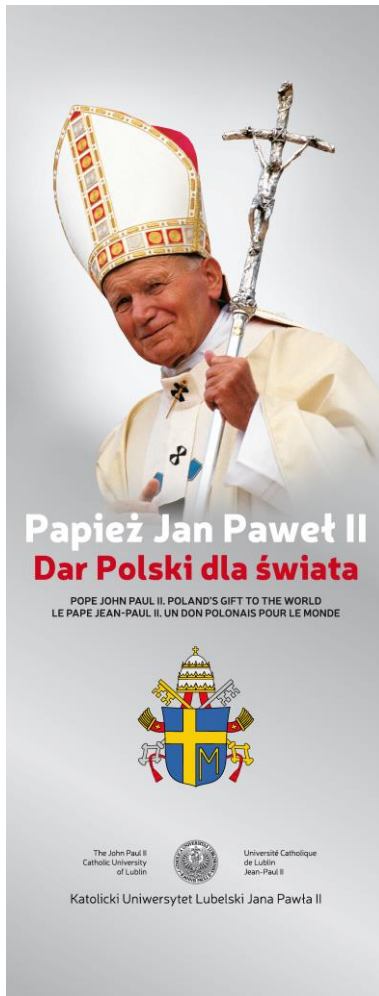


# Pope John Paul II: Poland's Gift to the World



Join us to commemorate  
John Paul II Day



Teresa Piruzza, MPP for Windsor West, cordially invites you to join her in celebrating the proclamation of April 2 as "John Paul II Day" in Ontario.

A commemorative display called "Pope John Paul II—Poland's Gift to the World" will be on display.

Monday, April 14, 2014

12:30pm—1:30pm

City Hall—Main Lobby



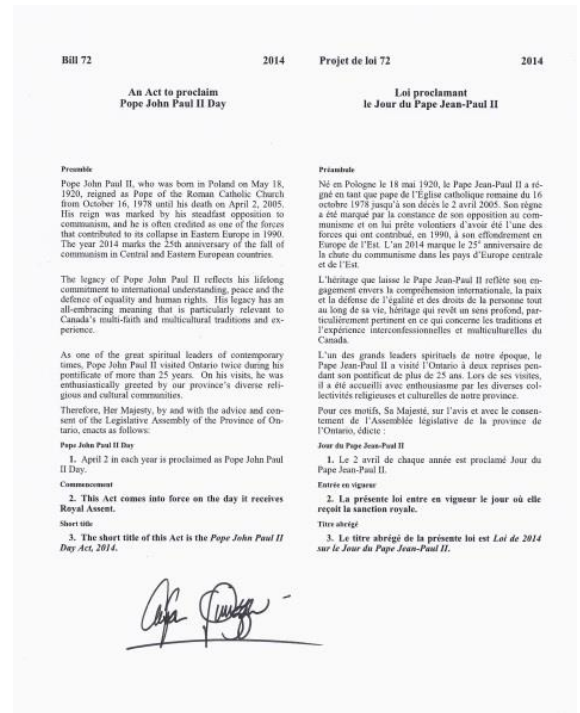
In 1978 Cardinal Karol Wojtyła became Pope at the age of fifty-eight. This came as a great surprise to the world, because for four-and-a-half centuries, Italian cardinals had been chosen to be successive popes. This was all the more a great joy and a source of pride for the Polish Nation and Polonia throughout the world. Our Shepherd in the Vatican presented a depth of Catholic faith in a way that was modern, but at the same time filled with wisdom. His pontificate was the third longest in the history of the Roman Catholic Church during the course of two millennia. He made pilgrimages to more than a hundred countries. He never forgot the sick, the young, or the poor, embracing them in love. His heart was filled with joy, when he came into contact with young people. To this day, a strongly developed youth movement remains after him; there still are worldwide youth gatherings with the later popes. He was able to conduct the difficult dialogue between religions. He had the courage of his convictions to meet with dictators from totalitarian political systems. He was convinced that every meeting of this kind yielded something positive. With deep faith, he overcame various obstacles on his path of duty. His words lifted the spirits of nations, inspired courage, and tore down the barriers of disagreement. It was also to his credit that before our very eyes, changes came to entire political systems, particularly in Eastern Europe. Our beloved Pope and Poland lived to see our people gain complete freedom.

