



Friends Board of Directors Meeting

On February 25, 2012 the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Metro Washington DC area, held their first board meeting of 2012 at "Our Lady Queen of Poland" parish meeting room in Silver Spring, Maryland.

The meeting covered a lot of business and future plans. Some of the highlights follow:

Recent bequests from the estate of Carl Sharek (\$25,000.) and the estate of Sofia Dembia of New Jersey. The Dembia bequest consists of stocks and a portion was designated for the Foundation in Rome was sold and sent to Rome. The portion to remain with the 'Friends' has been transferred to the group. A definite amount is not available since the bequest consists of stocks whose value varies with the market). It was decided that the Budget/Finance committee will decide on how to invest and disburse the funds.

Discussion of the ways we are promoting membership included a bro-

chure about the 'Friends' of the foundation for distribution. Hopefully, members will assist in bringing the brochures to their parishes or other possible interested parties.

Our website cost will be increasing in March, 2012. Webmaster William Klepczynski keeps it current and plans to re-design some pages.

President Ceil Glembocki has established a working relationship with the Knights of Columbus who purchased the Pope John Paul II Center on Harewood Road in Washington, DC and are turning it into a John Paul II Shrine. Once the remodeling is finished and the Shrine is open to the public we hope to hold some events there.

The annual May celebration of John Paul II's birthday and the annual fund-raiser "Wadowice on the Potomac" held in October are in the planning stages. Members will be notified of the time and place.



*An Easter Message to all
our members and friends*

Blessings to one and all!

*May the spirit of this
sacred season of Easter*

Renewal

Rebirth

Hope

brighten all your days

The Board of the
Friends of John Paul II Foundation



Gloria Klepczynski giving her Membership Report to the Board.

From the President

Cecilia Glembocki

It is with great pleasure that the Washington DC 'Friends' Chapter reports over 200 members registered at this time. All of these individuals look forward to continuing the work that this chapter has done; in particular promoting the Legacy of our Blessed John Paul II.

We are still looking for any John Paul II memorabilia and books to disperse to schools and media centers.

Each board member actively participates and contributes brilliant ideas that make this chapter outstanding.

We concluded a marvelous year celebrating not only the Friends founder Walter Zachariasiewicz on his 100th birthday but to have also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome. A celebration worthy of celebrating for the next year. We are anxiously awaiting the canonization of Bl. John Paul II. The next year will be devoted once again to promote his legacy in the Washington Metropolitan area.

In light of recent bequests to our Chapter, the board has proposed that the budget committee oversee the worthiness of proposals presented, disbursements of funds and direction of the chapter. Funds will be identified as how they could best serve our goals and or projects and how could these have the greatest impact upon the younger people in our area.

We started an educational outreach program in 2010 and our first phase is completed. We will have placed nearly 300 copies of the DVD "Nine Days that Changed the World" to every Catholic school's media centers in the metropolitan area. Along with the DVD is a lesson plan developed by Vince Haley. Two posters of John Paul II will be given to all media centers as well as the book entitled "The Gift of Blessed John Paul II" written by Cardinal Donald Wuerl. It will be distributed to the 65 schools in the Washington dioceses.

As we develop Phase II, we will continue to work with these educational institutions by of-



fering scholarships to students who write about the Pope or develop art work or tell us how this great man was able to accomplish so much in so little time. By constantly evaluating the works done in Phase I, we can further develop plans for extending our reach as to Catholic colleges in the metropolitan area.

This past year is quite a year to note: the purchase of the John Paul II Cultural Center by the Knights of Columbus; The John Paul II Seminary located on Taylor St. in Washington DC and noting the work done by the Institute of John Paul II on Marriage and Family at Catholic University. We have plans to work cooperatively with these institutions in promoting the legacy of Blessed Pope.

Exceptional thanks to all our contributors who have so generously endowed us with funds to do these projects. So many people have given a donation in their loved ones memory, to continue the work of our late Blessed Pope. We must remember that no greater gift can we give than to promote such direction, such goodness and such strength that we received from the 26 years of our Pope's life. He made an impression and we are vowed to continue that passion to remember his teaching, to reflect upon how we can make our lives more enriched, more vibrant, more open to the teaching of Pope John Paul II.

Wishing you all the blessings of Easter.

