

The John Paul II Institute in Cracow was founded in June 1995 on the strength of a decree by Cardinal Franciszek Macharski. Two years later, in 1997, the Institute was moved to a location at 18 Kanonicza Street, which was visited and blessed by the Pope during his pilgrimage to his homeland. At the same time the formal commencement of the Institute's work began.

The Institute is educational-scientific in its nature. Its aim is to give comprehensive attention to the overall activity of Pope John Paul II, with a view to broadening the knowledge of his person and his deeds as Bishop, the Archbishop of Cracow, and the Head of the Communal Church. Through its activities, the Institute also wishes to inspire theological and philosophical reflections on man and the world based on the teachings of John Paul II as well as show the cultural and social implications of these teachings, and finally to co-operate in priestly projects relating to the teachings of our late Pope.

The Institute co-operates, among others, with the Papal University of John Paul II in Cracow, the Centre of John Paul II Pontificate existing at the John Paul II Pilgrim's Home in Rome and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2006 Archbishop Stanisław Dziwisz signed the Statute and decree establishing the Centre as a corporate ecclesiastical public body liable to the Archbishop of Cracow.

The founding decree states that the Centre is founded 'to commemorate the great legacy and pontificate of God's servant, Pope John Paul II', 'so that his example and word are passed on to future generations.'

The Centre's name, *Have No Fear!* was used to make a reference to the memorable words said by the Pope in October 1978 during the inauguration of his pontificate: 'Have no fear! Open wide the doors for Jesus Christ and His saving power. Open the borders between countries, economic systems, regimes, and civilization directions. Have no fear!'

The *Have No Fear!* John Paul II Centre was recognized as a legal entity based on the ordinance of the Home and Administration Secretary dated 27 January 2006.

