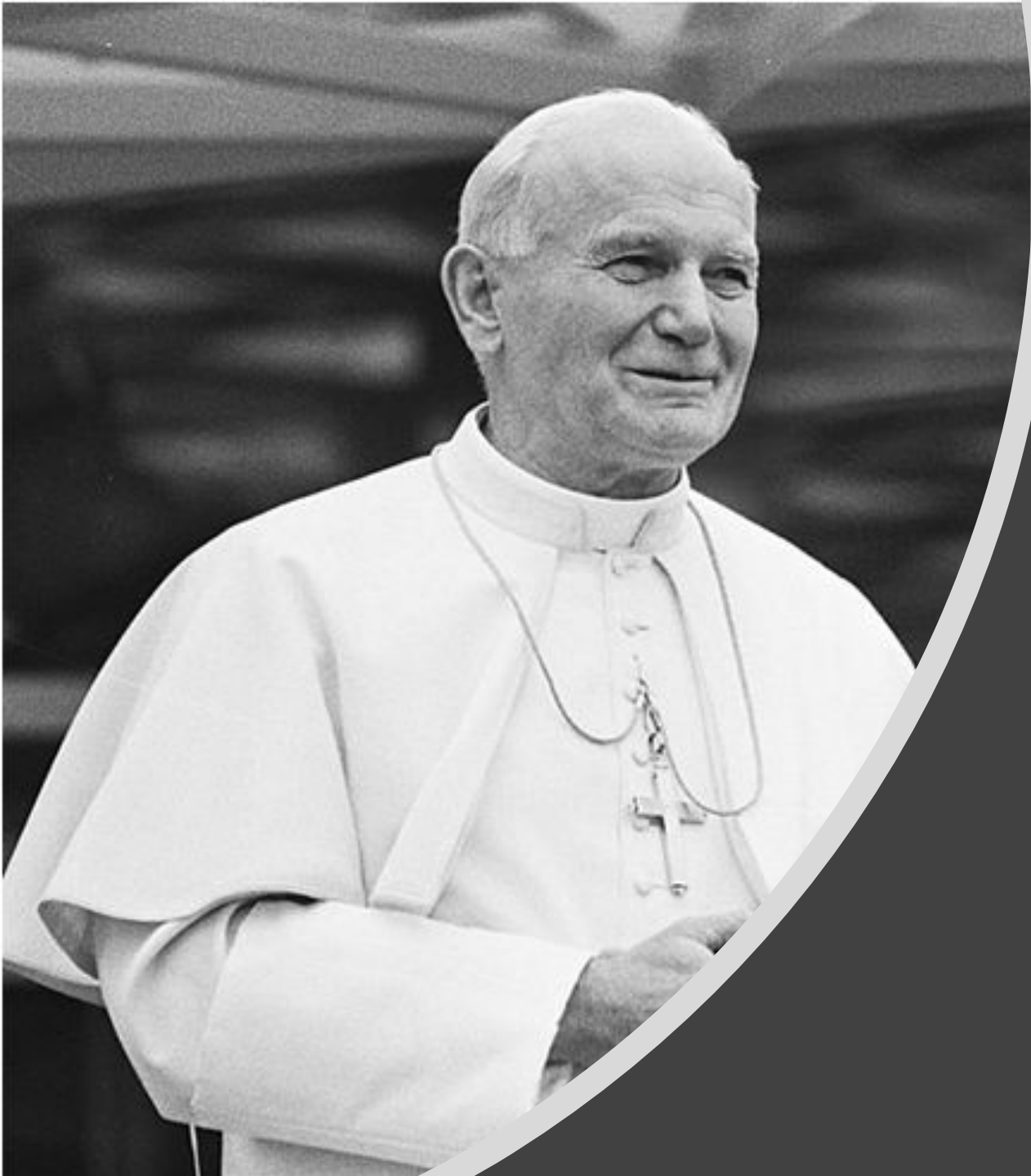


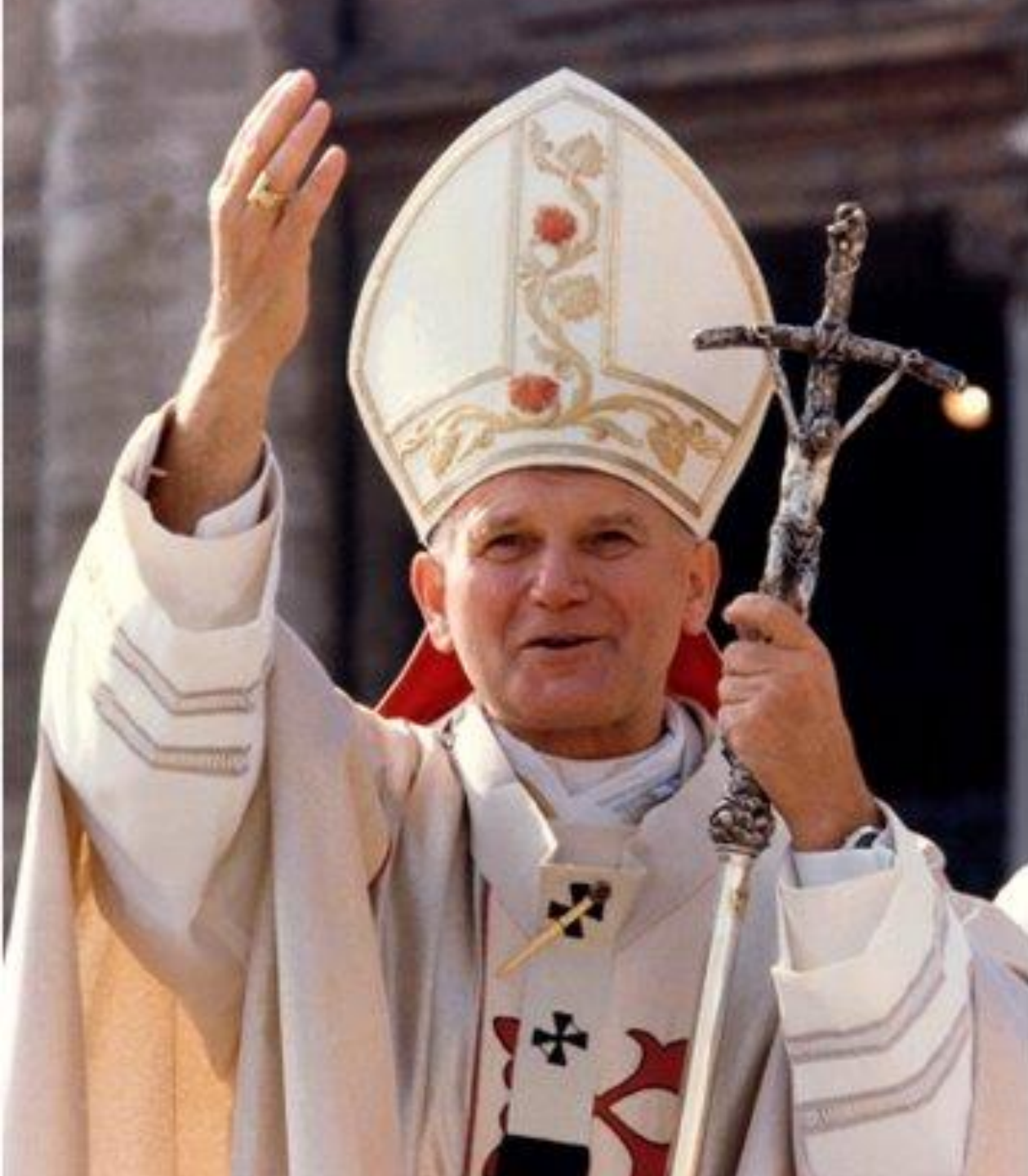


**POLSKO-LITEWSKI  
FUNDUSZ WYMIANY  
MŁODZIEŻY**

"Miracle of Freedom "  
PLF/2020/F1/U/0050  
24.09-30.09.2020  
Poronin



John Paul II



- Jan Paweł II
- Karol Wojtyła
- the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 1978 until his death in 2005
- was the first non-Italian pope since the 16th-century





- Between 1978 and 2005, the Catholic church in Poland, and the country as a whole, were viewed through the lens of the pontificate of John Paul II.
- And this continued with his death. The rapid beatification and canonisation of the Polish pope in fact reinforced his influence on the church.



- As the man born Karol Wojtyła has become Saint John Paul II, uncritical hagiographies of his papacy have been popular and many Polish “messianists” even view it as the fulfilment of Romantic prophecies.





- The context in which his pontificate was received was very different in Poland. Most Polish Catholics thought of John Paul II as “our pope”, who helped us to shed the shackles of communism and led us through the sea of totalitarian liberation.



