

FRUIT OF THE VINE

November 30, 2023



**WALKING WITH SAINTS
THROUGH CATHOLIC POLAND**

A Taste of Poland

Pierogie,
Kielbasa,
Sheep's Milk
Cheese,
Zubrowka vodka,
Papal Cream
Cake,
Chopin
Chocolate Wine



Jennifer Olt Darlak / Robert Stanley Darlak

Jody E De Bell / Roger C De Bell

David Andrew Dombroski

Daniel John Dryer

Cynthia Jean Gibson

Michele Deloisa Gingras

Sharon Hensel, Broadview Heights, Oh.

Stephanie Konz

Fredrick James Lapple / Marie Ann Lapple

Maria C Leonardo

Ivonne Martinez

Jerome Edward May

Kathryn Ann McAlarney, Pendleton, In.

Daniel Anthony Michalski

Colleen Marie O'Connell

Anne Catherine Olek / Christopher Lee Olek

Jean Parker

Norilis Alvarado Ramos

Janice Setera Start

Karen Marie Taylor

Natalie Mary Torquato

Joyce Katherine Volino / Louis John Volino

Fr. Mitchell Zygodlo

Poland

The St. Louis Church Pilgrims

Poland The History



In 1795, Poland was divided between the neighboring empires of Russia, Prussia, and Austria



Poland Solidarity Movement

From 1980-1989, the Solidarity movement became crucial in bringing about a peaceful transition.

The Third Polish Republic was founded in 1989

Poland

The Journey



Warsaw

Czestochowa

Krakow

Zakopane

Kalawaria

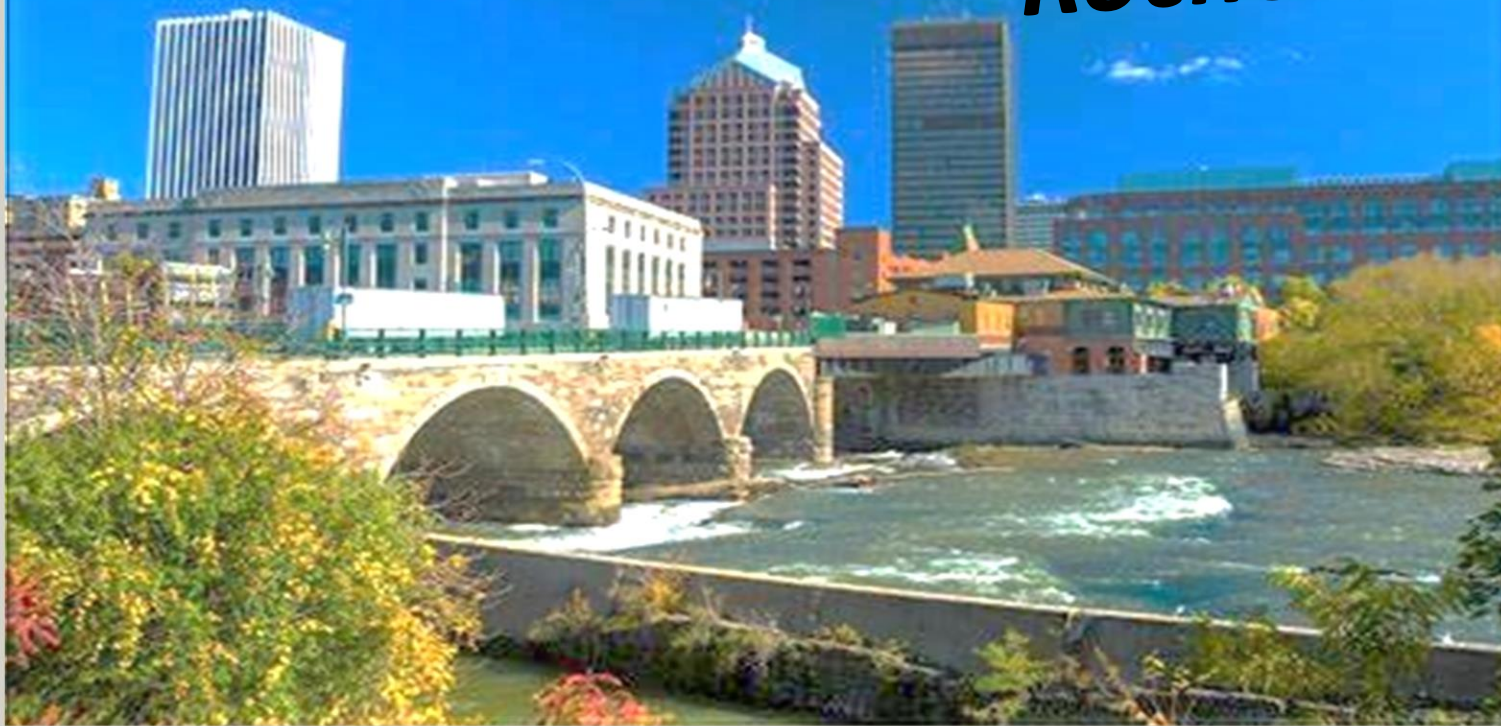
Wadowice

Auschwitz

Wieliczka

Niepokalanow

Rochester



ROC to NYC
Day 1:
October 3, 2023



**45 minute
flight from
Rochester to NYC
8 hour layover
in NYC**

New York City



JFK Airport Terminal 4 Catholic Chapel



Reciting the
Holy Rosary
in
Our Lady
of the
Skies

Pictured:
Kathryn McAlarney

JFK Airport Terminal 4 Catholic Chapel

Sendoff
from
Peter Bahou
Founder
of
“Peter’s Way”

