

Hamtramck remembers Pope John Paul II

by Larry Lizewski

A faithful crowd gathered at Hamtramck's Pope John Paul II Memorial Park Sunday, April 2, 2006 to remember the charismatic leader. He passed one year prior to the date.

The crowd prayed and listened to dedications led by Hamtramck leaders in administration, public service and Polish and Catholic organizations. Tamara Sochaka, Hamtramck Public Library Director, introduced the program.

A benediction by Rev. Bogdan Milosz, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Apostle, was followed by an address

by Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski who said, "Thanks to all for carrying the message of John Paul in a troubling and



beautiful world."

The Polonez Choir led by Music Director, Antoni Maczka gave a moving selection of Polish song. The mayor closed the dedication

and all were invited to a dinner compliments of the Cardinal Mercier Council Knights of Columbus. Jeff Stawasz, K of C Michigan District Deputy, led the organization's color guard in procession back to the council. Stawasz stated, "Let's all try to live the peace filled lives that the late John Paul had taught."

The Piast Institute also sponsored the dedication and along with the K of C, work to raise money to repair and preserve the memorial park through the fund raising organization the Pope Park Project. ♦