



*śp. S. Bogdana Nienaltowska  
s. Gaudencja Zwierzchowska, c.s.p.  
17.02.2027- 02.05.2019*



*s. Dolores Pius, csp  
s. Bogumiła Godlewska, c.s.p  
Wspólnota Sióstr Pasjonistek  
Peterborough, Ontario 1977 - 2021*

***Zgromadzenie Sióstr Męki Pana Naszego Jezusa Chrystusa (Siostry Pasjonistki) decyzją Generalnego Zarządu Zgromadzenia w Warszawie, dnia 21 maja, 2021 roku zamyka dom wspólnoty w Peterborough, Ontario po 44 latach misji w diecezji.***

***Misją tą była praca w Kurii diecezji, Ośrodku katechetycznym (środowisko angielskie) jak również zaangażowanie w pracy duszpasterskiej i edukacyjnej w środowisku polonijnym.***

***W roku 1978 z inicjatywy polskich kapłanów (ks. Tadeusza Porzuczka i ks. Stanisława Sołtysika, CSMA powstała polska szkoła im. Jana Pawła II, którą prowadziły Siostry Pasjonistki przy współudziale świeckich nauczycieli. W roku 2017 obchodziliśmy 40-lecie pracy w diecezji Peterborough.***

***Dziękujemy Bogu i Matce Najświętszej za wszystkie łaski, których tak hojnie doświadczyliśmy.***

***Bóg zapłać wszystkim kapłanom i siostram zakonnym. Dziękujemy naszym rodakom za życzliwość i współpracę.***

*sr. Gaudencia Zwierzchowska, csp  
sr. Bogumiła Godlewska, csp  
sr. Dolores Pius, csp*

*“The love of the Crucified urges us” /Cor 5, 14/*

## **“Almost Forty Four Years Have Passed Like a Day”**

On October 17, 1977 three Sisters of the Congregation of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ arrived in Peterborough, Ontario. These Sisters were Sisters Bogdana, Gaudentia and Dolores who had come from Poland via their Congregation's convent in Montreal. The Congregation had established their convent in Montreal in 1963.

On our arrival in Peterborough the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peterborough generously welcomed us to live with them until we established a residence of our own. Being that our knowledge of English was limited we undertook an intensive language course at George Brown College, in Toronto for six months. Again, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto welcomed us to stay with them. During this time we experienced the harshness of the Canadian winter by walking to class each day.

In June we arrived back in Peterborough and were welcomed by Bishop James Doyle to begin our work in the diocese. Sr. Bogdana and Sr. Dolores worked with the staff of the Diocesan Office for Religious Education and Sr. Gaudentia worked in the Diocesan Chancery Office. Three years later Sr. Bogumila joined us from the convent in Montreal. Sister took over the responsibility of housekeeping for Bishop Doyle.

Now, after the death of our beloved Sr. Bogdana in 2019 we are only three in the convent and we are all retired. Before this, however; we had Sr. Kolbena, who was preparing linguistically for work in Africa, and Sr. Catherine. Sr. Ryszarda stayed with us for three years helping with housekeeping and accompanying Sr. Bogdana, who at this time was retired.

Looking back over the past 43 years of our mission here in Peterborough, the Sisters were very involved with the diocese and with the spiritual and educational needs of the Polish community. From the very beginning, Polish priests, Fr. Kazimierz Zuchowski and Stanislaw Soltysik (a Mickaelite priest) invited the Sisters to cooperate with the local Polish community. This included organizing Masses for the Polish people on a monthly basis, then more often.

With the arrival in the diocese of the Conventual Franciscan Fathers from Poland in 1980, Polish liturgical services took place every Sunday. Our role was to continue to prepare the liturgy, leading the singing, as well as, preparing the children for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation.

Since November 4, 1978 the Polish school, named after Pope John Paul II, under the guidance of Sister Dolores and other Sisters and lay people, worked with the children of Polish families organizing studies and also church and patriotic events. These works have been covered extensively in the Convent Chronicles and those of the Polish School.

Now, after many years of our presence and service in this diocese and to the Polish Community, the time has come to say goodbye.

We especially give thanks to God, our Blessed Mother, and St. John Paul II, for all the many graces we have received and the tremendous support and kindness we have been shown and continue to experience. With heart felt appreciation we remember Bishop James Doyle for inviting us into the diocese and for the continued support from the other bishops with whom we have worked and shared our apostolate; Bishops De Angelis, McGrattan and Miehm. We thank all the clergy of the diocese for their support, prayers and encouragement.

We give very special thanks to the Sisters of St. Joseph for their sisterly support from the day of our arrival in the diocese. These Sisters have been an inspiration and blessings.

To our Polish Community, who journeyed with us as compatriots and teachers, we say thank you for your kindness and cooperation. We thank the young people, our pupils past and present and especially those who continue to correspond with us over the years to express their gratitude.

We would like to thank our Mother General, Rev. Mother Agnes, her Council and our dear Sisters in Montreal for their continued love, guidance and support.

sr. Gaudentia Zwierzchowska, csp  
sr. Bogumiła Godlewska, csp  
sr. Dolores Pius, csp