



## Friends Celebrate Thirtieth Anniversary\*

A beautiful ceremony of unveiling a bronze bust of Saint John Paul II – Founder of our Foundation, was held on Sunday, October 18, 2015. It took place at the Columbia Law Library of the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. It is a gift of the local Group of our Friends in Washington D.C. to the students of this great Catholic University in the USA. The bust was funded by late members of that group, Jean and Carol Sharek, and done by American Sculptor, Gordon Kray.

The bust was blessed by Archbishop Carlo Viganò – Papal Nuncio to the United States, assisted by retired Cardinal Theodore McCarrick and several members of the clergy. President of Catholic University of America, John Garvey, in his short presentation spoke movingly about Saint John Paul II's contributions to the Catholic Culture through his many encyclicals and apostolic letters and showed Him as a role model to future generations of young, American Catholic students.

It was a beautiful ceremony attended by many members of our group and invited guests. All were greatly pleased to see Walter Zachariasiewicz, one of the first initiators of the John Paul II Foundation, now 104 years old, attending these gracious ceremonies at the most significant location to future generations of young, American Catholic students. A special thanks goes to Mrs. Cecilia Glembocki, who was in charge of organizing this inspiring event.

*Richard Krzyzanowski*



Following the St. John Paul II bust installation in the Law Library, the assembled went down to the large Atrium for further ceremonies and a champagne reception. The Program was begun with the Recognition of Chapter Founders and Past Presidents by Gloria Klepczynski, current President.

### President Recognizes Chapter Founders and Past Presidents

As we begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our program, I would like to recognize the Foundations Founders and Past Presidents.

**Founders:** From the very beginning, Walter Zachariasiewicz was very instrumental in assisting with the development of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome that was established by a Papal Decree on October 16, 1981. Walter coordinated his efforts with several noteworthy individuals and Polonia leaders on behalf of Pope John Paul II.

Walter Zachariasiewicz continued his efforts here in the United States and began a Chapter in the Metropolitan Washington DC area and with the help of Mary and Robert Flanagan, Bernadette and Richard Wiermanski, Carl and Jean Sharek, Thaddeus and Jean Nosek, just to name a few people, they were among the many friends that began our local Chapter of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation. In addition to beginning our local Chapter, they also influenced other Polonia groups to start Chapters in other areas around the United States to support the Foundation in Rome, Italy. There are now 17 Chapters in the United States and over 47 Chapters in 19 Countries around the World.

Today, we are very happy to have several of the Past Presidents with us: Lawrence Ziemianski, Mary Lubienska Flanagan, Raymond Glembocki, Alice Lech Laning and Cecilia Glembocki. A brief history of our chapter followed.\*

*\*For those who were unable to attend we have included the Commemorative Program in this Newsletter mailing.*

**Walter Zachariasiewicz, seated surrounded by - left to right: William Sharek, Gloria Klepczynski, Ray Glembocki, Mary Flanagan, Larry Ziemianski, Alice Laning, Cecilia Glembocki, Gordon Kray and Canon Fr. Majka.**



## President's Message

**Bozenna Buda**

*Niech bedzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus! May Jesus Christ be praised!* I greet you with the traditional Polish salutation from the country of birth of our beloved Saint John Paul II. It is also the country of my birth and it is a greeting I have often heard from my parents.



It seems only like yesterday, but it was in October 1979 and the Holy Father's first visit to the United States as the new Pope. There were crowds camping out the night before on the Mall in Washington, DC, to catch a glimpse of the Holy Father the next day and to greet him and welcome him. I feel so blessed to have been there in that crowd myself to witness this historic event. I still recall the enthusiasm, exuberance and idealism of those present. Since then, over the years, we have witnessed the miracles that have occurred in our lifetime, his heroic life and suffering, his dignified death, his beatification and then canonization as our Saint John Paul II the Great.

What I have found particularly inspiring is the example left by our beloved Saint in his devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, as he dedicated himself *Totus Tuus*, "Completely Yours," and his exhortation, "Be not afraid! Open your hearts to Christ." Initially, we may have thought of him as the "Polish Pope." We quickly learned that his message of love and hope and dignity of the human person is universal and that he is truly the "People's Pope" and belongs to the entire world. This great Saint has touched all our lives and may his holiness continue to radiate among us.

