



1920 — 2020

Karol Wojtyła
Saint John Paul II

I was born
in Wadowice



WADOWICE
where it all began

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Panorama of the hometown of John Paul II,
early 20th century.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

The 100th anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyła in 2020 - Saint John Paul II, the greatest citizen of Wadowice, is a great opportunity to look closer at the places related to him, in Wadowice and the surrounding area. He spent the first 18 years of his life in his hometown, that is his childhood and youth. The world of Wadowice had had the greatest impact on him. As he himself recalled years later:

„Always strongly connected with the town of my childhood and early youth, with a town that gave me a lot, so much. I have the impression that it was much more than Cracow could give. The breath of the town and the breath of the earth, a certain straightforwardness in thinking and an undoubted foundation of culture.’

This publication is a kind of walkabout around places close to the heart of the Saint of Wadowice. This is a sentimental journey to the times where Karol Wojtyła was born and grew up. The booklet also presents Wojtyła’s family stories and figures of characters that shaped the future pope.

Family home of Karol Wojtyła - Saint John Paul II

At the beginning of the 20th century, the tenement house belonged to the Jewish Bałamuth family. They ran a department store on the ground floor of the building, on the side of the market. There were craft workshops and flats for rent in the annex. Emilia and Karol Wojtyła and their son Edmund lived in one of them in 1919, on the first floor. A year later, on May 18, 1920, just after 5 pm, Karol Józef, later pope, was born in the bedroom.

The apartment had an entrance from the 7 Kościelna street, through a small courtyard, up the steep stairs to the gallery on the first floor and through the kitchen. It consisted of a kitchen, a bedroom and a living room. When Edmund moved to Cracow for medical studies in 1924, his parents with younger son Karol stayed in the flat.

After a long illness, in April 1929, Emilia died in the apartment; her older son Edmund died three years later in the hospital in Bielsko (today Bielsko-Biała). From then on, only Karol and his dad stayed in the apartment. The father ran a household and raised his son. In the summer of 1938, both left for Cracow.

Their former apartment was occupied by other families until 1984, when the John Paul II Family Home Museum was established there. A modern and multimedia exhibition, occupying the entire building, presents the life of Karol Wojtyła from the first days in Wadowice to the last hours in Rome.

The interior of the Wojtyła apartment, current status.
Photo: Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum in Wadowice



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Emilia Wojtyła née Kaczorowska.

Photo: Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum in Wadowice



There is not much information remaining about the Pope's mother. We know that **Emilia Wojtyła** (1884 - 1929) was born in Cracow in the family of saddler Feliks Kaczorowski and lost her parents early. She met her husband Karol, a soldier of the Austrian army, in Cracow, where they were married (1906) and where their first child, Edmund, was born. A few years later in 1916 in Biała (today Bielsko-Biała) Emilia gave birth to Olga, who died shortly after birth. In 1919, the Wojtyła family settled in Wadowice, where Karol Józef was born in 1920. Mrs. Wojtyła died at the age of 45 after a long and serious illness. She was buried in her family tomb at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Cracow. After death of Karol's mother, a frequent guest in the apartment at 7 Kościelna Street was **Stefania Wojtyła** (1891 - 1962) - half-sister of Karol senior.

She worked for many years as a teacher around today's Bielsko-Biała. In retirement (since 1958) she moved in with her nephew Karol at Kanonicza St. She died in Cracow in 1962 and was buried at the Rakowicki Cemetery.

One of the Wojtyła family closest neighbors (from behind the wall) was **Eugeniusz Mróz** (born on 1920), who in 1935 lived with his parents in Wadowice. He met Karol in secondary school and deepened his acquaintance with him during joint trips to the mountains with the father of the future pope. Before the outbreak of war, he studied law at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, and during the war he was active in the Home Army. Then he was taken to forced labor camps in Germany. After the war, he settled in Opole, where he worked as a legal advisor.

Stefania Wojtyła with Karol - a student of Polish studies, Cracow around 1938 r.

Photo: Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum in Wadowice



The owner of the house in which Wojtyła Family lived was **Chiel Bałamuth** (1872 - 1942), an entrepreneur, but also president of the kehilla and town councilor in Wadowice. He lived with his family and worked in the tenement next to the parish church. During the war, Bałamuth Family were placed by Germans in a ghetto in the town, and then sent to the Bełżec concentration camp. Only two of his five children survived the Holocaust.

Former Hygienic Dairy

After the death of Emilia, Karol senior and his younger son lived frugally. They divided their time during the day between learning, walking, eating and praying. His father took Karol to lunch to the nearby 'Hygienic Dairy' - a diner run by the Banaś family. There they enjoyed Wadowice specialties such as tripe soup or ruthenian dumplings. Apparently it was there that an event occurred that might have changed the life of Karol jr. Lolek met his school friend and son of the owners - Jan. He showed Karol an officer's weapon kept in the form of a deposit and, as a joke, he aimed it at his colleague with the words: 'hands up or I shoot!' Unfortunately, the gun fired and the bullet passed a hair away from Lolek's head. Kościelna Street often witnessed Karol's first football struggles and was a meeting place for neighbors. Emilia and her sons visited a still existing garden, where she happily conversed with the neighbors. In their memories she remained as a very liked, cheerful and extremely pious person. She often asked her neighbor H. Szczepańska to look after Lolek, as she had to cook dinner or go out on errands. Mrs. Helena would come down and take her son in a stroller, thinking: 'What will become of this boy? They treat him like a prince.'

Tenement House of Gedl Family - Former Hygienic Dairy, currently the seat of the Municipal Museum and the Tourist Information Center in Wadowice, early 20th century.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



As in the old days, so now, the Kościelna St. is a meeting place for both residents and tourists. The building of the former dairy houses the Municipal Museum and the Tourist Information Center.

The future pope had a special bond with his neighbor from the opposite tenement house.

Helena Szczepańska (1890 - 1985) who lived at 7 Ogrodowa St. (today's 7 E. and K. Wojtyłów St.) sometimes, at the request of Emilia, took care of little Karol when his mother did housecleaning or shopping in the town. Helena taught at the women's school in Wadowice (Sienkiewicz St.) and was the teacher of **Stefania Kluger**

- sister of Jerzy, friend of Karol. During the first pilgrimage of John Paul II to Wadowice in 1979 she met with him in the presbytery. She died in Wadowice in 1985 and was buried in the parish cemetery.

Adolf Zadora (1881-1957) ran his bookbinding and picture framing workshop on the ground floor of the tenement house, under the Wojtyła apartment. He also lived there with his family. His son **Franciszek** (1912 - 1997), was a friend of Edmund and played football with him on Kościelna St. and nearby Planty. Young Zadora was a member of GS 'Sokół', where, among other activities, he performed in the theater club with Karol. After the war, he was the honorary president of 'Sokół' for many years.



Helena Szczepańska - a neighbor of the Wojtyła family, together with Franciszek Zadora - the son of Adolf who ran a bookbinding shop on the ground floor of the building at Kościelna 7.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

1. Franciszek Zadora in the 'Sokol' uniform,
2. Adolf Zadora,
3. Adolf Zadora with his wife and children: Maria and Franciszek.

Photo: M. Zadora Collection





View of the Wadowice parish, early 20th century.
Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

The parish church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In this church Karol Wojtyła received his first sacraments. At the baptismal font, in the chapel of the Holy Family, on June 20, 1920, he was named Karol Józef. The baptism was given by a military chaplain, Fr. Żak. The godparents were Emilia's brother-in-law - J. Kuczmierczyk and her sister - M. Wiadrowska. In this church he also took the First Holy Communion (25.05.1929) and attended confirmation. Karol is sad in his photo from the day of the First Communion, because his mother died a month before the ceremony (13.04). The funeral mass took place in the same temple. In the face of such a tragedy, preparations for this special day became less important. After receiving the First Holy Communion Karol became an altar boy. In time, he was elected the 'boss' of altar boys.

A special place in this church was and is the chapel of Mother of Perpetual Help, which was attended by secondary school students in the mornings before lessons. Then in the afternoon, after lessons, the same procession of students went to church for prayer. In this church on May 3, 1938 Karol received confirmation from the hands of priest Cardinal A. Sapieha. On behalf of the school youth community, Karol gave a welcome speech during the school visit. The speech made a great impression on the cardinal, as the young man used Latin quotes. The Archbishop asked Fr. E. Zacher: 'Who is this young man and what university is he going to?' The catechist replied that: 'This is Karol Wojtyła and he is going to Polish studies.' To which the cardinal replied: 'That's a pity - he should choose theology.' These were very prophetic words, as 8 years later, in 1946, Cardinal Sapieha ordained Wojtyła to priesthood.

In this temple, Fr. Wojtyła celebrated his first Masses (priesthood - 1946, bishop's - 1958, archbishop's - 1964, cardinal's - 1967) and visited the parish as the bishop of Cracow. On the 50th anniversary of his birth, he visited the chapel of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and the same year, on the anniversary of his baptism, celebrated a solemn mass and blessed three new bells: 'Maria', 'Karol' and 'Józef'. As Pope John Paul II, he made a pilgrimage to this church during all three visits to Wadowice: 1979, 1991 and 1999. In 1992, the Holy Father granted the church the title of Minor Basilica. In 2011, six years after the death of the Pope, his relics were deposited in the chapel dedicated to him.

