



Friends Annual Meeting Combines Two Celebrations

It was the decision of the Executive Board to forego the Annual Fund-raiser "Wadowice-on-the Potomac" in October because some of our members would be travelling to Rome for the 30th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the John Paul II Foundation. It was further decided to do something for our members. The outcome was to hold a dinner in lieu of the annual general meeting and to waive the charges but ask for a voluntary tax-deductible donation.

The dinner was held on November 6, 2011 at the Knights of Columbus in Arlington, Virginia. As it turned out, that was a day before the 100th birthday of Sir Walter Zachariasiewicz, founder of the Friends group - so it was a no-brainer to combine the 30th Anniversary celebration with Walter's birthday.

The assembled sang Happy Birthday and A Second Sto Lat to Walter as he blew out the candles on the birthday cake. It turned out to be a wonderful affair full of warm camaraderie and good will. Those attending enjoyed good company, a great meal and a short meeting.

The requisite of the general meeting - to vote in a new board, and report on the status of the club was short and fruitful. President Cecelia

Glembocki spoke of the 30th Anniversary celebration in Rome and gave a short status report on the future goals of the organization.

The new board consists of the same members with one change i.e. the Treasurer is now Raymond Glembocki who takes the place of Ed Banas who resigned and the addition of Linda Lock, board member replacing the late Adeline Zachariasiewicz.

A formal celebration of Walter's birthday was held on November 19, 2011 at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC. The Friends

group participated in sponsoring the event and some members represented the group at the affair. The program consisted of congratulatory comments from the Ambassador, Robert Kupiecki and Consul Wlodzimierz Sulgostowski and reading of letters from prominent officials in Poland.

An artistic program followed, prepared by Prof. Jerzy Sapiejewski and Dorota Ponikiewska. It included a slide show of photos of Walter with accompanying music and skits and military songs as well as melodies from Walter's youth in which the audience joined in. The performing artists were: Isabel Chmielewska, Katarzyna Drucker, Waldemar Izdebski, Wieslaw Malachowski, Tomasz Smoka and Stanislaw Wronki. A sumptuous reception followed with birthday cake and assorted deserts.



Ceil Glembocki holds the birthday cake for Walter Zachariasiewicz to blow out the candles



Len Baldyga and President Ceil Glembocki in front of the display about the 30th Anniversary of the Foundation



Annual General Meeting Attendees

From the President

Cecilia Glembocki



We are wishing you all the blessings and joys of this Christmas season. Sharing the Christmas traditions with family is a very precious gift to all of us. We treasure our Polish traditions and sharing them with our children is a special gift. May we instill in all those who share our *oplatek*, the legacy of Blessed John Paul II's wish to uphold the dignity of life. May we continue his legacy through the spirit of His love.

So many memories were made this past year and it was an honor to represent our chapter of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation at the Blessed John Paul II Be-
atification on May 1 in Rome; and then for the 30th anniversary of the Foundation on October 22.

The Beatification left us with a continued desire and commitment to promote the legacy of our Blessed Pope. "Aprite le Porte a Cristo", means "Open the Doors to Christ" was the official hymn of John Paul II's beautification. This song was used during the Beatification ceremony and was sung by the Vatican Choir. It was written by Mnsgr. Marco Frisina, the Director of Liturgy for the diocese of Rome. All those who attended the Beatification ceremony were filled with tears upon hearing this. There is something in this song that touches the soul which is simply inexplicable. The May 1st. celebration left us with an overwhelming awe of the millions of people who attended the event. Yes, millions crowded the streets in the joyous celebration of His Be-
atification, seeing the actual vial of the Pope's blood carried by the nun who was cured and viewing the wooden casket just a few feet away from us. Memories were made of these events.

In October, in the Vatican we saw where Blessed John Paul II was laid to rest. His altar site was enormous but rightfully so for such a remarkable person. Thousands of people waited to offer their prayers at the foot of this altar. The first altar to the right as one entered the Vatican was that of the Pieta. How fitting it was to see Blessed Mother holding the dying Jesus and it was as though John Paul II embraced Mary as his Mother through His life. To see Mary next to Our Pope was touching. It is a fitting place of honor.

As your representative to the Foundation President's meeting, it was fascinating to note that there are more than 50 organizations in the world honoring Blessed

John Paul II. Fourteen organizations presented reports on their activities. As the founding chapter in the United States by the help of Mr. Walter Zachariawicz

we will present to the JP II Board a turn-key program on how to start a chapter of the Foundation which is based on our chapter's history and development. Details of this document will be developed in early March.

During our presentation, I had available the DVD titled "Nine Days that Changed the World" in English, as well as a PAL European version which can be played in Europe as well as the Polish/English versions. We did receive some funds from the sale of these items. Our new membership brochures were displayed and lesson plans were shared as well as our accomplishments. I discussed our Educational Outreach Program to Catholic Schools and the successful partnerships with other Polish Organizations.

