

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

FR. JERZY POPIEŁUSZKO ON THE GDAŃSK COAST



One can never give up the fight for freedom and truth.

– B. Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko

Exhibition prepared by the Branch Office of
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Region Gdański NSZZ „Solidarność”

FAMILY, YOUTH AND CALLING



Cleric Popiełuszko in uniform (AOK).



Father Jerzy with his parents Władysław and Marianna and one of the brothers. Family house in Okopy near Suchowola, 1970s (AOK).

Alfons (this was the name the future priest received at baptism, adopting a new one in 1971) Popiełuszko was born on 14 September 1947 in the village of Okopy near Suchowola in Podlasie. He studied at the local high school. After graduating, he entered the Metropolitan Higher Seminary in Warsaw. As a cleric, he completed his compulsory military service in the Military Unit in Bartoszyce. The communist authorities treated this as a form of repression against future priests. After ordination, he served as a vicar, i.a. in parishes near Warsaw and the academic church of St. Anna on Krakowskie Przedmieście in Warsaw.

Card. Stefan Wyszyński ordains deacon Jerzy Aleksander Popiełuszko in the cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Warsaw, 28 May 1972 (AOK).



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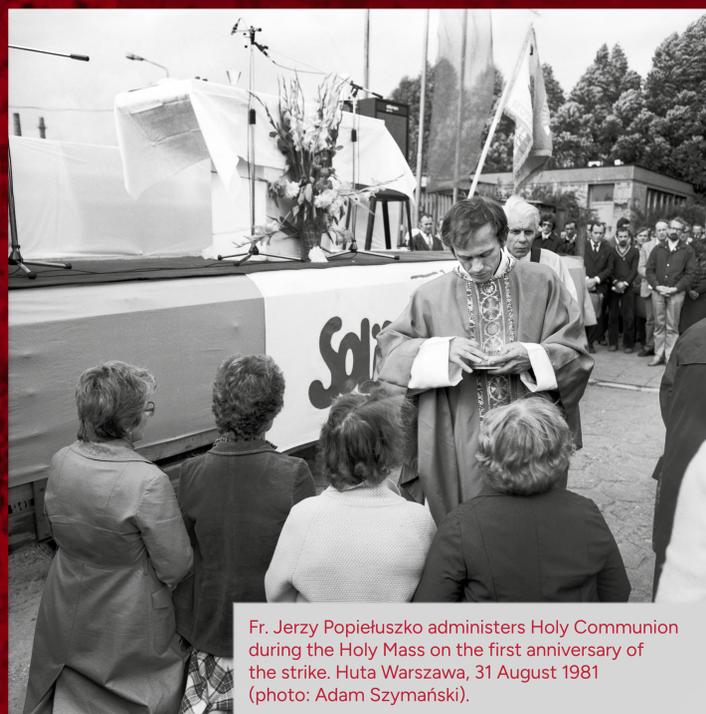


CHAPLAIN OF "SOLIDARITY"



Holy Mass in the striking Huta Warszawa, conducted by Fr. Lucjan Kołodziej. Behind, on the left, stands Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko (in a cassock), 31 August 1980 (photo: Adam Szymański).

As the strikes on the Gdańsk Coast continued in August 1980, due to poor health, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko stayed as a resident in the parish of St. Stanisław Kostka in the Żoliborz district of Warsaw. On Sunday, 31 August, at the request of the steelworkers, he was sent by the bishop, together with two other priests, to celebrate a service at Huta Warszawa, whose crew joined the nationwide protest action. The first mass on the premises of the plant was conducted by Fr. Lucjan Kołodziej, and confessions were heard by Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko and Fr. Stanisław Ciapała. The second Sunday Eucharist was celebrated by Father Jerzy.



Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko administers Holy Communion during the Holy Mass on the first anniversary of the strike. Huta Warszawa, 31 August 1981 (photo: Adam Szymański).

Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko celebrates the Holy Mass on the first anniversary of the strike. Huta Warszawa, 31 August 1981 (photo: Adam Szymański).



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Solidarność
Region Gdański NSZZ „Solidarność”



“GDAŃSK, WARSAW – COMMON CAUSE”!