Fr. Franciszek Żak - vicar and military chaplain
in Wadowice, who baptized Karol.
Photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Wadowice



Karol Wojtyła was baptized by the military chaplain **Fr. Franciszek Żak** (1889-1937). He probably did so at the request of Karol's father, with whom the priest served in both infantry regiments - Austrian and Polish. In his many years of priesthood, Fr. Żak also served as chaplain in Sucha, Oświęcim, Vilnius and the Customs Battalion on the Silesian border. In 1922 he was nominated priest of the parish of St. Apostles Simon and Judah in Kozy, where he died and was buried.



Fr. Kazimierz Figlewicz - vicar, confessor and spiritual director of Karol, the future pope sits on the left of the priest, 1933.
Photo: Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum in Wadowice

Karol's confessor and spiritual director, **Fr. Kazimierz Figlewicz** (1903-1983). When he arrived in Wadowice in 1930, he became a catechist and mentor of altar boys. It was then that he met Karol. In 1933, Father Figlewicz left Wadowice and became the vicar of the Wawel cathedral. They still kept in touch when Karol began his studies at the Jagiellonian University. After the war, he became the priest of the cathedral and held this function until the end of his life. He was famous for pastoral and charitable activities, a caring guardian of the cathedral, an expert and lover of its monuments.

Karol's godmother was **Maria Wiadrowska** (1881-1959), older sister of his mother Emilia. Maria was mentioned as a slim,

short woman usually dressed very elegantly and in black. She was the wife of Leon, who lived and ran a painting framing shop at Floriańska Street in Cracow. Young cleric Wojtyła was a frequent guest at their home. After the parents' death, two sisters remained in the apartment, looked after by Wojtyła, both as bishop and as cardinal. Maria died in Cracow and was buried in the parish cemetery in Salvator.

Karol's godfather was **Józef Kuczmierczyk** (1868-1944), who was successively the husband of two older sisters of the mother of the future pope. He ran a colonial shop with breakfast rooms in Cracow, at 2 Saint Anna St. It was in this place at the beginning of the war uncle employed Karol as a messenger. Józef died in 1944 in Cracow and was buried at the Rakowicki Cemetery.



Maria Wiadrowska - older sister of Emilia Wojtyłowa, godmother of Karol Wojtyła.
Photo: Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum in Wadowice

Catholic House

The building erected in 1935 next to the presbytery quickly became a new center of cultural life. The main entrance was from the side of 7 Ogrodowa St. (today's E. and K. Wojtyłów), while from the church side one entered the large theater room. Both the hosts and the local artistic community benefited from the staging possibilities of the new facility.

Beginning in 1936, theater plays were staged under the direction of a secondary school teacher, Fr. E. Zacher. The rectory stage had an ambitious repertoire that attracted local theater aficionados. They were mainly religious plays. In the 1935/36 school year, a matinee was organized in honor of St. Stanisław Kostka, and a show in honor of the Mother of God.

Karol made his debut on this stage in 1936 as a co-director of the play 'Nie-Boska Komedia' in which he played one of the main roles - Count Henry. In 1937, under the direction of vicar and catechist, Fr. W. Świżek, the youth exhibited the Mystery of the Passion.

There were several stage groups in Wadowice at that time, and their guardians cooperated with each other. During the organization of the performance of 'Apocalypse by Saint John', in which Karol played the role of Saint John, father E. Zacher borrowed several props from father Carmelite B. Woźnicki. He sent Lolek to bring a wonderful armchair used by a celebrant in the monastery church to the stage. Bad luck had it that Karol, while carrying the armchair, was spotted by prior G. Klimowski. Thinking that he was a witness to a theft, he ran after the alleged thief, crying: 'Ugly boy, where did you get! ...'. Fortunately, the unpleasant situation was cleared up. The last spectacle at the Catholic House in which young Wojtyła took part before leaving Wadowice was 'Judas of Karioth' by K.H. Rostworowski.

Currently, the theater room is used by the Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum as a conference, cinema and exhibition hall.

Catholic House, view from Ogrodowa 7 St. (today's E. and K. Wojtyłów).

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Karol's friend and mentor was **Mieczysław Kotlarczyk** (1908-1978), who in the 1930s was a teacher in the gymnasium functioning at the Monastery of the Barefoot Carmelites in Wadowice and the 'Collegium Marianum' of the Pallotines 'at the Mound' ('Na Kopcu', Klecza Dolna). He introduced young Wojtyła to the secrets of directing performances and correct voice projection. They also often discussed art. In Cracow, where they both lived during the war, they became involved in the Rhapsodic Theater, the founder of which was Mieczysław.

The newly built Catholic House was blessed by **Cardinal Adam Stefan Sapieha** (1867-1951) in 1935. In the same year, at the hands of the Archbishop of Cracow, Karol also received the sacrament of confirmation, and chose St. Hubert as his patron. Confirmation was witnessed by Józef Siłkowski, father of a secondary school friend - Zbigniew. Cardinal Sapieha came from an aristocratic family from Krasiczyn. He studied law at the universities in Vienna, Lille and Cracow, and theology in Innsbruck and Lviv, and then in 1893 he was ordained a priest. In 1911 he became the bishop of Cracow. He actively worked for the victims of World War I, and after the war he was a keen supporter of the independence of the Polish Church. When the diocese of Cracow was raised to the rank of an archdiocese (1925), he was appointed its archbishop. During World War II, Cardinal Sapieha displayed a steadfast attitude. He became the actual leader of the Polish Church. During this difficult period, he gained great respect from the faithful. In 1946 he received a cardinal's hat. He died in 1951 and was buried in the Wawel crypt. A few years later Karol Wojtyła replaced Sapieha as the Archbishop of Cracow (1964), following in the footsteps of his great predecessor. Like him, he also became a member of the cardinal college (1967).

Canonical visit of the Wadowice parish by the Archbishop Fr. Cardinal A. Sapieha, photo at the entrance to the Women's School (currently Sienkiewicza 9 St.), next to the metropolitan catechist Fr. K. Rospond, behind him priest prelate L. Prochownik, on the right headmaster H. Adamczakówna, in the background teacher H. Szczepańska, 1927.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Fr. dr. Edward Zacher - doctor of theology, catechist of Karol, bends over the baptism record of the future pope, 1978.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Fr. Dr. Edward Zacher (1903-1987) was a catechist and guardian in the parish theater club. After arriving in Wadowice

in 1933 he became a prefect in a secondary school and a guardian of the Marian Sodality. As a secondary school catechist, he was involved in the life of his pupils, including Karol. In the years 1963-84 he was a priest of the Wadowice parish, later an honorary parson. In the years 1971-82 he was the dean of Wadowice and a mitred prelate. He died in Wadowice and was buried in the chapel at the parish cemetery.

Former Marcin Wadowita Elementary School

Karol spent the first 18 years of his life in Wadowice. When he was 6 he went to the Elementary School, and when he was 10 he went to the eight-year Humanities Secondary School. He believed that it was the Polish school and its teachers that gave him the foundations of his future.

Karol began his education in this school in 1926. It was located in the town hall building at the market square. The ground floor was occupied by the offices of the town hall, a restaurant and confectionery 'Oaza' owned by J. Hyłka, with a school on the upper floors. The learning conditions at the time were difficult because the classes were very numerous. Teaching was conducted in two shifts. There was also a shortage of appropriate school equipment. The curriculum included learning Polish, history and geography.

M.J. Kaczorowa, a neighbor of the Wojtyła family, mentioned that Karol was a slim, pale and short-haired boy in this period of his life, usually wearing shorts. He was always very polite and well-mannered and obedient to his parents and older brother. One day an elementary school teacher, Mrs. Bernhardt, called little Karol to the teachers' room. Lolek was told that he must be brave because his mother died. She explained to the boy that his dad had asked her to tell him because he couldn't do it by himself. Little Karol understood what happened.

His mother's death did not affect Karol's school levels, but meant that the little boy was no longer as cheerful and confident as before. Only after some time he recovered and became happier, even participating in games with peers.

Currently, the building is the seat of the Municipal Office.

Little Karol with his dad on a trip to Wieliczka; Karol sits in the second row - second from the right, Karol senior - fourth, 1930.

Photo: John Paul II Foundation - Center for Documentation and Research of the Pontificate of John Paul II in Rome





The Mayor of Wadowice, Teofil Kluk (second from the right), welcomes the President of the Republic of Poland I. Mościcki, 1929.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

In the memories of her neighbors, Emilia was a warm, kind and very elegant person who they met in the backyard of the tenement house at 7 Kościelna or with little Karol by the well in the garden opposite. **Maria Janina Kaczorowa** - a neighbor from the Bałamuth tenement often talked to Emilia, who reminisced about her lost daughter. Mrs. Kaczorowa understood Emilia because she lost her son, a few years old.

