

# Institute of National Remembrance

<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/1918,40th-anniversary-of-the-first-pilgrimage-of-Pope-John-Paul-II-to-Poland.html>

23.04.2024, 19:26

31.05.2019

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## 40th anniversary of the first pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland



The first of John Paul II's three pilgrimages to his homeland began on 2 June 1979. The Pope visited Warsaw, Gniezno, Częstochowa, Cracow, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wadowice, Oświęcim, Nowy Targ and again Cracow. The official motto of the apostolic journey was taken from the opening words of a hymn in honor of St. Stanislaus of Szczepanów – 'Gaude Mater Polonia' (Rejoice, Mother Poland). The communist

authorities were displeased with the fact that the Pope was to visit Poland, fearing that it would awaken the Polish yearning for independence. It was during this pilgrimage that the Pope uttered the famous words: "And I cry out from the depths of this millennium – let your Spirit descend and renew the face of the earth. The face of this land."

On the occasion of the upcoming anniversary of the first pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland the Institute of National Remembrance has prepared several events, including:



A two-day conference "1<sup>st</sup> Pilgrimage of John Paul II to Poland" in Gniezno, 30-31 May 2019 with the participation of the President of the IPN, Dr Jarosław Szarek. The conference was organized by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Gniezno , the Branch Office of the Institute of National Remembrance in Kraków and in Poznań and the Faculty of Theology of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. During the opening speeches of the conference devoted to John Paul II's first pilgrimage to Poland in June 1979, Dr Jarosław Szarek reminded the

Pope's memorable words of Europe's two lungs, the East and the West, words which reverberated for years. He also mentioned that "John Paul II addressed the issues of our identity and heritage, spoke about our tradition, culture and history. It is here in Gniezno, that we heard his words about the spiritual unity of Europe, words which influenced the fall of the Iron Curtain."





An exhibition of the Institute of National Remembrance "Let us rise and move forward..." The first pilgrimage of John Paul II to Poland" is to be

presented at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The ceremonial opening of the exhibition will take place on 2 June 2019, at 10.00, at the Grand Courtyard of the Royal Castle in Warsaw with the participation of the President of the Institute of National Remembrance, Dr Jarosław Szarek and the Director of the Royal Castle in Warsaw Prof. Dr hab. Wojciech Fałkowski.

The exhibition, prepared by the Katowice Branch Office of the Institute of National Remembrance presents almost 40 photographs from the collections of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński Primate's Institute and the Archive of the IPN - most of which have never been published before. The result of an international press query is a collection of titles from the German, Italian, Dutch, French and American press which will be shown as part of the exhibition. An important addition to the narrative are fragments of statements made by representatives of the communist authorities about the pilgrimage - during and after the preparations.

The exhibition can be viewed until 20 June 2019. The authors of the exhibition are Dr Anna Badura, Ryszard Mozgol, Dr Andrzej Sznajder.



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## Warszawa

Wiadomo Wam, że papież w czerwcu br. przybywa do Polski. Jest to poważne wydarzenie o charakterze politycznym i nie mamy powodu, by się z niego cieszyć.

Fragment listu do rodzin Edwarda Gierka z Leonidem Breżniewem przed wizytą w Moskwie 12-13 marca 1979 r.

You are aware that the Pope is coming to Poland in June of this year. It is a serious event of a political character and we have no reason to be overjoyed.

An excerpt from Edward Gierka's notes for the talks with Leonid Brezhnev before his visit to Moscow on March 12-13th, 1979



Papież Wojtyła w Warszawie. Między euforią narodu a kansternacją reżimu

Włochy, La Stampa, 3 czerwca 1979 r.

The Pope, Karol Wojtyła, in Warsaw. Between euphoria of the nation and the dismay of the regime

Italy, La Stampa, June 3rd, 1979

Nie sposób zrozumieć dziejów narodu polskiego – tej wielkiej 1000-letniej wspólnoty (...) – bez Chrystusa.

Homilia w czasie mszy św. na pl. Zwycięstwa

It is therefore impossible to understand the history of the Polish nation – this great, a thousand-year-old community (...) without Christ.

Homily at the holy mass at Plac Zwycięstwa, Warsaw



8-10 VI

## Kraków



I dlatego – zanim stąd odejdę, proszę was, abyscie całe to duchowe dziedzictwo, któremu na imię „Polska”, raz jeszcze przysięgli z wiarą, nadzieją i miłością – taką, jaką zaszczeplił w nas Chrystus na chrzcie świętym, abyscie nigdy nie zwątpili i nie znężyli się, i nie zniechęcili, abyscie nie podnieśli sami tych korzeni, z których wyrastamy.

Homilia wygłoszona w czasie mszy św. odprawianej na Błoniach

So, before going away, I beg you to accept once again, the whole of the spiritual legacy which bears the name of "Poland", with the faith, hope and charity that Christ poured into us at our holy Baptism. I beg you never to lose your trust, nor be defeated, nor be discouraged. Do not cut yourselves off the roots which are our origin.

From a homily at a holy mass at Kraków Błonia



The launching of a new IPN portal: [pierwszapielgrzymka.ipn.gov.pl](http://pierwszapielgrzymka.ipn.gov.pl) devoted to the first pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland.

On the website we present copies of documents, photographs, graphics, maps and other interesting souvenirs from the apostolic journey in 1979.

Most of the materials posted on the website were created or gathered by the Security Services of the Polish People's Republic. They are complemented by documents provided by private donors and Polish community organizations abroad.