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the President of the **Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington, DC, Chapter**. I am grateful to all of those who came before me and inspired me. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to steward the mission of the wonderful legacy of our beloved Saint John Paul II as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of our chapter and continue its important work. As we actively strive to share his contributions with everyone, at all age levels, we appreciate your continued support and generosity.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace and joy! *Wesołych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!*

-Bozenna Buda

## Newly Elected Board

<i>President</i>	Bozenna Buda
<i>1st ViP</i>	Mary Flanagan
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<i>Rec. Secty.</i>	Linda Loch
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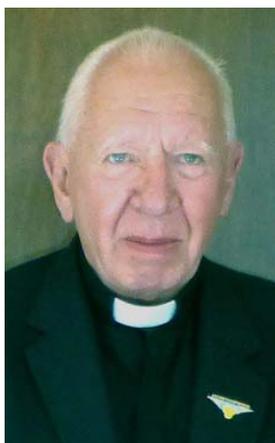
**Elected at the General Meeting, November 14, 2015 :**  
 Front to Back Left to Right Robert Flanagan, Rev. Canon Philip Majka (gave the oath of office) Mary Flanagan, Bozenna Buda (President), Richard Wiermanski, Gloria Klepczynski (Outgoing Pres.) Marianna Eckel, Edwarda Buda Okreglak, Maria Quas de Penno, Zofia Dunian, Linda Loch, Richard Okreglak, Ted Mirecki

**Missing: Sharon Brzostowski, Raymond Glembocki, Brian Buckowski, Mary Clare Haskin, Marek Michalski, Ed Banas and Barbara Jarzynski**

# Chaplains Corner

Chaplain Archdiocese of Washington, DC

Rev. Canon  
Philip S. Majka  
Chaplain,  
Diocese of Arlington  
**The Unexpected Guest**



Our Polish Wigilia traditions have a very special place for the unexpected guest in the home. In today's world this custom must be given extra special consideration not only in symbol but in merciful action. The guest could be a lost soul, a loner or maybe a refugee. This guest is invited to partake in the Oplatek Ceremony in hearing the aspirations of all at the meal that his needs be fulfilled in the coming year. Christmas is the feast celebrating the Birth of the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel (God is with us). Adam and Eve's actions caused humanity to become refugees from the Garden of Eden. The birth of Jesus Christ started our immigration towards His opening the gates of Heaven at the Cross. The first refugees of the Christian era were Jesus, Mary and Joseph as they migrated into Egypt. During their journey Saint Dismus (The Good Thief) gave them refuge, [as is stated in the Arabic Gospel of the Infancy]. Years later Christ rewarded Dismus. We have within our routes migration from our place on this earth to the room set for us in Heaven.

*GOD BLESS US ALL THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.  
Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka*



**Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka, congratulated by Pope Francis on his 50th Anniversary in the Priesthood**

Rev. Jerzy  
Frydrych, SChr.  
Chaplain  
Archdiocese of  
Washington



Today's person is characterized as being continually in a rush. People are constantly occupied with something, waiting for or awaiting something from others. In addition, our contemporaries appear to be in a constant state of impatience, unable to wait calmly.

The month of November was a time for meditation about our fate and our final destination. The yellowed falling leaves from trees prompted thoughts about our departed close ones buried in graves and deepened our reflection on the subject of who we are and where we are headed. The time which we now are experiencing, the Advent season, directs our thoughts to Heaven. Raising our gaze to God, we prepare for Christ's Birth and in doing so we hope to find joy and the elusive peace, which we so ardently seek. We beseech Mary, the Mother of God, to help us learn from her example how to prepare our hearts for Jesus. "Come, O Lord" is our cry for even a greater love within us.

Christmas is such a beautiful season, so colorful and abounding in special experiences and reflections. This season reminds us that the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, 2000 years ago was a most important turning point.

For Polish people everywhere Christmas Eve, the Midnight Shepherds' Mass, and the Christmas tree all have specific meanings, which we nurture and pass down from one generation to the next. In one Christmas carol we sing, "In the stillness of the night..." (*W[ród] nocnej ciszy...*) and remember caroling with our families at home.

May the approaching Christmas Season be a great experience of the presence of Emmanuel among us - He Who brings joy and peace to our restless hearts. I wish you a blessed and joyful Christmas Season!

*Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr.  
Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland  
& St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish*

# Our 30 Year Story

For those of you who remember receiving the news that Cardinal Wojtyla was elected Pope, you will remember where you were at the time and the jubilation. I was at work in Congressman Nedzi's office on the Hill when I received several phone calls congratulating me and the Congressman on the election of a Pope from Poland. Why they called, I have no idea except that I think they just wanted to spread the news and share the joy. As time went on, that joy and admiration turned to great affection and love for the Pontiff.