- Poles gave little thought to theological subtleties. We treated him as a liberator – an inherent mainstay in the process of political and civilisational transformations in Eastern Europe.



- Through his speeches Pope John Paul II bolstered Polish unity against Soviet occupation by emphasizing the themes of nationalism and social justice. The Pope drew on the deep roots of Polish Catholicism and linked national identity with Polish religious heritage.





- The widespread domination of the Polish pope and the huge number of documents he published during his long pontificate were reinforced by his succession of pilgrimages to Poland. He made nine altogether. One could say that, from the first one in 1979 to the last in 2002, they marked out the rhythm of the work not just of the Catholic church, but of all Polish media and the entire state apparatus.



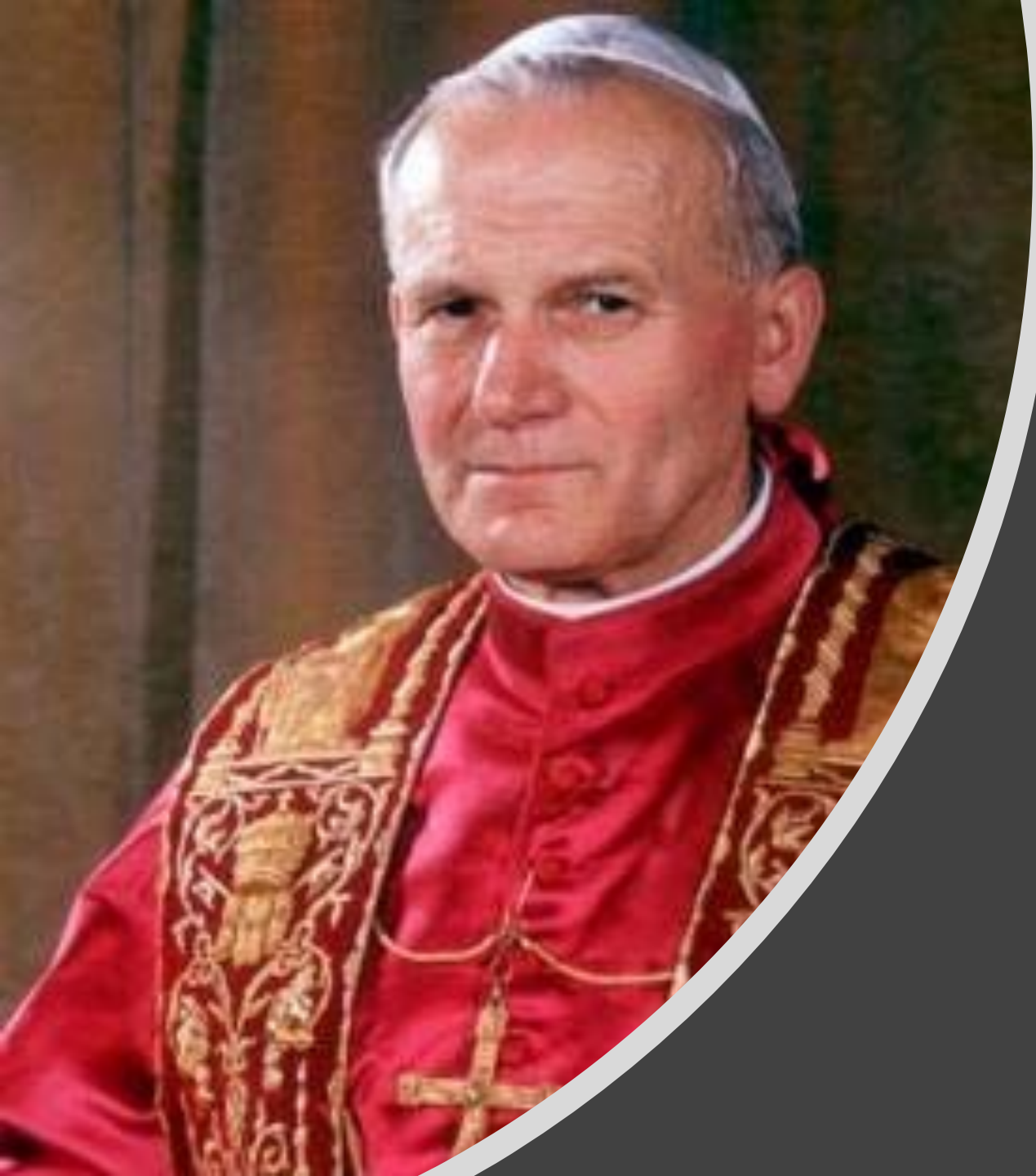
- Pope John Paul II spoke out publicly against communism. Despite warnings from Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, not to interfere in Poland, the new pope visited his homeland within the first year of his papacy.