Cecilia Glembocki

Phase 1- Promoting the Legacy of Pope John Paul II

On February 28, 2012, our President, Cecelia Glembocki presented a legacy program at the School Principals Meeting held at Mount Calvary Church in Forestville, Maryland. About 70 attended the breakfast meeting arranged by Deacon Britt Homme for the Washington Diocese. The event was hosted by Dr. Darcy Tomko, principal of Mt. Calvary School. A delicious breakfast was provided by Ceil Glembocki, The Virginia Egg Council, and the Friends of John Paul II Foundation. The meal consisted of an egg baked casserole, pound cake and fruit.

Mrs. Glembocki reviewed the legacy of John Paul II and spoke to the assembled about the project to promote the legacy of the late Pope.

She distributed materials relating to John Paul II which included: DVD "Nine Days That Changed the World" along with a Study Guide, two posters of Pope John Paul II, the booklet "Be Not Afraid" and Cardinal Wuerl's latest book "The Gift of Blessed John Paul II".



Pres. Cecelia Glembocki with Deacon Britt Hommes, Supt. Wash. Diocese School, and D. Darcy Tonepko, Principal Mt. Calvary School

Scenes from the breakfast meeting



BOOK REVIEWS

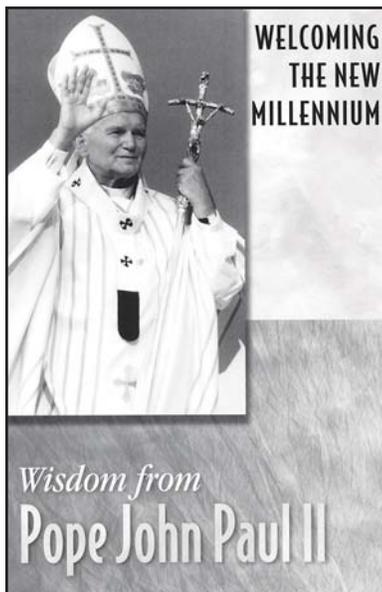
Welcoming the New Millennium

Wisdom from Pope John Paul II

Patricia Mitchell, Gen. editor

142 pages, soft cover
\$12.00 plus S & H

The Word Among Us Press
7115 Guilford Drive
Frederick, MD 21704



Today too often people are uncertain about a sense of life on earth. Invaded by doubts, they are led into despair. Therefore- with humility and trust I beg and implore you - allow Christ to speak to the person in you. Only He has the words of life, yes, eternal life.

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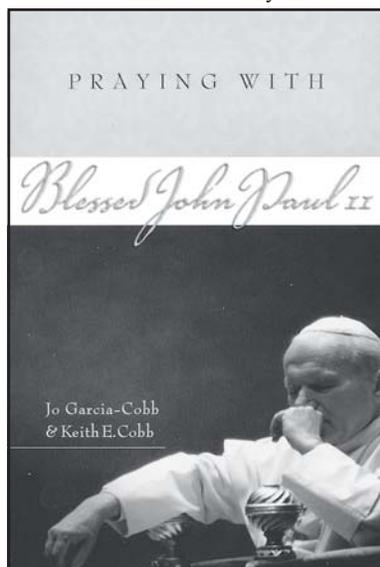
*Come and work for
the Lord.
Long hours,
pay is low but
the retirement benefits
are out of this world.*

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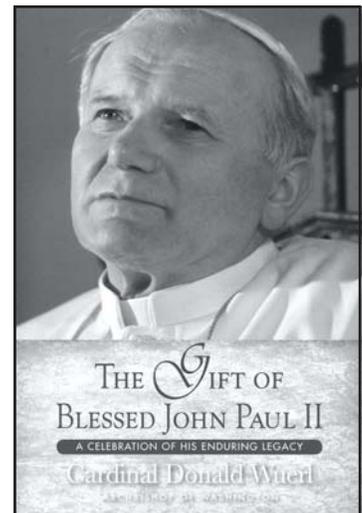


The Gift of Blessed John Paul II

A celebration of his Enduring Legacy

by Cardinal Donald Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington

284 pages, soft cover
\$14.95 plus S & H
The Word Among Us Press
7115 Guilford Drive
Frederick, MD 21704



From the moment he first appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on the evening of his election in October, 1978, Pope John Paul II captured the imagination and hearts of people around the world. In this book, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, explores the spiritual and pastoral wealth of Blessed John Paul's legacy as found in his encyclicals and post-synodal apostolic exhortations. Cardinal Wuerl, who is known for his gift of teaching the faith, presents the pope's writings in a clear and understandable way and shows us how we can apply these teachings to the challenges we face as Christians in the world today.

