribution of

PLN 3,000. Fr. Tomasz Podlewski attended the finals alongside representatives of state authorities and institutions from the worlds of arts and culture associated with the legacy of the Polish Pope.

A day later, on Saturday, June 20, the Warsaw headquarters of "Teologia Polityczna" hosted the finals of the prestigious Papal Competition for undergraduate and graduate students, in which the main prizes are one-year scholarships for the international "JP2 Studies" program in Rome. Each scholarship is valued at PLN 65,000. This year marked the sixth edition of the competition organized by "Teologia Polityczna," and our Foundation has been co-organizing it since 2025. The competition involves writing an original academic essay inspired by the teachings of the Polish Pope.

The essay must meet high academic standards and demonstrate independent and creative thinking. Ten finalists competed in this year's final round. The jury, which included representatives of the academic and cultural communities as well as Fr. Dr. Tomasz Podlewski, our Foundation's spokesperson, evaluated the essays and selected the winners following their oral defenses. Fr. Podlewski served on the jury for the second time. The main prizes were awarded as follows: first place was shared by Marta Gastoł, a doctoral student at the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School at the University of Warsaw, and Monika Szymczak, a student of family studies at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw; second place went to Konrad Kozłowski, a law student at the University of Wrocław; and third place to Kacper Łądkowski, a doctoral student in social sciences at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. As it did last year, the John Paul II Vatican Foundation funded three scholarships with a total value of PLN 195,000. In total, thanks to the support of our donors, we allocated PLN 228,000 to the three papal competitions described above in Poland, as well as to the previously mentioned competition for students in Rome held as part of the "St. John Paul II Days." In this way, we seek not only to fulfill our statutory mission but also to educate the next generation of intellectuals, leaders, and those who will help shape the future of the Church, Poland, and the world in the spirit of the values upheld by our Founder, St. John Paul II.

Supporting Student Mountain Camps in the Spirit of St. John Paul II

Since 2025, the John Paul II Vatican Foundation has been co-organizing two mountain-based projects for students inspired by the teachings of St. John Paul II. The first is the annual Integration and Academic Camp, organized in collaboration with "Teologia Polityczna" and the Tertio Millennio Institute. This event, which lasts nearly two weeks, takes place each September. Several dozen students from across Poland gather at Tatrzańska Majerczykówka, near Poronin. Each day begins with Holy Mass, followed by mountain hikes that last until the afternoon. In the evenings, distinguished intellectuals deliver

lectures examining contemporary challenges in light of the teachings of John Paul II. This year's lecturers included, among others, Bishop Jacek Grzybowski, Ph.D., Prof. Zbigniew Stawrowski, Fr. Prof. Jarosław Kupczak, OP, Prof. Marek Cichocki, Jolanta Rzegocka, Ph.D., Dariusz Gawin, Ph.D., Dariusz Karłowicz, Ph.D., and Fr. Dominik Jurczak, OP, Ph.D. Last year's speakers also included Msgr. Paweł Ptasznik, Ph.D., and Fr. Tomasz Podlewski, Ph.D., from our Foundation.

The second project is a series of shorter expeditions titled "Mountains with Wojtyła," organized jointly with "Teologia Polityczna." A dozen or so students set out on a four-day hike through the Tatra Mountains, accompanied by a lecturer, combining the beauty of nature with reflection and discussion on a selected theme from the teachings of St. John Paul II. The expeditions are held four times a year. During the most recent "Mountains with Wojtyła" expedition, held in August 2026, the students were accompanied by Bishop Jacek Grzybowski, Ph.D. In July 2025, Fr. Tomasz Podlewski, Ph.D., director of our Foundation's Office for Media and Events, accompanied the students as their lecturer during the hike.

Ewa Bednarkiewicz (1938–2026) Has Gone to Be with the Lord

The John Paul II Vatican Foundation received with deep sorrow the news of the passing of Ewa Bednarkiewicz (1938–2026), who went to be with the Lord in Warsaw on July 18, 2026, at the age of 88. For three terms, spanning a total of 12 years, she served as a member of our Foundation's Administrative Council and was the founder and, for more than a quarter of a century, president of the Friends of the Foundation in Poland, an organization in which she was actively involved alongside her husband, the late attorney Maciej Bednarkiewicz (1940–2016). A funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. at St. Martin's Church on Piwna Street in Warsaw. Until the very end of her life, Ewa Bednarkiewicz remained deeply committed to our scholarship recipients, supporting the Foundation's activities and encouraging new donors to support its work. She organized numerous cultural, social, and religious events in Poland and abroad. For decades, she selflessly served the Church and wor-

ked to preserve the legacy of St. John Paul II, engaging in countless initiatives related to the life and work of the Polish Pope. She was a highly respected and influential figure in many Catholic and academic circles. She was awarded the Order of St. Sylvester by Pope Benedict XVI, as well as the Order of Polonia Restituta, the National Philharmonic Centennial Medal, and the Centennial Medal of the Catholic University of Lublin. In 2025, her autobiography, titled "It Was No Accident," was published, which she concluded with these words: "I would be grateful if anyone who reads about the events of my life came to share the same conviction I have: before concluding that something in their own life happened by chance, they might consider whether it was not coincidence at all, but Divine Providence". Journalist Ewa Czaczkowska recalled on Facebook: "It was in her home, among her family, on the night of John Paul II's death, that the idea was born to erect a cross in Piłsudski Square commemorating the first Holy Mass celebrated there by the Pope during his 1979 pilgrimage to Poland. Thanks to this initiative, the papal cross stands today in the heart of Warsaw. It is one of the enduring symbols of the values by which Ewa lived".We bid farewell to a woman whose life was marked by a profound love for the Church and unwavering fidelity to the legacy of St. John Paul II.