One of Karol's teachers at elementary school in classes III and IV was **Zofia Bernhart** (1888-1973). In the history of his life she also made her name as a person who passed on to him the information about his mother's death. Privately, she was the wife of Władysław - a school inspector, and then the mayor of Wadowice in 1934-1939.

The Municipal Office was also located in the school building. During this period the mayor of the town was **Teofil Kluk** (1860-1943) for many years associated with this office as an assessor and town councilor as well as deputy mayor. He came to Wadowice with his wife in 1890 and bought a corner house (today Jana Pawła II Square no. 5) at the market square, where he ran a restaurant and shop. He actively joined local pro-social activities as a member of many organizations, including as the president of the 'Burgher Reading Room'. The visit of President I. Mościcki to Wadowice in 1929 is preserved in the memory of the citizens. Mayor Kluk dressed in a tailcoat, with an inseparable top hat in his left hand in which he hid the contents of his speech, welcomes the president on the market square. Among the gathered citizens we would certainly find Karol Wojtyła, 9 years old at that time.

Former Marshal Józef Piłsudski Square - Market Square

The main square of the town of the interwar period did not differ so much from its modern form. To this day, the church tower dominates the square, and the space around it is occupied by nineteenth century tenements. Every resident had a reason to be here, as almost everything could be bought on the market. It was surrounded by a walkway, with the center of the square serving as a marketplace, parade square, cart stop or pitch.

The market was also the center of Karol's life. Here was his family home, parish church and elementary school. It was here that he met his schoolmates to have fun and play football together. He was also a participant in state and religious ceremonies.

After being elected pope, the market - then Red Army Square - became a meeting place with the inhabitants of Wadowice. The first of them took place on June 7, 1979 during his first pilgrimage to the homeland. John Paul II spoke from the tribune talking about his youth spent in Wadowice and about friends, some of whom were still alive at the time. He spoke of gratitude to the local community and parish, from which he came out into the world. He also thanked for the large attendance and asked for constant prayer to the Mother of Perpetual Help. During his second stay in Wadowice (August 14, 1991), the main ceremonies took place in front of the church of St. Peter the Apostle. However, residents also came to greet the pope in the market square when he went to the parish church for prayer.

The last, third meeting on the market took place on June 16, 1999 during the VII pilgrimage to the homeland. At that time, the Pope mentioned the corners of the town, its roads and streets that are close to each of the inhabitants of Wadowice till this day. He also referred to his passion for theater, quoting a fragment of an ancient drama played on the local stage. The most fun were memories of cream puffs after graduation. At that time, he also uttered those unique words: 'It all began in this town of Wadowice. Life began, school began, studies began, theater began and priesthood began.'

Every return of John Paul II to his hometown was a great experience, both for the pope and for his compatriots. Each visit to Wadowice was at the same time a sentimental journey to the times of childhood and youth, longing for the past world.

In 1995, on the 75th anniversary of the birth of John Paul II, the main square in the town was named after him.



First visit of John Paul II in Wadowice, today John Paul II Square, 1979.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Market on the Wadowice town square, early 20th century.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

In the house at number 6 by the market (today's Jana Pawła II Square no. 6), close to the Bałamuth tenement, lived a close friend of Karol - **Zbigniew Siłkowski** (1919-1996). They attended the local secondary school together. After graduating from secondary school, Karol chose Polish studies and Zbigniew finally graduated from the Artillery Cadet School in Włodzimierz Wołyński. Then he took part in the September campaign (1939) during which he was wounded and was sent to the stalag in

Altengrabow. It is recognized that after the death of close relatives, the Siłkowski family and especially Zbigniew were one of the closest people to Karol. That is why Zbigniew participated in the priestly ordination of young Wojtyła (1.11.1946) and the first mass at Wawel Cathedral. The first holy masses also took place in Wadowice. The usual function after the solemn mass was prepared in the house at Rynek 6 by the Siłkowski family. After the war, Zbigniew became involved in the organization of 38' graduate conventions, in which Fr. Wojtyła also took part. His close relations with Karol are confirmed by Zbigniew's participation in the inauguration of the pontificate of John Paul II in Rome. He also accompanied the Pope at Castel Gandolfo during his recovery after the coup.

In the neighboring tenement house at number 8, at the corner of the Market Square (today's Jana Pawła II Square no. 8) and Jagiellońska St., **Wilhelm Kluger**, father of Jerzy - a friend of Karol, ran his law office. He was a highly respected figure in Wadowice at the time, performing the function of president of the local Jewish community.

On the other side of the market at number 18 (today's Jana Pawła II Square no. 18), at the corner of Rynek and Zatorska, was the Kluger family home, inherited from Hupperts. On the ground floor they ran a restaurant named 'Propinacja', which was then rented to tenants. On the first floor there was a flat, which was occupied by the Kluger family - Wilhelm, his wife Rozalia, their two children - Jerzy and Stefania (Tesia) and grandmother Anna Huppert. Karol was a frequent guest at the Kluger's home. He came there to listen to the radio or chamber music concerts.

The market square in Wadowice, view of the Kluger tenement house, early 20th century.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



The former Karol Hagenhuber Confectionery

Before World War II, Karol Hagenhuber, a Viennese who came from Brzesko in 1936, opened his confectionery at No. 15 by the market. He brought with him the secret of baking cakes, which were appreciated by local gourmets. The confectionery in the town center has become a place known for its excellent pastry products.

H. Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska, Karol's friend, described the cream puffs as simply delicious. They were made of two layers of French pastry, filled with a wonderful, yellow, creamy mass, light and fluffy, with a delicate vanilla flavor. Contrary to rumors, they didn't contain any alcohol, and one piece cost 15 pennies.

Karol Wojtyła was friends with the son of the confectionery owner - also named Karol. Both boys attended the same gymnasium, though not in one class. Hagenhuber senior, in turn, undertook the scenic characterization of students participating in theatrical performances, using his collection of mustaches, beards and glues. He supposedly learned the art of stage makeup in his hometown of Vienna, where he worked at the opera.

From 1937, new fashion prevailed among secondary school graduates. After graduating from high school they went to celebrate this event in the local confectionery. Secondary school graduates from the 'papal' yearbook went for cream cakes. In the cafe there was a bet going who can eat the most of them. Lolek bet he will eat at least 10 cream cakes. Finally, Wojtyła took second place, losing to a colleague from Kalwaria Zebrzydowska. Fierce rivalry, which then occurred, was later recalled by Pope John Paul II on the market square in Wadowice on June 16, 1999, with a famous smile on his face. Following this, local bakers and pastry shop owners decided to serve their own versions of this popular pastry.

The first famous confectionery ceased to operate in 1945. Nowadays, every Wadowice confectionery offers its own variation of the papal delicacy.

K. Hagenhuber Confectionery at the Wadowice Market Square, 1930.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Karol Hagenhuber senior opened his confectionery in Wadowice (1936-1945) a few years before the war. He came from Vienna, where apparently he learned confectionery art at the Imperial Court and therefore was the owner of the original recipe for cream puffs. He opened the first confectionery in Poland in Cracow, where his son Karol was also born (1920-2018). He moved to Wadowice at the instigation of his friend A. Peters, who received a position there as a doctor. In the school theater in Wadowice, where his son and young Wojtyła played on stage, the confectioner was a make-up artist. His name appears among the cast of 'Zygmunt August'. Secondary school graduates from 1938 celebrated their exams in his elegant and expensive pastry shop. And it was, as it turned out later, a unique year. Among the classmates of Karol Wojtyła from secondary school, it's worth recalling **Teofil Bojeś** (1919-2007) a soldier of 12th IR of the Land of Wadowice, participant in the September campaign (1939), **Stanisław Jura** (1918-2012) World War II hero and friend of the former Hungarian President Árpád Göncz or **Karol Poliwka** (1920-1997), neurologist and doctor of medical sciences.

Students of the Wadowice Humanities Secondary School during a so-called 'laba' (truancy), 1925.
Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Former Marcin Wadowita Humanities Secondary School

In 1930 Karol passed the entrance exams to the secondary school, completed in 1924 by his brother Edmund. The building at the time was smaller and the headmaster's apartment was located on the first floor. Narrow and dark corridors led to the rooms and workrooms, with tiled stoves and rows of double benches. Youth were taken to the 'Sokół' building for sports activities.

The life of Karol as a secondary school student was ordered. After breakfast, he went to the parish church, then to school, where he spent time between 8am and 2pm. Later he returned home for dinner, after which he studied and did homework. If he had a lot to prepare for the next day, learning lasted until the evening.

The secondary school had a neoclassical profile with Latin and Greek. J. Kluger remembered that when Karol visited him at home, his father Wilhelm spoke with him in Latin. Atmosphere differed between various classes; students would sometimes play pranks on teachers. Those who knew Wojtyła well valued his subtle sense of humor. He had a philosophical disposition and a kind of reserve that aroused respect. Everyone felt that Karol should not behave differently or speak brutally or indecently. Karol was an outstanding and modest student. He didn't let anyone copy his homework, as he thought it immoral. He made exceptions only in case of extremely difficult Latin homework.

