

Institute of National Remembrance

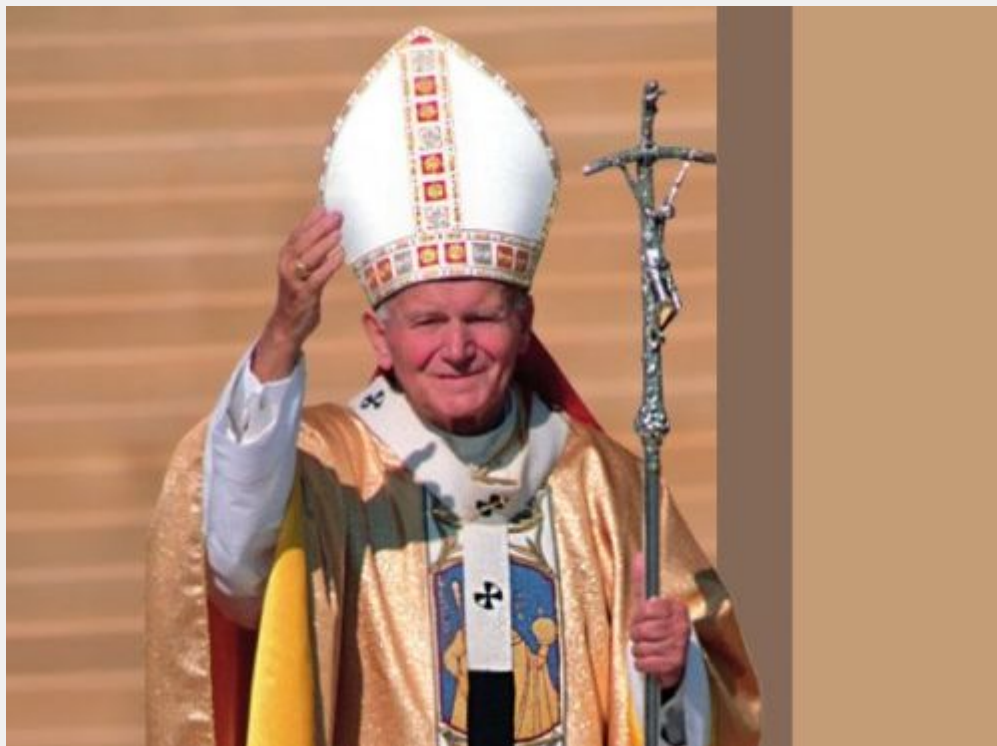
<https://ipn.gov.pl/en/news/9461,The-19th-anniversary-of-the-death-of-Saint-John-Paul-II.html>

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The 19th anniversary of the death of Saint John Paul II





On the 19th anniversary of the death of Saint John Paul II, who passed away on 2 April 2005, ending the life that struck a chord with the world, inspired the Poles, and threw communism off-balance, we would like to present some of the materials on Karol Wojtyła.

Saint John Paul II was one of the greatest Popes and authorities of the twentieth century, a man who reached into the sources of Christianity and taught us solidarity, courage and humility.

JOHN PAUL II
18 V 1920 – 2 IV 2005
"DO NOT FEAR"

Youth
1930 – went to secondary school for boys in Wadowice
1938 – passed final exams and started studying Polish philology at the Jagiellonian University

World War II
6 November 1939 – studying ended; the Jagiellonian University closed by the Germans
1942 – entered an underground seminary
1945 – assigned to Archbishop Sapiecha

104 FOREIGN TRIPS TO 129 COUNTRIES

14 ENCYCLICALS AND APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS

11 APOSTOLIC CONSTITUTIONS

45 APOSTOLIC LETTERS

1,338 BEATIFICATIONS
482 CANONISATIONS

1164 GENERAL AUDIENCES

26 YEARS OF PONTIFICATE

Prisesthood
August 1946 – completed theological studies
November 1946 – ordained and sent to study in Rome
1948 – completed studies, got his PhD, and returned to Poland
July 1948 – started his priestly service in Niegowić and Cracow parishes

Hierarchy of the Church
1958 – Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Cracow
1962 – actively participated in the Second Vatican Council
1963 – Metropolitan Archbishop of Cracow
1967 – appointed Cardinal

Pontificate
16 October 1978 – elected the first non-Italian Pope since the 16th century
22 October 1978 – pontificate inaugurated

Death
2 April 2005 at 9:37 pm – left for "The House of the Father"
8 April 2005 – interred

Beatification and Canonisation
1 May 2011 – beatified by Pope Benedict XVI
27 April 2014 – canonised by Pope Francis

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"LET YOUR SPIRIT COME DOWN AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE LAND. THIS LAND!"
Pastoral visits of John Paul II to Poland

10-12 June 1979
"Let your Spirit come down and renew the face of the land. This land!"
- The first visit of John Paul II to his homeland
- A visit to Warsaw, Gdynia, Częstochowa, Cracow, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wadowice, Oświęcim, Nowy Targ, and again to Cracow

16-23 June 1983
"Peace be with you, Poland, my homeland!"
- The most difficult pilgrimage to his homeland – due to the Martial Law introduced in Poland, and the delegatization of "Solidarity"
- The visit was highly-anticipated by the society and church hierarchs

8-14 June 1987
"He loved them till the end"
- A visit to the grave of murdered Father Jerzy Popiełuszko and Gdańsk, the cradle of "Solidarity", and the famous words, "There is no liberty without 'Solidarity'".

