



Wadowice on the Potomac

Reprint from the *Catholic Standard*
October 1, 2010 by Maureen Boyle

During an awards ceremony and luncheon, hosted by the Friends of John Paul II Foundation's metropolitan chapter, Washington, Archbishop Donald Wuerl and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich recalled the significance of the late pontiff, whom they both agree was one of the greatest popes in Church history.

On Sept. 25, Archbishop Wuerl told more than 150 people gathered at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center that while serving as priest in Rome in the 1970s, he was blessed on several occasions to be in the presence of then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, the future John Paul II.

At the time, Archbishop Wuerl was the priest-secretary to Cardinal John Wright, a former archbishop of Pittsburgh who served in the Vatican as prefect of the Congregation for



Archbishop Donald Wuerl addresses Wadowice luncheon guests



*Wishing you a
joyous Christmas
and God's Blessings
in the New Year*

Clergy. "It was an extraordinary gift, particularly when he came to visit. I cherish those conversations and insights of Cardinal Wojtyla," Archbishop Wuerl said.

Archbishop Wuerl also remembered meeting the future Holy Father inside the 1978 papal conclave that elected the archbishop of Krakow to be Pope John Paul II. Archbishop Wuerl, who accompanied wheelchair-bound Cardinal Wright into the conclave, recalled walking around a courtyard to say the rosary and get some

fresh air. He said he felt a tap on his arm. "And there was Cardinal Wojtyla, who said to me, 'Let us continue to walk so I can practice my English,'" he said. "...And the world would soon learn who John Paul II was - not only his ease with people, his mastery of languages, but also his brilliant intellect and his profound philosophical mind."

In a larger sense, Archbishop Wuerl said the world learned of "the great mystery of Christ among us" through the papacy of Pope John Paul II. "That's what motivated him to go all over the world," the archbishop said. "...John Paul II had an incredible ability to say what we already knew in our heart is true." Members and guests of the Friends of John Paul II Foun-

Continued Page 3



Photo by Alfred Mgrzec



From the President

Cecilia Glembocki

John Paul once said the question confronting the Church today is not any longer whether the man in the street can grasp a religious message, but how to employ the communications media so as to let

him have the full impact of the gospel message.

As we look back over the past few months, the Friends of John Paul II Foundation has not only looked at other options in which to promote the legacy but we have a head start on a new beginning. We've embraced His word and are trying to reach the young and new audience with his messages.

Not only did we have a premiere showing of "9 DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD" with more than 150 people in attendance but jointly with PAC and the Cultural Center created an opportunity to share the work set forth by our beloved Pope.

We developed a program for the celebration of Wadowice on the Potomac not only to honor Archbishop Wuerl now Cardinal Wuerl but to begin an Educational Outreach Program, by urging Vince Haley from the Gingrich Foundation, we are well on our way to developing a turn key program to be delivered to all catholic schools in three archdioceses Washington, Arlington and Baltimore.

We will distribute 270 DVD's of 9 days to all the media centers in these schools with a turn key study guide appropriate for ages 7-12 grades.

This multi-disciplined approach to spreading the word about our beloved Pope to the young students is our mission for 2011. Future generations must know and never forget how much influence an individual can have on humanity.

As we begin to celebrate Christmas, let us all call to mind our memories of families, children and loved ones who inspired our lives and will hold a special place in our hearts. Blessings to you for a lovely Christmas, and a wonderful New Year guided by the legacy of Blessed John Paul II. .