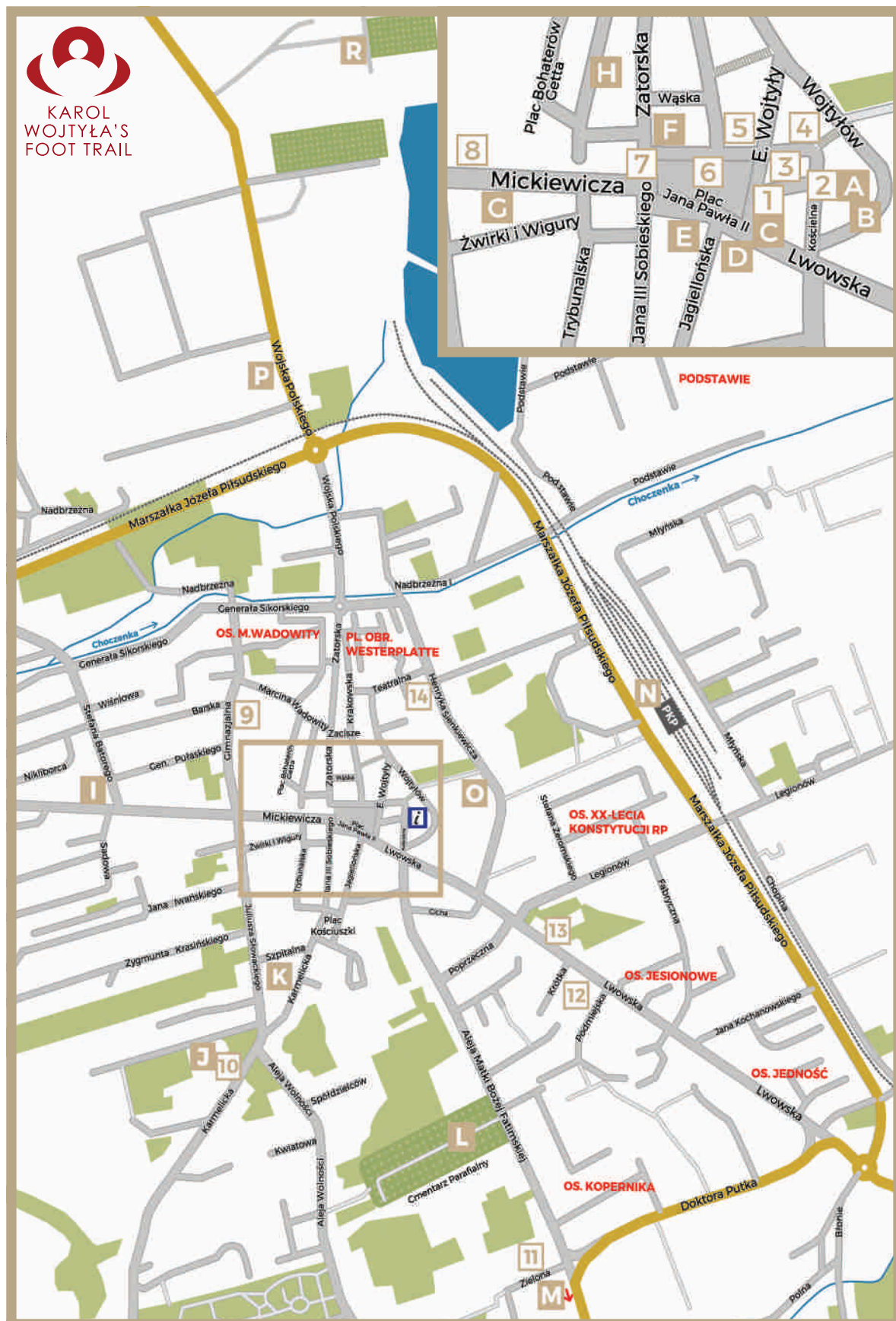
Teachers and secondary school colleagues had a great impact on shaping young Wojtyła. The school was public, with children from various social, economic and religious levels. The eight-year period of education resulted in lasting friendships, which later Karol kept up as a bishop, cardinal and then as pope.

Currently, the building is occupied by the M. Wadowita Secondary School, continuing the Humanities Secondary School traditions.

The building of the M. Wadowita Humanities Secondary School in Wadowice, early 20th century.

Fot. Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice





1	Family Home of Karol Wojtyła - Saint John Paul II
2	Former Hygienic Dairy
3	The parish church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
4	Catholic House
5	Former Marcin Wadowita Elementary School
6	Former Marshal Józef Piłsudski Square - Market Square
7	The former Karol Hagenhuber Confectionery
8	Former Marcin Wadowita Humanities Secondary School
9	Synagogue in Wadowice
10	Monastery of the Barefoot Carmelite Fathers
11	Church of St. Peter the Apostle
12	Military barracks
13	House of Divine Providence of the Congregation of the sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth
14	Former building of the 'Sokół' Gymnastic Society

A	Garden at Kościelna St.
B	H. Szczepańska's flat
C	T. Kluk's restaurant
D	Siłkowski's House
E	Chancellery of W. Kluger
F	Kluger's house
G	Kotlarczyk's apartment
H	Jewish ghetto
I	House of the Pukło family
J	Private secondary school at the monastery of Barefoot Carmelite Fathers
K	Common Hospital and the House of Our Lady of Consolation
L	Parish cemetery
M	E. Zegadłowicz Manor
N	Railway station
O	Women's school
P	Military hospital
R	Jewish cemetery



Karol (first from the left) together with colleagues and teachers in the last grade of secondary school, 1938.
Photo: E. Mróz collection

Graduates from 1938.

In the upper row from the left: Zygmunt Selinger, Zbigniew Nowobilski, Józef Michoń, Zygmunt Kręcioch, Zdzisław Piotrowski, Leopold Zweig, Mieczysław Nowobilski, Stanisław Banaś.

Second row from the left: Jan Kuś, Karol Kurek, Bolesław Pomezański, Stanisław Magiera, Włodzimierz Piotrowski, Tomasz Romański, Jan Wolczko, Antoni Bohdanowicz, Kazimierz Bik, Jan Banaś, Zdzisław Przybyło, Witold Karpiński.

In the bottom row from the left: Karol Wojtyła, Zbigniew Gałuszka, Stanisław Jura, Jerzy Kluger, Zdzisław Bernaś, Wiktor Kęsek, Teofil Bojeś, Tadeusz Bryzek, Eugeniusz Mróz, Rudolf Kogler, Józef Wąsik, Władysław Balon, Stanisław Bartosik, Szczepan Mogielnicki, Eugeniusz Filek, Zbigniew Siłkowski.

Sitting are professors: Julian Kucharski, Czesław Panczakiewicz, Jan Gebhardt, priest Edward Zacher, headmaster Jan Królikiewicz, Mirosław Moroz, Tadeusz Szeliski, Ludwik Jach, Józef Borowiec, Józef Fijałek.

Synagogue in Wadowice

With the increase of the Jewish population in Wadowice, the Jewish community erected a stone synagogue (1885-1889) according to the design of K. Korn. Today, there is no trace of the temple, because it was burned by the Germans in the autumn of 1939, and its remains were blown up a year later.

Some of Karol's school colleagues were Jews, and one of them - J. Kluger was among his close friends. The beginnings of their friendship go back to the times of elementary school. One day Jerzy was looking for Lolek to tell him the news that both of them got to secondary school. He entered the parish church, which surprised one of the women who was supposed to say: 'You are the son of the president of the Jewish community!' To this young Wojtyła was to answer: 'Are we not all the children of one God?'

Both boys visited each other often. Karol came to the Kluger house to listen to the radio. In addition, Jerzy's father - Wilhelm - conducted a string quartet and they rehearsed twice a week, and Karol appeared at the rehearsals to listen to the music. In 1936, he was invited to the Wadowice synagogue by W. Kluger for a special concert of the then famous tenor Mojsze Kusewicki. It was probably the first time that a future pope crossed the threshold of a temple of another religion.

In 1989, on the anniversary of the liquidation of the ghetto in Wadowice (1943), a plaque commemorating the Jews murdered during the war by the Germans was placed on the building standing in the place of the synagogue. A friend of the Pope, J. Kluger, also came to the meeting of survivors of the Holocaust and read a letter addressed to the gathered people on the Pope's behalf.

The pontificate of John Paul II became a time of reconciliation between Christians and Jews. The Pope treated the followers of Judaism as 'our beloved, older brothers in faith.'

In 2003, the Polish Council of Christians and Jews awarded Kluger the title of 'Man of Reconciliation'. The last time Jerzy saw John Paul II was a few days before his death in 2005. The papal friend died in 2011 and was buried in the Roman Jewish cemetery. A public kindergarten was built in the place of the former synagogue in Wadowice in the 1950s.



Wadowice synagogue, early 20th century.

