

Złotopolice
10 May 2023

CALLED BY NAME

Commemoration of
Ignacy Ambroziak,
Stefan Trzciński and Stanisława Trzcińska
and Władysław Muchowski
who were murdered for helping Jews
during the German occupation

therefore we have to know
to count exactly
call by the first name
provide for a journey

ZBIGNIEW HERBERT
(TRANSL. BOGDANA AND JOHN CARPENTER)

The measure of a man is his
heart

JOHN PAUL II



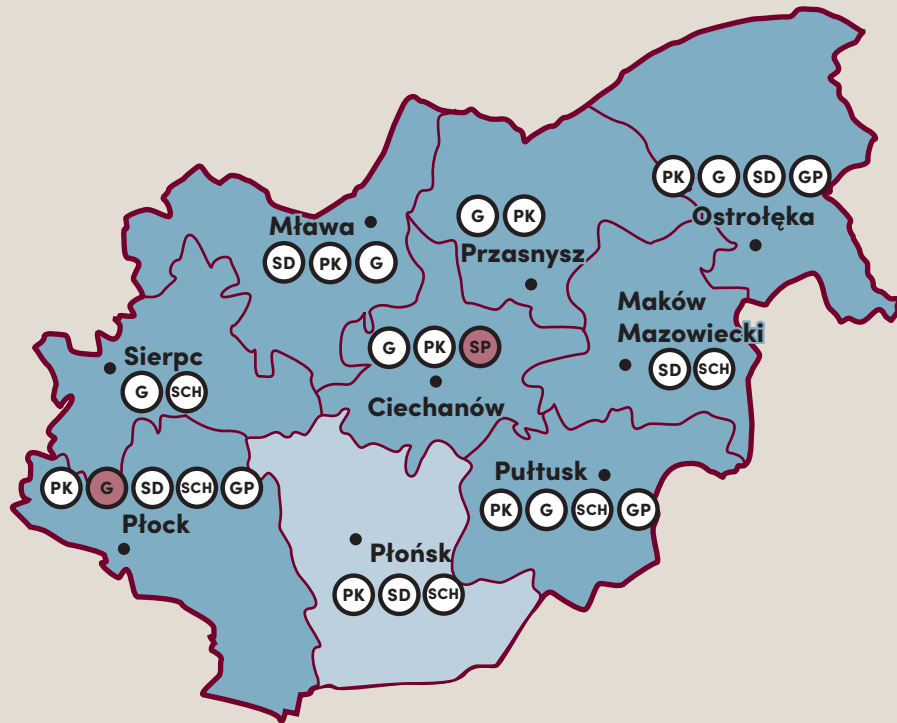
Honorary Patronage
of the President of the Republic of Poland
Andrzej Duda

As part of the **Called by Name** program, the Pilecki Institute is recovering the stories of Poles who paid for saving Jews from the Holocaust with their own lives and the lives of their loved ones. The program combines research, historical education and various other activities concerning the culture of remembrance.

Archival research, which serves to accurately retrace the events in question, is accompanied by visits to the scenes of the crime – most often in small towns and villages – interviews with witnesses and filmed recordings of testimonies. Of paramount importance is the establishment of a relationship with the families of the victims and the descendants of the rescued Jews, if these latter managed to survive. In each case, the highlight is the unveiling of a stone with an inscription that commemorates the murdered Poles and the Jews who died with them in both Polish and English. It becomes a permanent sign of remembrance of the heroes at the site of tragic events. Integrating the milieu of the **Called by Name** families helps them to cope with the difficult experiences of their past. Thanks to meetings and educational workshops, local communities can learn and understand their own history. A broad information campaign serves to introduce the fate of the **Called by Name** to the collective memory in Poland and around the world.