1-9 June 1991, 13-20 August 1991
"Thank God and do not quench the Holy Spirit!"
- The first pilgrimage to independent Poland
- The 1991 World Youth Day

22 May 1995
- The visit was less official and its main destination was the Czech Republic

31 May – 10 June 1997
"Jesus Christ Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow"
- In the context of this pilgrimage, the Pope attended the ceremonies of the 100th anniversary of the death of St. Wojciech.

5-17 June 1999
"God is Love!"
- The longest pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland

16-19 August 2002
"God, rich in mercy"
- The last pilgrimage to Poland

The Father of "Solidarity"
"There would be no 'Solidarity' without John Paul II. The idea of 'Solidarity' was the centre of his interest. The 1980 strikes and what happened later, establishing the 'Solidarity' Trade Union, was very close to his heart," said Leszek Biernacki.

Attempted Assassination
"One hand pulled the trigger, another guided the bullet," said John Paul II.
At 5:39 p.m. on 13 May 1981 at St. Peter's Square in Rome, John Paul II got shot by a Turkish assassin, Mehmet Ali Ağca. The Pope was wounded in the abdomen and arm. The IPN's prosecutors point out that Bulgarian intelligence was involved with the attempted assassination, and Ağca was a mere instrument. The Holy Father forgave him.

The fight against Communism
"When Poland becomes Christian inside out, it will be a great moral power, and Communism will fall all by itself. Its fate will be decided not in Russia, but in Poland," said Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński.
Karol Wojtyła as a clergyman experienced the communist regime up close, and that is why he began to fight this totalitarian ideology as a Pope. He appealed to human conscience and searched for allies – one of them was President Ronald Reagan. Their joint action and "Solidarity" in Poland contributed to the fall of Communism.

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Photography: National Remembrance Institute, IPN's Foundation and public collections.

On the IPN's portal pielgrzymki.ipn.gov.pl devoted to Papal pilgrimages to the homeland in 1979, 1983 and 1987, we present digital copies of documents constituting the archival legacy of the activities of the communist Security Services, descriptions of the various stages of the pilgrimages, photographs (taken both by the Security Services as part of official activities, as well as photos from private collections), links to historical and educational articles, leaflets, copies of the Polish community press and many other archival memorabilia of John Paul II's visits.

The collected materials constitute not only a unique testimony of those times, the social moods and details of the activities of the communist services, but also proof of the high hopes and expectations Poles

placed in the Pope, who was always supported his compatriots in difficult times. We have prepared a special section for English-language readers, in which all three pilgrimages have been described.



<https://pielgrzymki.ipn.gov.pl/pie/english-content>

Portals regarding the first and third pastoral visits were made available to the public in 2017 and 2019. Apart from updating and developing them further, we have also added materials on the Pope's visit of 1983 (the second pilgrimage).

The arrival of John Paul II to Poland in 1983 was particularly important for Polish society experiencing the repression of Martial Law. The Pope gave Poles faith and hope. He always emphasized that evil should be overcome with good. The Security Services and the authorities of communist Poland, having experience of the visit of John Paul II in 1979, knew that the Holy Father's meetings greatly exceeded their religious dimension. We recommend reading the introduction to the

portal authored by Rafał Łatka Ph.D. : "Do not lose hope", a collection of photos from the IPN Archive, descriptions of the various stages of the pilgrimage, namely Warsaw, Niepokalanów, Częstochowa, Poznań, Katowice, Wrocław, Góra św. Anny and Cracow.



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, analyzes 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

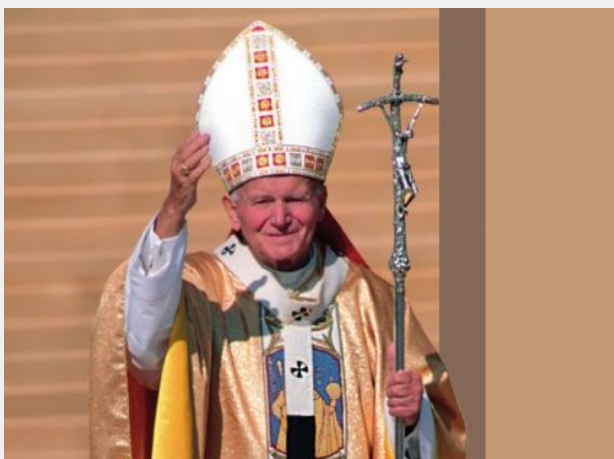
People's Republic, as well as photographs from private resources donated to the IPN. These materials are of great value not only to chroniclers, but are also of sentimental and artistic value. In addition, the "Photo and graphics" section contains copies of graphics, invitations, admission tickets, brochures, 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 IPN Archive in cooperation with the Office of the President and Social Communication of the Institute of National Remembrance.

Read more:

JOHN PAUL II'S PASTORAL VISITS TO COMMUNIST POLAND



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