

Pozdrowienia z Polski!

Root & Branch welcomes you to a Zoom
with our friends in Poland

Sunday 28th Feb, 16.00 GMT / UTC
17.00 CET 11.00 EST



2000 Installation view of Pope John Paul II struck by a meteorite,
by Maurizio Cattelan.

The Roman Catholic Church in Poland historically had a large influence on the state and the society, which increased further during the reign of Pope John Paul II.

Recently the Church in Poland has been undergoing a significant crisis, when sexual abuse scandals and conflict over more restrictive anti-abortion laws have caused a large wave of protests since Oct 2020.

The institutional Church is deeply allied with the ruling ultraconservative Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (Law and Justice Party). Partly as a side effect some Catholic reform groups have started to emerge and are in process of forming to empower lay people and strengthen the role of women.

ALICJA BARANOWSKA

Since 2016, Alicja has served on the Leadership Circle of WOW, Women's Ordination Worldwide. For many years an individual member, representing Poland on WOW, she has advanced the cause of women in the Church, as a member of Catholic Women Speak, as a volunteer translator for womenpriests.org and working in various reform circles in Poland. With a group of young women there now, there is a move to form a branch of We Are Church in Poland.



Last October, a hundred thousand women marched in Poland for seven hours, protesting against Poland's ruling Law and Justice Party's hardline stance which forces women to carry babies to term, even if they are not expected to live postpartum. Women, adolescents, and LGBT people bear the brunt of Poland's increasingly hardline moves to undermine sexual and reproductive health and rights and demonize gender-nonconformity.



We hope that several young Polish women may be able to join us with Alicja on 28th Feb, if it is safe for them to do so.

Come and hear more about this complex matter, where the Church originally stood for freedom against Communist rule, but now appears to buttress a repressive and misogynist government.

Sunday 28th Feb, 16.00 GMT / UTC
17.00 CET **11.00 EST**



Please register for your link to join us, if you haven't already done so:

<https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/zoom-with-us>