"This is a profoundly spiritual, deeply theological, and engagingly pastoral presentation of the faith of the church, the gospel imperative, and its implications and applications to the circumstances of our day."

Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz,
Archbishop of Krakow, Poland,
Personal Secretary to Pope John Paul II

A loving tribute to my mother, Helen Filipczyk Rackowski

Constance Rackowski Donnelly, Corresponding Secretary

On February 5, 2012, Helen Filipczyk Rackowski peacefully left us and entered her rewards in eternal life. Helen F. Rackowski, together with her husband Henry, was a kind and gracious person among the Washington Polonia since coming to this area in 1948. Helen will always be remembered for her warm and embracing way with people. Her dedication to faith, family and her Polish heritage was evident to those who knew her.

Helen Filipczyk was raised in the Polish community of Edwardsville, PA supported by its coal mining industry. Helen was the daughter of Polish immigrants, Konstanty Filipczyk and Antonette Burnatowska. Her parents met in the United States and married at St. Hedwig Church in Edwardsville. Helen was the last surviving sibling of a family of ten children. Helen's childhood through early adulthood centered on her family, the school and parish of St. Hedwig, the community of Edwardsville and active participation in the Polish Women's Alliance.

During World War II, Helen met Henry Rackowski at a PNA Lodge 848 social in Washington, DC while visiting her sister who was employed by the federal government. Helen and Henry were married at St. Hedwig Church on June 26, 1948. The Washington area easily became Helen's new home with her brother Boleslaw Filipczyk and sister Anne F. Urman residing here. The families grew and stayed close. In Falls Church, VA, Helen and Henry raised their own family of seven children: Henry, Thomas, Constance (Donnelly), James, Jerome, Antonette (Hottel) and Justin. Celebrating Polish customs in the home, especially at Christmas and Easter, always remained at the heart of Rackowski family traditions.

Helen's new husband introduced her to Polish National Alliance Lodge 848, the only Polish organization in the Washington area at the time. Together Helen and Henry participated in PNA Lodge 848 programs and activities. Helen encompassed her family in her participation in the Polish community. Helen directed the PNA Lodge 848 Polish school and organized programs performed by the school children. Her children participated in these programs and other events including Christmas pageants,

Third of May celebrations, monthly Polish masses at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and wreath-laying ceremonies at Polish monuments in Washington. Through these PNA programs, Helen and Henry welcomed and introduced many Polish newcomers to the Washington Polonia, including Father Philip S. Majka following his ordination to the priesthood.



In the late 1960's new Polish-American organizations were being formed in the Washington area. Helen and Henry continued their active participation in the PNA while supporting the newly formed organizations, including our own Friends of John Paul II Foundation. Helen always found ways of helping at events while supporting her family's participation. Helen supported her husband who served as President of PNA Lodge 848 for 20 years. Helen worked making pierogi to help raise

funds for the newly formed mission of Our Lady Queen of Poland. From her backyard tree, each year Helen would provide the Polish Parish with pussy willow branches for Palm Sunday. Helen promoted the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center and supported the many activities sponsored by the area Polish American organizations. Throughout the years, the presence of Helen and Henry Rackowski in the Washington Polonia was always welcomed and appreciated.

Helen is survived by her husband Henry of 63 years, her children and their spouses, fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandson. On February 11th at St. James Church, a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka; and concelebrated by Rev. Jan Fiedurek, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, and Rev. John Morel, Chaplain of Court Queen of Peace of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Helen Filipczyk is interred at St. James Cemetery in Falls Church, VA.

We will all miss my Mother in many ways but can be thankful for the gifts of her gentle love, kindness, and friendship that she gave to us throughout her life. May her soul rest in peace.

Chaplains' Corner



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

Unilateral Forgiveness

John Paul The Great asked us to open our doors to Christ. As Jesus enters our hearts, He gives us a gift of actual grace, His peace enters into our being. Freedom from the bonds of sin and error into a life filled with His spirit. His Resurrection on Easter Day frees us from the effects of Original Sin and does not hold us bound. But we must hold our doors open to his gift. Christ bestowed unilateral forgiveness upon His flock which He shepherds all the days of our life.