In gratitude, it was decided to found a home to house the Pope's Foundation and a pilgrim's center. The money was raised all over the world. Nowhere were the people more thrilled than in Poland. Their existence under Communism was very bleak and now there was a ray of hope. Thousands of Communist Bloc people flocked to Rome to see the Pope. Since they were not allowed by their government to take much money out of the country, Rome's parks and fields were filled with campers who could not afford a place to stay. So the Pope wanted a pilgrim home as well as his library etc.

There is a passage in Stendhal's book "The Red and The Black" that describes two deer in a forest, a shot rings out and one of the deer falls dead. The other deer has no idea how or why his companion died, he only can associate a sound with the incident. So, we cannot understand God's plan. We can only go by what we know, which is very limited.

In retrospect we can more clearly see God's will at work. He has carefully chosen the path He wants each of us to fol-



**Former Pres. Lawrence Ziemianski with Mary Flanagan**

low and the right person to do so. Karol Wojtyla chose to follow the path open to him, surviving the dangers of Nazi occupied Poland, and persecution by the Communists. By following God's will he ended up in Rome as Pope at a time when the Church needed a leader who would rescue the oppressed countries of the Communist bloc from oppression and the annihilation of Judeo-Christians.

To this further end, John Paul II established a Center at the University of Lublin in Poland where students from the former Soviet Bloc were given scholarships. In

this way, the Pope hoped to create a new intelligentsia based on Judeo/Christian principles who would return to their native countries and become a base of Christian culture.

When our affiliate group of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation began, we raised funds for the Foundation and sent all except seed money to Rome for the Pope's disposition. After his death, we shifted our goals to not only support the Foundation in Rome but to continue his programs here.

St. John Paul II laid the groundwork for his work to continue. In 2001 he raised a little known -outside his circle, Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio to Cardinal, thus placing him in the position to later become Pope Francis.

God created us to know, love and serve Him. He presents us with the opportunity to do His will as we daily pray "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven". Unfortunately, He also gave us a free will and often we choose the easier path rather than the one open for us. Fortunately, He still loves us.

So, we in the Foundation's Affiliate continue not only St. John Paul's programs but hopefully, God's own plan to keep our country safe from those forces that would take away our religious heritage and we have many signs of their making in-roads in that direction. All our achievements to date have been accomplished through the generosity of our members with their funds and tireless work. And I can assure you it was all a work of love of God and John Paul.

May God bless all our continued endeavors.

*Mary Flanagan*



**Visitors to the celebration Jadwiga and Chester Lobrow with Cardinal Theodore McCarrick**

**Audience at the Reception**



# The Last 10 Years - 2005 to 2015

Remarks by:  
President, Gloria Klepczynski

Since 2005 (our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary), we have been blessed with many dedicated and talented members. With their great leadership and efforts, we have been able to expand and develop new programs that focus on perpetuating the legacy of our great Pope and Saint John Paul II to a younger generation.

In addition to continuing our annual events and especially our Annual Fund Raiser, Wadowice-on-the-Potomac, new outreach programs were developed for our local Diocesan Schools in the Washington, DC, Arlington and Baltimore areas. These projects were included in our Chapter's John Paul II Legacy initiatives and included development of Pamphlets about John Paul II, the Relics of John Paul II, special prayer cards, book marks, posters, photographs, and a Chapter brochure about our organization. One of our projects this year was an art contest for middle school students in the Diocesan Schools about Saint John Paul II. This legacy project was very well received and proved to be an extremely successful way to educate a younger group of students about the teachings and person of Saint John Paul II. Our Spring 2015 Lecture at the Dominican House of Studies with our Speaker, Archbishop J. Augustine DiNoia, O.P., from Rome was outstanding and



more than 270 people attended from all age groups. It was amazing to see how a younger group of individuals — students, religious, teachers, etc., are so eager to learn more about his legacy, teachings and life.

Associating and developing relationships with local religious organizations, universities and schools as well as individuals and scholars (religious and lay) that are followers of Saint John Paul II are important for the future of our Chapter and the Foundation. Our goal is to find new ways to perpetuate the legacy and teachings of Saint John Paul II by working together with other organizations and people.

Over the past 10 years, we have been privileged to honor many outstanding and distinguished individuals with an award for keeping the legacy of Saint John Paul II alive.

I would like to inform you that we have been financially supporting the Foundation in Rome each year. We have been blessed with additional funds from an estate and have invested the proceeds carefully.

In the next few days, we will be sending the John Paul II Foundation our Chapter's 2015 check in the amount of \$30,000.00. We have already given over \$10,000 this year to support the Foundation for a total of \$40,000.00 for the year 2015. And, over the past three years, we have given almost \$100,000.00 to the Foundation.

