

January 30, 2005

Student Body  
St. Mary's Preparatory  
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324

Dear Students,

A few months ago, Father Whalen requested that you help with a project to send sweaters to Poland. Our committee welcomed this donation with great enthusiasm. The sweaters were packed and sent onwards to Poland. They arrived, with 16 tons of other presents, just a few days before Christmas.

I want to share with you some facts about the destination of your gifts and how special your charity became when it reached its destination.

First, many of these sweaters went to the parish where Fr. Popieluszko gave his sermons, his pleas for freedom and his talks about God. All of this was done in the face of communist persecution and in the end these wonderful sermons cost him his life. He is buried outside the church, just a few steps from where your sweaters were distributed to the homeless, to seniors whose heat is often turned off during the night and to children whose parents were without work and without a source of any income. In a letter from this parish, volunteers wrote "the Christmas was a special one because of the generosity of people so far away who did not know us but knew the importance of doing the work of Jesus." Father Popieluszko, from heaven, is certainly smiling down upon Orchard Lake.

Second, your sweaters reached some of the orphanages – in cities like Lublin, Stalowa Wola, Skopanie and Strzyzow. They were given to children who were not remembered or showered with gifts by parents. Parents, for the children, do not exist. You became those who cared. You were the people who showed love and for Christmas replaced the parents they never knew.

And lastly, you gave hope to many volunteers who work tirelessly to make sure such endeavors become reality. Sometimes people are deaf to appeals. Your ears and hearts were open and for this we thank you very much.

God bless you with good studies, good sportsmanship and good health in the New Year.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Krolewski  
President, American Polish Assistance Association

P.S. If any of you would like to come and visit our center, or continue collecting specific items for the children in Poland, please contact Nicholas. We would like to form a group of helpers on campus and he would be glad to help you organize.