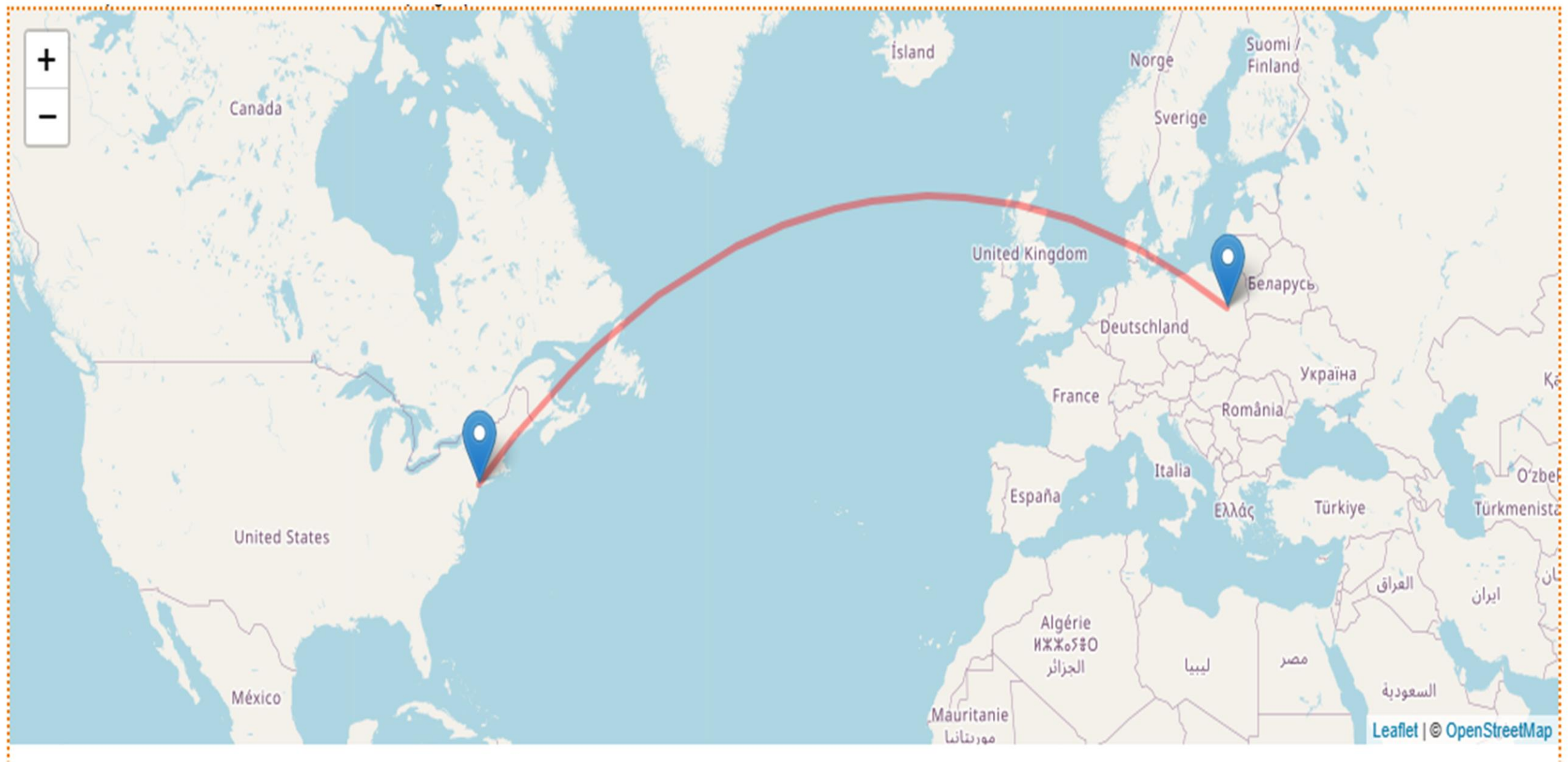


JFK Airport Terminal 4 Catholic Chapel

St. Louis
Church
Pilgrims
after Mass



New York City, USA to Warsaw, Poland Day 2: October 4, 2023



7.5 hour flight from NYC to Warsaw
(one night stay in Warsaw)

Warsaw Old Town

Day 2:
October 4, 2023



Our lovely
tour guide,
Agnieszka
(Agnes)

Warsaw Old Town



A windy,
cool day;
Joyful with
no sleep

St. Louis Church
Pilgrims
(*someone is missing*)

Warsaw Royal Castle

State museum and a national historical monument, which formerly served as the official royal residence of several Polish monarchs.

