

Drive to restore Pope Monument begins

Pope John Paul II celebrated his 84th birthday on May 18, 2004. Last week, Wednesday, May 12, was the kick off to raise funds to repair the monument and largest statue of Pope John Paul II in the United States.

Members of the media and guest gathered at the Piast Institute in Detroit. The Piast Institute is a national institute for Polish and Polish American Affairs located on the outskirts

of Hamtramck. Following the press conference guest gathered at Pope Park in Hamtramck for brief speeches and placing flowers in honor of the Pope's birthday.

A luncheon was served at Polonia Restaurant with food donated by Polonia owner Janusz Zurowski and Aladin Restaurant.

Among the guest of Thaddeus C Radzilowski, Ph.D, President

of Piast and Executive Director Virginia Skrzyniaz were Hamtramck Mayor Thomas Jankowski, Council General of Poland Franciszek Adamczyk, Kareem M. Irfan, chairman of the Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, Sharona Shapiro, Director of American Jewish Committee of Michigan, members of the Hamtramck

POPE cont'd on page 10



POPE cont'd from page 1

Council and government, members of local catholic churches and mosques.

The Piast Institute in partnership with the Knights of Columbus of Hamtramck is in the process to collect an amount to be determined and establish a foundation for the care and restoration of Pope Park. The park and statue were dedicated in October 1982 honoring Karol Wojtyla, who visited Hamtramck in 1987 as the first Polish pope. ♦