Fr. Popieluszko with a delegation of steelworkers at the Monument to the Victims of December 1970 in Gdynia, 30 August 1981 (photo: Adam Szymański).



Fr. Popieluszko participates in the consecration of a plaque donated by steelworkers for shipyard workers, at gate no. 2 of the Gdańsk Shipyard, on 30 August 1981 (photo: Adam Szymański).

Since his pastoral service during the August strike, Father Jerzy became involved with the “Solidarity” community. He served during the 1st General Meeting of Delegates of the Masovia Region. He participated alongside the Union’s delegation in the ingress of Bp. Józef Glemp. He was present at the ceremony of unveiling the monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970 in Gdańsk, and together with steelworkers came to the Coast on the eve of the first anniversary of the signing of the Gdańsk Agreement. He celebrated the Holy Mass in the church of St. Bridget, and then laid flowers at the monuments in Gdańsk and Gdynia.

*Ksęża goście celebrujący
w Kościele Św. Brygidy
w Gdańsku*

36	29.08.81	Ks. Antoni Jankowski	Włocławek	Św. Antoni	Sobieszka
37	30.08.81	Ks. Jerzy Popieluszko	Włocławek	Św. Brygidy	Włocławek
38	30.08.81	Ks. Henryk Ostrowski	Włocławek	Św. Brygidy	Włocławek

The entry of Fr. Popieluszko in the guest book of priests celebrating the Holy Mass in the church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk, 30 August 1981 (APŚwB).

Ceremony of unveiling the monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers of 1970 in Gdańsk. Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko sits in the front row, in the centre, 16 December 1980 (AKKS).



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“EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN WESTERPLATTE”!



Ceremonial restoration of the cross at the Westerplatte Defenders Cemetery, 30 August 1981. Standing first from the right is Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko. Sitting next to him are, i.a., Fr. Henryk Jankowski and the Dominican Fr. Ludwik Wiśniewski. Kneeling is Lech Wałęsa, and sitting behind him with one of the children on her lap is Danuta Wałęsa (photo: Paweł Glanert, AIPN).

The restoration of the cross at the Westerplatte Defenders Cemetery was one of the demands of the strike committee of the Port of Gdańsk Authority in August 1980.

The place of the symbol of Christianity, removed from the area of the former warehouse in 1963 on the occasion of the visit of the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Nikita Khrushchev, was taken by a T-34 tank. From that moment on, the cross, dug in at the cemetery in Nowy Port, waited for better days.

The Holy Mass was conducted by the Bishop of Gdańsk, Lech Kaczmarek. In addition to the inhabitants of Tri-City, it was attended by plant delegations of NSZZ “Solidarność” from all over the country, including steelworkers with their chaplain, Fr. Popiełuszko, at the head.



Cross placed in a concrete foundation opposite the tank. Port workers standing under the cross include: Czesław Nowak (first from the right), Jan Hałas, Stanisław Jarosz, Antoni Grabarczyk (photo: unk., from Czesław Nowak's collections).

Several dozen thousand people gathered at the Holy Mass at Westerplatte. Gdańsk, 30 August 1981 (photo: Paweł Glanert, AIPN).



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Region Gdański NSZZ „Solidarność”

MARTIAL LAW AT "BRIDGET"



Fr. Popiełuszko delivers a homily during the Holy Mass in the church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk, probably 13 August 1984 (photo: Jerzy Szóstko).

97	8.8.83	Ks. Jan Kasalicki	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka
98	8.2.83	X. Jacek Kucinski	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka
99	5.6.83	Ks. Jerzy Popiełuszko	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka
100	10.10.83	Ks. Jacek Granda	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka
101	10.11.83	Rever. AUGOURT	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka

104	18.08.83	P. Bernard CARONNE	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka
105	18.08.83	X. Jan J. Kucinski	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka
106	13.08.83	Ks. Jerzy Popiełuszko	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka
107	14.08.83	Ks. Jan Kasalicki	Wieliczka	Wieliczka	Wieliczka

The entry of Fr. Popiełuszko in the book of priests celebrating the Holy Mass in the church of St. Bridget on 5-6 and 13-14 August 1983 (APŚWB).