I want to thank you all so very much for your continued support over the years. We appreciate your kindness and generosity in helping to perpetuate the legacy of Saint John Paul II. We could not do all these things without a dedicated and loving group of people.

I also want to thank all the members of the Wadowice Committee and Chairperson, Cecilia Glembocki for making this event so outstanding. And, a special thank you to Suzanne McCarthy and Joan Vorrasi at The Catholic University of America.

## Polish Christmas Tree at the Shrine

As has been our annual custom, members of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation have decorated a Polish Christmas tree at the Shrine dedicated to St. John Paul II on Harewood Road in the District of Columbia. This custom began early when the Shrine was first dedicated. This year on December 11, a group of BoardMembers Met at the Shrine to decorate the tree.

The tree is hung with traditional, handmade decorations some came from Poland but most were made by generous members of the ACPC (American Council for Polish Culture). Since the tradition began when Pope John Paul II was still living, time has taken its toll and many of the decorations had to be refreshed or could no longer be used. Therefore, we are sending out an appeal to all talented individuals for new Polish traditional "zabawki" decorations for 2016. They may be sent to Marianna Eckel 1702 Galway Dr. Vienna, VA. 22182.SS



Tree decorators Edwarda Buda, Bozenna Buda, Robert and Mary Flanagan, Marianna Eckel

## Mary Clare Haskin, R.I.P.

Our dear Board Member, Mary Clare Haskin died peacefully November 23, 2015 at INOVA Alexandria Hospital. Mary Clare was born in Chicago, IL on August 12, 1939 to Ralph and Marie Goeb. Married to Edward Irwin Haskin in 1961 at West Point. He died July 7, 1980. She attended Divine Savior- Holy Angels High School in Milwaukee, WI and graduated from Mount Mary University in Milwaukee. Mary Clare flew for United Airlines for 42 years and



recently retired on September 29, 2015. She was also a member of Clipped Wings and National Symphony Orchestra of the Kennedy Center to name a few.

Mary Clare Haskin is predeceased by her significant other of over 25 years,, Dr. Vincent Zugaj. She is survived by her daughters, Pamela Marie Haskin of Leesburg, VA and Patricia Ann Haskin of Lorton, VA. A celebration of her life was held in the chapel of Everly Wheatley Funeral Home Alexandria, VA on Sunday, December 13, 2015. She will be buried in a private ceremony with her late husband Edward Irwin Haskin at West Point Academy on a later date, She has always been an active participant in all our events. She will be leaving a void in our hearts and organization. May God keep her in His loving care.

# St. John Paul II Day in Washington

The week-end celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation was begun on Saturday October 11, 2015 at the St. John Paul II Shrine on Harewood Road in the District. People from various states and members of our Friends group gathered with several bus loads of people from Polish parishes in Worcester, Massachusetts. It was a pilgrimage to pray to God through the intercession of St. John Paul II. It was sponsored by the John Paul II Foundation of New England.

The ceremony was preceded on Friday evening by a ceremony at the Polish Embassy where Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson received the high honor of the Republic of Poland, granted by the new President of Poland, Andrzej Duda. The Friday evening ceremony was attended by leaders of many regional Polish organizations of U.S. Polonia including Friends of John Paul II Foundation of Washington, DC.

In introducing Mr. Anderson, Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki pastor of St. Joseph Basilica in Webster, said, "John Paul II used to say that courage, supported by prayer and wisdom, can shake unmovable things." Mr. Anderson not only reflects the Pope's words but he also had "a vision" which guided his planning and determination to establish such

an enormous and world renowned museum in honor of St. John Paul II as is the Shrine.

Maciej Pisarski, Charge d'affaires conveyed a message to Mr. Anderson from Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf.

Mr. Anderson's acceptance speech was very personal and meaningful and indicated a vast knowledge of Polish history. He said that "because Poland has remained Poland of history, all our lives have been enriched."

Saturday was dedicated to St. John Paul II. The participants visited an exhibit at the Shrine - "A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II". The highlight of the day was the con-



**Mr. Anderson receiving Poland's medal from Charge d'affaires Maciej Pisarski**



celebrated Mass with Bishop Edward Grosz from Buffalo, New York as the main celebrant and homilist, with Bishop Janusz Stepnowski from Lomze, Poland and participating clergy.

