## Pilgrimage to Poland with Monsignor Ted Wojcicki September 29 - October 9th, 2024 Immaculate Conception of Dardenne

 Warsaw ⊕ Krakow ⊕ Czestochowa Zakopane ⊕ Auschwitz
St. Faustina ⊕ Maximilian Kolbe St. John Paul II ⊕ Gdansk
Wieliczka Salt Mine ⊕ St. John Paul II Center
Black Madonna of Czestochowa ⊕ Divine Mercy

## Spiritual Leader: Monsignor Ted Wojcicki



#### B (breakfast) L (lunch) D (dinner)

**Sunday, September 29** - We depart from St. Louis, MO in the afternoon to connect to the overnight transatlantic flight to **Gdansk**. Dinner and breakfast served aboard.

Monday, September 30 - Arrive at Gdansk Airport and meet our professional English-speaking tour escort. Upon arrival, we take a Tour of Gdansk including the St. Mary's Church, the Royal Route, the Golden Gate, Neptune Statue, Mariacka Street and Dlugie Pobrzeze. (if not possible on arrival day, it will be on Oct 2) Mass at local church (subject to confirmation, time permitting)We check into our Hotel.Welcome dinner at the hotel & Overnight at the hotel. D Gdansk

**Tuesday, October 1** - After breakfast and checkout, we board our motor coach for **Warsaw** this morning. We then head to a Roman Catholic church located in Warsaw; it is the center of the **Divine Mercy and St. Faustina Parish**. From 1863 to 1944 the building served as an internal chapel within the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy monastery compound. Destroyed during the Warsaw Uprising, it remained a ruin until the early 21st century, when it was brought to the current shape. The church and its immediate surroundings gained nationwide iconic status in the 1980s. Here our opening Mass will be celebrated. Soon after, we have lunch on our own. After our Lunch we check into our Hotel. Dinner will be at our hotel.

B & D Warsaw







Wednesday, October 2 - After a restful sleep and breakfast, we go to Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church. Here, we have our Daily Mass. It is the most significant church of Żoliborz, a district of Warsaw. The parish was created in 1927 and in 1930 construction work started on the monumental neo romanesque church building. It was interrupted by World War II and was finished in 1963. The church is the well-known Sanctuary of Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko, who was the spiritual leader of Solidarność and was killed by the Communists in 1984. Here we are able to visit the exhibition of this martyred Priest. From 1980, he conducted very popular Masses for the Fatherland that became a kind of manifesto for the social movement and protesters, attracting people from all around Poland. This is also the place of his burial and his tomb is situated beside the church. The site was visited by Pope John Paul II in 1987. Soon after, we have a guided tour of Warsaw including: Umschlagplatz Memorial, The Ghetto Heroes Monument, the Palace of culture, Barbican, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Market Square, Royal Palace and Royal Palace Square, and St. Anna Church. After Lunch on our own, our sightseeing concludes at Lazienki Park with its beautiful gardens, Chopin's Monument and the Palace on the water. Soon we return to our Hotel for dinner. B & D Warsaw

Thursday, October 3 - In the morning we have our breakfast, then check out. Today we visit Jasna Gora Monastery. Here we Celebrate Holy Mass. The Monastery is a famous Polish shrine to the Virgin Mary. The image of the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, also known as Our Lady of Częstochowa, to which miraculous powers are attributed, is one of Jasna Góra's most precious treasures. Among the monastery's other treasures and artifacts of interest is the medal from the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize received by Lech Wałęsa, the former Polish president and trade-union organizer. We will see the Treasury, the Knights Hall, the Refectory and the Basilica of the Holy Cross & the Nativity of the Virgin Mary. After our tour and devotions, we stop for an early lunch on our own, then drive to & check into our hotel. After dinner at our hotel, we have an opportunity to attend the Apel Jasnogorski -Evening Prayer to the Virgin Mary. B & D Częstochowa

**Friday, October 4** - Before breakfast, you may rise early to attend the unveiling of the **Black Madonna Icon**. After our breakfast we drive to **Oswiecim** to visit the infamous **Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi Concentration Camp**. We visit the cell of the martyred St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, who voluntarily surrendered his life so that



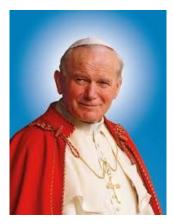
another prisoner might live. Saint Maximilian Kolbe is known as the "Apostle of Consecration to Mary," and he was canonized by Pope John Paul II in October, 1982. We will also drive by Birkenau, site of the martyrdom of Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. After lunch on our own, we continue to Zakopane located at the foothills of The Tatra Mountains, where peasants still live in wooden houses and bears roam wild in the forests. Here, we check into our hotel for the next 2 days. Mass at the local church. Here we have dinner together at our hotel. B & D Zakopane