Situated in the Castle Square, at the entrance to the Warsaw Old Town, the Royal Castle holds a significant collection of Polish and European art



Warsaw Archcathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist

Originally built in the 14th century in Masovian Gothic style, the cathedral served as a coronation and burial site for numerous Dukes of Masovia

Picture of
Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński
Previous Primate
of
Poland





Warsaw Sigismund's Column

The column and statue
commemorate
King Sigismund III Vasa,
who in 1596 had moved
Poland's capital from
Krakow to Warsaw

Warsaw Statue of Mermaid

Symbol of Warsaw,
represented on the
city's coat of arms
as well as in
a number of
statues and other
imagery

Pictured:
Christine Bouchard's head



Warsaw Palace of Culture and Science

A “gift” from the USSR
paid for by Poland





Warsaw

**Blessed
Jerzy
Popieluszko**

Martyred
in
1984



Warsaw

Grave site of Jerzy Popieluszko

Notice the
Solidarity signs on
the fence



Warsaw

**St. Francis Chapel
under
Blessed
Jerzy Popieluszko
Church**

**Celebrated
St. Francis
Feast Day**



WARSAW to CZESTOCHOWA

Day 3:
October 5, 2023

~1.5 hour drive
from Warsaw to
Czestochowa
Zzzzzzzz...

Czestochowa

Jasna Gora
“Bright
Mountain”



Night view as group headed for the veiling of Our Lady of Czestochowa.
~5,000 attend the nightly ritual

Czestochowa

Jasna Gora Cathedral

Path to
Jasna Gora Cathedral

Lack of sleep
is catching up to
Fr. Mitch 😊





C Z E S T O C H O W A

Time to go
to bed!

Joyful
after 24
hours of
no sleep

St. Louis
Church
Pilgrims
(some pilgrims
missing)

Czestochowa

The Black Madonna

Day 3: October 5, 2023



Also known as
Our Lady of Czestochowa

Legend states that the Black Madonna was painted by St. Luke the Evangelist.

St. Luke is believed to have used a tabletop from a table built by the carpenter Jesus.

It was while Luke was painting Mary that she told him about the events in the life of Jesus that he eventually used in his Gospel

Czestochowa

The Black Madonna

Miraculous events such as spontaneous healings occur to those who make a pilgrimage to the portrait.

It gets its name "Black Madonna" from the soot residue that discolours the painting.

The soot is the result of centuries of votive lights and candles burning in front of the painting



Czestochowa Shrine

The main nave

View of the
organ in the
choir loft above



Czestochowa Shrine



The nave
and
view of the
altar

Czestochowa Shrine

Totus Tuus, a Latin phrase meaning “totally yours,” was the motto of Pope John Paul II



Czestochowa

Mass at
St. John Paul II
Chapel

The rock holds
a relic of
St. John Paul II's
blood over
the mantra
"TOTUS TUUS"





ZAKOPANE

Day 4

October 6, 2023

A town in the south of Poland, in the southern part of the Podhale region at the foot of the Tatra Mountains where Pope John Paul II skiied

1.5 hour
drive from Czestochowa

Zakopane

Small chapel
along the
side of
the street





Zakopane

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel

Built in thanksgiving to
Our Lady of Fatima
after the assassination
attempt on
Pope John Paul II's
life May 13th 1981

