

CHIEF OF STAFF  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF POLAND  
REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
Secretary of State  
Adam Kwiatkowski

Warsaw, 13 November 2015

Organizers and Participants of “Chicago Catholic Immigrants Conference: The Poles”  
at Loyola University Chicago

Fellow compatriots! Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, and myself, I am sending warm greetings to everyone gathered at Loyola University in Chicago for the “Chicago Catholic Immigrants Conference: The Poles.” I am very pleased that Polonia is working to cultivate its national identity and passing on the history of their homeland to the younger generation, an integral part of which is the history of Poles in America.

The service of the Catholic Church for the Polish community in the United States is cannot be underestimated. Spreading the Good Word and Christian values, the Church helps to maintain an unflinching moral compass in the expanse of freedom offered by the New World. Faith also plays an important integrational role for the American Polonia. Polish parishes and religious associations contribute to maintaining family traditions and customs through emigrants and their descendants. The contribution of the priests to spreading Polish language and culture is remarkable. In large part, it is thanks to them that Poles remain faithful to their heritage, while contributing to the diversity and richness of the multiethnic and multi-faith mosaic of America.

For all of their contributions I would like to warmly thank the clergy, monastic orders and religious movements, along with all who are involved with Polish life across the ocean. Thank you, for ensuring that Polish matters to continue to be inalienably close. Poles who settled in the United States always did a lot of good for their homeland. They actively supported their countrymen in the fight for independence throughout both world wars, during the struggle with communism, and lobbied for Poland to be included in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. For this, the Republic is deeply grateful.

I want to equally ensure – on behalf of the President and all of us Poles living in Poland – that Polonia is an integral part of our national community. We need, however, more active efforts to maintain a lively and mutual contact between our compatriots living in Poland and abroad. For this reason the President has willed the creation of an Office for Contact with Poles Abroad in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, the work of which I oversee. I am counting on the collaboration with Polonia in Chicago. I trust that together we will be able to accomplish much good for our citizens in Poland and in the United States.

*With regards and warm greetings,*

*Adam Kwiatkowski*