In 1983-1984, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko came several times to the church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk to participate in the Holy Mass on the anniversary of the start of the August strike in the Gdańsk Shipyard. His visits were always accompanied by great interest and strengthened the patriotic and religious sentiments of the inhabitants of Tri-City.

Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko (second from the right) concelebrates the Holy Mass in the church of St. Bridget, probably 13 August 1984 (photo: Jerzy Szóstko).



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SOLIDARNOŚĆ
Region Gdański NSZZ „Solidarność”

THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT "SOLIDARITY"!



Anna Walentynowicz in the parish of St. Stanisław Kostka in Warsaw visiting Fr. Popiełuszko, probably August 1984 (photo: Jerzy Szóstko).

The chaplain of "Solidarity" enjoyed great respect on the part of Anna Walentynowicz. At her request, on 30 August 1985 he was to celebrate the Holy Mass in the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Gdynia, whose parson was Fr. Hilary Jastak. When he left Warsaw by car in the morning, he was stopped in Łomianki by officers of the Citizens' Militia and the Security Service, who prevented him from coming to Tri-City. Last Holy Mass in Gdańsk with his participation took place on 13 October 1984 in the church of St. Bridget. While returning to the capital, unknown perpetrators threw stones at the car driving the priest (according to official media).



Lech Wałęsa and Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko in the church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk, probably 13 August 1984 (photo: Jerzy Szóstko).

Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, surrounded by the congregation, signs autographs in the church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk (AIPN).



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SOLIDARNOŚĆ

Region Gdański NSZZ „Solidarność”

A PRIEST IS ALSO HUMAN... GDAŃSK, HEL, DĘBKI...



Father Jerzy by the Neptune Fountain and the Artus Court in Gdańsk, in the company of, i.a., Aunt Mary Kalinowski (photo: unk., from the collections of Marek Popiełuszko, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko Foundation "Dobro").



Fr. Popiełuszko by the sea on the occasion of Aunt Mary Kalinowski's arrival to Poland from the USA. Hel, 1975 (photo: unk., from the collections of Marek Popiełuszko, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko Foundation "Dobro").

Father Jerzy's connection with the Gdańsk Coast went beyond politics. Like most inhabitants of other regions of Poland, he loved the Polish sea and summer vacation, even for a few days a year. In the 1970s he was in Hel, and in August 1983 and 1984 he stayed in Dębki. The first time he was hosted by Anna Wolska, and a year later by attorney Edward Wende. During his stay at the seaside, he celebrated the Holy Mass several times in Resurrection Priests' wooden church of Our Lady of Częstochowa. He came straight from Dębki to Gdańsk to the church of St. Bridget.

DĘBKI

Ks. Ks. = Goście

Rzym - kat

kaplica

XX. Zmartwychwstańców

Title page of the book of guest priests of the church of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Dębki (APPZ).

37	6. 12. 1983	1. 12. 1983	1. 12. 1983	1. 12. 1983	1. 12. 1983	1. 12. 1983	1. 12. 1983
38	12. 12. 1983	12. 12. 1983	12. 12. 1983	12. 12. 1983	12. 12. 1983	12. 12. 1983	12. 12. 1983
39	13. 12. 1983	13. 12. 1983	13. 12. 1983	13. 12. 1983	13. 12. 1983	13. 12. 1983	13. 12. 1983
40	14. 12. 1983	14. 12. 1983	14. 12. 1983	14. 12. 1983	14. 12. 1983	14. 12. 1983	14. 12. 1983
41	15. 12. 1983	15. 12. 1983	15. 12. 1983	15. 12. 1983	15. 12. 1983	15. 12. 1983	15. 12. 1983

The entry of Fr. Popiełuszko (no. 40) in the parish book in Dębki. The priest celebrated services here on 6–12 August 1983 (APPZ).

Church of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Dębki (photo: Arkadiusz Kazański).