Zakopane

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel



Jucinta, Lucia,
Francesco at the foot of
Our Lady of Fatima



Zakopane

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel

View of the
mountains in
background

Zakopane

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel



Nave of Chapel

Pictured:
St. Louis Church Pilgrims



Zakopane

**Our Lady
of
Fatima
Chapel**

**St. Louis
Church
Pilgrims
after
Mass**

Zakopane

Pope
John Paul II
blessing
Fr. Mitch and
Dan Michalski



Zakopane Our Lady of Fatima Chapel

Shrine of
Saint John Paul II

Pictured:
Jean Parker



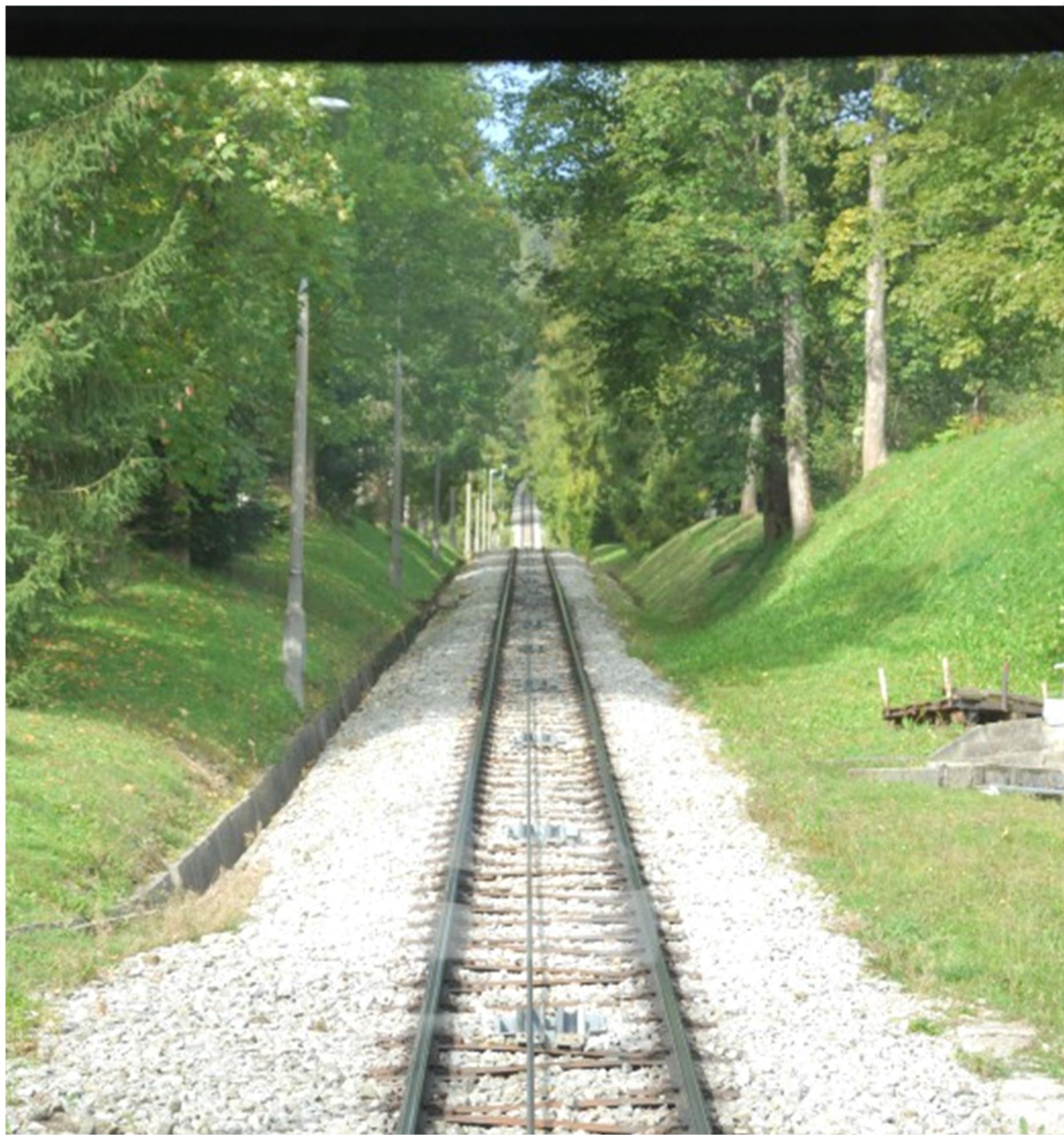
Zakopane Our Lady of Fatima Chapel

St. John Paul II
with St. Lucia; Jucinta
and Francesco
at the foot of
Our Lady of Fatima



Zakopane

Funicular
exploration
up the
mountain



Zakopane Café

Unspiked lattes
with
Jean Parker
and
Fr. Mitch



Zakopane Market



Highlander
sheep's milk
smoked
cheese.
Pretty to look
at, but SALTY!!!

Zakopane

Jerry May enjoying
the spectacular
view of
the mountains



Zakopane

Fr. Mitch
ponders as
Christine Bouchard
takes pictures
of the mountain
panorama



Zakopane

Fr. Mitch
and
Kathryn
McAlarney



Zakopane

Pilgrim
Janice
Start





Zakopane

Pilgrim
Karen
Taylor



Wieliczka

Day 5:
October 7, 2023

45 minute drive
to Wieliczka
from Krakow
to the
Salt Mines

Wieliczka Salt Mines

The Wieliczka Salt Mine reaches a depth of 327 metres (1,073 ft), and extends via horizontal passages and chambers for over 287 kilometres (178 miles)





Wieliczka Salt Mines

St. Louis Church
Pilgrims
at the
door steps
of the
Shops

\$\$\$

Wieliczka Salt Mines

The salt mine,
excavated from the
13th century,
produced table salt
continuously until
1996 as one of
the world's
oldest operating
salt mines



Wieliczka Salt Mines

St. Kinga's Chapel is the largest underground cathedral in the world, located 101 meters (331 feet) underground and capable of holding over 400 people.

Descended ~423 steps
to this area
(yes...Maria counted)



Wieliczka Salt Mines

Horses appeared in the mines only at the beginning of the 16th century.

Over time, there were over 100 horses in the Wieliczka Mine



Wieliczka Salt Mines

Legend has it that Kinga threw her engagement ring into the Aknaszlatina salt mine in what was then Hungary.

The ring miraculously traveled along with salt deposits to Wieliczka, where it was rediscovered.