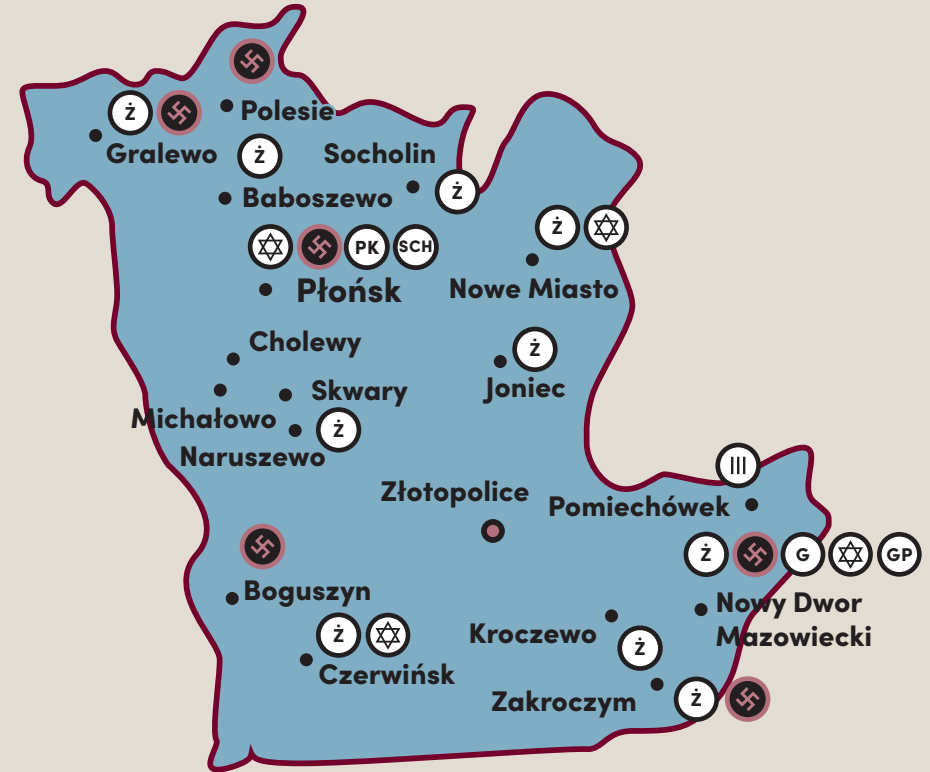
The **Called by Name** program aims to do justice to the heroic acts of Poles who consciously risked their own lives and the lives of their loved ones to help Jewish friends, neighbors, and sometimes strangers, and paid the highest price. At the same time, the program highlights the realities of the ruthless German occupation policy in Poland, which destroyed all ties of solidarity between Poles and Jews, and punished the slightest human gesture of compassion with death. The **Called by Name** also convey a universal message of courage, sacrifice and solidarity with the persecuted – values that set the measure of humanity.

Regierungsbezirk Zichenau



- SP headquarters of the SiPo and SD leader
- G Gestapo HQ
- PK external criminal police (Kripo) station
- SD external SD station
- G external Gestapo post
- SCH Schupo station

Płońsk County



- GP border police station
- Ż Gendarmerie post
- ⚡ ghetto
- ⚡ labor camp
- ||| prison
- location of events



THE GHETTO IN PŁOŃSK, 1942. PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WORKSHOP OF DOCUMENTATION OF THE HISTORY OF PŁOŃSK AT THE MUNICIPAL CULTURE CENTER IN PŁOŃSK.

Following the Polish defeat in the 1939 defensive war, the majority of Polish territories were placed under German occupation. Northern Mazovia was incorporated directly into the Third Reich as Regierungsbezirk Zichenau, which formed part of Gau East Prussia. The Regierungsbezirk covered several counties, including the Płoński county. From the very beginning, the Germans persecuted the local populace, particularly the Jews. In September 1940, a ghetto was established in Płoński, comprising Koźia, Krzywa, Pułtuska, Warszawska and Wyszogrodzka streets. Initially, it functioned as an open ghetto, but was later fenced. Its residents faced difficult living and sanitary conditions. It is estimated that approx. 6,000 Jews lived in Płoński before the outbreak of the war. During the occupation, due to resettlements, the number grew to 12,000 people. The Germans ordered the liquidation of the ghetto in December 1942. The residents were deported to the death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Those who managed to avoid execution or deportation began a dramatic struggle for survival.