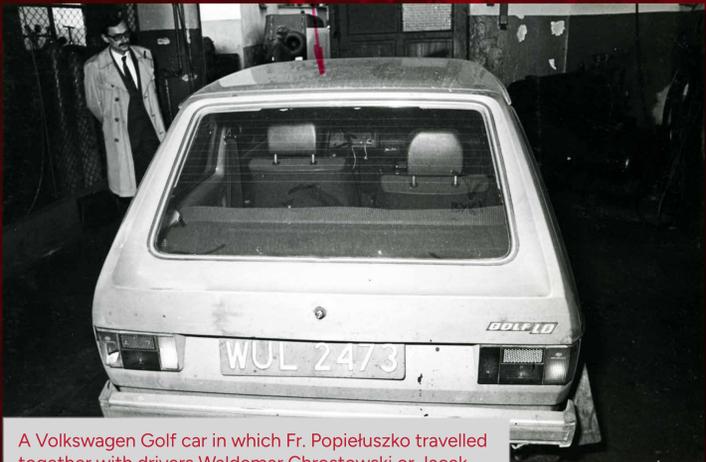
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ABDUCTION AND DEATH

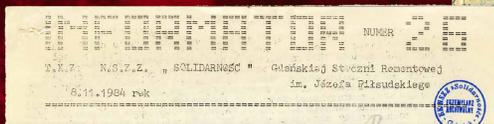


A Volkswagen Golf car in which Fr. Popiełuszko travelled together with drivers Waldemar Chrostowski or Jacek Lipiński (AIPN).

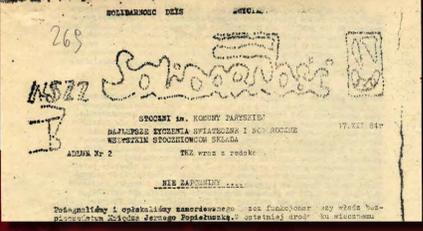


The body of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko extracted from the Vistula at the dam in Włocławek (AIPN).

When on 19 October 1984, Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko was kidnapped by unknown perpetrators, prayers and masses were organized on the Gdańsk Coast as well as throughout the country and offered for the intention of finding him. In Gdańsk, masses were celebrated i.a. by Fr. Henryk Jankowski in "Bridget" and by the Dominicans in the church of St. Nicholas. Protests in connection with the kidnapping of the priest were also organized in those plants with strong secret committees of "Solidarity": in the Port of Gdańsk and the Gdańsk, Północna and Remontowa Shipyards. Academic circles and high school students also protested. Unfortunately, on 30 October, information came that Father Jerzy's body had been found in the Vistula River at the dam in Włocławek.



Underground magazines: "Solidarność. Pismo Regionu Gdańskiego", "Nasz Czas" of the NSZZ "Solidarność" in Gdańsk, "Rozważa i Solidarność" of the Secret Plant Committee of NSZZ "Solidarność" in the Gdańsk Shipyard, "Informator" of the TKZ NSZZ "Solidarność" in the Gdańsk Remontowa Shipyard, "Portowiec" of the TKZ NSZZ "Solidarność" in the Port of Gdańsk Authority and "Kadłub" of the TKZ NSZZ "Solidarność" in the Paris Commune Shipyard in Gdynia, with articles, statements and texts about the abduction and murder of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko (AKKS).



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FUNERAL

– MANIFESTATION OF “SOLIDARITY”