On this spot the miners erected a statue of Saint Kinga, carved entirely from salt



Wieliczka Salt Mines

Sacristy of the Salt Chapel



Wieliczka Salt Mines



“A Christmas Story”
analogy
Christine and Maria
Great minds think alike

Return to Krakow

Girl's Night Out at the Hotel Lobby Bar

Christine Bouchard
Michelle Gingras
Maria Leonardo
and
Stephanie Honz's
feet on the ottoman





Krakow

Day 6:

October 8, 2023

Sunday
morning Mass
in a small
chapel in
Krakow



Krakow Chapel

Communion Meditation

Pictured:
Maria Leonardo



Krakow

Try as she may, Janice Start could not find anyone to share a carriage ride with her through the city. ☹️

Krakow

We came upon a marathon of thousands of runners.

It took 30+ minutes to cross a narrow street to the amber shops



Krakow

Market Square
and the
Cloth Market



Krakow

St. Mary's
the
Mariacki
Basilica
in the
Market Square





Krakow

The Hejnal (dawn)
bugle call at the
tower in the
St. Mary's the
Mariacki Basilica

Krakow

The altar
of
St. Mary's the
Mariacki Basilica





Krakow

St. Louis
Church
Pilgrims
outside
St. Mary's the
Mariacki
Basilica

Krakow

Wawel Castle and Cathedral

Enduring Polish myth of the Wawel Dragon is a mystical beast which supposedly terrorized the local community, eating their sheep and local virgins





map not to scale

Wadowice

Day 7:

October 9, 2023

Birthplace
of
Karol Wojtyła,
later
Pope John Paul II

Kalwaria

Marian Shrine of Zebrzydowska