Some residents of the neighboring villages sought to help the Jewish escapees. Among them were Stanisława Trzcińska and her adult sons, Stefan and Jan, who lived in Skwary in the Naruszewo commune. Following the liquidation of the ghetto in Płoński, they offered assistance to the Klin family, whom they had known before the war. They provided them with food and temporary shelter in the barn. On 23 August 1943, Stanisława's homestead was surrounded by a German gendarmerie unit. One of the Germans had a piece of paper with the surnames of people who were helping Jews. The list included the Trzciński family, who were accused of hiding Jews. The Germans commenced brutal interrogations. Stanisława was hit in the face several times, while Stefan was kicked and beaten unconscious by the gendarmes. They also attacked Jan, but he managed to wrench himself free and escape. He had to stay in hiding until the end of the war. Stanisława and Stefan were taken to a penal and investigative prison in Pomiechówek.

The Germans took similar actions against Ignacy Ambroziak, who lived with his wife Rozalia and his son Henryk in Cholewy. In the winter of 1942/43, the family provided assistance among others to two young Jews, who gave their names as Ignac and Julek. In October 1943, gendarmerie and Gestapo arrived at the Ambroziaks' house. The Germans were looking for Jews. During the search, they beat up the suspects. Although they didn't find any Jews, they arrested Ignacy Ambroziak and transported him to Pomiechówek.

Another arrestee was Władysław Muchowski. He ran a farm in Michałowo together with his family. In the autumn of 1943, gendarmes from Naruszewo arrived at his homestead. The Germans accused Muchowski of hiding Jews. Next they conducted a search of premises. They were very brutal and beat up Władysław and his son, Henryk, to force confession. Just like in the previous cases, the Germans didn't find any Jews; nevertheless, they arrested Władysław and Henryk on suspicion of providing assistance to Jews. The men were taken to the station in Naruszewo, from where Henryk was released and Władysław sent to Pomiechówek.

Stefan Trzciniński, Ignacy Ambroziak and Władysław Muchowski spent several weeks in the Pomiechówek prison. Towards the end of October 1943, the Germans held a briefing for village administrators from the communes where the arrested men had lived. They ordered that representatives of the villages in question must come to the edge of the forest between Złotopolice and Kamienica-Wygoda on 21 November for an execution of Poles who had been hiding Jews. On that day, the Gestapo men and gendarmes brought seven convicts from Pomiechówek, i.e. Stefan Trzciniński, Ignacy Ambroziak, Władysław Muchowski, a Jew by the name of Symcha Frost, a Jew unknown by name and two other Poles (their surnames remain unknown, but they could have been Stefan



STEFAN TRZCIŃSKI WAS MURDERED ON 21 NOVEMBER 1943 IN AN EXECUTION IN ZŁOTOPOLICE. PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE TRZCIŃSKI FAMILY.



STANISŁAWA TRZCIŃSKA WAS MURDERED BY THE GERMANS TOWARDS THE END OF 1943 OR AT THE BEGINNING OF 1944 FOR HELPING JEWS. PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE TRZCIŃSKI FAMILY.

Dubrcki and Jan Wójcik). According to available sources, the convicts had their hands tied with wire. Next they were ordered to stand on planks specially prepared for the occasion. A sentence was read out. The Jews were to be hanged for alleged robberies and arms possession, while the Poles for hiding Jews and providing them with assistance. When the announcement was read out, the gendarmes removed the planks and the convicts were hanged. After a while the Germans ordered the village administrators to remove the bodies of the murdered and take them to the cemetery in Smoszewo.

The circumstances of death of Stanisława Trzcńska remain unknown. She was transported from the Pomiechówek prison to Modlin towards the end of 1943 or at the beginning of 1944. She was probably murdered there by the Germans.

After the war, an exhumation of the murdered men was organized. Ignacy Ambroziak and Władysław Muchowski were buried in Radzymin. Stefan Trzcński was interred at the cemetery in Naruszewo. The body of Stanisława Trzcńska has not been found.

In 1991, the Yad Vashem Institute awarded the Righteous Among the Nations medals to Ignacy Ambroziak and his wife Rozalia, to Stanisława Trzcńska and her sons, Stefan and Jan, as well as to Władysław Muchowski.