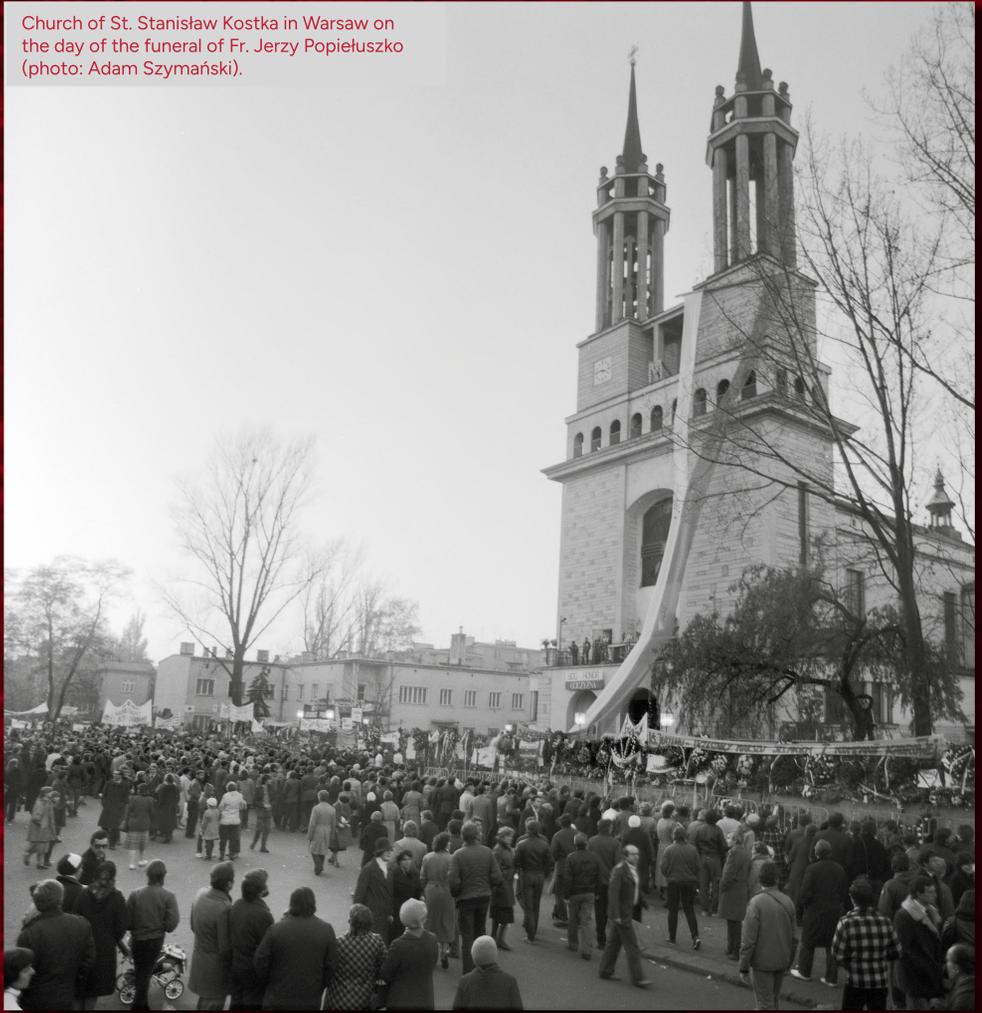


Gdańsk delegation to the funeral of Fr. Popiełuszko. In the foreground from the left: Andrzej Drzycimski, Stanisław Fudakowski and Zbigniew Lis. Behind them, Fr. Henryk Jankowski. Church of St. Stanisław Kostka in Warsaw, 3 November 1984 (AKKS).



Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko was buried on land belonging to the church of St. Stanisław Kostka. The funeral gathered thousands of people and turned into a great religious, political and patriotic manifestation. The service conducted by Primate Józef Glemp was celebrated by hundreds of priests. Lech Wałęsa, Andrzej Gwiazda, Anna Walentynowicz and other activists of the banned “Solidarity” also attended the funeral.

Church of St. Stanisław Kostka in Warsaw on the day of the funeral of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko (photo: Adam Szymański).



Prayer vigil on the evening before the funeral of Fr. Popiełuszko. In the first bench from the left: Anna Walentynowicz, Marian Jurczyk and Seweryn Jaworski. Church of St. Stanisław Kostka in Warsaw, 2 November 1984 (photo: Adam Szymański).



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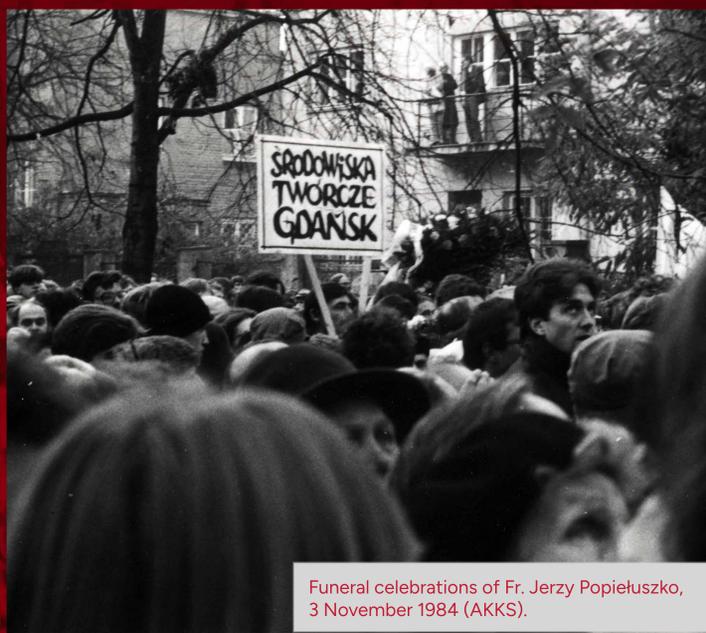
Solidarność

Region Gdański NSZZ „Solidarność”

THE MARKS OF GDAŃSK...



