

cation efforts. In 1995, nurses from the Catholic Association of Nurses and Midwives submitted a request for launching the beatification process to Cardinal Franciszek Macharski. Father Cardinal, who said that she was “the conscience of the nursing circles”, positively responded to this request and after having complied with the essential requirements, he celebrated the formal opening of the process on November 3rd 1998. The beatification process of the Servant of God was closed at the diocese level on December 30th 2002. Subsequently, the files were handed over to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints at the Holy See, where further works connected with the declaration of the holiness of her life and heroic virtues of Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska were continued.

On September 30th 2015 in Rome, Pope Francis approved the decree of heroic virtues of Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska.

On April 6th 2016, the mortal remains of Venerable Servant of God were moved from the Rakowice Cemetery to the Saint Nicholas Church in Krakow at Kopernika Street 9.

On July 7th 2017, Pope Francis approved the beatification decree of Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska. It was based on the recognition of a miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Servant of God.

Hanna Chrzanowska was beatificated on **28 April 2018** in Basilica of Divine Mercy in Cracow. The liturgy was celebrated by card. Angelo Amato – Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Prayer

God, you called Blessed Hanna to serve the sick, poor, and abandoned, may she who with her whole heart answered that call, through her example constantly encourage us in assisting our neighbours. Through her intercession grant us the grace... for which we pray in faith and hope. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Please keep us informed about graces obtained through the intercession of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska at:

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Cross on the sands

*I don't know how much time, dear God,
You prepared for me.
Maybe I shall never again be
In the pine forest.*

*Maybe soaring lark bells
Will not reach me?
I shall not finish this plea,
I shall not see the sunlight,
Because the rain may not
Draw to an end for me?*

*And perhaps You want me
To live long, long years,
Till my hair gets covered in white
Just like the first snow?*

*Your Son's prayer
"Thy will be done"
Do not despise me, Lord,
for my humble request:*

*Let not death's arm dim
The sharpness of my view,
Let me happily observe
Your ringing spaces:*

*Let me not die crying
Burdened by human pain,
That I shall never again
see green growth smiling!*

*Be praised on Your rainbow
And in fragrance of lupin -
Choir of birds and seraphim,
Singing Your greatness!*

(from notes of Hanna Ch.)

Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives

The Krakow Branch

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**BLESSED
HANNA
CHRZANOWSKA**

1902 – 1973

NURSE

Blessed HANNA CHRZANOWSKA

Hanna Chrzanowska was born on October 7th 1902 in Warsaw, into a family who rendered great service to Polish science, culture and nursing. Her father, Ignacy Chrzanowski, a recognized professor of Polish literature, came from a catholic family of landowners of the Podlasie region. Her mother Wanda, neé Szlenkier, came from an evangelical family of wealthy Warsaw industrialists. Her mother's sister, Zofia Szlenkierówna, founded a children's hospital in Warsaw and became the headmaster of the Warsaw School of Nursing. Both families were well-known for their extensive charity work. In 1910, Hanna Chrzanowska's parents move to Krakow, where prof. I. Chrzanowski takes the chair at the Jagiellonian University. In Krakow Hanna first takes private lessons and then attends a lower secondary school run by the Ursuline Sisters, which she graduates from with distinction in 1920. Having passed the school-leaving examination, she completes a short course in nursing in order to help the victims of the Polish-Bolshevik war. In December 1920, Hanna undertakes Polish studies at the Jagiellonian University. Having heard about the establishment of the Warsaw School of Nursing, she gives up her studies and attends the new school in order to devote herself entirely to nursing. It proved a key decision that was to determine her further life. Having graduated from the school in 1924, she is awarded scholarships in France and Belgium, where she broadens her knowledge, especially within the scope of social nursing. In the years 1926-1929, she works as an instructor at the University School for Nurses and Hygienists in Krakow. From 1929 to 1939, Hanna Chrzanowska edits a monthly "Polish Nurse" – the first professional magazine for nurses in Poland. At the same time she lives in Warsaw. She publishes numerous works in nursing and also makes successful attempts at literary work. Taking part in the activities of the Polish Association of Professional Nurses, she participates actively in preparing the Nursing Act passed by the Parliament in 1935. This act, recognized as one of the best acts in the world, is supposed to regulate nurses' professional status and will be in effect in Poland almost until the end of the 20th century. Hanna Chrzanowska also contributes significantly to the formation of the Catholic Union of Polish Nurses in 1937.

