

You're invited to reunite with your heritage with The Polish Mission!

Once again, The Polish Mission is inviting all interested people for an unforgettable trip to Poland! We're inviting all students, parents, and alumni of all ages who are interested in making a pilgrimage to Poland, the fatherland of our founder, Fr. Józef Dąbrowski. All are invited to a premier experience that only The Polish Mission could offer, led by Polish Language Coordinator Marzanna Owinski, and a number of our closest partners in our Fatherland.

Our trip has been carefully crafted to incorporate some of the most beautiful and meaningful experiences in Poland, including several UNESCO World Heritage Sites that are regarded as exceptional because of their beauty, history, and importance in world civilization. We're offering an opportunity to embrace Orchard Lake Schools' ancestral home in-person.

Our Polish experience will begin in the company of our good friends, the faculty and students of the Stanisława Moniuszki National Music Academy in Bielsko-Biala. The Moniuszko Academy is our educational partner, and we're looking forward to spending some quality time with the same group of students who played alongside the OLSM jazz band in 2015. They're looking forward to reconnecting with their OLSM friends!

Together with them, we'll meet at the Royal City of Kraków where we'll explore Wawel "Castle of the Kings," and travel to the many special places in southern Poland, including the heart of the Tatras and a main center of winter sports, Zakopane, the home of St. John Paul II in Wadowice, the Wieliczka Salt Mine, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and the venerated monastery of Jasna Gora, where we'll view the renowned icon of the Black Madonna of Czestochowa.

Later we will visit Warszawa, the capital of Poland, where we'll explore two excellent museums: The Warsaw Rising Museum, and the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews (which was named European Museum of the Year for 2016).

From there we'll go to the home city of Mikołaj Kopernik: Toruń, where we'll go inside his home, while enjoying the traditional gingerbread cookies and learn about the fascinating medieval culture preserved in the city and community there. That will be our base from which we'll visit a special landmark of the trip: the historic headquarters of the Teutonic Order: Malbork Castle, the largest castle in the world.

Then for the final leg of the tour, we'll go north to Gdańsk and Sopot on the Baltic Sea. While there, we'll experience the two local epic landmarks of Polish history: Westerplatte, where the first shots of WWII were fired, and the Gdańsk shipyards, where the famous Solidarity movement was born. In addition, we'll go below decks on the ORP *Błyskawica*, the famous *Grom*-class destroyer from WWII at the Museum of the Polish Navy, before ending the trip on Europe's longest wooden pier with our toes in the Baltic.

Would you like to come? Airfare, meals, lodging, and travel will be covered for a flat fee, valid only for our Polish Mission delegation, which is going to be approx. \$2,800 per person. For more information, including a detailed travel itinerary, please visit www.polishmission.com/trip, and email Marzanna at mowinski@stmarysprep.com

Budget Timeline

- ⇒ First payment deadline: 09/01/2017
 - First payment of \$500
- ⇒ Second Payment Deadline: 11/01/2017
 - Second payment of \$500
- ⇒ Third Payment Deadline: 02/01/2018
 - Third payment of \$900
- ⇒ Four Payment Deadline: 04/01/2018
 - Fourth payment of \$900