We also had the opportunity to promote the legacy of John Paul II when we participated in the National Council for the Social Studies. The convention was held in Washington, DC and was attended by over 4,000 educators. We presented Polish history and culture and John Paul's contribution to world events. Many attendees knew of John Paul but his message that world politics must be based on the worth of the human person was not as well-known and will continue to be a focus of future exhibits.

It is through your financial support and through the continued contributions those who identified us as beneficiaries in their wills that we are able to continue our Legacy projects here in the United States.

Once again, it is my pleasure to serve as your President and I thank the Board of Directors who worked so diligently on behalf of all of our projects.

May the New Year bring us more joy and happiness so that we can continue our promise to support the goals of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation.

Seminary dedicated to former pope

Cardinal Wuerl urges seminarians to look to Blessed John Paul II for inspiration.

By MARK ZIMMERMANN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—The Washington Archdiocese marked the first feast day of Blessed John Paul II in a special way, as Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl dedicated the archdiocese's new Blessed John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C., Oct. 22 with a Mass in the seminary's chapel.

Cardinal Wuerl prayed that God will "bless this house and all who study here so that the vision, the dream and the legacy of Blessed John Paul II will long continue at the service of God's holy Church."

He encouraged the seminarians to look to their patron for guidance and inspiration as they study for the priesthood. The first group of 20 seminarians now call Blessed John Paul II Seminary home, and many assisted at the Mass, serving at the altar, singing in the choir and afterward giving tours of the seminary.

Currently, 72 men are studying for the priesthood for the Washington Archdiocese, including the Blessed John Paul II seminarians taking classes at nearby Catholic University. Msgr. Robert Panke, the new seminary's rector, was among the concelebrants at the dedication Mass.

Recalling Pope John Paul II's installation Mass on that day 33 years earlier, Cardinal Wuerl, who was present that day, said the new pope's words still echo today in the hearts of the world's Catholics: "Open wide your hearts to Christ. Do not be afraid. Christ is with us. He is risen. He is with us."

The cardinal noted "how appropriate it is that this seminary would bear his name," the name of a pope who presided over the Catholic Church for 26 years, offering an example of charity and a body of teaching that has inspired generations of Catholics. He said in a special way, the men trained at the seminary named in the late pope's honor would continue his work.

"The men who will be formed here are preparing to be priests of this millennium, the agents of the Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth and the voice of the new evangelization calling all people near and far to embrace the Lord Jesus," Cardinal Wuerl said in his homily.

Tangible reminders of Blessed John Paul's life and legacy abound at the seminary. His name graces its entranceway, and a portrait of him painted by Pittsburgh artist Robert Daley is displayed at the chapel's entranceway. Inside the chapel is a liturgical vestment worn by Blessed John Paul when he celebrated Mass.

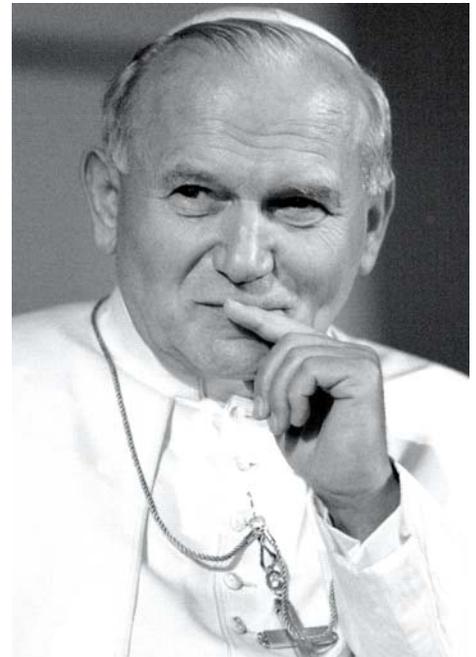
A reliquary near the chapel's altar displays a first-class relic, the blood of the late pope that stained the cassock he was wearing when he was shot and critically wounded during an assassination attempt in St. Peter's Square May 13, 1981.

During the seminary's dedication Mass, Cardinal Wuerl said that relic serves as a reminder to present and future priests that it is not always easy to take up Jesus' cross. Afterward, the cardinal said placing the relic in the reliquary provided the most emotional moment in the Mass for him, as a flood of memories returned to him of the pope who ordained him as a bishop 25 years ago. The cardinal was a concelebrant at the May 1 beatification Mass in Rome for the late pope.

The new chapel also connects the seminarians in a special way with Pope Benedict XVI. An apostolic blessing personally signed by that pontiff is on display at the chapel's entrance, and the chapel's altar is the one used by Pope Benedict at his 2008 Mass at Nationals Park in Washington.

