

## **Patriotism in the teaching of John Paul II to the Polish during a pilgrimage to the homeland.**

### **Summary**

Polish pope pointed out a number of elements that form the relationship of individuals to the nation from which they originated. In this study it became the starting point for the issue of individual responsibility towards the nation they are part of. The issue of responsibility for their nation has been displayed in the dimension of concern for the preservation of historical, cultural, family and political obligations, in accordance with those presented by John Paul II to his countrymen during the pilgrimage to his native country.

The richest image of the Holy Father's sensitivity to love for the Homeland is gained through the presentation of characters that he recalled and relied in his homilies and speeches during pilgrimages to Poland. The rich collection of over two hundred official statements must be accompanied by the improvised statements. During numerous speeches he revealed to his listeners the advantages of the clergy and the lay people present in the ancient history of the nation, up to the present. He spoke about the rulers, people meritorious for Polish science and social life. He analyzed the achievements of creators of the Polish culture, especially literature. He was fond of mentioning them and quoting their thoughts. He reminded the importance of many works which create the center of Polish culture.

The subject of John Paul II's patriotism are the most important events and places that are testimony to the history of the Polish nation on the historical and geographical Polish maps, beginning from the Christening of Mieszko I, up to the rich contemporary XX century. The Pope considered the people, events, places and symbols of Polishness to be complementary lesson in understanding the ethos of the Polish nation. The Holy Father referred to the groundbreaking, often glorious events like Christening or Polish workers' protests of the 80s of the XX century. He also talked about episodes in the history that showed the weakness of the Poles, often affecting the dramatic events, like the Polish state crises and the partition of Poland made by the three neighboring powers. John Paul II's beatification and canonization emphasized the importance of many people who have become the pride of the Polish nation and contributed the prominent examples to the history. They became not only a model of strong faith, but also dedicated service to the Fatherland. symbol of Polish, of

which He spoke with conviction about associated with this symbols of polishness as the material witnesses to the spirit and identity of the nation.

John Paul II was accompanied by the belief that throughout history there are two important factors affecting the Polish patriotism. These are: the Catholic Church, and more broadly Christianity and the State. He saw the Church as a huge, even central social force affecting the image of Polish national identity, evidenced by the continued presence of the Church in Polish history. Its efforts to promote the moral principles that are the foundation of not only individuals and families, but also to the entire nation highlight the role of this institution. According to the Polish pope the Church has indisputable merits for many phenomena and social initiatives. The importance of the Church in relation to the state to some extent is placed on a higher position in the formation of patriotism in Polish history. The nation, which experienced a lack of historical continuity. Changes in the power system, partitions, wars and the consequences of these events resulted in instability and even long breaks in the functioning of the state. The Pope emphasized that the responsibility of government for the preservation of national traditions deposit, concern for the unity of society, including the defense the individual, group and national community rights remains unchangeable. The fulfillment of this mission towards the nation has also a subjective dimension. John Paul II mentioned the responsibility of not anonymous or collective political groups governing the state, but raised awareness about the responsibility of each politician towards their own conscience and history.

Keywords:

Patriotism, country or a homeland, national identity, responsibility, the Church, the State.