> As we extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all those who mourn her passing, we remain grateful to God for the gift of her life and commend her to His mercy in our prayers.

45th Anniversary Celebrations with Pope Leo XIV in Rome

With gratitude to God and the Blessed Mother, and invoking the intercession of our Founder and Patron, St. John Paul II, we are pleased to announce that from October 19 to 22, 2026, we will celebrate in Rome the 45th anniversary of the establishment of our Foundation. Mindful that peace in the world was one of St. John Paul II's great concerns and remains an urgent need of our times, we will celebrate this jubilee under the motto: "Totus Tuus, Regina Pacis—All Yours, Queen of Peace," entrusting with confidence the affairs of the Church and the world to the powerful intercession of the Mother of God, to whom our beloved John Paul II entrusted himself without reserve. The celebrations will begin with Holy Mass and a meeting with Pope Leo XIV, who will receive representatives of the Foundation in a private audience and offer words of greeting and pastoral guidance. The program will include daily Mass, concerts, an academic conference, a screening of a new film about St. John Paul II, with the director in attendance, and a gathering at the Polish House at Via Cassia 1200, where, in keeping with the tradition of previous years, a commemorative plaque bearing the names of our special donors since 2022 will be unveiled. It was in 2022 that we celebrated our 40th anniversary, postponed by one year because of the pandemic. We are delighted that representatives of almost all the Foundation's Chapters around the world have already confirmed their participation, along with numerous benefactors and collaborators. We will remember in our prayers both the deceased members, donors, and supporters of our Foundation and those who, because of age, health, or other circumstances, will not be able to attend the event in person. We kindly ask each of you, dear Readers, for your spiritual support, for the offering up of your sufferings, and for your prayers for the upcoming event. We are also deeply grateful for any financial contributions toward the organization of the Jubilee and the continuation of our activities and scholarship programs. We hold all of you in our hearts and assure you of our remembrance in our prayers, gatherings, and reflections—and especially during the Mass at the tomb of St. John Paul II in the Vatican.

45th Anniversary Jubilee of the John Paul II Vatican Foundation
19–22 October 2026
under the motto: TOTUS TUUS, REGINA PACIS

19 October 2026 | Monday

9:00 – Holy Mass opening the celebrations
Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia | Via dei Penitenzieri 12 | Rome
11:30 – Meeting with the Holy Father Leo XIV
Apostolic Palace | Vatican
13:00 – Vin d'honneur
Foyer of the Paul VI Hall | Vatican
18:00 – Screening of the film "Mary, the Pope's Mother" with the participation of the director
John Paul II Polish House | Via Cassia 1200 | Rome

20 October 2026 | Tuesday

9:00 – Anniversary symposium; screening of the film "Mary, the Pope's Mother" with the participation of the director
Pontifical University of the Holy Cross | John Paul II Hall | Piazza di Sant'Apollinare 49 | Rome
18:30 – Holy Mass with the entrustment of the Foundation to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Basilica of the Twelve Apostles | Piazza dei Santi Apostoli 51 | Rome
19:30 – Anniversary concert in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St John Paul II
Basilica of the Twelve Apostles | Piazza dei Santi Apostoli 51 | Rome

21 October 2026 | Wednesday

10:00 – General Audience with the Holy Father Leo XIV (assembly at 8:00)
St Peter's Square | Vatican
15:30 – Meeting of the Presidents of the Friends' Circles with the Administrative Council
John Paul II Polish House | Via Cassia 1200 | Rome
17:00 – Holy Mass
Chapel of the John Paul II Polish House | Via Cassia 1200 | Rome
18:30 – Unveiling and blessing of the commemorative plaque
John Paul II Polish House | Via Cassia 1200 | Rome
19:15 – Dinner
Gardens of the John Paul II Polish House | Via Cassia 1200 | Rome

22 October 2026 | Thursday | Memorial of St John Paul II

8:00 – Solemn Holy Mass concluding the anniversary celebrations
St Peter's Basilica | Altar of the Confessio | Vatican
16:30 – Lecture "Martyr. Witness of Hope" – Archbishop Jacques Mourad (JP2 Award Laureate, 2025)
Pontifical University Angelicum | Aula 11 | Largo Angelicum 1 | Rome
19:30 – Concert: "Psalms with John Paul II – Psalms of Peace"
Auditorium Conciliazione | Via della Conciliazione 4 | Rome