A wreath in the shape of the coat of arms of Gdańsk, funeral ceremony of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko on 3 November 1984 (photo: Jerzy Szóstko).



Funeral celebrations of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, 3 November 1984 (AKKS).

In addition to the Gdańsk leaders of the Union, several thousand residents of Tri-City and the region also came to Warsaw. They were accompanied by numerous flags and banners with the words "Solidarity" and "Gdańsk will not forget". As representatives of Gdańsk – the cradle of "Solidarity" – they were warmly welcomed by the inhabitants of the capital and other participants of the funeral.



Banners of Gdańsk delegations at the funeral of Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko on 3 November 1984 (photo: Adam Szymański).



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THE MARTYR'S PARENTS...



After the death of Fr. Popiełuszko, Anna Walentynowicz often visited his parents in Suchowola, helping them, i.a., in house renovation (AKKS).



Lech Wałęsa presents the parents of Fr. Popiełuszko with the Commander's Cross awarded posthumously by the Association of Polish Resistance Participants in France. Church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk, 2 December 1984 (AKKS).

An important moment was the arrival to Gdańsk of the parents of the martyred priest: Władysław and Marianna, and his brother Józef, on 2 December 1984. Solemn Holy Mass in the church of St. Bridget gathered several thousand people and became an opportunity to express thanks for the life of Father Jerzy. In the shadow of the priest's death, subsequent anniversaries were celebrated on the Coast: of December 1970 and of the introduction of martial law. Over the next 365 days, many religious and patriotic events took place on the Gdańsk Coast commemorating the murdered Father Jerzy. Services were held, high school students participated in the so-called breaks of silence, etc.



The priest's parents and brother Józef with his wife Alfreda in the church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk on 2 December 1984 (AKKS).



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SOLIDARNOŚĆ

Region Gdański NSZZ „Solidarność”

“LET HIM BE SILENCED!”

– COMMUNISTS AGAINST FR. JERZY POPIEŁUSZKO



Citizens' Militia general Zenon Płatek, director of Department IV of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, acquitted in 1994 due to lack of evidence (AIPN).



Citizens' Militia colonel Adam Pietruszka, deputy director of Department IV of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, convicted of inspiring and directing the murder of Fr. Popiełuszko and sentenced to 25 years in prison (AIPN).



Jerzy Urban, press spokesman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic in 1981–1989 (AIPN).

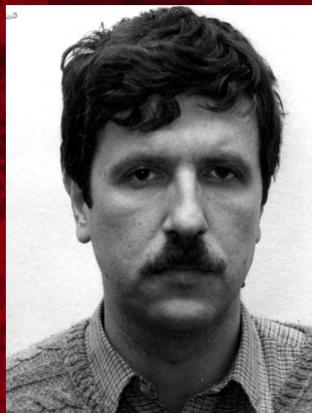
After the introduction of martial law, Fr. Popiełuszko celebrated Holy Masses for the Homeland in the church of St. Stanisław Kostka in Żoliborz, which attracted large crowds of people. The then government spokesman, Jerzy Urban, called these services “shows of hatred”. The central party authorities perceived the priest preaching the Gospel in the city where they presided as a particular threat. It was therefore decided to take a number of repressive actions against the priest. This task was performed by Department IV of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, headed by Zenon Płatek and the head of the Security Service, Władysław Ciastoń. Wojciech Jaruzelski and Czesław Kiszczak were almost certainly aware of this.



Security Service captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, sentenced to 25 years in prison for the murder of Fr. Popiełuszko (AIPN).



Security Service lieutenant Leszek Pękala, sentenced to 15 years in prison for the murder of Fr. Popiełuszko (AIPN).



