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Michigan Division
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QUARTERLY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012 - 7:00 PM
PAC MI Headquarters
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MON., WED., FRI.: 12:00 NOON - 5:00 PM
SATURDAY: 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

PAC Remembers Smoleńsk, Katyń Victims

On Tuesday, April 10, Edmund Cardinal Szoka (pictured) celebrated a Holy Mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Sterling Heights to commemorate the second anniversary of Polish officials killed in the Smoleńsk plane crash, as well as Polish officers killed in Katyń in 1940. The Mass was organized by the Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress. Fr. Sławomir Murawka, Pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, as well as many other Polish priests co-celebrated the Mass.

"I am very happy to be here with you today," said Cardinal Szoka in the opening remarks.

The homily during the Mass was presented by the Vicar General of the Society of Christ, Fr. Krzysztof Grzelak. He said that both tragedies (Smoleńsk plane crash and officers killed in Katyń) are very important pages in the history of Poland, adding that "nation that does not know its history, does not have its future."

At the end of the Mass an address by the President of the Polish American Congress Michigan Division, Mariusz Szajnert, was presented. "It's important to find inspiration in ideals which the victims in Smoleńsk and Katyń lived by," said Szajnert. "One of the ideals was a free, rightful and rational Poland. (...) The other was service to the people."



On April 10, 2010, a Tupolev Tu-154 aircraft of the Polish Air Force crashed near the city of Smoleńsk, Russia, killing all 96 people on board. These included the Polish President Lech Kaczyński and his wife, former President Ryszard Kaczorowski and other Polish officials and members of Polish clergy.
The flight was conducted for the purpose of taking Polish officials to ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the Katyń Massacre.



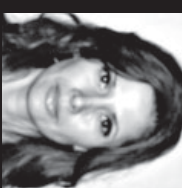
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