He shed His blood on the cross as an example for us to follow. As we receive the Holy Sacrament, we are told to do that in memory of Him. He forgave sin, so too we should forgive sin even if it's seventy times seven as St. Peter was reminded. Forgive others, pray in place of those others for forgiveness of their sin. That's what is called unilateral forgiveness. Divine Mercy! "Blessed are the merciful for mercy shall be theirs". Therefore we become at peace. We are the peacemakers, the sons and daughters of God. This is the road to peaceful perfection trying to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. We ask Mary the Mother of God to pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death...we should pray for one another! Let us rejoice and be glad this coming Easter Day, for our reward will be great in heaven.

A Blessed Easter Day to you-all is my prayer during this Holy Lenten season.
Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka

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



Once again in our lives God's Providence has allowed us to re-live the period of Lent. Giving us the opportunity to reflect on that which constitutes the center of Christian life - love. It is the proper time for us, with the help of God's Word and the Sacraments to renew our path of faith, the shared as well as individual. It is the way under the sign of prayer and sharing, silence and fasting, in awaiting the Paschal joy.

It seems that the world we live in and contemporary culture stopped differentiating between good and evil. The basic rights of man are threatened, such as the freedom of conscience or religious freedom. This applies to the United States as well, where laws infringing on Christian rights, especially Catholics'. The Media keep resorting to ridicule of Christian values to promote moral liberalism and easy virtue.

Therefore, with greater determination, as believers, we should strongly stress that there exist unchanging moral norms resulting from the immemorial Law of God. That good and evil exist, but good always wins, because God "is good and does good." Good is that which gives birth, protects and promotes life, brotherhood and community. Good is the responsible care for the physical, spiritual and moral good of our neighbors. Deriving strength from prayer and sacraments received, let us surround ourselves with responsible and disinterested love of our fellow man and all people in the hope that they too will be open to the logic of good and love. In that way civilization will grow and extend its boundaries of love moving into non-existent civilization of evil and death. May our ardent participation in Lenten Services, the Way of the Cross, Lenten Lamentations and reflections change our hearts, so that we will joyfully experience the Resurrection of Our Lord.

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.

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.

The Holy Father Pope John Paul II said during a meeting with benefactors of the Foundation on 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".

2011 Year End Gift Giving Donors

Thank you very much for your generous Donations to the 2011 Year End Gift Giving campaign. Because of your additional donations each year, we have been able to send extra funds to support the Blessed John Paul II Foundation in Rome.

Mrs. Bozenna Buda and Mr. J. Bradley Ortins, Esq. Izabella Cully Mr. & Mrs. John J. Daly Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Donnelly Ms. Zofia Dunian Ms. Renata Dyhouse Dr. Carol Ellis Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Feldmark Mr. & Mrs. Aleksander Gawin Mr. Robert V. Glamb Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Glembocki Ms. Mary Clare Haskin and Dr. Vincent Zugay Drs. Jack & Joanna Hawiger Mrs. Barbara Jarzynski Dr. & Mrs. William Klepczynski Mr. Karl Klonowski	Mr. Paul E. Konopka Mr. & Mrs. Slawomir Korzan Mr. Stefan M. Lopatkiewicz Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka Dr. Lorenzo Marcolin Mr. & Mrs. Edward Meros Mr. & Mrs. Marek Michalski Mr. & Mrs. Marian Mols Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak Dr. Richard Z. Okreglak Mr. & Mrs. Bernard T. Pitsvada Dr. & Mrs. Marian W. Pospieszalski Mr. & Mrs. K. Steve Rasiej Mrs. Eleonore B. Rickover Mrs. Ariadne Toczek Mr. & Mrs. Marek Walicki Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wiermanski Mr. James J. Zwolenik
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Stephen & Constance Donnelly & Family
Robert & Mary Flanagan
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Richard & Bernadette Wiermanski
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*name goes on next plaque in the Home in Rome

I am a Life Benefactor and wish to make an additional gift \$ _____

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Please mail with this form to
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1204 Whetstone Drive
Arnold, MD 21012

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

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our website: www.jp2friends.org

*The John Paul II Foundation
was established in Vatican City,
Italy, 1981 .*



Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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