Security Service lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski, sentenced to 14 years in prison for the murder of Fr. Popiełuszko (AIPN).

One of the meetings of General Wojciech Jaruzelski and General Czesław Kiszczak (in the middle in military uniforms) with the heads of the Citizens' Militia and the Security Service. Second from the left, Citizens' Militia general Władysław Ciastoń, acquitted in 1994 due to lack of evidence. Warsaw, 1980s (AIPN).



„ZWRACAM SIĘ DO WAS, FUNKCJONARIUSZ
MILICJI OBYWATELSKIEJ I SŁUŻBY
BEZPIECZENSTWA: STRZECIE PAŃSTWA
PRZED WROGIEM, A LUDZI PRACY PRZED
BEZPRAWIEM I PRZEMOCĄ.”

GEN. WŁADYŚLAW CIASTOŃ



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Solidarność

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EVIDENCE OF THE CRIME

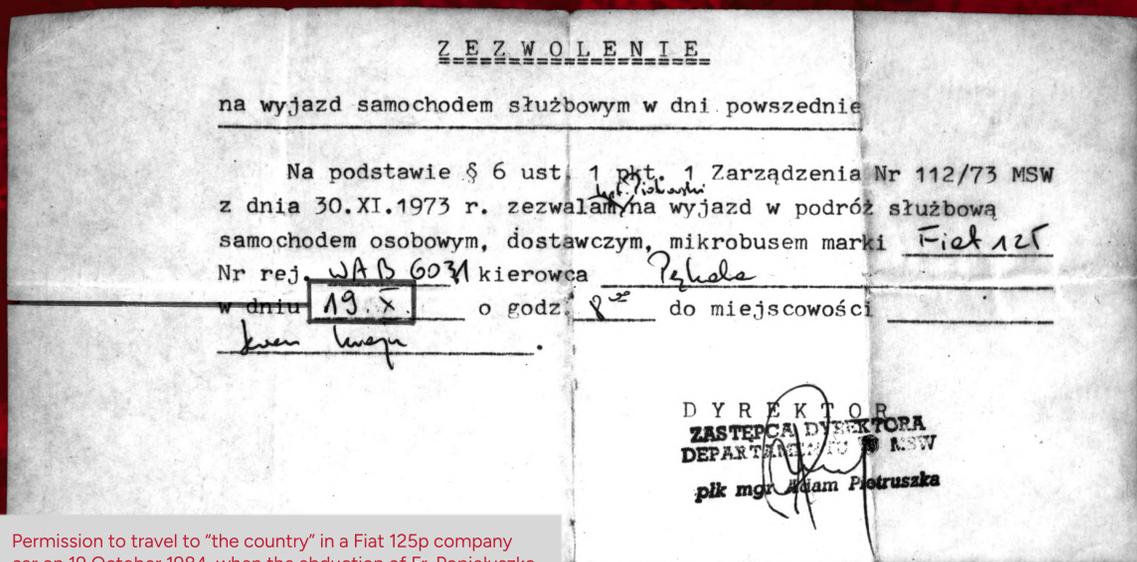


The cassock of Fr. Popiełuszko at the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Medical University of Białystok (AIPN).

According to the findings of the trial before the Provincial Court in Toruń (27 December 1984-7 February 1985), Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko was abducted and murdered on 19 October 1984. The perpetrators were Security Service officers: Grzegorz Piotrowski, Leszek Pękala and Waldemar Chmielewski. The action was led by Col. Adam Pietruszka. They were sentenced to long prison terms (up to 25 years). The convicts were released before serving their full sentence.



An electronic watch which, according to one of the perpetrators of the murder, belonged to Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko (AIPN).



Permission to travel to "the country" in a Fiat 125p company car on 19 October 1984, when the abduction of Fr. Popiełuszko took place, signed by the deputy director of Department IV of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Col. Adam Pietruszka (AIPN).

Dam on the Vistula in Włocławek, where the body of Fr. Popiełuszko was thrown into the river (AIPN).