During the war I lived in Zaborowo. The neighboring villages are Skwary, Sumin, Michałowo, Cholewy. I learned about the arrest of Muchowski, Ambroziak and Trzciński in 1943. They were arrested in the autumn of 1943. I don't remember the exact date. They were arrested for hiding Jews. Stefan Trzciński was arrested together with his mother, Stanisława. Stefan Trzciński was my friend. He had a family in Zaborowo, so he often came to visit. I know that some time later Trzciński, Ambroziak and Muchowski were hanged. Village administrators from all neighboring villages were informed of the fact. They were obligated to witness the execution. I know that they were hanged somewhere in the Złotopolice forest. Trzciński's mother was taken to a camp – I don't know which one. She has never returned.

**TESTIMONY OF WITNESS FRANCISZEK SABALSKI,
1 FEBRUARY 1988, AIPN BU 392/644/A, PP. 42–44.**



JAN TRZCIŃSKI, THE SON OF STANISŁAWA AND BROTHER OF STEFAN, HAD TO HIDE FROM THE GERMANS UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF HIS RELATIVES. PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE TRZCIŃSKI FAMILY.



DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM THE GHETTO IN PŁOŃSK, 1942. PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE WORKSHOP OF DOCUMENTATION OF THE HISTORY OF PŁOŃSK AT THE MUNICIPAL CULTURE CENTER IN PŁOŃSK.

My father Ignacy Ambroziak was arrested in October 1943 by the Gestapo and the gendarmerie. He was taken to Pomiechówek. He stayed there for about six weeks. Then the administrator of our village, Graczyk (I don't remember his first name), was notified that my father was convicted for hiding Jews, trading in meat and assistance in the purchase of weapons for partisans. The said village administrator was present at my father's execution that took place on 21 November 1943 in the Wygoda forest. My father was buried in Parowy Nadwiślańskie in Smoszewo. It was Graczyk, the village administrator, who notified us of father's death. He also told us about the execution itself. My father was hanged. It was only after the war and thanks to our own efforts that we found father's body. My mother was still alive at the time, and went together to recover his body.

Following the liquidation of the ghetto in Płońsk my father provided shelter to two young Jews at our farm. He prepared a hideout above the barn. I don't remember the surnames of those Jews; one was called Ignac, and the other Julek. My father provided them with shelter for the winter. Gendarmes from Naruszewo came to us three times in search of Jews. They didn't manage to find them. Each time they came they interrogated us, and I was beaten three times. During the day the Jews stayed elsewhere, they came in for the night when it was cold. We also provided them with food. The gendarmes always came during the day, that is why they never discovered any Jews. My mother also helped in the hiding of Jews; she knew about it and prepared food for them, which I brought them. At the time when father was hiding Jews I was the only one who lived with my parents in their house.

**TESTIMONY OF WITNESS HENRYK AMBROZIAK,
28 JANUARY 1988, AIPN BU 392/644/A, PP. 21–24.**

WI have always lived in Skwary, Naruszewo commune, former Płońsk county, now Ciechanowskie Voivodeship. During the Nazi occupation, until my mother was arrested by the Gestapo, my brother Stefan and I helped her run an 8-hectare farm. Following the liquidation of the ghetto in Płońsk, some Jews escaped and found shelter with local farmers. We knew a Jewish Klin family, and its members would come to my mother from time to time; there were several of them. The father of the family was referred to as Lajzer by our mother; after the German invasion of Poland, he became engaged in trade, buying calves, poultry and cows from farmers. My mother provided these Jews with meals and hid them in the barn. They would spend 2–3 nights there and then go to other farmers, and then after about a dozen days they would return to us once more for a few nights.

[...] On the morning of 23 August 1943 I was at the farm with my mother and brother. Our farm buildings were surrounded by gendarmes from Naruszewo and other functionaries. There were about a dozen armed men; they had a cart and a truck. One of them had a piece of paper with a dozen surnames. He read out the surname of my mother and brother, and since he also gave their first names, they confirmed that it was them. He didn't have my first name, so initially I denied that it was I whom they wanted. When my mother confirmed that I had nothing to do with this, one of them hit her in the face several times. It turned out that the gendarmes suspected me, my mother and brother of providing shelter to Jews. My brother was beaten unconscious, yet several gendarmes and Gestapo men continued to kick him, while others turned to me and began to beat and kick me as well. I broke away and escaped through a loose plank in the barn; since then I had to hide from the Germans [...]. I wanted to find out what happened to my brother and mother, and I learned that first they were taken to the gendarmerie post in Naruszewo, and from there to the penal and investigative prison in Pomiechówek. Towards the end of October 1943, the Gestapo men held a briefing for all