**Bishop Edward Grosz from Buffalo, NY, center, main celebrant and homilist at Mass at the John Paul II National Shrine. Celebrating, Bishop Janusz Stepnowski, left and Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki, right and Deacon Joseph Baniukiewicz of Christ the King Parish in Worcester assisting.**

## Brunch at the Polish Embassy

The Saturday, October 3, 2015, brunch at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland. It was hosted by Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf for His Eminence, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz. Both of our chaplains attended, as well as Monsignor Czarnecki and other embassy and Friends guests.

Afterwards, our Washington, DC, Chapter of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation presented Cardinal Dziwisz with a check for the Friends of Saint John Paul II "Be Not Afraid!" Center, Inc., to help build the International Center of St. John Paul II in Krakow, Poland. We received a grateful acknowledgement of our contribution from Rev. Canon Miroslaw K. Krol, STL, the President of the "Be Not Afraid!" Center.



**Pictured, from left to right, are Cecilia Glembocki, Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, Sharon Brzostowski, H.E. Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Raymond Glembocki, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Bozenna Buda, Alice Laning.**

## 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 in Lublin, Poland.

The Holy Father Pope John Paul II during a meeting with benefactors of the Foundation on October 23, 2001 that "The most outstanding of all his 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 St. John Paul II's legacy. The names with the donation are forwarded to the John Paul II Foundation in Rome, Italy and they are acknowledged by the Director.

## Donations since our last Publication

### Memorial Donations in Memory of Teresa U. Buckoski

Mrs. Sharon Brzostowski  
Mr. and Mrs. William Klepczynski  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lobrow

### Memorial Donation in Memory of Carlos A. Rackowski

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## FRIENDS OF JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP 2016

Yes, please count on me to support the John Paul II Foundation that was established by Saint John Paul II as a religious, educational, charitable and non-profit organization.

- \$10-Student     \$25-Individual     \$35-Couple     \$100-Supporting     \$2,500-Life Benefactor\*  
\*name will be memorialized on in the Home in Rome

End of Year Gift Giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All gifts including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, last wills and testaments are always welcome. The Friends of John Paul II Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

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Enclosed is my check made payable to:  
**Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.**

Please mail with this form to  
**Raymond Glembocki, Treas.**  
**911 Saddleback Court**  
**McLean, VA 22102-1317**

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**Friends of  
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Quarterly Newsletter**

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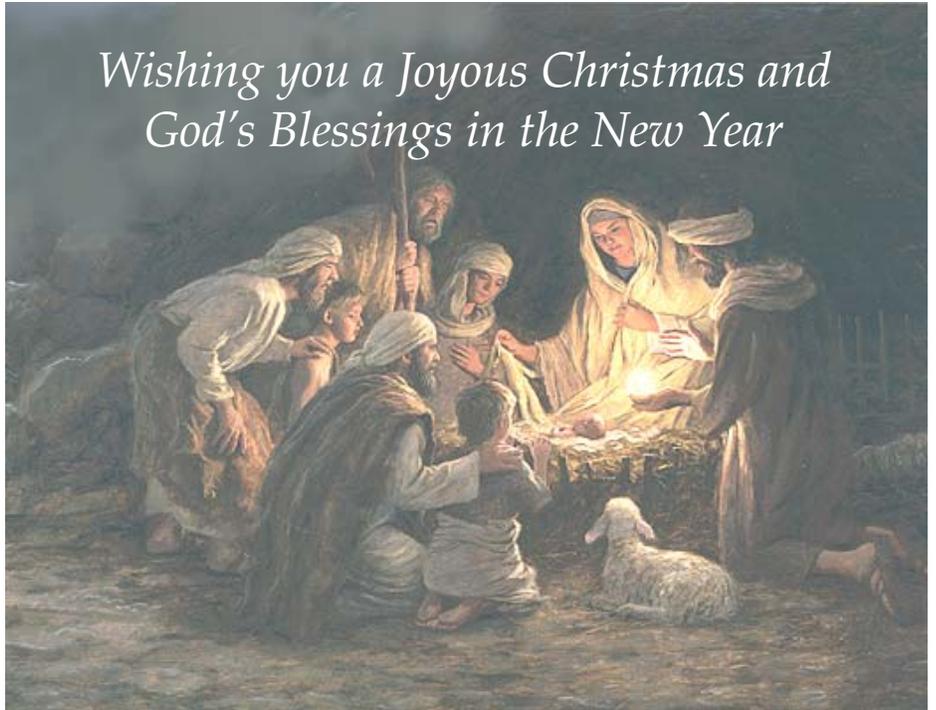
EDITOR  
**Mary Flanagan**

LAYOUT AND PRODUCTION  
**Robert Flanagan**

PROOFREADING  
**Alice Laning  
Richard Wiermanski**

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



**Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.**

**NEWSLETTER**

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