Saturday, October 5 - This morning after Breakfast, we enjoy a raft trip down the Dunajec River through the Pieniny Gorge and along the Polish-Slovak border, which is one of the greatest tourist attractions in Poland. The serene tour begins at the raft wharf in Sromowce Nizne and ends 9-miles later in Szczawnica. The towering cliffs, the gorge limestone rock formations, the picturesque mountain scenery, and the colorful river guides make for a wonderful day in a pristine and wild environment. After, we marvel at the superb vistas in Zakopane, gateway to Poland's most popular ski areas. Saint Pope John Paul II skied here. First, we first visit the Sanctuary of the Holy Virgin of Fatima, a chapel constructed in 1999 in gratitude for Pope John Paul II's survival of an assassination attempt. Here we Celebrate Holy Mass. Afterwards we have lunch on our own. We then will take a cable car up Mt. Gubalowka for a great view of the Tatras, central Europe's highest mountains. Later, we have free time for shopping on Krupowki street and to enjoy the highlander atmosphere of the town. Tonight we have a group dinner at a local restaurant with highlander folk music. B & D Zakopane

Sunday, October 6 - After breakfast at the hotel and check-out, we depart for Wieliczka. We stop in Ludzmierz for a Mass at a beautiful Marian Sanctuary in Ludzmierz. This Church is related to the cult of Our Lady of Ludzmierz, very important for mountaineers who live in the surrounding Tatra Mountains. In its adjacent Rosary Garden Pope John Paul II prayed in 1997 during his pilgrimage to Poland. Ludźmierz, the oldest village in Podhale, Poland's southernmost region. As we continue to Wieliczka, we find a good spot for lunch on our own. Soon we find ourselves at the entrance of the Wieliczka Salt Mine, in the town of Wieliczka. From Neolithic times, sodium chloride (table salt) was produced there from the upwelling brine. The Wieliczka salt mine, excavated from the 13th century, produced table salt continuously until 2007, as one of the world's oldest operating salt mines. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its attractions include the shafts and labyrinthine passageways, displays of historic salt-mining technology, an underground lake, four chapels and numerous statues carved by miners out of the rock salt. After, we continue to Krakow & check into our hotel for the next 3 days. Dinner at our hotel.

B & D Krakow

Monday, October 7 - After breakfast, we have a sightseeing tour of Krakow, one of the oldest cities in Poland and its first capital city with the entire Old Town area listed on the Unesco World Heritage Site. Visit the amazing Wawel Hill with the first Polish royal residence The Wawel Castle - enter the Royal Chambers and the Wawel Cathedral. Continue with a walk along Grodzka street, on the way passing the beautiful churches of St. Andrew, St. Peter and Paul, and St. Francis of Assisi. Reach the Market Square (at two hundred meters squared, it became the largest marketplace in Europe) and hear the silver trumpet of the bugler from St. Mary's Tower. We will visit the church, where we can see Europe's largest wooden altar created by the extraordinary Wit Stwosz. Here, we enjoy a tour led by one of the sisters. It was here that the message of the Divine Mercy originated, which Christ Himself wished to pass on to our generation through the mediation of St. Faustina. The Sanctuary houses a graceful working image of the Merciful Jesus and the relics of St. Faustina. As we visit the Shrine of Divine Mercy, we will see St. Faustina's convent chapel and her Tomb. We visit the newly constructed Shrine of Divinity dedicated by Pope John









Paul II on his last visit to Poland in 2002. We will celebrate our daily Holy Mass here. After our Mass, we have time for prayers and devotions or even some shopping. Next, we visit the new center 'Have No Fear!' John Paul II Centre (the official name of which refers to his famous words during his inauguration speech) The primary highlights for visitors are the Sanctuary of Blessed John Paul II - a chapel with relics of the former pope, including a vial of his blood. After, we drive back to our hotel in Krakow for dinner. B & D Krakow

**Tuesday, October 8** - After our breakfast, we board our motorcoach & depart for Wieliczka. There we have lunch on our own. Next, we drive to **Wadowice** - the hometown of John Paul II. We visit his childhood home which is now a museum and the Church of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary where he was baptized. **Here we Celebrate Mass.** After, we depart for Krakow but En route, we stop at **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska** which was a popular pilgrimage place for Pope John Paul II when he was a young man and where in the 17th century the Palatine of Krakow founded a Franciscan Monastery. On the slope of the hill and the valley is an architectural 'Way of the Cross' made up of 40 chapels set on the surrounding hills. **Optionally**, the group will visit **Lord's Ark Church (Arka Pana)**. The first cornerstone was laid in 1969 by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła & on May 15th 1977, the church was consecrated. In the early 1980s, the church became a focal point during anti-communist protests. Despite the resistance of the authorities, the then archbishop of Krakow Karol Wojtyła repeatedly held the Holy Mass outdoors in the place of the cross. **Tonight we go out for a farewell dinner**. **B & D Krakow** 

Wednesday, October 9 - After breakfast at the hotel and check-out this morning, we then transfer to Krakow's International Airport to take the homebound flight B



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**CANCELLATIONS:** Please make all cancellations in writing. The following cancellation charges apply: If cancelled 120 days or more prior to departure, a \$75 administration fee is charged. If cancelled 119-61 days prior, \$300 penalty will be charged. If cancelled 60 days or less, the total amount of the trip will be forfeited. In addition, once the **airline tickets** are issued, about 50 days prior to departure, **the cost is non-refundable**.

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PASSPORT AND VISA: For travel to Poland, a valid passport is required for all U.S. citizens. For those holding passports of other countries, visas may be required. Please check with Travel Tyme for further information.

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