Photo from Zapalowicz Album - Collection of Municipal Library in Wadowice

1. Jerzy Kluger's mother - Rozalia nee Huppert,
 2. Jerzy Kluger's sister - Stefania.
 Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

Karol Wojtyła was friends with Jerzy, but he had close relations with the whole Kluger family. The Kluger family lived in a tenement house belonging to the family senior **Anna Huppert née Goldberg** (approx.1852-1942). She was the wife of Izrael and the mother of Rozalia, wife of Wilhelm. Mrs. Huppert was a very enterprising and socially involved woman. Until 1919, she was the president of the Jewish Association for Ladies. After the Germans entered Wadowice, she was placed in the ghetto with her daughter Rozalia and granddaughter Stefania (today's Ghetto Heroes Square). In 1942, after a selection by the occupants, Anna was taken to the death camp in Bełżec.



A year later, during the liquidation of the Wadowice ghetto, her daughter **Rozalia** (died 1943) and granddaughter **Stefania** (approx. 1923-1943) were sent to the KL Auschwitz death camp. Before the war, Rozalia married a lawyer **Wilhelm Kluger** (1885-1963) who also served as the town councilor and president of the Jewish community in Wadowice. After the outbreak of World War II, he went east with his 18-year-old son **Jerzy** (1921-2011) where they were arrested by the Soviets and deported to Siberia. After the amnesty in the USSR, they joined the 2nd Polish Corps of general Władysław Anders. After the war, Wilhelm settled in London and returned to the profession of lawyer, while young Kluger studied at the Polytechnic in Turin and later at Nottingham. In 1954, Jerzy and his family moved to Rome, where they ran an engineering company. In Rome, he also met Karol Wojtyła - then as a cardinal - for the first time since Wadowice. Jerzy was present in the Vatican at the inauguration of the pontificate of John Paul II. He kept in touch with him for the rest of the Pope's life.

3. Jewish friend of Karol Jerzy Kluger,
 years of World War II,
 4. Jerzy Kluger's father - Wilhelm, years of World War II.
 Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Monastery of Barefoot Carmelite Fathers 'on the hill'
(‘on Górcu’), early 20th century.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

Monastery of the Barefoot Carmelite Fathers

The Barefoot Carmelites came to Wadowice in 1892, and with them the later Saint Father R. Kalinowski. The monastery 'on the hill' ('na Górcu') was built in 1897-1899. Currently it includes: a church, a monastery and a retreat house.

Karol had strong connections with the monastery. As he himself mentioned, he had met Carmelites since he was a child and knew their characteristic habit. He often went with his father to the church of St. Joseph, where he received spiritual formation, attended the sacrament of penance and participated in services. He never missed the novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Scapular before the celebration of Mother of God of Mount Carmel (July 16), as well as the first Fridays in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He received his scapular from Father Sylwester from Saint Elisha after the First Holy Communion. From then on, he wore a canvas scapular and never replaced it with a medallion. As a secondary school student, he got involved in the work of a theater troupe, cooperating with a similar troupe from a private Carmelite secondary school. This is when his friendship began with a teacher from the Carmelite secondary school - M. Kotlarczyk. It is believed that Karol tried to join the Carmelites twice. Towards the end of World War II, he shared his intentions with fr. Cardinal A. Sapieha, who replied: 'you must first finish what you have begun'. In the following years, Carmelite spirituality was still very close to him. He devoted his MA thesis and doctoral thesis to the writings of John of the Cross. In 1991, John Paul II canonized Father R. Kalinowski in the Vatican. After this event, the Saint's cell with its original equipment was made available to the public.

After the death of John Paul II, the Carmelites from Wadowice requested the transfer of the papal scapular to the monastery. Currently, this relic is exhibited in a golden rosette placed on the wall on the left from the altar of Our Lady of the Scapular. In 2004, the painting of St. Joseph in the main altar was decorated with a special votive offer - the Fisherman's Ring of the Holy Father John Paul II, and the church of bare Carmelites „on the hill” received the title of Sanctuary of Saint Joseph.



St. Rafał Kalinowski - builder of the Carmelite monastery in Wadowice.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Office in Wadowice

One of the initiators of the construction of Carmel in Wadowice was a Vilnius citizen **St. Rafał Kalinowski** (1835-1906). This January insurgent and prisoner in Siberia in 1877 joined the Barefoot Carmelites and renewed this order in Poland. He came to Wadowice with his first brothers and undertook the construction of the monastery 'on the hill'. Being its prior several times, he took care of the material development of the foundation as well as the spiritual development of the inhabitants

of Wadowice. He died in his cell upstairs in the opinion of holiness. In 1983, Pope John Paul II proclaimed him blessed and in 1991 sainted him.

The figure of the servant of God, **Fr. Rudolf Warzecha** (1919-1999) - contemporary of Karol Wojtyła. After joining the religious community, for years he served, among others, as the educator of the young Carmelite generation and was devoted to the apostolate of the sick. He was said to be 'a priest with open eyes'. He died in Wadowice in the opinion of holiness 27.02.1999. From 2012, in the side chapel of the presbytery of the church 'on the hill' there is a memorial room dedicated to Father Rudolf. The Regional Museum was established in his hometown of Bachowice, which commemorates his figure, Fr. Gołba and Fr. Stefczyk.

Karol, together with his father and brother, often visited Wadowice Carmel. **Edmund Wojtyła** (1906-1932) was the oldest child of the Wojtyła family and a role model for his younger brother. He was born in Cracow, but when he was 13 he moved with his parents to Wadowice and became a student of the local Humanities Secondary School. In the years 1924-1929 he studied medicine at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. Edmund had summer student internships at the General Hospital in Wadowice at Karmelicka Street, leading to the buildings of the Carmelite monastery.

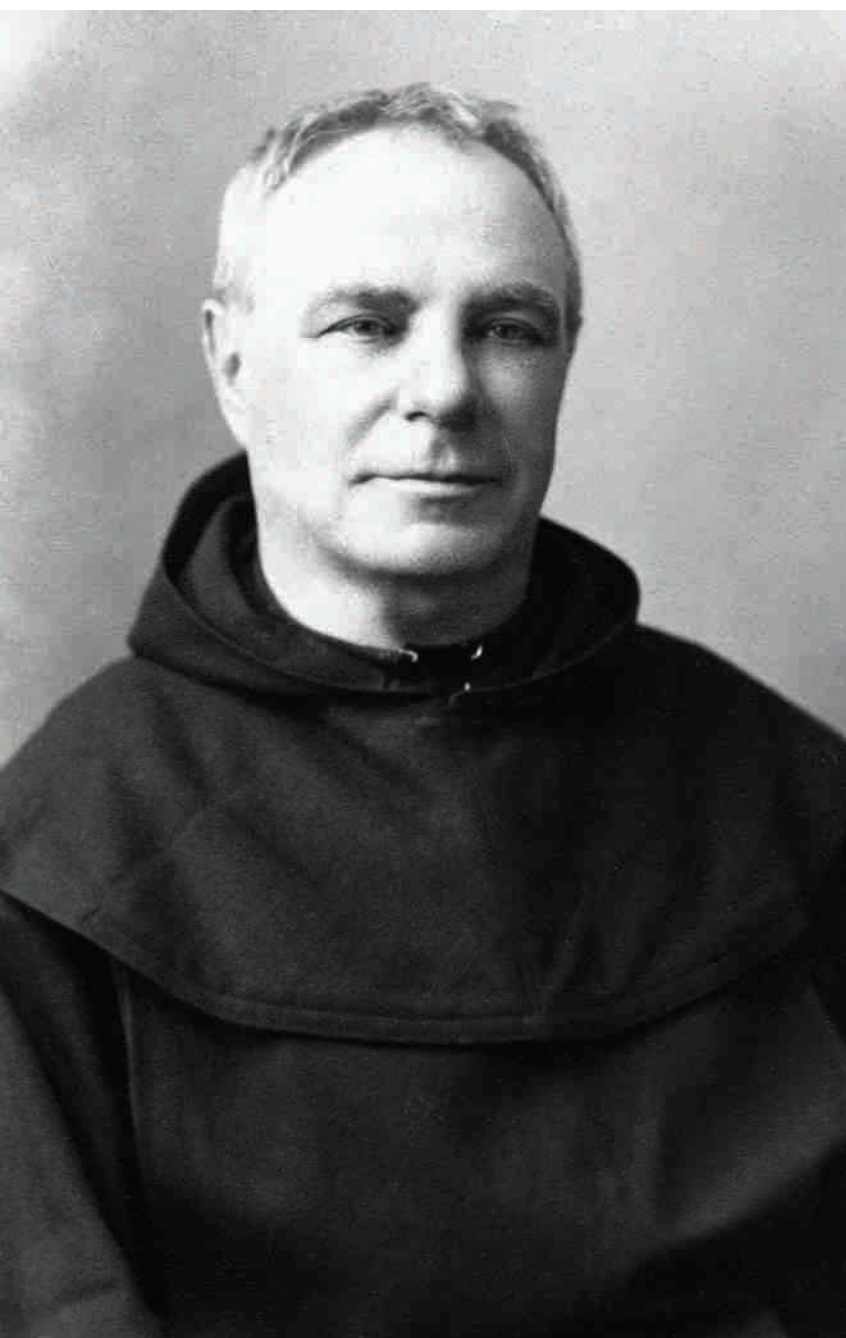


Edmund Wojtyła (in the center) as a doctor in Bielsko (today's Bielsko-Biała), 1930s.