village administrators from the Naruszewo commune and ordered them to gather people from their villages at the edge of the forest in Złotopolice on 21 November 1943 to witness what the Germans do to those who are hiding Jews. I didn't go there, because I was in hiding, but I learned why the Germans actually wanted the village administrators to be there at that time. It turned out that the gendarmes from Naruszewo and the Gestapo men from Płońsk, Nowy Dwór and Płock hanged 7 men in Złotopolice; among them was my brother Stefan Trzciński, farmers Ambroziak and Muchowski from Cholewy, two Poles from Warsaw or its vicinity and two Jews. The bodies of the hanged men were buried in a pit at the execution site.

[...] My mother didn't return home.

**TESTIMONY OF WITNESS JAN TRZCIŃSKI,
23 MAY 1986, AIPN BI 1/1028, PP. 508–511.**



THE COMMEMORATION OF MARIANNA, LEON AND STEFAN LUBKIEWICZ, SADOWNE, 24 MARCH 2019.

The **Called by Name** program was inaugurated in Sadowne on 24 March 2019, on the National Day of Remembrance of Poles who Saved Jews under German Occupation. A stone with a commemorative plaque was unveiled during a ceremony in front of the house of Leon, Marianna and Stefan Lubkiewicz – a family of bakers who were shot by the Germans for helping Jews. By now, we have commemorated seventy two people in thirty locations.

In 2019, we held commemorations in Sadowne, Poręba-Kocęby, Skłody-Piotrowice, Ostrów Mazowiecka, Stoczek, Nur, Waniewo and Czyżew-Sutki. In 2020, the commemorations were organized in Sterdyń, Wierzchowisko, Tworki, Marki, Tomaszów Mazowiecki and Stary Lipowiec. In 2021, the program comprised ceremonies in Biecz, Rzęzew, Grądy-Woniecko, Olesin, Mikołajki, Opoka Duża, Węgrów and Treblinka.

Last year, we held commemorations in Brzózka Królewska, Huta Mińska, Poświętne, Brzostek, Chmielnik, Majdan Nowy and Rzeszów. In Brzózka Królewska we honored Katarzyna and Sebastian Kazak, who were murdered by the Germans, as well as the Jews whom they were helping, including Chana Stiller.



PROF. MAGDALENA GAWIN, INITIATOR OF THE “CALLED BY NAME” PROGRAM, WITH THE FAMILY OF THE COMMEMORATED WAĆŁAW AND MARIANNA STRADOWSKI, CHMIELNIK, SEPTEMBER 2022.

In Huta Mińska, we “called by name” Senior Wachtmeister Kazimierz Przekora, who provided shelter to three unknown Jewish men during the Holocaust and was murdered together with them by the German gendarmes. In Poświętne, we commemorated the farmers Józefa and Józef Dmoch and a deputy village administrator Jan Kowalski from Helenów, who were executed for hiding ten Jews. In Brzostek, we honored Jan Jantoń from Wola Brzostocka, who was helping the Fisch family at the time when they were hiding in the forest, as well as Apolonia and Stanisław Gacoń from Bukowa, who were murdered by the Germans together with a Jewish child from the Korzennik family. In Chmielnik, we commemorated the murdered Marianna Stradowska and her son Waćław Stradowski, who were helping two brothers Pasternak and an unknown couple with a child. In Majdan Nowy, we recalled the story of its residents – Jan Gniduła, Katarzyna Kowal, Józef Kowal, Anastazja Łubiarz, Marianna Łubiarz, Katarzyna Margol and Kazimierz Szabat, who were murdered for the assistance they provided to Ita Becher and the Feil family. In Rzeszów, we commemorated Michał Stasiuk, who was helping Jews who were hiding under the Rzeszów market square.



THE COMMEMORATION OF KATARZYNA AND SEBASTIAK KAZAK, BRZÓZA KRÓLEWSKA, MARCH 2022.



THE COMMEMORATION OF JÓZEFA AND JÓZEF DMOCH AND JAN KOWALSKI, POŚWIĘTNE, JUNE 2022.