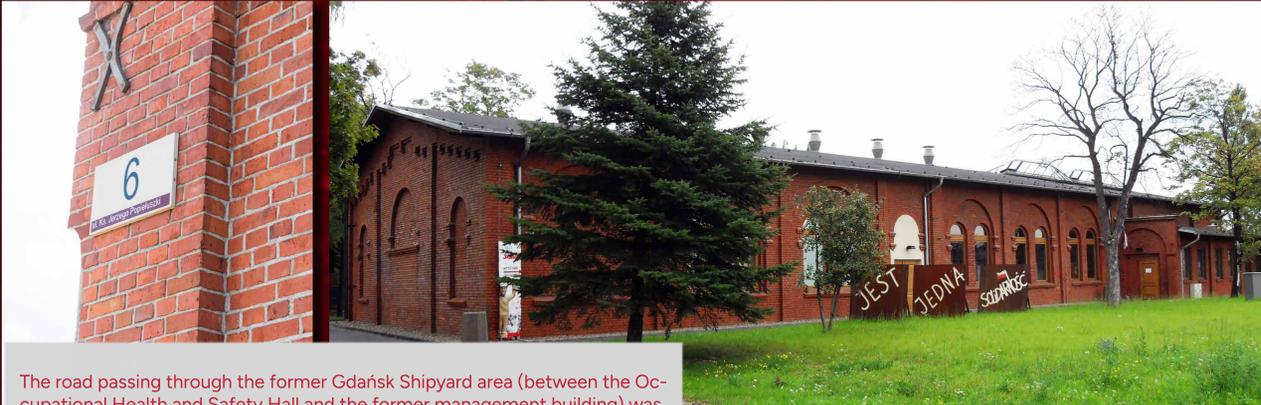


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TO REMEMBER

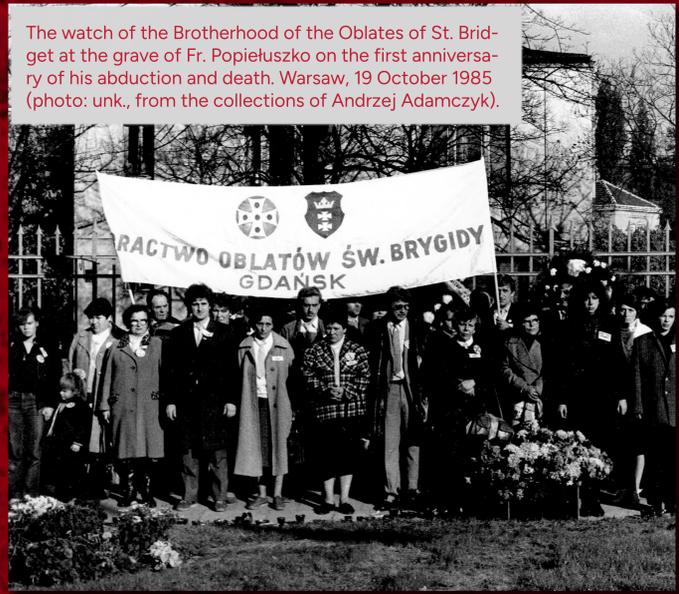
MEANS TO BE GRATEFUL...



The road passing through the former Gdańsk Shipyard area (between the Occupational Health and Safety Hall and the former management building) was named after Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko. The Occupational Health and Safety Hall is marked with the number 6 (photo: Michał Mieczkowski, public domain).

It is impossible to list all the ways of commemorating Fr. Popiełuszko on the Gdańsk Coast. One of the most symbolic was to name the artery running through the former Gdańsk Shipyard after him. A plaque with the name of the "Solidarity" chaplain hangs on the wall of the Occupational Health and Safety Hall, where in August 1980 representatives of striking plants wrote down 21 demands and where groundbreaking agreements in the history of Poland and the world were signed. Thanks to them, "Solidarity" was born, to whose message Fr. Popiełuszko was faithful until the end of his life.

The watch of the Brotherhood of the Oblates of St. Bridget at the grave of Fr. Popiełuszko on the first anniversary of his abduction and death. Warsaw, 19 October 1985 (photo: unk., from the collections of Andrzej Adamczyk).



Monument to Fr. Popiełuszko unveiled in the church of St. Bridget in Gdańsk on the first anniversary of his death (AKKS).



Holy Father John Paul II at the grave of Fr. Popiełuszko by the church of St. Stanisław Kostka in Warsaw, June 1987 (AIPN).



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