Photo: Archives of the Metropolitan Curia in Cracow



Immediately after graduation, in the children's hospital of St. Ludwik in Cracow, he completed several months of apprenticeship. Finally, in 1931 he received a post at the infectious ward of the Municipal Hospital in Bielsko (today's Bielsko-Biała). Edmund's promising medical career was interrupted by his sudden death. He died in 1932 in Bielsko after he contracted scarlet fever from a patient. The death of his brother had a great influence on Karol. He was supposed to respond to the condolences of a neighbor, H. Szczepańska, that 'that was God's will'.



It is assumed that Karol received the scapular from the hands of **Father Sylwester of the Saint Elisha** (Ignacy Glecman, 1883-1961) in May 1930. The Carmelite, born in Polanka Wielka (near Oświęcim), was also the confessor of young Wojtyła. After finishing the 7th grade of the Wadowice secondary school, he applied for admission to the Order of the Barefoot Carmelites. In 1906, Ignacy entered the novitiate in Czerna, and in 1913 he was ordained a priest. He served as prior of the monasteries in Wadowice, Czerna, Wiśniowiec and Vilnius at Ostra Brama several times. Father Sylwester died in Cracow in 1961 and was buried in Wadowice.

Father Sylwester Glecman - Karol's confessor.
Photo: Archives of the Cracow Province of the Order of the Barefoot Carmelites in Cracow

The Church of St. Peter the Apostle

Shortly after the election of Karol Wojtyła on 16.10.1978 in Wadowice, the idea of building a new temple arose as a vote of gratitude and commemoration of this important moment in history. During his first visit to his hometown in 1979, it was established that the new church would be erected at Zegadłowicza St (today's Alley of Our Lady of Fatima). The assassination attempt on John Paul II, 13.05.1981, contributed to the extension of votive intention. The new Church of St. Peter the Apostle was to be a vote of gratitude for choosing and saving the Holy Father. The architectural and urban concept was entrusted to a team headed by prof. T. Szafer from Cracow. The construction of the temple took from 1984-1991 and was implemented by the effort of the residents of Wadowice. Parishioners not only gave money for the new temple, but also personally participated in the construction works. The effort of organization was undertaken by Fr. M. Piosek, later priest of the new parish. The solemn consecration of the church took place on August 14, 1991, during the second visit of John Paul II in Wadowice. The Pope also coronated the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which was offered to the new parish by the bishop of Fatima.

The complex blessed by Saint John Paul II under the auspices of Peter the Apostle symbolizes his path from Wadowice, through the cathedral in Wawel to the See of Peter. It consists of a church, a chapel of Christ the King, a catechetical house with a presbytery and a free-standing tower. Behind the church there is an open-air Way of the Cross.

Consecration of the church of St. Peter the Apostle in Wadowice, 1991.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



The history of the creation of a new church is related to **Fr. Michał Piosek** (1944-1993), its later parson (1985). He met Ka-

rol as a young seminarian and priest, because he was ordained a priest (1968) by Cardinal Wojtyła. As a vicar of the parish of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1976-1985), he participated in the welcome of John Paul II in Wadowice (1979), among others assisting him in the church. Then in 1991, as a pastor of the newly founded Wadowice parish of St. Peter the Apostle, he greeted the Holy Father in this temple. Fr. Michał died suddenly in Wadowice in 1993 and was buried in the crypt of the church he built. In the memory of the inhabitants of Wadowice he remains the soul of all actions. He encouraged and mobilized parishioners to effort and sacrifice, overcame bureaucratic barriers, acquired building materials and supervised works.

Fr. Michał Piosek with John Paul II at the baptismal font in the church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Wadowice, 1979.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Not far from today's church of St. Peter the Apostle, in the village of Gorzeń Górny, in 1876 a manor with the adjacent land was bought by the professor of Wadowice junior high school, **Tytus Zegadłowicz**. He thoroughly renovated the building and tidied up the garden. A few years later, his son **Emil** (1888 - 1941) became the court's host. A graduate of secondary school, and then a student of Polish studies, German studies and art history in Cracow. At the beginning

of the 20's of the twentieth century, he created the literary group 'Czartak', with its center in the manor in Gorzeń Górny. In 1930, Emil was awarded by President Mościcki The Order of Polonia Restituta for his literary and cultural activities. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his creative work, a number of events were prepared in the town to emphasize the writer's contribution to literature and the importance of his person for Wadowice. Thirteen-year-old Karol Wojtyła, as a member of the School Dramatic Club, also took part in the celebration of this jubilee. In 1933, in the mansion's park, secondary school students presented the performance 'Sobótka', which premiered in the Town Park at Wolności Alley. The program included lyrics of J. Kochanowski's songs. It is believed that the formation of young Wojtyła as an actor and poet was strongly influenced by the contemporary artistic community of Wadowice, representing a high level.



Emil Zegadłowicz - writer, poet and patron of the arts.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice.

Military barracks

The town's military advantages were noticed already at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. The first military troops were moved here immediately after the circular office was moved to Wadowice. The impressive barracks building was built in the first half of the nineteenth century and is a typical monument of military construction of the former Austrian annexation. It was built on a square plan with an internal courtyard surrounded by arcaded corridors. Until the end of World War II, it served as a garrison facility, and in later years was used for various purposes.

In these barracks, Karol Wojtyła senior - father of St. John Paul II, began his military career. He was born in 1879 in Lipnik near Biała (today's Bielsko-Biała). At the age of 14, Karol interrupted his education at the imperial-royal secondary school and began working at his father's tailor shop.

In 1900 he entered the conscript age (21 years) and began a 3-year service in the Imperial and Royal 56th Galician Infantry Regiment of Count J.L. Daun in Wadowice. When it came to an end, Karol decided to remain in the Imperial Army as a professional NCO in the Poviats Recruiting Commend (1904). A year later he was transferred to the Regimental Adjutant's Office in Cracow, where he remained until 1913 developing instructions, watching over the regiment's budget and correspondence. For the proper performance of these duties he was promoted to the position of accounting officer.

During his stay in Cracow, Karol met and married Emilia Kaczorowska in 1906 in the garrison church of St. Apostles Peter and Paul. The young spouses lived in the village of Krowodrza near Cracow, where their first son Edmund was born. In 1913, Wojtyła became a military official and began working at the Poviats Army Recruiting in Wadowice, and then he moved with his wife and son to the town on the Skawa River.

The unveiling of the monument of the 12th IR of the Land of Wadowice, 1928.
Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



When World War I broke out (1914), the Imperial and Royal army was mobilized, including the 56th regiment. As an official, Karol did not participate in the fighting and remained in the barracks. In 1914, the battalion and the soldiers' families were evacuated to Moravia near Hranice (today Czech Republic). After returning to Wadowice, he continued his office service in his home regiment until 1918, when Poland regained independence.

In 1919, as a soldier of the Polish Army, Karol became the head of the Wadowice chancellery of the Poviast Army Recruiting Command. He moved with his family to the house at Kościelna 7. Two years later he became a professional officer in the recruitmentservice. Unfortunately, due to the serious illness of his wife, Emilia, he retired early in 1927.

After the holidays of 1938, Karol senior, together with his son, left Wadowice and moved to Cracow. Karol Wojtyła senior died on February 18, 1941, after a short and serious illness, at the age of 62. The funeral took place at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Cracow, where he rested at the side of his beloved wife.

Karol Wojtyła senior as a soldier of the 12th IR of the Land of Wadowice, approx. 1919.

Photo: Museum Family Home of the Holy Father John Paul II in Wadowice



Emilia's last, endangered third pregnancy was under the supervision of **Dr. Samuel Taub** (1869-1933), a military doctor. In the years of World War I, he served in the 20th National Defense Regiment in Stanisławów, which was stationed in Wadowice as an auxiliary formation. He was the first Jewish doctor in the town. After the war, he served in the same regiment as the father of the future pope. Taub was also involved in helping the poor. He was a benefactor of the Wadowice association 'Bikur Cholim' (free medical assistance for the Jewish poor). A tribute to his social activity is an epitaph on his grave: 'he devoted his sacrificial life to the suffering population'. He died in Wadowice and was buried at the local Jewish cemetery.

The ancestors of the future pope come from the village of Czaniec near Kęty. It was there where senior Karol's father was born, **Maciej Wojtyła** (1852 - 1923). After leaving his hometown, he settled in Lipnik (today's part of Bielsko-Biała), where he ran a tailor shop. He married Anna Przeczek there and in 1879 their son Karol was born. Of all Maciej's children Karol, Józef and Stefania lived to adulthood. Karol and Józef chose a military career for themselves, and Stefania became a teacher. In his senior years, Maciej lived with his eldest son's family at Kościelna 7 in Wadowice, where he died in 1923. Karol Jr was less than 3 years old and had no memories of his grandfather.

