

Celebrations in memory of Pope John Paul II

Events in the federal parliament, University of Ottawa and in the Notre-Dame cathedral in Ottawa were accompanied by the exhibition "Pope John Paul II. Poland's gift to the world" of the Catholic University of Lublin.



On April 30 in the federal parliament of Canada, upon initiative of Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons Joe Comartina, head of the Canada-Poland parliamentary friendship group Władysław Lizoń and the Ambassador of Poland Marcin Bosacki a special meeting took place in memory of John Paul II. During this meeting the exhibition "Pope John Paul II. Poland's gift to the world" was presented by the Catholic University of Lublin.



Among the participants remembering the legacy of the Pope were Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, ministers Jason Kenney and Chris Alexander, members of the parliament and representatives of the Polish organizations from Ottawa and Windsor. Special guests representing the Catholic University of Lublin were prorector Urszula Paprocka-Piotrowska and director Anna Tarnowska-Waszak. On behalf of the Ambassador were present minister counsellor Jarosław Kurek and Mrs. Katarzyna Bosacka. The occasion for the celebrations were the canonisation of John Paul II on 27 April and establishing the 2nd of April as John Paul II Day in Ontario.





In the evening a bilingual mass of thanksgiving for the canonisation of John Paul II was celebrated at the Notre-Dame cathedral by the Archbishop of Ottawa Terrence Prendergast. After the mass a documentary „John Paul II. I kept looking for you...” was shown and favourite cream cakes of the Pope were served.





The exhibition presenting the legacy of John Paul II presented in Canada was prepared in cooperation of the Catholic University of Lublin, Jerry Barycki President of the Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor and prof. Richard Sokoloski Director of the Slavic Research Group of the University of Ottawa. Presentation of the exhibit in Canada is under the patronage of the Ambassador of Poland Marcin Bosacki. Previously the exhibit was presented at the University of Ottawa (25-29 April).

Remembering the legacy of the Polish Pope, head of the Catholic church and of the City State of Vatican, a great humanist and philosopher is of particular importance this year marking the 25th anniversary of regaining freedom by Poland. The moral support of the Pope for the Solidarity movement in Poland in the 1980s, as well as his activities in support and protection of human rights and dignity were of great significance in leading to the fall of the communism in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

Text from the Web Page of the Polish Embassy in Ottawa, Canada www.ottawa.mfa.gov.pl

Pictures selected by Jerry Barycki, May 20, 2014.