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Save the Date

October 21-23, 2011

30th Anniversary
of the
John Paul II
Foundation in Rome

Plans are being
made for our
Friends group to attend

Wadowice *continued*

Photo by Alfred Mogrzec



President Cecelia Glembocki with Master of Ceremonies Ray Glembocki

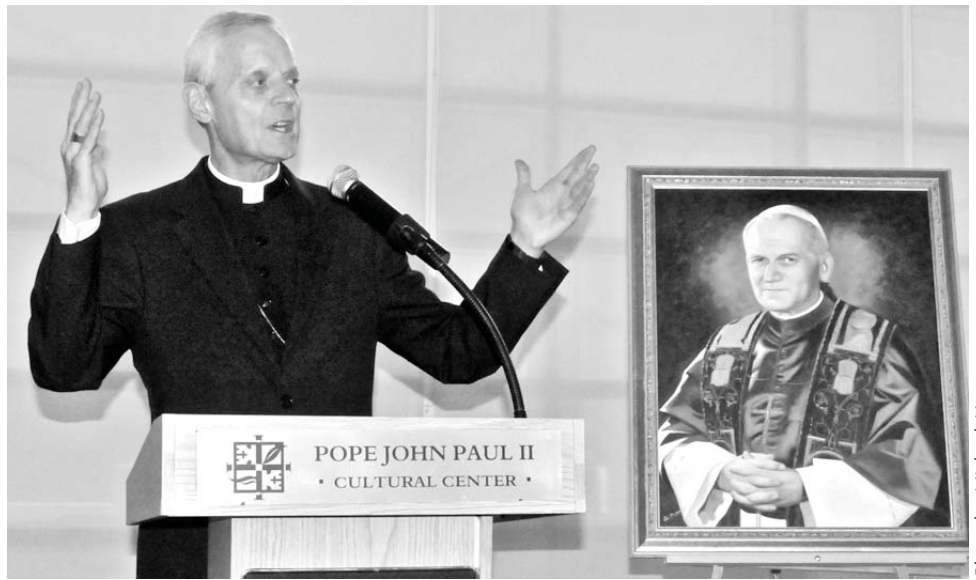


Photo by Michael Hoyt

Archbishop Wuerl reminiscing about his meeting with Pope John Paul II

dation met for “Wadowice-on-the-Potomac,” a celebration of the late Holy Father’s life and legacy and named for the pontiff’s birthplace in Poland. Archbishop Wuerl was honored for his efforts to promote John Paul II’s memory and for his service as chairman of the board of the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington.

Documentary film Speaker Gingrich and his wife, Callista, were honored for their recent documentary, “Nine Days that Changed the World,” a powerful film the couple produced that examines Pope

John Paul II’s first pilgrimage to Poland in June 1979 that led to the rise of Solidarity and the fall of the Berlin Wall.”

It was a decisive turning point in the collapse of communism. One and half years before Ronald Reagan, there were nine days when the pope visited Poland. When we interviewed Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel for a film on Ronald Reagan, they both said independently that no question the pope’s visit gave us moral courage to make the change,” said Speaker Gingrich.

Gingrich, who became a Catholic in 2009, said he believes the film’s message is: “No government can come between people and their right to believe in God...It’s not only about history, but the

universal witness to Christ and the cross for every human, in every country for all time.”

For his nine-day visit to Poland, millions of Poles, almost one third of the nation, turned out to see the Holy Father in person. He inspired and reconfirmed them in their Catholic faith, creating a revolution of conscience that fundamentally transformed Poland and eventually changed the world.

“He lived in a world of total faith,” Speaker Gingrich said. “...He will go down in history as two or three of the greatest popes of all time who fundamentally changed the history of the human race.”

The Pope John Paul II Foundation was established in 1981 by a papal decree as a religious, educational, charitable, and non-profit organization in response to the historic election of Karol Wojtyla to head the See of Peter.

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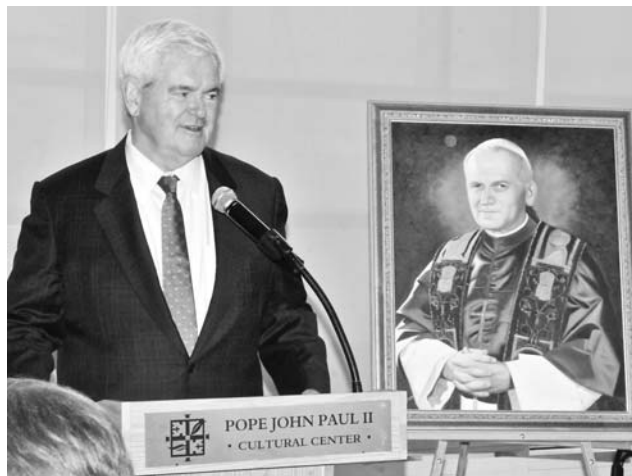