Maciej Wojtyła's family, from the left: Stefania, Maria, Karol, Józef Teodor, Maciej, approx. 1904, photo made after Karol's military promotion.
Photo: Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum in Wadowice



House of Divine Providence of the Congregation of the sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

The Nazarene sisters came to Wadowice in 1896 and soon opened a day care for children. They looked after children, a boarding house for girls, and also run vocational courses for poor girls in the area. The development of the work was limited by modest housing conditions in a rented apartment at Wiedeńska (today's Mickiewicza St.). In 1896, after purchasing the property at Lwowska, the sisters gained more space. In mid-1920s, a benefactor

who knew the Nazarene sisters from the USA, bought a square adjacent to the property they had previously purchased. A few years later, the sisters moved the day care unit there. From the beginning, it was intended for the poorest children, many of whom attended it free of charge. In the interwar period, the situation of many families in the area was difficult. Despite the fact that Edmund and Karol were divided by a large age difference, the brothers had close relations with each other. Before Edmund went to college, he often took care of his younger brother. They spent time on trips and went to football matches. If Edmund played, then little Karol was seated on the



House of Divine Providence of the Nazareth Sisters at 3-go maja St. (today's Lwowska St.), early 20th century. Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Karol with his brother Edmund during a football match, approx. 1924.

Photo: Archives of the Archdiocesan Museum of Cardinal K. Wojtyła in Cracow

caps of junior secondary school students acting as the goalpost. Soon after, Lolek started playing football himself, becoming a great goalkeeper. When Edmund left, Karol stayed with his parents. The father, taking care of his sick wife, could not fully take care of his younger son. Karol and his friends were invited to the daycare, where he participated in classes and games. As the metropolitan of Cracow, Archbishop Wojtyła visited the House of Divine Providence in Wadowice, where he



Children from the daycare and schoolgirls from the embroidery workshop at the House of Divine Providence in Wadowice, 1928.
Photo: Archives of the Cracow Province of the Nazareth Sisters in Cracow

also met with sister F. Kosarz, who was his guardian in the daycare. He remembered that she slapped him and made him stand in the corner. At these words an old woman approached him and apologized to the cardinal. Wojtyła laughed heartily and thanked her for that spank, because since then he had a much calmer life.

Young Karol Wojtyła together with his parents or middle school friends often used the nearby railway station. Whether during family visits or during school trips or pilgrimages to Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and

Częstochowa. The station was built at the end of the 19th century for one of the railway lines in Galicia. At that time, the inhabitants of Wadowice could travel to Cracow, Lviv, and even Vienna. The first train entered the Wadowice railway station in 1887. At that time, the railway buildings were located on the outskirts of the town, near military barracks, and so it was in the interwar period. To this day, it is a model example of the Galician railway architecture of the 19th century.

The founder of the congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth was the **Blessed Mother Franciszka Siedliska** (1842-1902). On her initiative, a House of Divine Providence in Wadowice - operating a daycare and the House of Our Lady of Consolation - was established at the public hospital. The Nazareth Sisters appeared in Wadowice at the same time as the Barefoot Carmelites. Both assemblies sought a convenient place for their foundations. Two locations were considered in the town on the Skawa River, outside the town center - 'on the hill' and at the imperial road. An anecdote has survived that the prior of the Carmelites, St. R. Kalinowski, approached the founding mother and suggested that she choose the place first. Finally, the sisters moved in at today's Lwowska Street

and the brothers built their abode 'on the hill'. F. Siedliska personally visited the newly founded foundations in Europe and the USA. In 1898 she also visited Wadowice. She died in Rome and in 1989 she was beatified by John Paul II.



Railway station in Wadowice, 1920s and 1930s.
Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

The widespread interest in the works of the Nazareth Sisters caused an increase in the number of vocations in this community. One of the sisters was **Filotea Kosarz** (1894-1978), born in Lipniki in the Opole region. In the congregation she was a long-time babysitter of children in kindergartens run by sisters. After moving to a home in Wadowice, she became Karol's tutor. She spent 62 years in the congregation. She died in 1978, before the nomination of Cardinal Wojtyła as pope. She was buried at the parish cemetery in Wadowice.

After the pontificate of John Paul II began, Fr. dr E. Zacher (parish priest from Wadowice) and priest Cardinal Fr. Macharski (metropolitan of Cracow) decided to create a museum in Wadowice to commemorate the pope's life. On the 64th anniversary of his birth (1984), an exhibition was opened in the tenement house at Kościelna 7, and the care of it was entrusted to the Nazareth Sisters. **Sr. Magdalena Strzelecka** (1935), born in Szczekociny, was nominated its guardian and custodian. She began her religious service in Kielce, and then she was transferred to Częstochowa, Piekoszów and Cracow. In 1977 she came to the cloister in Wadowice. She also served here, among other functions, as a catechist. Thanks to the foresight of Sister Magdalena and the sisters cooperating with her, it was possible to enrich the museum's collection with many personal memorabilia belonging to the Pope.



sr. Filotea Kosarz with one of the charges from the Caritas Plant, Wadowice 1970.

Photo: Archives of the Cracow Province of the Nazareth Sisters in Cracow



Sr. Magdalena Strzelecka, Nazarene, former guardian and curator of the House of the Holy Father John Paul II.

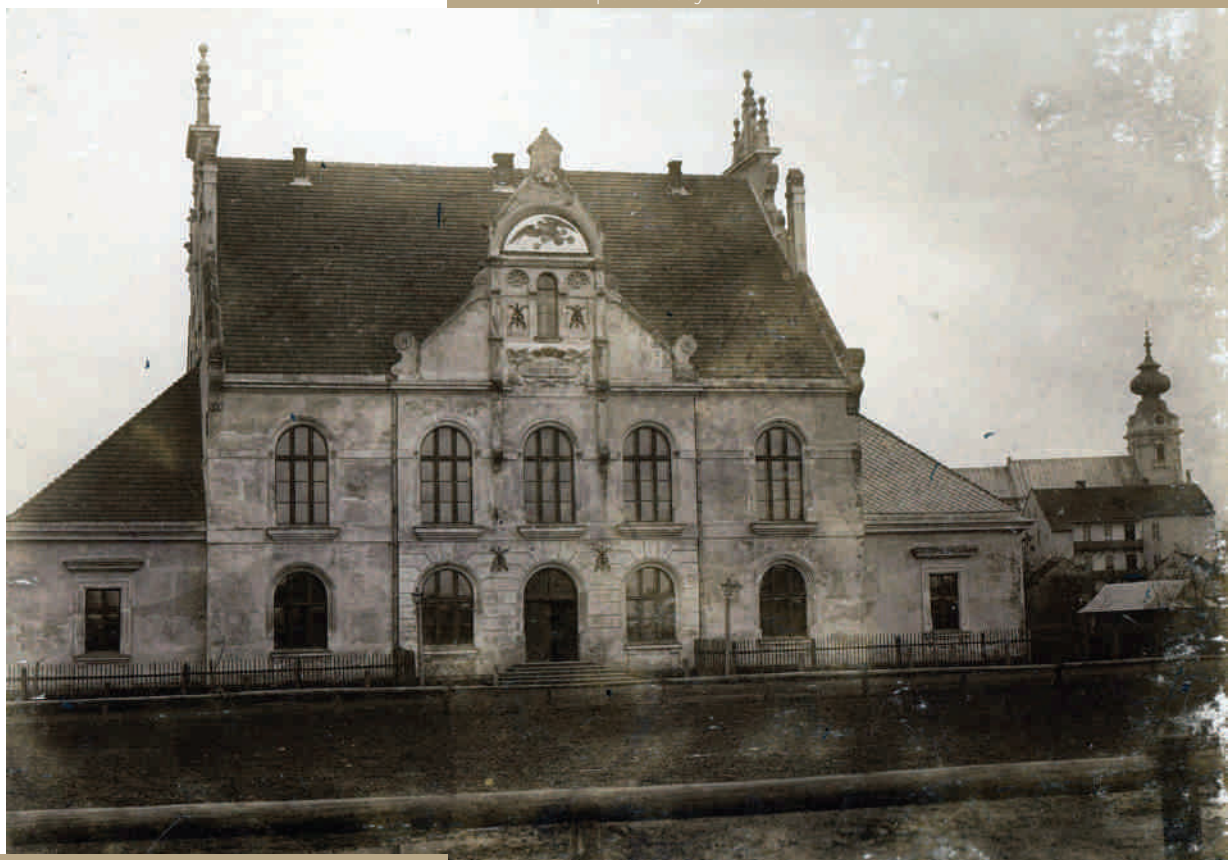
Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

Former building of the 'Sokół' Gymnastic Society

In 1887, GS 'Sokół' was founded in Wadowice. In addition to gymnastics, it dealt with educational, cultural and artistic activities, and also ran a theater group. Lolek came into contact with the theater as a spectator of the 'Jagiellonka' band in which Edmund played. As a junior high school student, Karol got involved in the activities of a school theater group, together with female secondary school students. The first joint performance was the adaptation of 'Sobótka' by J. Kochanowski. In 1934, Humanities Secondary School students, under the care of M. Kotlarczyk, staged 'Kordian' by J. Słowacki - with Wojtyła in the lead role. In the same year Halina Królikiewicz came to Wadowice. The following year Halina and Karol played together in the dance performance of 'Ułani Księcia Józef' by L. Mazur. Even after the first rehearsals it was already obvious that Karol had extraordinary abilities and conditions, such as good diction, freedom of movement on the stage, a beautiful and clear voice or the ability to immerse himself in a role. In the last grade of secondary school (1938), young actors presented 'Nowy Don Kiszot' by A. Fredro. The main role was played by Wojtyła, with D. Pukłówna by his side. That same year, Karol became a stage designer, co-director and main actor in the play by S. Wyspiański - 'Zygmunt August'. The performance moved the audience a great deal. At present, the Wadowice Culture Center is located in the former 'Sokół' building.