Gave great
comfort to
Pope John Paul ii
in his childhood
after losing his
mother when he
was 9 years old



Wadowice

Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Karol Jozef
Wojtyła
(St. John Paul II)
Home Parish



Wadowice

Altar of the Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Altar contains
reliquaries of
St. Maximilian Kolbe,
St. Padre Pio, and
St. Stanislaw
Kazimierczyk





Wadowice

Statue
of
St. John Paul II
outside his
birth home

Wadowice

Sundial
on the
Basilica
of the Presentation
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

“time flies,
eternity waits”





Wadowice

Café

Waiting for Pope
Cream Cake

Pictured:
Maria Leonardo



Wadowice

No need
for words...
Yummy



Wadowice

Paczki!
Donuts!
Jerry's
generous
offering to
the group

Wadowice

Pope
John Paul II
Cookie





Krakow

Shrine
of
Divine Mercy

Krakow

Shrine of Divine Mercy Grounds

Our
tour guide,
Agnieszka,
speaking to
Sr. Faustia



Krakow

Shrine of Divine Mercy

“Jesus, I trust
in You”



Krakow

St. Faustina
Kowalska

Window of
St. Faustina's
convent room



Krakow

Convent of Sisters of Mercy

St. Faustina's room





Auschwitz

Day 8:

October 10, 2023

In Memoriam

Auschwitz

„KTO NIE PAMIĘTA HISTORII SKAZANY JEST
NA JEJ PONOWNE PRZEŻYCIE.”

GEORGE SANTAYANA

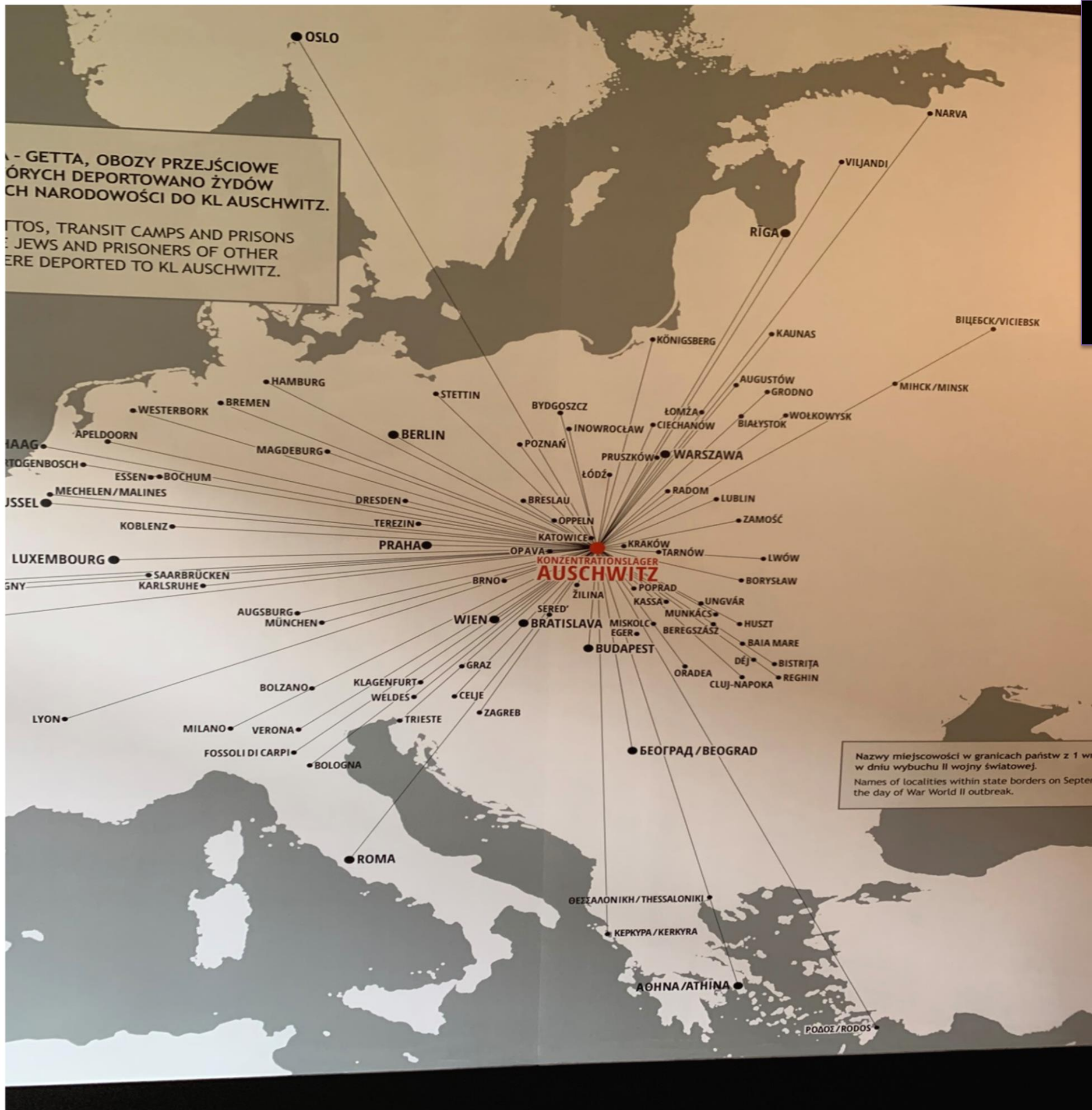
”THOSE WHO DO NOT REMEMBER THE PAST
ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEAT IT.”