THE COMMEMORATION OF APOLONIA AND STANISŁAW GACIŃ AND JAN JANTOŃ, BRZOSTEK, JUNE 2022.



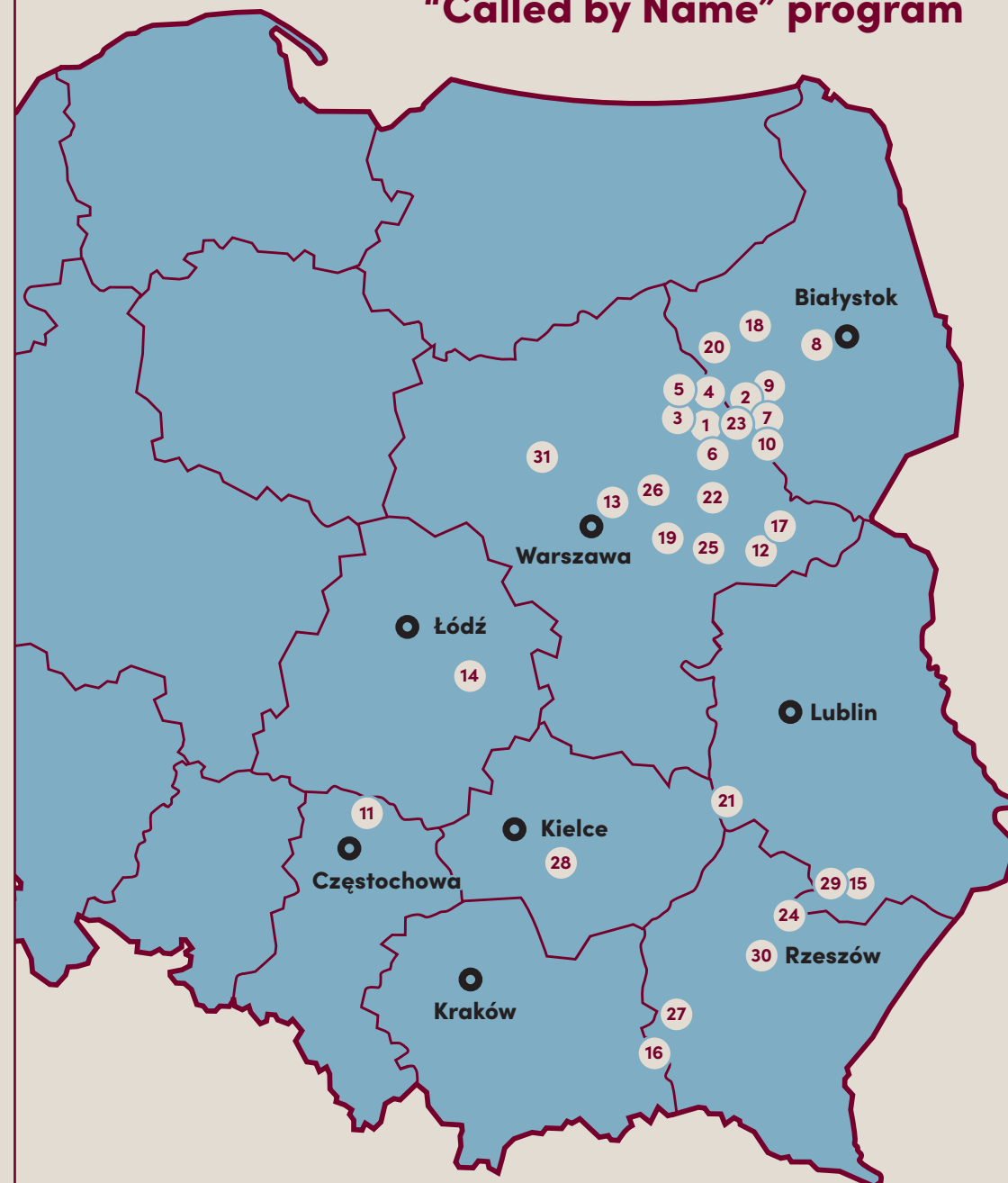
THE COMMEMORATION OF MICHAŁ STASIUK, RZESZÓW, NOVEMBER 2022.