The cardinal also noted that the ambo used at the papal Mass is also now in the seminary chapel, and "reminds us that it is the word of God that the priest proclaims, it is the teaching of the Church that he announces. His fidelity is to both, because it is not himself that he preaches but Jesus, and Jesus crucified."

Another aspect of the new seminary's chapel that ties the Church's past to its present and future is the altar



Blessed Pope John Paul II

stone, once used by Archbishop John Carroll, who in 1789 became the first Catholic bishop of the United States.

During the dedication Mass, Cardinal Wuerl placed the stone in the altar, anointed the altar with chrism and incensed the altar. Near the beginning of Mass, the cardinal blessed and sprinkled the altar, chapel and seminary with holy water.

Concelebrants of the dedication Mass included Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington; Washington's auxiliary bishops; and retired Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., a Josephite who is now rector of his order's seminary in Washington.

The seminary building was originally constructed in 1951 and was first used as a friary for the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. For much of the past decade, the building housed offices for the archdiocese's *Catholic Standard* and *El Pregonero* newspapers, the Office of Youth Ministry and the Consortium of Catholic Academies.

This past fall, the cardinal announced the formation of the new seminary, and the building was extensively renovated to become the new home for the priests and seminarians of Blessed John Paul II Seminary.

*Reprinted from the Arlington Catholic Herald
Nov. 3-9, 2011*

Chaplains' Corner



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

The Steps to Canonization

We pray that the Servant of God, the Venerable and Blessed John Paul the Great will someday be proclaimed a Saint of the

Roman Catholic Church by the Pope's infallible decree of Canonization. We hope it will be forth coming soon (A.S.A.P.) The age old customs and traditions of the church are now being fulfilled. Karol Wojtyla is a servant of God in the living of his vocation as priest, bishop, cardinal and Vicar of Christ, and people the world over have experienced his holiness touching their minds and hearts in accepting his challenge to open the doors to Christ. We started talking about Papa Wojtyla and thought it best that we petition the church officials to examine the former pope's life and activities. This was accomplished at the local level both in Poland and in Rome as part of the customary process towards canonization. Through his intercession a miracle was accepted. Thus the initial steps were fulfilled and he became Blessed John Paul on the feast he declared, Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, 2011. We must pray as the final steps are taken and another miracle will be accepted by the Roman officials so that the Holy Father can make the final decree, the infallible statement that John Paul II is a Saint in heaven. Thus he can be an intercessor to the church he brought into the new springtime of Christianity. . . the third millennium. It is to be noted that his feast day has been set as October 22nd. This was the day in 1978 that he was installed as the Universal Pastor of the Catholic Church. On that day he told us do not be afraid to open our doors to Christ.

I, like countless others have met Papa Wojtyla in person, received his blessing and also a gift of Mary's rosary with a picture to cherish this occasion. We have listened to his words and read them in print. Reflecting about this experience we personally say he is a saint. It is the combined acclamation of the people of God in all parts of the world relating our desires to the church officials that they recommend to the Pope that he infallibly proclaim that John Paul II is a SAINT!

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



Dear Fellow Countrymen:

The Holidays of the Birth of Christ are a time of reflecting about the mystery of the coming to the world of our Savior. Each of us can bear personal witness of meeting with the newborn Child, who is the life and the light of mankind and gave us much, so that we might become the children of God (J1,12). It is therefore a time of special spiritual grace and inner rebirth.

In order to live through the Mystery of the Incarnation well and fruitfully, the Church established Advent, i.e. a time of preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord. It behooves us to take advantage of this time for more fervent prayer, to focus on the lessons of Holy Scripture and Reconciliation with God through the Sacrament of Penance. That is the true form for preparing for the Birth of Christ; the preparation of the heart and soul for Christ's coming. The outward frame, the mad purchases and decorations, should not interfere in this. Let us remember, what is the Reason for the Season!

I wish you, that the deep experiencing of Christmas will strengthen you in faith and love, in the joy of peace as well as courageous witness in daily life.

May the New Year bring you Peace and well-being.

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 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".

In accordance with Pope John Paul II's goals, we are carrying out a program of distributing the DVD "Nine Days that Changed the World" to Catholic schools in our area.

The film describes the great influence John Paul II had on the defeat of Communism and the renewed spirit of the Church

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.



FRIENDS OF JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP - 2012

Yes, please count on me to support the John Paul II Foundation that was established by Pope 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 goes on next plaque in the Home in Rome

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

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.

\$ _____ Memorial or Special Occasion Donation for _____

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

Please mail with this form to
Membership Chair, Gloria Klepczynski
1204 Whetstone Drive
Arnold, MD 21012

Visit our Web Site: www.jp2friends.org

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



*Wishing you a
Blessed Christmas
and a Joyous
New Year*



Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

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