**BIOGRAPHY OF JACEK KRAWCZYK (1966-1991)**

Jacek was born on August 16th 1966 in Rzeszów, as the second son of Anna and Tadeusz. He had two siblings: an older brother Tomasz, who died a few months after his birth and a younger brother, Marcin. In October 9th 1966 received the sacrament of baptism in the church of St. Onuphrius in Łąka.

He spent his childhood in Palikówka near Rzeszów, which at that time belonged to the parish of Łąka. He grew up in a climate of genuine piety and family love. From childhood, he showed great interest in nature, especially ornithology. He was musically gifted, he learned to play the piano and flute. In addition, he was interested in photography and culture.

In 1973, he began studying at the Władysław Broniewski’s Primary School in Palikówka. In accordance with the possibilities of the time, he attended religious lessons in his village. Before starting the eighth class, he transferred to the Primary School in Rzeszów.

At that time, on May 20th 1981, through the ministry of Bishop Ignacy Tokarczuk, he received the sacrament of confirmation in the parish church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Poland and Saint Anthony in Strażów. He chose the confirmation’s name - Joseph.

In 1981, he began studying at the Secondary School No. 2 in Rzeszów, in a biological class. Every day, on the way to school, he passed by the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Rzeszów, he entered for prayer and participated in the morning Mass. He attended religion lessons at the Christ the King Church in Rzeszów. During his high school education, he became involved in the meetings of the "Revival" community, operating at the Bernardine Fathers’ Church. As part of this community, he had the opportunity to experience days of recollection and participate in vigilance trips to Jasna Góra.

From the second class of secondary school, he became involved in charity service for the elderly and the lonely at the Healthcare Home in Rzeszów. In the house there, he not only cared for the physical health of the inmates, but also organized services for them and provided them with spiritual and liturgical formation.

In 1985, after passing his secondary school-leaving exams, he began studying theology for lay people at the Faculty of Theology at the Catholic University of Lublin, and in 1988 he started psychological studies at the same university. Studying was for him an opportunity not only to deepen his knowledge, but above all to spiritual development and deepening his faith and love for God and his neighbour. During his studies, he devoted himself to charity service: he looked after the sick whom he visited in hospitals and hospices in Lublin, and he also occasionally looked after the sick at home, as well as the homeless. After the second year of studies, had a view to studying medicine, he worked for seven months as a volunteer, and then as a paramedic in the Healthcare Complex in Rzeszów.

Jacek's attitude, in addition to his volunteer service, among the dimensions of caring for others, one can also indicate commitment to promoting voluntary blood donation, caring for missions and missionaries, promoting the idea of ​​abstinence and helping people struggling with alcohol problems. His motivation to care for others, especially for the sick and suffering, was the desire to meet Christ in these persons, because, as he himself wrote in one of his letters: "Most" of Christ. That is why I was drawn and drawn here so much ”.

In his commitment to other people, one can easily see an attitude of selfless love, an attitude of self-giving. In a letter to his parents of November 26th 1986 he wrote: "Pray for me that God would give me the strength to act, that I would be like a candle that burns itself, but still enlightens, heats and lights other unused or extinct candles." The purpose of his ministry was to "burn himself" for others, to give his life. He wanted to be fully human, because, as he wrote in another letter to his parents: “to be a human is not only to be deeply united with God, but also to be a brother to every other human being. To be human is to come to the rescue, no matter who he is. To be human is to destroy oneself in the love of God and people”.

He discovered this attitude as a way of realizing his vocation, because, as he wrote in an essay from his high school days: “Here is the way to holiness. Offer a burnt offering to God and neighbour (...) Holiness is possible for me, for you, for others, but take the cross, not its substitute. Let us go, the Lord is waiting. On the way to holiness. "

The time of studies was also a time for Jacek to discover his calling to marriage. He got engaged to Ewa Wieczorek, a friend from college, with whom he planned to marry on August 18th 1990. In accordance with the requirements of the Polish law in May 1990 they entered into a civil marriage at the Registry Office in Katowice.

In July 1990, while studying and preparing for a sacramental marriage, he was diagnosed with cancer. Due to the deteriorating health condition, the marriage sacrament of Jacek and Ewa took place two weeks later than planned in the hospital chapel in Nowa Huta. After the church wedding, they lived together in Katowice, from where Jacek travelled to Krakow every few weeks for consecutive chemotherapy sessions.

Struggling with the disease was a great test of faith and trust in God. Despite his illness, he did not stop seeing his life as a calling to love. He approached suffering from the perspective of the Cross of Christ. As he wrote in one of his considerations: "Suffering is being incorporated into the Savior's work, it is a form of distinction and a special mission. It is not a punishment, but a grace, an act of love by which Christ calls a person chosen by him to a special mission ”.

Jacek Krawczyk died, after arduous treatment, on June 1st 1991. in the oncology hospital in Krakow, being less than 25 years old. His funeral took place three days later, on June 4th 1991. He was buried in the parish cemetery in Strażów.