GEORGE SANTAYANA

Auschwitz

GETTA, OBOZY PRZEJŚCIOWE
ÓRYCH DEPORTOWANO ŻYDÓW
CH NARODOWOŚCI DO KL AUSCHWITZ.

TTOS, TRANSIT CAMPS AND PRISONS
E JEWS AND PRISONERS OF OTHER
ERE DEPORTED TO KL AUSCHWITZ.



Deportation
transits to
Auschwitz

Auschwitz

Our Tour Guide



Auschwitz

"Arbeit Macht
Frei"

("work makes
one free").



Auschwitz

The road to
the Blocks



Auschwitz



The Blocks

Auschwitz

The Prison
Fence





Auschwitz

Luggage



Auschwitz

Shoes

Auschwitz

New arrivals



Auschwitz

Bunkbeds



Auschwitz

Wall
of
Execution



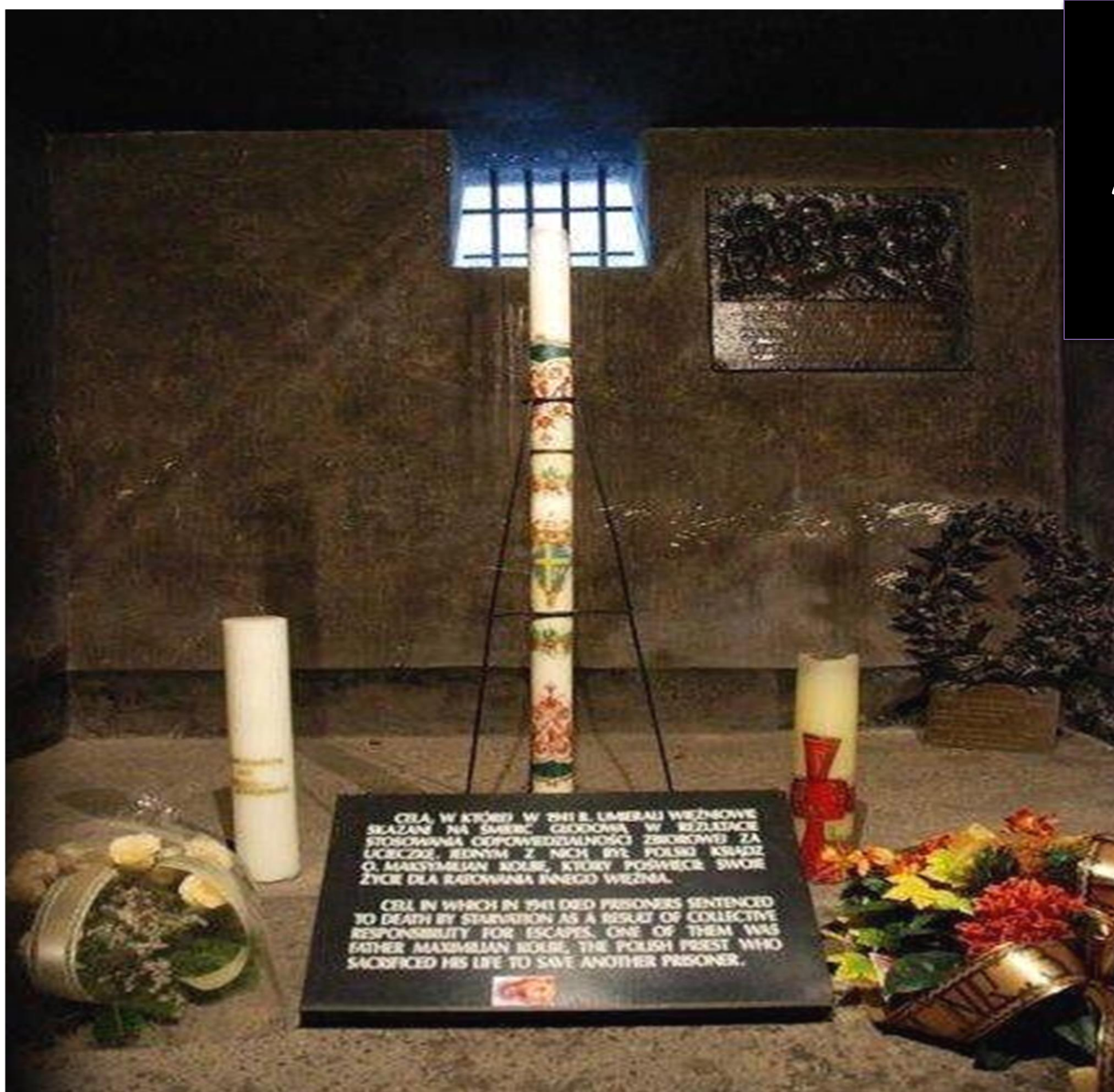
Auschwitz

Gas
Chamber
and
Ovens



Auschwitz

The cell
of
St.
Maximillian
Kolbe



Auschwitz

St.
Maximillian
Kolbe's cell
within the
Wall
of
Execution
courtyard

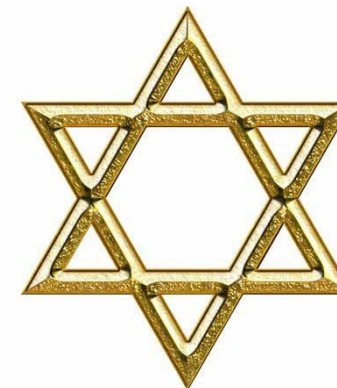


Auschwitz

Straw mattresses

WYGLĄD IZBY WIĘŹNIARSKIEJ DO WIOSNY 1941 R.
WIĘŹNIOWIE SPALI STŁOCZENI NA SIENNIKACH
WYPEŁNIONYCH SŁOMĄ. RANO SIENNIKI SKŁADANO W
NAROŻNIKU IZBY.

A TYPICAL INTERIOR OF A ROOM FOR PRISONERS UNTIL
SPRING 1941. PRISONERS SLEPT CROWDED TOGETHER
ON STRAW MATTRESSES. IN THE MORNING THEY
HAD TO GATHER UP THE MATTRESSES AND ARRANGE
THEM IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM.



Jadwiga Jonkin
22879
Pole

Born 16.09.1907
Deported 21.10.1942
Died 12.04.1943



JADWIGA JONKIN
22879

Polka/Pole, ur./born 16.09.1907
deportowana/deported 21.10.1942, zginęła/died 12.04.1943