Photo by Michael Hoyt

Newt Gingrich speaking on the legacy of Pope John Paul II

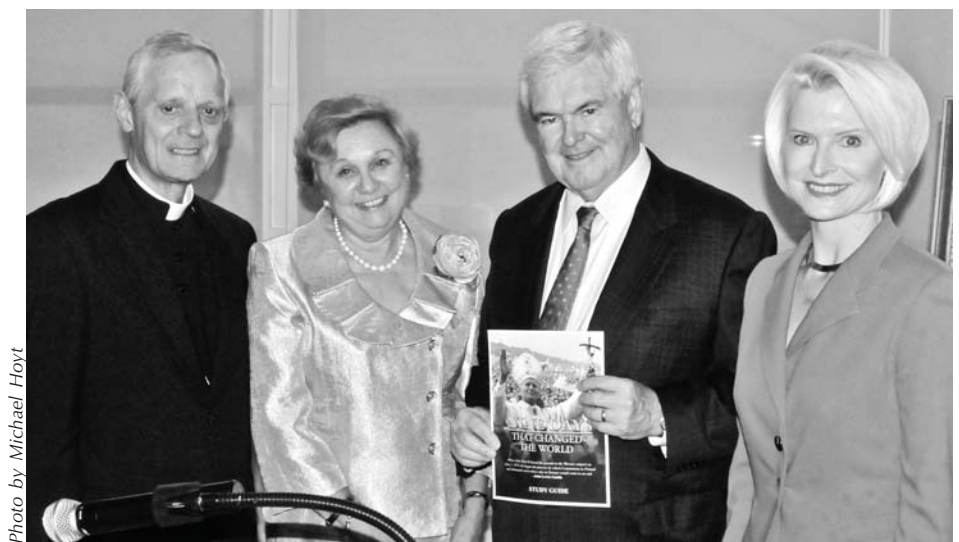


Photo by Michael Hoyt

Archbishop Wuerl, President Cecilia Glembocki, Newt and Callista Gingrich

Wadowice *continued*

Cecilia Glembocki, president of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, said the metropolitan chapter is developing an educational outreach program and will provide nearly 300 copies of "Nine Days that Changed the World" to Catholic schools in the Archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore and the Diocese of Arlington.

On November 20, 2010, Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, President of The Pope John Paul II Cultural Foundation and Chairman of its Board of Directors, was elevated to Cardinal by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. The consistory was held in Rome.

We congratulate Cardinal Wuerl and pray that the Lord continue to bless his ministry abundantly.



Co-chairs escort Archbishop Wuerl to the reception



Father Canon Majka offers the Blessing before the meal. Hugh Dempsey, Assistant Director of the JPPI Cultural Center, and his wife Rui in the foreground.



Edwarda Buda introduces the Archbishop to the Rackowskies



Archbishop Wuerl receives gift from Wadowice Co-chairs Bozenna Buda (l) and Edwarda Buda

Photos by Michael Hoyt

Polish Heritage Day Celebration Scenes

Photos by Michael Hoyt

In October, Polish Heritage month, the Friends group participated in "Polish Heritage Day, Celebrating His Heritage in His House." The all day celebration, held in the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, included traditional and cultural displays, food and boutiques as well as Divine Mercy Devotions and Mass.

The Mass ending the day was especially touching as it also marked the closing of the Center. Father Canon Philip Majka, the celebrant, gave a beautiful homily on what the Center has meant to us and asked the assembled crowd to end the celebration with the singing of "Goralu Czy Ci Nie Zal" (Mountaineer Aren't You Sad) and "Jak Szybko Mijaja Chwile" (How Quickly the Moments Pass). Both are well known and beloved Polish songs. The first, a favorite of Pope John Paul II; the other, a sentimental song of parting which usually brings tears to the eyes of Poles and most at the Mass were dewy eyed. It was a fitting end to our last event at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center before it closed.



Some Exhibits



Some Friends of Pope John Paul II Board members



Polish Dancers



"Friends" table



Hussar exhibit



Mass celebrated by Father Canon Majka



Placing of the Colors before Mass



Chaplains' Corner



**Reverend Canon
Philip S. Majka**
Chaplain: Diocese of Arlington

The Boy from Lycia

In the country which is now called Turkey, a boy was born to a new Christian couple, Nonna and Theophanes in the city of Patara about 280 A.D. The boy's parents were well to do and schooled him personally at home in their new religion. The young boy learned that the Christian duty was to help others in serving God by serving the less fortunate. The pagans remarked that those Christians love each other. The boy's parents died during a plague and so the youngster found himself at a monastery where his uncle was a monk, and also the bishop. There he studied everything he could about Christianity, reading the scriptures and taking them to heart. As he healed from the blow of his parents' death, he began to study for the priesthood. He was ordained by his uncle. In preparing himself for priestly ministry he gave his inheritance to the poor. This man's name was NICHOLAS. The name is from the Greek which means "victorious among the people."

