

## **WORLDWIDE JEWISH GIFT HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II TO BE GIVEN IN WADOWICE, POLAND, IN THE PRESENCE OF POPE BENEDICT XVI**

New York, NY, May 17, 2006—Pave the Way Foundation, a worldwide non-sectarian organization dedicated to promoting world peace through historic gestures of good will, has been invited by Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz, the Archbishop

Of Krakow, to lead a delegation of Jewish leaders to Wadowice, Poland to join Pope Benedict XVI when he dedicates on May 27th the town square in memory of Pope John Paul II in his native Wadowice.

The Pave the Way delegation will recognize the late Pope's efforts to reconcile relations with all religions of the world. During the ceremony in front of thousands of spectators, the international media and government officials, Pave the Way will present to Pope Benedict and His Eminence Cardinal Stanislaus Dziwisz, replicas of a monument being commissioned by Pave the Way and being built to depict Pope John Paul's historic visit to Israel when he placed a prayer in the Holy Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem Sculptor Sam Philipe is to build the full-scale monument, which will stand over 15 feet tall, and will serve as a beacon of fraternal love and mutual respect among Catholics and Jews. It will stand in the hometown of Pope John Paul and will be built in Jerusalem. The monument will be sculpted out of sand stone, symbolically bring part of Jerusalem to Poland.

Pave the Way will be represented at the presentation by President and founders Gary and Meredith Krupp of Long Beach, NY. The Krupp's will be accompanied by a contingent of Jewish leaders from around the world. Mr. Krupp will read his statement in English, while Pope John Paul's oldest Jewish friend Jerzy Kluger will read the statement in Polish.

Mr. Krupp said, "The gift is to be a heartfelt gesture from the Jewish people to their Christian brothers and sisters around the world to serve as a permanent reminder of the historic achievements of Pope John Paul II in his efforts to reconcile relations amongst all the world's religions."

"We recognize that throughout his pontificate and prior to that as Bishop and Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla changed the emotions of the Polish people towards Judaism and tolerance to others," he pointed out, adding "This new age of tolerance and understanding is largely due to the work of Pope John Paul and will be enthusiastically continued by his secretary of over 40 years, the current Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Archbishop Stanislaus Dziwisz.

This gesture furthers Pave the Way's mission to bridge the gap between people of all religions through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. Pave the Way promotes peace by focusing on what united people of various faiths, while encouraging mutual learning and understanding. On January 18, 2005, Pave the Way Foundation led the largest group of Jewish leaders in history to the Vatican to thank Pope John Paul II. Sadly, this was Pope John Paul's last major audience before he became ill. This is one example of how the organization looks to pave the way towards global cooperation, mutual respect and education.

Pave the Way Foundation has a simple yet monumental vision: To enable all the world's religions to mutually realize that extremism, politics and personal agendas must not be allowed to poison the true benevolent message common to all faiths. Bigotry and hatred will be abolished by the faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences.

Gary L. Krupp, KCSG (Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great) is only the seventh Jewish man in history to receive a papal knighthood. Pope John Paul II approved his investment into the order in July 2000. Recognizing his unique position of influence along with a responsibility to do something beneficial about relations between the religions, he and his wife Meredith formed the Pave the Way Foundation.

Coincidentally, Mr. Krupp is receiving three significant international awards in June upon his return from the mission to Poland. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Vatican's Ambassador to the United Nations and Cardinal Renato Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace will bestow the Path to Peace Foundation's Servitor Pacis (Servant of Peace) award to Mr. Krupp at the United Nations on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Krupp will receive the Benemerenti Medal of good works from the Sacred Constantinian Order of St. George from Cardinal Theodore McCarrick at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington and he will receive the first ever Ambassador to Peace Award from the New Seminary at St. John the Devine Cathedral in New York. The New Seminary is a multi-religious NGO at the United Nations. More information on the Pave the Way Foundation can be found at [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org).

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