Original Motion
Picture Soundtrack

A FILM BY STEVEN SPIELBERG

SCHINDLER'S LIST

Music Composed and Conducted by John Williams
Violin Solos by Itzhak Perlman

Krakow

Shrine
of
St. John Paul II

Frescos



Krakow

Shrine of St. John Paul II

Slab from the
tomb of the
Holy Father
in Rome with
the reliquary
of his blood

Pictured:
Maria Leonardo



Krakow

Shrine of
St. John Paul II

Blood-stained
cassock
from the
assassination
attempt in 1981



Krakow

Shrine of
St. John Paul II

Blood-stained
cassock
from the
assassination
attempt in 1981

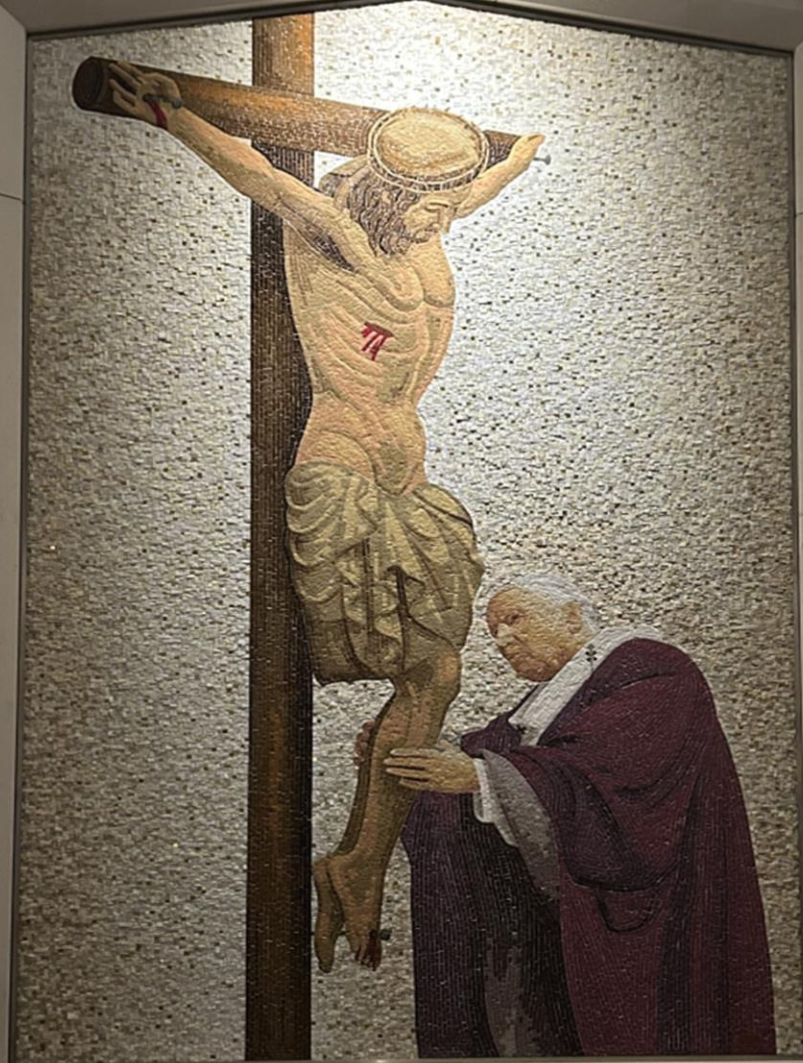
Pictured:
Unknown Pilgrim



Krakow

Shrine of
St. John Paul II

Mosaic



Krakow

Shrine of
St. John Paul II

Mosaic
with the
Blessed Virgin
Mary



Krakow

Meeting
Quarters
of
Cardinal
Stanislaw
Dziwisz



Krakow

Fr. Mitch
with
Cardinal
Stanislaw
in his
courtyard





Krakow

Fr. Mitch
translating
stories about
Cardinal
Stanislaw's
time with
Pope John Paul II

Krakow

St. Louis Church
Pilgrims

Group picture
with
Cardinal
Stanislaw Dziwisz



Krakow

St. Louis
Church
Pilgrims

In front of
Cardinal
Stanislaw
Dziwisz's
front door
residence





Krakow

Polka Night!

Michelle Gingras
dancing
up a storm!



Krakow

Polka Night!

Fr. Mitch
concentrating
on his
next step!
He is having fun!!



Krakow

St. Louis Church Pilgrims with Polka Dancers



A photograph of two women sitting at a table, smiling and holding glasses of white wine. The woman on the left has grey hair and is wearing a black top with a colorful patterned scarf. The woman on the right has short brown hair, wears glasses, a bright blue sweater with a leopard brooch, and a patterned scarf. They are in a room with a large floral mural on the wall and white wainscoting. The text 'Krakow' is in a yellow box at the top right, 'Polka Night!' is below it, 'N A Z D R O W I E' is written vertically on the right, and 'Cheers!' is at the bottom right.

Krakow

**Polka
Night!**

**N
A
Z
D
R
O
W
I
E**

Cheers!



Niepokalanow

Day 9:

October 11, 2023

Visit to
St. Maximilian
Kolbe
Shrine

Niepokalanow

St. Maximillian Kolbe Shrine

Pictured:
Unknown Pilgrims





Niepokalanow

St. Maximillian Kolbe

Priest
Pole
Patriot
Prisoner

Niepokalanow



Portrait
of
St. Maximilian Kolbe
wearing
Priest and Prisoner
garment
with
Mary the Immaculata
over his shoulder

Niepokalanow

Tabernacle
At
St. Maximillian
Kolbe's
Shrine

Adoration 24/7



Niepokalanow

St. Maximillian
Kolbe
Chapel

Relic of his
beard

Pictured:
Norilis Alvarado Ramos



Niepokalanow

St. Maximillian
Kolbe
Chapel

Mass

Pictured:
St. Louis Church Pilgrims



Niepokalanow



Portrait of St.
Maximillian Kolbe
receiving lethal
injection



Niepokalanow



Picture of
Franciszek
Gajowniczek
with
Portrait of
St. Maximilian
Kolbe
over his shoulder

Niepokalanow

St. Maximilian
Kolbe
Chapel

Relic of his beard



Warsaw

Final Dinner and Send-off

Fr. Mitch's family
sister Maria, Mother,
sister Viki
and
Niece Monica



Warsaw

Final Dinner and Send-off

Fr. Mitch's
mother
presented
with flowers





Warsaw

Last Mass
celebrated
on the
way to the
Airport
at the
St. Jacob the
Apostle
Church



Warsaw

Day 10:

October 12, 2023

Time to
go home!

Do widzenia
“Goodbye”