



## **Welcoming Pope Francis in Krakow**

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**On Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> July Pope Francis arrived in Krakow where, until Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, he will be meeting young people during the WYD. At the Balice airport, thousands of pilgrims greeted him with songs and dance. In the evening, the Pontiff talked to a great crowd of youth from the papal window at Franciszkańska 3. The tradition is continued!**

The first to welcome the Holy Father after his plane touched down were President Andrzej Duda with his wife Agata Kornhauser-Duda and cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz. Present in the Balice airport were also Mayor Jacek Majchrowski with Mrs. Majchrowska and political and church dignitaries.

From Balice Pope Francis headed for the Wawel cathedral for the official welcome ceremony. Through the open window of his car he greeted people and offered a special blessing to a young girl. The Pope was driven to the Salwator by car and there, near the Norbertan monastery, changed his car for the popemobile and went further to Wawel greeting crowds lined along the streets.

In the evening, standing in the papal window at Franciszkańska 3, the Pope met young people greeting them with a wide smile. " Good evening" – he said in Polish to the youth gathered in front of the window. Next – against expectations – he asked for silence and told the story of Maciej Szymon Cieśla, the designer of the WYD logo who died a few weeks ago of incurable cancer.

- We should get used to good things, but also to bad ones, this is what life is like my dear young friends – said the Pontiff to those gathered under the window of the Krakow metropolitan curia. (..) We will meet tomorrow and now I must say good night. Stay joyful and happy – it is the duty of those who follow Jesus. – said Francis. At the end he blessed the young pilgrims from all over the world and asked them to pray for him.

See the [OTOFOTOKronika Miasta Krakowa](#)

Today, the Pope modified his plans and on the way to Częstochowa visited the seriously ill cardinal Franciszek Macharski at the University hospital. The visit was unplanned and unofficial.