



Most Reverend Andrew P. Wypych, D.D.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Praise be to Jesus Christ!

With this salutation I greet you very warmly from my chapel in front of the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa. I also have with me a pectoral cross with relics of St. John Paul the Great, which I use only in very special moments such as this day for Polonia.

Our spirit is stronger than the weakness of our body as we fight this pandemic. We learned this as we have kept a physical distance, which made us aware of our need for community and the power of mutual spiritual contact. Today, I connect with you spiritually, commemorating the anniversary of the Constitution of May 3, the memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Poland, and this year's virtual Parade of the Polish Constitution of May 3 in Chicago. The pandemic has no power to separate us. If anything, it will strengthen us spiritually in our Polish patriotic expression. I pray that we do not weaken our spirit, but that we strengthen it.

We, sons and daughters, children and heirs of our native Poland's culture, religion, rich history, and healthy patriotism, are able, by the strength of our spirit, to stand together for the May Third Parade. We stand in our homes for the parade on May 1st and pray on Sunday during the Holy Mass celebrated on May 2 at 10:00 am in Holy Trinity Church for the intentions of each of us and the entire united Polish community.

I hope and pray that this temporary pandemic threatening our body and mental health will end soon, thanks to our merciful God, the intercession of our Heavenly Mother, and the efforts of so many wonderful brothers and sisters, especially in the medical professions. I pray that we will constantly learn that together, in unity with each other, as a community of Polonia, we can do and achieve this more quickly. I pray that we will appreciate and respect each other even more. Let us thank God for the gifts of the past and the present and pray that we will be humbly prepared to receive and share the gifts of unity and collaboration with others. Let us build the good values contained in our Polish character - God, Honor, Fatherland - and add to it the good values in the American constitution - Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of true Happiness. Let us generously pass on these good values and more to our younger generation, brought up here on American soil, by participating in the life of our country, by proudly and actively building their Polonia reality, and by participating in the daily life of this country, always for the common good.

On Saturday, May 1st at 11:30am during the virtual parade, I will be praying in my chapel in front of the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa. I also encourage you and your families to celebrate this parade of our Polish pride with your families. Speak about the history of Polonia, sing patriotic songs such as *"Boże coś Polskę przez tak liczne wieki..."*. Have the family wave Polish and American flags. Make it a day to remember.

From my heart and with Christian love, I bless you, your families, our Polonia family, and all good people who touch our lives with kindness, care, and love.

In + Name of the Father and + of the Son and + of the Holy Spirit. Amen

+ Andrew Peter Wypych D.D.