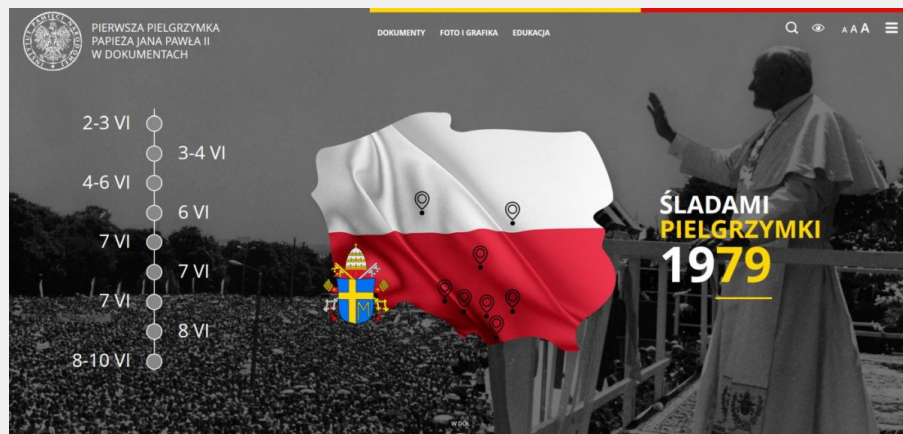
The introduction to the portal has been prepared by Prof. Jan Żaryn. The materials in the "Documents" section were divided according to the stages of the pilgrimage (chronologically from Warsaw to Kraków), according to topics (preparation, Security Services interviews, files, Army documents, Polish community press abroad, analyses and evaluations) and by the specific IPN branches and delegations providing materials. The introductory texts to the individual sets of documents were prepared by the employees of the scientific and archival departments of the IPN from Warsaw, Kraków, Katowice and Poznań.

The "Photo and graphics" section contains copies of operational photographs that are the legacy of the Security Services of the Polish People's Republic, as well as photographs from private resources donated to the IPN. These materials are of great value not only to chroniclers, but are also of sentimental and artistic value. In addition, the "Photo and graphics" section contains copies of graphics, invitations, admission tickets, brochures, leaflets, maps, situational plans and sketches.

The "Education" section includes digital versions of IPN publications, films and educational materials, information about conferences, exhibitions and other initiatives undertaken by the Institute of National

Remembrance in connection with the commemoration of the Polish Pope.

The project was implemented by the Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance in cooperation with the Office of the President and Social Communication of the Institute of National Remembrance.



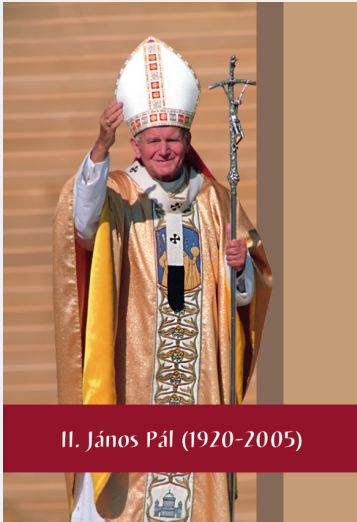
Other exhibitions:



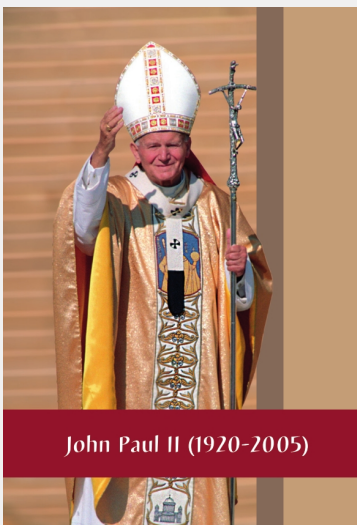




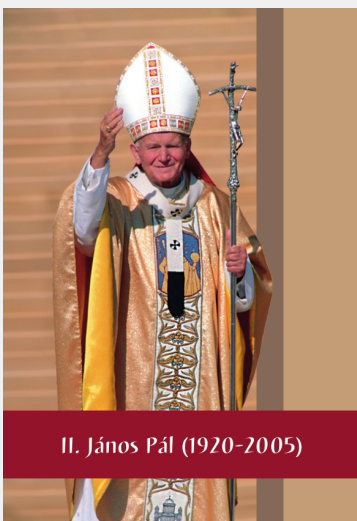
IPN Publications:



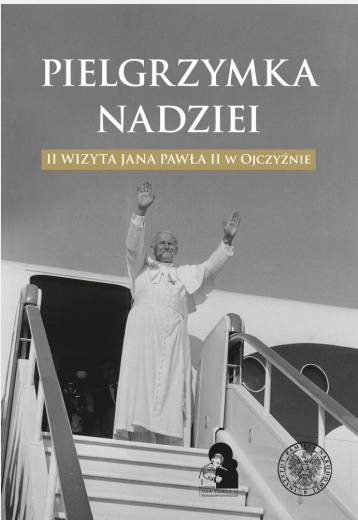
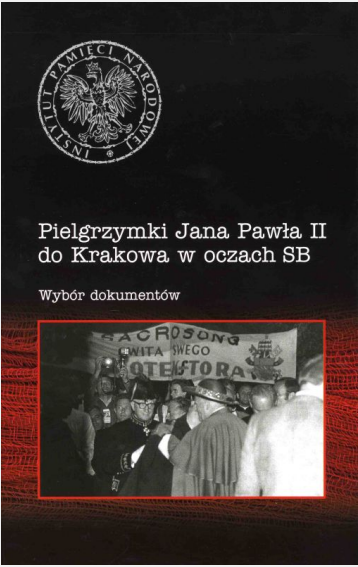
II. János Pál (1920-2005)



John Paul II (1920-2005)



II. János Pál (1920-2005)





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