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The Pope John Paul II Institute, Warsaw, Poland

The Pope John Paul II Institute

The Pope John Paul II Institute was founded in 2006. It is a self-governing cultural institution appointed by the Ordinary of the Warsaw Archdiocese and the Marshal of the Mazovian Voivodship. The aim of the Institute is to commemorate the person, the life and works of John Paul II.

As an institution of culture it realizes its objectives through activities such as:

- publishing monographs and studies presenting the teachings of John Paul II,
- preparing educational offers for schools, in order to propagate the values taught by the Pope,
- conducting research on the reception of the papal teaching in Poland and abroad (especially among the Polish community),
- acquiring, cataloguing and developing archival materials related to John Paul II,
- creating a library of works by John Paul II and those related to him,
- organizing symposia, concerts, plays and exhibitions disseminating the teaching of John Paul II.

We are open to cooperation with individuals, institutions, universities and cultural centres interested in the heritage of John Paul II.

The areas of our activities:

Books

The Pope's library contains over 9000 volumes. Most are available in the online catalogue. We also have our own publishing house. IPJP2 had more than 40 different print runs. These are mainly scientific publications, doctoral dissertations, conference proceedings, popular scientific books and anthologies of poetry. A new publication in 2011 is the *Guide to Mazovia in the footsteps of*

John Paul II - a pioneering publication encouraging individuals and groups to explore the papal paths in the region called the heart of Poland.

Workshops

To the youngest we show the world of John Paul II through play. The workshops, *From the papal window*, which had their world premiere on May 1st 2011, during the celebration of the beatification of John Paul II proved to be a great attraction for children. Solving the quiz run by the papal pigeon-puppets, participants learn many interesting facts about the daily life of John Paul II in Rome. There was great interest for the proposed activities for preschoolers - *Superstar*. Children take part in the game, moving around by a miniature *papamobile* on the route of the first pilgrimage of John Paul II to Poland.

Competitions

We try to direct the attention of young people to values close to the heart of John Paul II, which is why we organize and willingly support competitions that become an opportunity to learn about his heritage. In 2011 we inaugurated, among others, the 6th edition of the National Papal Competition and the 2nd edition of Archives of JP2 memories. There was a photographic competition for students *Everyday holiness/holiness everyday* and a documentary on the film *About the beatification of John Paul II*.

Theatre

In May 2011 the final of the first edition of Karol Wojtyła's Children's Theatre Academy took place, in which children from small towns from the Mazovian Voivodship, under the guidance of teachers trained in theatre workshops in Warsaw, presented the results of several weeks' work at the Capital Cultural Education Centre - puppet shows dedicated to the heroes of their small fatherland.

Film

In early April, Maciej Slesicki's film *Three minutes. 21:37*, winner of two statuettes at last year's Polish Feature Film Festival in Gdynia, was screened at cinemas. JPJP2 is its co-producer.

Research Projects

To research projects we invite researchers from many fields, as well as experts on John Paul II, who through their studies help in the exploration of the multidimensional teachings of John Paul II with great expertise and passion. We organize seminars and panel discussions, often cooperating with research centres such as with the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. After the success of the publication prepared by the IPJP2 Research Department *Educational program based on values of the teachings of John Paul II* together with the Mazovian Local Government Centre for Teacher Improvement and the Board of Education we organized a series of axiological sessions for teachers from Mazovian delegations dedicated to educating young people according to these values.

Special Celebrations

On the sixth anniversary of the death of John Paul II the *Telegram to heaven* portal went live. Everyone could use it to write a letter to the Pope. On the day of the beatification a special balloon symbolically carried the printed telegrams to heaven. On April 2nd, a 21:37 event also took place. The authorities of nearly 30 cities in Poland were persuaded to stop the city clocks for 3 minutes at 21:37. On May 13th, the anniversary of the assassination attempt on John Paul II the *Beatus Vir* concert took place in St. John's Cathedral. The repertoire dedicated to the Pope was performed by the National Philharmonic Choir and the Mazovian Music Theatre Orchestra, conducted by the world renowned conductor Jerzy Maksymiuk.