Commemoration sites

- 1 24 March 2019, **Sadowne**
Marianna, Leon and Stefan Lubkiewicz
- 2 9 June 2019, **Poręba-Kocęby**
Piotr Leszczyński, Antoni Prusiński
- 3 16 June 2019, **Skłody-Piotrowice**
Aleksandra and Hieronim Skłodowski
- 4 29 June 2019, **Ostrów Mazowiecka**
Jadwiga Długoborska
- 5 29 June 2019, **Ostrów Mazowiecka**
Lucyna Radziejowska
- 6 30 June 2019, **Stoczek**
Julianna, Stanisław, Henryk and Wacław Postek
- 7 22 September 2019, **Nur**
Wacław Budziszewski
- 8 6 October 2019, **Waniewo**
Władysława and Stanisław Krysiewicz
- 9 27 October 2019, **Czyżew-Sutki**
Franciszek Andrzejczyk
- 10 4 June 2020, **Sterdyń**
Franciszek Augustyniak, Zygmunt Drgas, Franciszek Kierylak, Ewa Kotowska, Józef Kotowski, Stanisław Kotowski, Marian Nowicki, Stanisław Piwko, Jan Siwiński, Zygmunt Uziębło, Aleksandra Wiktorzak
- 11 16 June 2020, **Wierzchowisko**
Franciszka i Józef Sowowie
- 12 19 June 2020, **Tworki**
Zofia and Feliks Bogusław Krasuski
- 13 15 September 2020, **Marki**
Marianna, Władysław and Stanisława Banaszek
- 14 22 September 2020, **Tomaszów Mazowiecki**
Karolina Juszczykowska

- 15 8 October 2020, **Stary Lipowiec**
Katarzyna Grochowicz, Anastazja Kusiak, Roman Kusiak, Franciszek Kusiak, Katarzyna Rybak, Jan Zaręba
- 16 23 March 2021, **Biecz**
Józef Pruchniewicz
- 17 28 May 2021, **Rzązew**
Piotr, Franciszek and Antoni Domański
- 18 9 June 2021, **Grądy-Woniecko**
Piotr Kościelecki
- 19 25 June 2021, **Olesin**
Bolesław Książek
- 20 2 July 2021, **Mikołajki**
Antoni Kenigsman
- 21 30 September 2021, **Opoka Duża**
Apolonia and Piotr Likos
- 22 26 October 2021, **Węgrów**
Leokadia Piątkowska
- 23 25 November 2021, **Treblinka**
Jan Maletka
- 24 24 March 2022, **Brzoza Królewska**
Katarzyna and Sebastian Kazak
- 25 26 April 2022, **Huta Mińska**
Kazimierz Przekora
- 26 14 June 2022, **Poświętne**
Józefa and Józef Dmoch, Jan Kowalski
- 27 22 June 2022, **Brzostek**
Jan Jantoń, Apolonia and Stanisław Gacoń
- 28 15 September 2022, **Chmielnik**
Maria and Wacław Stradowski
- 29 29 September 2022, **Majdan Nowy**
Jan Gniduła, Katarzyna Kowal, Józef Kowal, Anastazja Łubiarz, Marianna Łubiarz, Katarzyna Margol, Kazimierz Szabat
- 30 29 November 2022, **Rzeszów**
Michał Stasiuk
- 31 10 May 2023, **Złotopolice**
Ignacy Ambroziak, Stefan Trzciński, Stanisława Trzcińska, Władysław Muchowski

Map of the “Called by Name” program



Program of the ceremony

11.00

Holy Mass

Church of the Divine Providence in Kamienica

12.15

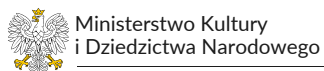
Unveiling of the commemorative plaque and wreath laying

Złotopole forest, entry from the direction of
Kamienica-Wygoda

ORGANIZER



SUPERVISORY INSTITUTION



CO-ORGANIZERS



PLOŃSK COUNTY



ZAŁUSKI COMMUNE



NARUSZEWO
COMMUNE



PLOŃSK COMMUNE

PARTNERS



PLOŃSK FOREST
INSPECTORATE



MIEJSKIE
CENTRUM
KULTURY PŁOŃSK

MUNICIPAL CULTURE
CENTER IN PŁOŃSK