The Pope visited Canada on three occasions. He held meetings, among others, with Polonia, with young people, and with the people living in the far north. In his lifetime, he was recognized in the international arena as an accomplished leader, not only of the Church, but also of the world. He was highly regarded in our multicultural Canada. A particular expression of this is the naming of April 2 as Pope John Paul II Day by the Government of Ontario. We await a similar declaration by the Federal Government of Canada, specifically the confirmation of the act by the Senate in the near future.

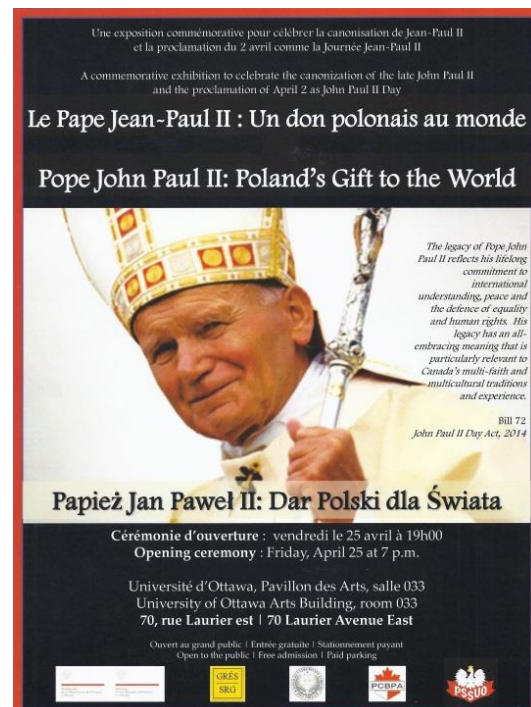
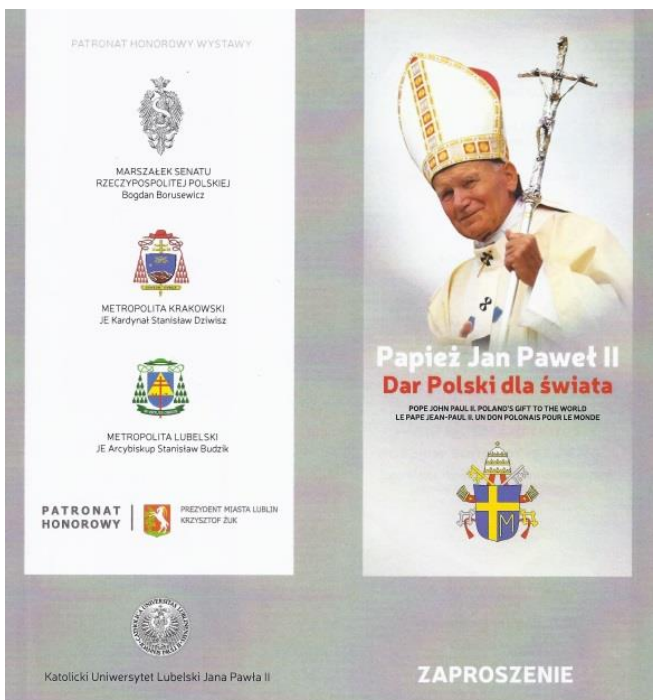
The canonization of John Paul II is to take place on April 27. This will be yet another great event, not only for the Polish nation and for Polonia, but also for the entire world.

