

Summary of doctoral dissertation

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The John Paul II Foundation is an organization of Polish emigrants from around the world who want to be linked to the Pontificate of their compatriot. The Foundation was established by John Paul II, October 16th, 1981 in the Vatican. The purpose of the Foundation was to develop a relationship between the Holy See and Polish nation, enhance the Christian and Polish culture throughout the world, and document the Pontificate of John Paul II.

The PhD thesis: „The John Paul II Foundation in Rome in the years 1981-2014” introduces the activity of the four institutions, which operate within the Foundation.

Three of the institutions reside in Rome: the Polish Home for Pilgrims, the Institute of Polish Christian Culture, and the Center for Research and Documentation of the Pontificate. The fourth Institution is the John Paul II Foundation Home, in Lublin. This Institution provides scholarships to students of former communist countries to study at the Catholic University located in Lublin (KUL) and Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow.

The purpose of the doctoral dissertation was to illustrate the fruitful and the various activities of the Foundation during its over 33 year existence. After the collapse of communism in 1989, and the death of John Paul II in 2005, many similar institutions have been founded in Poland. The collaboration among them helps to preserve and disseminate the Legacy of the Pontificate of John Paul II.

The presented doctoral dissertation includes an introduction, four chapters, conclusion, summary, bibliography, list of abbreviations, list of tables, list of illustrations, illustrations and annexes.

It presents a historical approach to the achievements of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome. The people who created the Foundation were recalled and its mission was described.

The analyzes performed are interdisciplinary in nature. They include considerations on history, culture, social philosophy, sociology, art, management and media studies. The main goal of the doctoral dissertation was to prove the thesis that the John Paul II Foundation with its official seat in the Vatican, with international reach, played a historical role during the described activities. The presented content is limited to a period of 33 years – from the foundation of the Foundation (1981) to the canonization of its initiator and founder John Paul II (2014), although it also describes the events of recent years related to the generational change at the helm of the John Paul II Foundation, including the new Foundation board (2022). In terms of conducting research and selecting content, an analytical-synthetic method was adopted. The monograph was prepared on the basis of archival sources, archival and library research, witness accounts, correspondence and, to a large extent, printed sources and, to a lesser extent, studies, using available literature in Polish, English and Italian.

The Introduction explains the topic, presents the thesis, motivation for undertaking analyzes in the selected areas, and shows the adopted methodology and structure of the work.

Chapter I: "The Pontificate of John Paul II and the Polish diaspora" analyzed the post-war Polish community in Italy. An attempt was made at its origins along with a description of the organizations established by the Polish diaspora. Polish socio-cultural, scientific and religious institutions in Italy were listed, John Paul II's concern for the Polish community was shown, and the pastoral care of the Polish diaspora in Rome and partly in Italy was described.

Chapter II: "Organizational structures of the John Paul II Foundation" contains information about the genesis of the Foundation, its Management Board, which is an Administrative Council and its competences, legal acts, and the Foundation's Endowment Fund. The Polish House in Rome and the John Paul II Foundation House in Lublin were also described.

Chapter III: "Activities of the John Paul II Foundation" presents the religious, cultural, scientific, educational and charitable activities of the Foundation in the context of its structure and branches in Rome (Polish Institute of Christian Culture, Foundation Secretariat, Documentation Center and Pontificate Study). The Foundation's initiatives are listed, including the Summer University of Polish Culture in Rome and scholarship assistance (the so-called Eastern Program in Lublin), its media (newspapers - especially „Kronika Rzymska” – "Roman Chronicle" and „Biuletyn Fundacji Jana Pawła II” – "Foundation Bulletin", websites and social media websites of the Foundation's bodies). Celebrations of the anniversaries of the Foundation and the pontificate of John Paul II around the world, as well as Foundation Day, are also

described. Information about the awards granted by the John Paul II Foundation and its commemoration is also included.

Chapter IV: "Circles and Societies of Friends of the John Paul II Foundation" presents the Circles of Friends of the Foundation around the world, including the Cultural Center John Paul II in Washington and Poland, and their origins and activities over the years were shown. Awards for members of the Foundation's Circles were also presented. Finally, the papal speeches (John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis) to the Foundation were described.

The conclusion summarizes the analyses, collects the most important conclusions and indicates further research perspectives. The next part of the work is the summary (including a summary), bibliography, list of abbreviations, list of tables, list of illustrations, illustrations and annexes.

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