



Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, a friend of John Paul II, died

2016-09-23

Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the loved and esteemed former Archbishop of Krakow, died on 2nd August in Krakow. He was 89.

The funeral of the late Cardinal Macharski took place at the Wawel Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Friday, 5th August. A coffin with his body was placed at the Wawel crypt of Krakow bishops.

Just five days before Cardinal Macharski's death, Pope Francis made an unscheduled stop to pray at his bed at the Krakow hospital. Cardinal was in a medically-induced coma.

Franciszek Macharski was born May 20, 1927. During II WW he worked as a manual labourer. After the war, he entered the Krakow seminary and studied theology at Jagiellonian University. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1950.

After six years of parish work, he was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland, where he took doctorate in 1960. He became rector of the seminary in 1970.

Just a few months after becoming pope, St John Paul II nominated Franciszek Macharski as his successor - Archbishop of Krakow. The late pope personally ordained him a bishop on 6th January 1979 in St. Peter's Basilica, and few months later named him to the College of Cardinals. Cardinal Macharski retired as archbishop of Krakow in June 2005.

International media, including: [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) and [Fox news](#) informed about Cardinal Franciszek Macharski's death.