Saint Nicholas is well known for his gifts to three young maidens to establish their dowry. On three different occasions Nicholas tossed coins into the window of the maiden's house. Some of the coins were said to have landed either in a shoe or a stocking! This secret act set Nicholas on the path of being the world's most famous gift giver. Giving in secret results in a sincere THANK YOU GOD! In time, Nicholas became a Bishop who rallied for his flock. His acts of kindness, justice and miracles were known throughout the world.

In the late tenth century Christianity came to Eastern Europe. It came to Poland in 966 A.D. and Kiev about 988 A.D. The missionaries brought stories about St. Nicholas, people fell in love with this "wonder worker" and "victor of peoples." In those days, Advent lasted forty days and the feast day for St. Nicholas was established as December 6th. The children were a bit restless early in December so the parents started the custom of Bishop Nicholas visiting the homes and the schools, checking on religious knowledge, and giving the children little gifts for the correct answers. Mystery plays were performed which featured the story of St. Nicholas. Shoes were put out and filled. Thus his legacy continued. What is the moral for us? It is better to give than to receive. As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace....let us know peace and live it - understand love and give it - have happiness and share it
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Ks. Father Jan Fiedurek,
S.Ch.**
Chaplain:
Archdiocese of Washington



Dear Fellow Countrymen!

Christ unceasingly brings humankind new hope. Without Him we could only go astray in the wilds of the earth, in which such quick changes occur. Having witnessed such changes, we contemplate the life example of Maria - Patroness of Advent. Concentrating on her exemplary behavior, we learn how to imitate Her love for Christ, in order to pour new faith into the hearts of our neighbors.

Not singularly are we hurt and disturbed by the current practice in which for commercial reasons, Christmas is discussed even two or three months earlier, restricted to decorations and advertising without mentioning God. May our response to this absurd style be a deep reliving of Advent, which opens the mystery of the arriving God.

God is born! This is the most important news that will spread throughout the world in the coming HolyDays. It is the most joyous Good News which people have heard for over twenty centuries. It moves and astonishes our hearts. And so may it be during these Holy Days. May the truth about God's Birth rejoice our hearts and pour new hope into them. May the New-born Christ hug each of you to Him and bless you.

In Memoriam

On a sad note, in November we said Farewell to our long-time member and active Polonian, **Edwina Conrad Mooney**. She died peacefully in her sleep on October 31 aged 102.

She was known to many as the former Dean of Women at Alliance College and more recently as the founder of the "Wianki on the Mall". The Wianki festival is the traditional Polish observance of the Eve of St. John in June. It is believed that St. John, baptizer of Jesus, blesses the waters. Young women make wreaths and float them at the river (water) and young men retrieve the wreaths and win the company of the young woman whose wreath they retrieved for the festivities. Edwina tailored the event to fit the Washington DC circumstances, the wreaths were floated on the Reflecting Pool near the Washington Monument. It has now become an annual celebration attended by club members and many other Washington visitors and residents. A fitting tribute to Edwina.



To All Our Members and Donors

We extend to you our gratitude and appreciation for your continued patronage and loyal support throughout the years. Our administrative needs are minimal, so we are able to send a very large percentage of the membership dues and all of the Year End Gift Giving donations to the Foundation in Rome, Italy. Because of your support, the Foundation is able to use a considerable amount of the funds for scholarships to sponsor poor and talented young people coming from Eastern and Central European countries to attend the Catholic University of John Paul II in Lublin, Poland.

The Holy Father Pope John Paul II said during meetings with benefactors of the Foundation in October 23, 2001 that "The most outstanding of all initiatives is the fund for scholarships for young people from Central and Eastern Europe and from other countries of the ex-Soviet Union. After completing their studies at various faculties of the Catholic University of Lublin and other Polish universities, many students return to their countries and have become promoters of science and culture solidly based on perennial values. This work is invaluable! Whosoever invests in the human person, in his overall development, never loses. The results of this investment are imperishable".

A Memorial or Special Occasion Donation in remembrance of a family member or friend may be made to the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc. This is a wonderful way to make a lasting gift that will perpetuate our great Pope John Paul II's legacy and his elevation to sainthood. The names with the donation are forwarded to the John Paul II Foundation in Rome, Italy and they are acknowledged by the Director. Please use the form below to send in a Memorial or Special Occasion Donation.

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We express our sincere appreciation for the generous Wadowice donations:

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Raymond & Cecilia Glembocki

In memory of Stanislaw K. Bilinski

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EDITOR
Mary Flanagan

LAYOUT AND PRODUCTION
Robert Flanagan

PROOFREADING
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Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

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