The John Paul II Vatican Foundation expresses its gratitude and preserves for history the names of those who have made a special contribution to its development

AUSTRIA
Donors to the Perpetual Plaques:
Wiśniowski Family 2.000 €

FRANCE
Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Paris
Donation to the Perpetual Plaques: 5.000€

CANADA
Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Montreal
Donors to the Perpetual Plaques:
Stefan & Halina Władysiuk 3.200 CAD
Bogumila Zembowicz 2.400 CAD
The Korwin-Szymanowski Foundation (for scholarships) 10.000 CAD
Jadwiga Kisielewska 500 CAD
Zdzisław Klim 500 CAD
Irena Krenz 200 CAD
Teresa Piotrowska 150 CAD
Bogumiła Zembowicz 150 CAD
Stanisław Adamczyk 100 CAD
Franciszek Koziel 100 CAD
Józefa Miernik 100 CAD
Grażyna Wacławek 100 CAD
Maria Kirejczyk 80 CAD
Bogumila Zembowicz 80 CAD
Halina Buczynski 75 CAD
Maria Masluch Jakobiec 70 CAD
Teresa Marzykowska 50 CAD
Zdzislaw Skladzien 50 CAD

Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Saskatchewan
Donors to the Perpetual Plaques:
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Bożena & Michał Kilanowski 400 CAD
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dr Robert Skomro 100 CAD
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Joanna Waliszewska 25 CAD
Jolanta Kilanowska 25 CAD
Danuta Makowska 25 CAD
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Anna & Jan Lewandowski 100 CAD
Sylvia Bryl 50 CAD
Grace Wieckowski 50 CAD

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Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Indonesia
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Donors to the Perpetual Plaques:
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Budiarsa Sastrawinata & Family 20.000 €
Anonymous donation 20.000 €
Anonymous donation 5.000 €

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Danuta Laskiewicz 15 £
Danuta Marszałek 15 £
Mariola Pakalska 15 £
Leszek Pawlik 15 £
Maria Rumun 15 £
Sylwia Suwala 15 £
Andrzej Szuchcitz 15 £
Teresa Szadkowska 15 £

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Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Munich
Total donations from the Circle 500 €

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Branislav Kluska 100 €

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Bogusława Zaniewicz-Dybeck 2.500 €

Society of Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Lund at PMK Malmö
Total donations from the Circle 1530 SEK
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Stanisław Radziukiewicz 1.000 SEK
Halina Person 1.000 SEK
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Teresa Janina Hellsén 500 SEK
Maria & Janusz Ostrowski 500 SEK
Teresa & Henryk Warych 460 SEK
Anna & Tadeusz Krygier 460 SEK
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Marianna Kalita 300 SEK
Kristina Haglund 300 SEK
Margareta Jamroz 210 SEK
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Maria Tracz 200 SEK
Czeslaw Rosicki 200 SEK
Krystyna Talik 200 SEK
Józef Chacinski 160 SEK
Ludmila Carlsson 110 SEK
Janina Gajos 100 SEK
Alicja Persson 100 SEK
Teofila Palczynska 100 SEK
Anna Ligas Kucinski 70 SEK

Society of Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Stockholm
Dorota, Andrew, Karol, Adelia, Gabriel Walko 6.000 SEK
Iwona & Wiktor Kalinowscy 3.000 SEK
Aneta Świerk 2.000 SEK
Bogusława Zaniewicz-Dybeck & Mats Dybeck 2.000 SEK
Anna, Teodozja & Nils Norman 1.500 SEK
Ewa Kierst 1.150 SEK
Bożena Hańczyc 1.080 SEK
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Danuta Höglin 480 SEK
Józef Kośmider 480 SEK
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Zofia Dębska	380 SEK
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Julian Karwacki	180 SEK
Tomasz Wojcieszko	180 SEK
Monika Grzyb	180 SEK
Irena Blute	150 SEK

USA

Donors to the Perpetual Plaques:

Maria Urban	20.000 USD
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Rev. Marian Kokorzycki	400 USD
Marek Walicki	200 USD

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Total donations from the Circle	4.000 USD

Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Philadelphia

Scholarship Fund	25.000 USD

Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in New Jersey

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Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in New York

Total donations from the Circle	5.000 USD

Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Southern California

Patron:

Stefania Sowa	1.200 USD
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George Kaliński	100 USD
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Barbara Witczak	25 USD
Anya Wojciechowska-Kostrzyński	25 USD

Donors to the Scholarship Fund:

Barbara & Stanisław Dzikowski	50 USD
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Zofia Powell	20 USD
Dorota Sobejko	50 USD
Anya Wojciechowska-Kostrzyński	25 USD

Other donations:

Donation in memory of Zofia Adamowicz	1.475 USD
Ludmiła Pyter	200 USD

Membership contributions for 2024–2025:

Danuta Król	50 USD
Teresa Leżak	50 USD

Friends of the John Paul II Foundation in Washington

Donors to the Perpetual Plaques:

+ Thaddeus (Ted) Mirecki	5.000 USD
Donors to the Scholarship Fund	20.000 USD