The building of the 'Sokół' Gymnastic Society in Wadowice, turn of XIX / XX century.

Photo from Zapalowicz Album - Archives of the Municipal Library in Wadowice





Karol Wojtyła as Prince Józef in the presentation of 'Ułani Księcia Józef'. On the left H. Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska, on the right Danuta Gruszczyńska née Pukło, Wadowice, approx. 1936.
Photo: H. Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska Collection

The Wadowice School Dramatic Group consisted of boys from the M. Wadowita Humanities Secondary School and girls from the M. Mościcka Female Secondary School. Among the female cast, **Halina Królikiewicz-Kwiatkowska** (born 1921) **Regina Beer** (born 1918-?) and **Danuta Gruszczyńska née Pukło** (1920-2005) stood out especially.

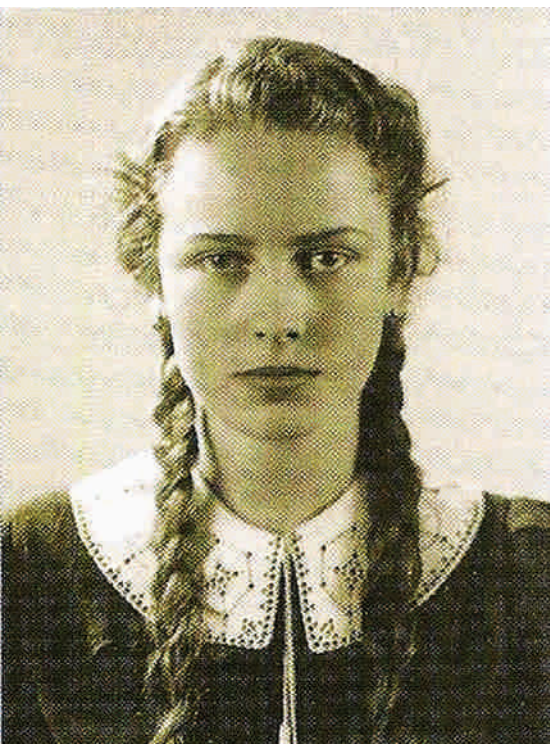
Halina moved to Wadowice in 1934, when her father Jan took the position of the headmaster of the male Humanities Secondary School. The Królikiewicz family lived in a flat in the school building. After graduating from high school she and Karol Wojtyła dreamed of a great acting career. However, their parents were apt to draw their attention to the fact that if they want to become good actors, they should have extensive knowledge of history, literature, drama and theater. Finally, in 1938, they both began Polish studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. However, they continued to devote their free time to acting. During the war, they both belonged to the M. Kotlarczyk Rhapsodic Theater. After the war, Halina realized her dreams to act professionally in theater and film.

Karol's Jewish neighbour - **Regina**, called „Ginka”, who lived in the tenement house at Kościelna 7 - was always cast in school theater plays. She was supposedly very beautiful and extremely intelligent. She was Karol's stage partner, among others, in 'Śluby panieńskie', where she played Klara and he played Gucio. Before the war, she began studying law at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, from where she was removed because of suspicion of communist sympathies. In 1938, she and her family emigrated to Palestine, where she spent the rest of her life in Haifa.



Regina Beer was friends with Karol and also belonged to the inter-school drama club, lived in a tenement house at Kościelna 7.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice



Karol's theatrical passion was also shared by his distant relative, **Danuta**, who also played in the school drama theater. Danuta's grandmother (Mrs. Osińska) was the sister of Leon Wiadrowski - husband of sister Emilia and godmother of Karol - Maria. The Pukła and Wojtyła families maintained close relationships, and their children spent time together playing in the Pukła garden or in the day-care of the Nazareth Sisters. Danuta graduated from the Academy of Commerce in Cracow and later lived in Warsaw, where she married engineer J. Gruszczyński. After choosing cardinal Wojtyła for pope she repeatedly participated in friendly meetings both in the country and in Italy.

Danuta Gruszczyńska née Pukło was friends with Karol and also belonged to the inter-school drama club.

Photo: Archives of the Municipal Museum in Wadowice

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Archives of the Archdiocesan Museum of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła in Cracow

Archives of the Cracow Province of the Order of the Barefoot Carmelites in Cracow

Archives of the Cracow Province of the Nazareth Sisters in Cracow

Archives of Municipal Museum in Wadowice

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Holy Father John Paul II Family Home Museum in Wadowice

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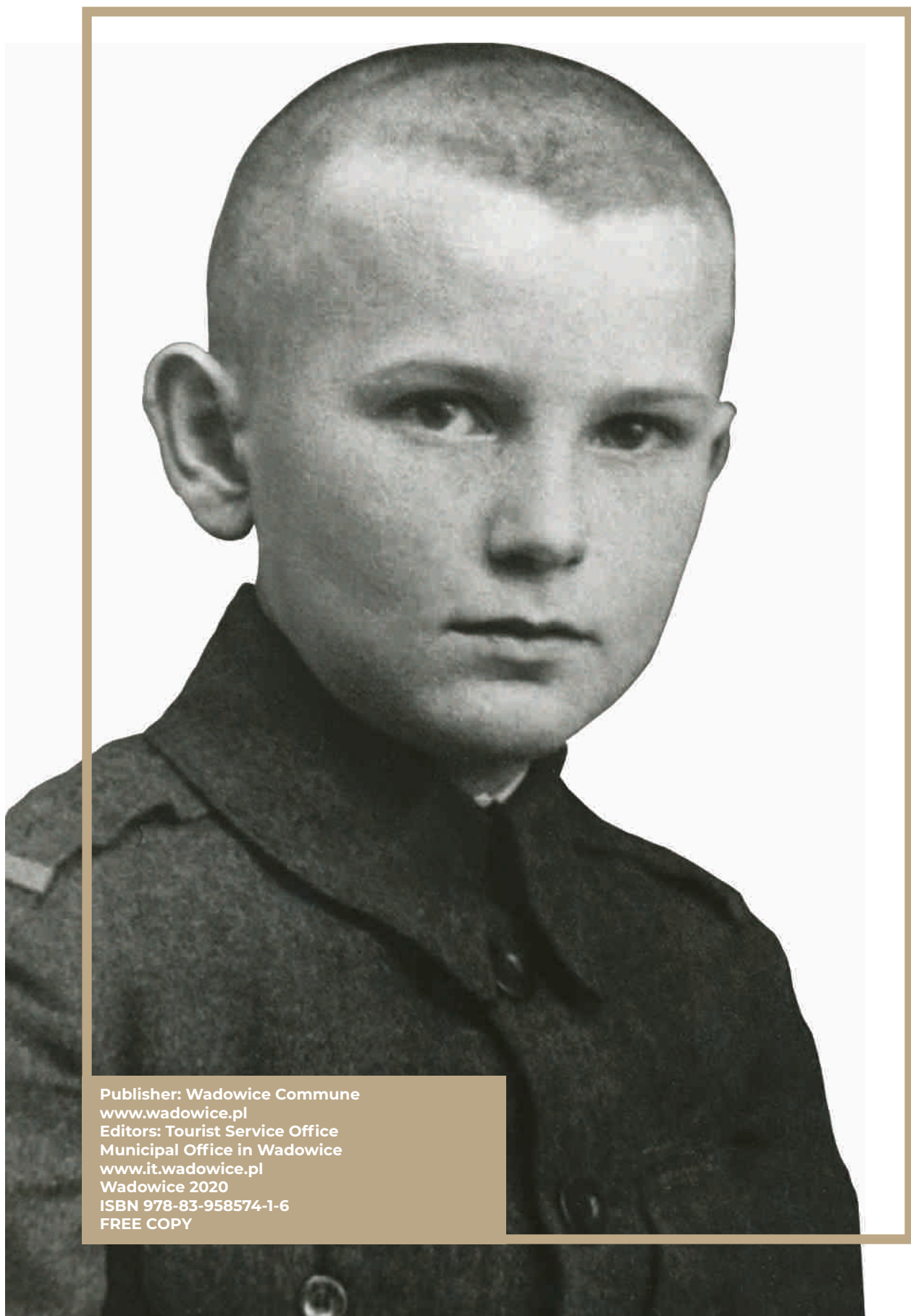
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