The outbreak of the Second World War brings numerous painful experiences for Hanna. On October 2nd 1939, her beloved aunt Zofia Szlenkierówna dies in the bombed Warsaw. On November 6th 1939, her father is arrested as part of Sonderaktion Krakau. Along with other professors, he is deported to the concentration camp in Sachsenhausen, where he dies soon after (on January 19th 1940). In the spring of 1940, Hanna's only brother, Bohdan dies in Katyń, murdered by the Soviets. The war does not spare other people, so close to Hanna. In spite of the tragic experiences, she does not lose hope. Already at the beginning of the war, she goes back to Krakow and volunteers to work in the Polish Welfare Committee, dedicating all of her power to taking care of the refugees, prisoners and displaced people. She takes great care of the orphans, including Jewish children, trying to find foster families and safe shelters. She organizes summer camps and extra meals. She works devotedly, frequently risking her health and life. The experience of the atrocities of war has a significant influence on the development of her inner life. It becomes the time of seeking God's support, the time of discovering prayer and the meaning of the Eucharist. This time of spiritual growth accompanies the formation of the evangelical attitude of love of one's neighbour.

After the war, Hanna Chrzanowska begins work at the University School for Nurses and Midwives as the head of the social nursing department. She is offered a scholarship in the USA, where she broadens her knowledge within the scope of home nursing. She uses the experiences gained while organizing hospital and home nursing. For many years she lectures on the methodology of open nursing at the School for Nursing Instructors in Warsaw. As an instructor and tutor, she puts strong emphasis on educating young nurses in a spirit of authentic service to the sick, paying attention not only to their health, but also their spiritual needs and respecting their dignity. In 1957, Hanna Chrzanowska takes the post of the head of the School of Psychiatric Nursing in Kobierzyn and one year later, after an unforeseen liquidation of this institution, she takes early retirement. However, she remains present in the nursing circles. She takes an active part in the activity of the Polish Nursing Association. She develops a widely recognized textbook – "Nursing in the Open Health Care". She publishes professional articles in journals for nurses. Performing numerous important functions at schools as well as in other nursing institutions, Hanna Chrzanowska does not conceal her religious beliefs or her attachment to the Christian values. On the contrary, she bears clear and credi-

ble testimony to faith. Such an attitude arouses respect and recognition, especially among the students and colleagues, and arouses aversion, and even certain repressive measures, on the part of the communist authorities.

Retirement does not mean rest period for Hanna. For she knows from personal experience the needs of numerous ailing people – the lonely, deserted and disabled, deprived of any care. Following some inner inspiration, she decides to organize for them professional nursing care, based on the church structures and independent of the inefficient national health care system. Having developed this idea, she turns to Father Karol Wojtyła, later the Bishop of Krakow, who grants full approval for her plans. Having received the moral and material support on the part of the church authorities, she organizes institutions of parish nursing in Krakow and the entire archdiocese. Endowed with a charismatic personality, she gathers a wide group of associates and volunteers around this work, including: nurses, nuns, clerical students, priests, doctors, professors and students. With their help, she organizes holiday retreat, which helps ill people rediscover the joy of life and gives them strength to bear everyday cross. Thanks to her efforts, the custom of celebrating the Holy Mass at the home of the sick person becomes popular as well as visiting the sick at home as part of pastoral visits. Hanna Chrzanowska still pays a lot of attention to the nursing circles, taking care of the spiritual and ethical standards of nurses and midwives. She organizes for them regular conferences and annual retreat. She popularizes the "Examination of Conscience for Nurses" which she has prepared thoroughly. Hanna Chrzanowska closely cooperates with Cardinal Karol Wojtyła (future Pope JP II) in all of the areas of work with the sick. As a result of his motion, Holy Father Paul VI awards her with the medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice".

Hanna's inner life is shaped largely on the basis of St. Benedict's spirituality – in 1956 she becomes an oblate in the Tyniec Abbey. Serving the sick and those who suffer, she gradually realizes that serving them, she serves Jesus Christ.

Hanna Chrzanowska dies in Krakow on April 29th 1973. The funeral ceremony on the Rakowice Cemetery was conducted by Cardinal Karol Wojtyła. In the funeral homily, he said: "We thank you Ms Hanna that you were among us (...) a kind of embodiment of Christ's beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, especially the one saying: blessed are the merciful". Those who knew Hanna well all testify that she heroically obeyed the Greatest Commandment. Therefore, the nurses from Krakow put forward an idea to undertake beatifi-