Polonia has been active in Windsor for many years. Last year's Polish Week in Windsor, with its 25 wide-ranging events, is the latest example of this. The Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor (PCBPAW) is one of the most active organizations. Thanks to cooperation between the PCBPAW and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), the exhibition titled, "Pope John Paul II: Poland's Gift to the World", came into being. It was opened officially in Canada on April 14, 2014, with the participation of Minister Teresa Piruzza, Member of the Provincial Parliament for Windsor-West. Also present at the celebration were councillors of the City of Windsor, representatives of Polonia, members of the Song and Dance Ensemble "Tatry" in their beautiful folk costumes, and other guests. Among them was Irek Kuśmierczyk, a councillor of Polish heritage, who spoke of an unforgettable private audience with the Pope. Likewise, Prelate Piotr Sanczenko, the retired Parish Priest of the Holy Trinity Church in Windsor, recalled his contact, first of all with Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and later with him as the Pope. In conclusion, Minister Piruzza placed the official document, Bill 72, the Pope John Paul II Day Act 2014 in Ontario, in the hands of the Chair of the meeting and initiator and coordinator of the exhibition, Jerzy Barycki, the President of the PCBPAW.





The exhibition, “Pope John Paul II: Poland’s Gift to the World”, was opened at the same time in Windsor and in the Crown Tribunal, Lublin. The Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, the Mayor of Lublin, the Metropolitans (Bishops) of Kraków and Lublin, and the Polish Ambassador in Canada assumed patronage of the exhibition. The entire project, with its beautiful graphic panels, unique photographs, and text in Polish, English and French, was completed by KUL. This was done in collaboration with the Slavic Research Group of the University of Ottawa. The panels of the exhibition were printed in Windsor with financial support from the Polonia Centre (Windsor), Inc. It is noteworthy that Windsor and Lublin have been in a twinning agreement for the past fourteen years. The current project is the most recent example of the active cooperation between our cities.



		 Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ottawa
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**Mr. Joseph Comartin, M.P.**  
*Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons,*  
&  
**H.E. Marcin Bosacki**  
*Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Canada*  
&  
**Mr. Władysław Lizon, MP & Chair**  
*Canada-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group*

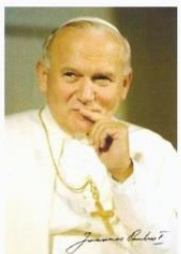


*cordially invite you to a commemorative display*  
**"Pope John Paul II - Poland's gift to the world"**

*Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014*  
*12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.*  
*Room 216-N, Centre Block,*  
*Parliament Hill*

*A reception will follow*

The display was created by John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin with kind support of Municipality of Lublin City, Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor, Slavic Research Group of the University of Ottawa, Association of Friends of the Catholic University of Lublin in Poland and Polonia Centre (Windsor) Inc.

				
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 <i>The future starts today, not tomorrow.</i> John Paul II	<p>His Grace the Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast S.J., Archbishop of Ottawa and His Excellency Marcin Bosacki Ambassador of the Republic of Poland</p> <p>are pleased to invite you to</p> <p><b>the Mass of Thanksgiving for the canonization of Pope John Paul II</b></p> <p><b>on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 at 5 p.m.</b> <b>at the Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica in Ottawa</b> (Sussex Drive at St. Patrick Street)</p> <p>The bilingual Mass will be followed by a presentation of the exhibition <i>"Pope John Paul II. Poland's Gift to the World"</i> by the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland and the screening of the documentary <i>"John Paul II. I kept looking for you..."</i>.</p>
 <small>LA BASILIQUE-CATHÉDRALE NOTRE-DAME CATHÉDRALE BASILICA OTTAWA, ONTARIO</small>	 <small>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ottawa</small>

During the coming year, the exhibition will be on display in various cities across Canada. In the near future, it can be seen from April 25-29 at the University of Ottawa, on April 30 at the Canadian Parliament and in the Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa, and on May 4 in the Saint Maksymilian Kolbe Parish, Mississauga.

In conclusion, it is worth emphasizing that the title of the exhibition is most apt. Pope John Paul II is and always will be "our" Pope, but there can be no doubt that at the same time, he is Poland's greatest gift to the world.

Ewa Barycka

Translated by Frank Simpson

Windsor, Ontario