

# UNITY IN PLURALITY

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## Days of John Paul II in Cracow



UNIWERSYTET  
EKONOMICZNY  
W KRAKOWIE



Akademia Sztuk Pięknych  
im. Jana Matejki w Krakowie

# John Paul II – who was he?



John Paul II (1920-2005)

- A great Pope, philosopher, thinker, poet.
- Representative of Christian personalism
- 104 pilgrimages
- He was the first pope to cross the doorstep of a protestant temple, a synagogue and a mosque.

*„The human being is measured  
by the measure of heart „*

# John Paul II – science and culture



➤ **John Paul II called for dialogues between religion and the science and culture.**

*Theology is on the verge of separating from issues vital for the modern human and the science is threatened by fragmentation and nihilism.*

*Both “parties” to this intellectual conflict should search for what inspires and enriches them*

*(Fides et ratio no. 45).*

# The Cracow Days of John Paul II as a source of creativity and innovation in culture



- **Without culture, we would not be humans.**
- *A rational human imbued with the spirit of the Gospel should create a culture of mutual respect and build the civilization of life*

# Organization and the idea of the Days of John Paul II



The event unites the Cracow academic environment:  
4 universities and 17 schools of higher education



# Multidimensionality of Truth

- *„The truth enlightens the reason and develops human freedom” (Veritatis splendor)*
- *The truth is above human beings – a human being does not create the truth, the truth discovers itself before him or her when they search for it persistently (Gaudium veritatis).*
- “You need not only to search the truth,  
but also live the truth and follow it.”

# Multidimensionality of Good

*„Love is the highest form of good and love expresses itself in desiring good for other people”*



➤ **The great desire of Karol Wojtyła was to create a civilization of love, in which the good of a human being and the whole humanity would always be in the first place.**

➤ **a person doing good is in his or her freedom moved by the ultimate Good that inspires him or her to be good himself or herself and instead of keeping the good, to give it to others.**

# Multidimensionality of Beauty



*“God Himself shows His beauty.”*

➤ Only a human contemplating the beauty of transcendence discovers the beauty of humanity and is able to pass this beauty to others.

➤ Beauty must be connected with goodness and the sanctity of life

# Culture and the unity of Europe



- **The Common European economy is not enough**
- **The financial sector culture is governed by greed**
- **Do we produce or consume the culture?**
- **The Poles, Lithuanians, and many other nations survived national bondage thanks to culture**
- **The crisis has no influence on culture**  
(the most beautiful poems were inspired by heartbreaks)

# SUMMARY

- **Care about human soul and spiritual development means care about the culture.**
- **The spiritual life of a human being focuses and pulses around transcendental values: the truth, the good and the beauty. This spiritual pulsing creates the essence of culture.**
- **The attractiveness of a country depends on the attractiveness of its culture and the quality of the culture depends on our souls.**
- **A human being (the creator of culture) must protect the priority of *contemplatio* over *actio*.**