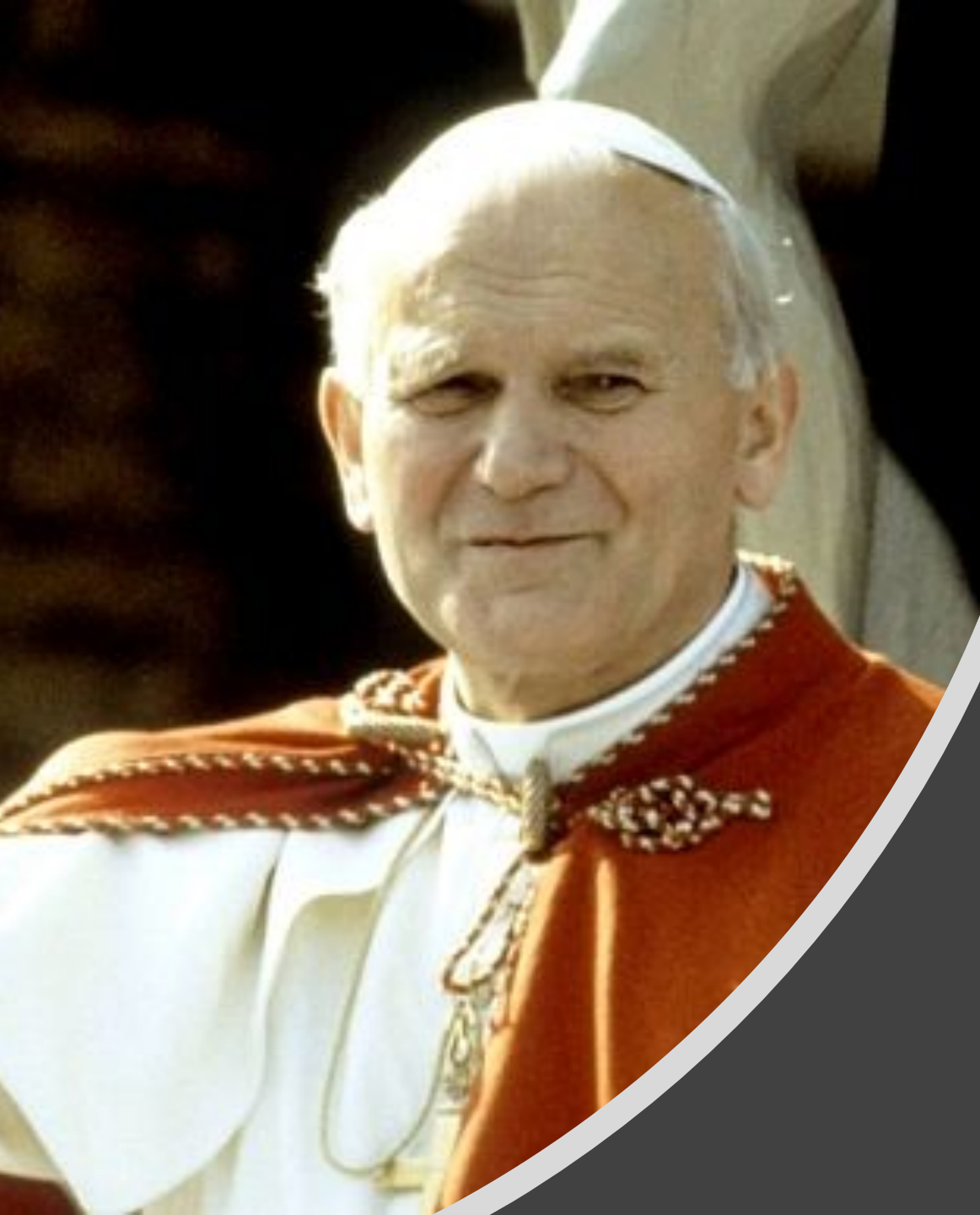


- Having lived under both the Nazi and the Soviet regimes, the new pope was unwavering in his opposition to both fascism and communism. While the Vatican had always officially opposed communism because of its atheism, Pope John Paul II lost no time in making his theological opposition into an active policy of confrontation.

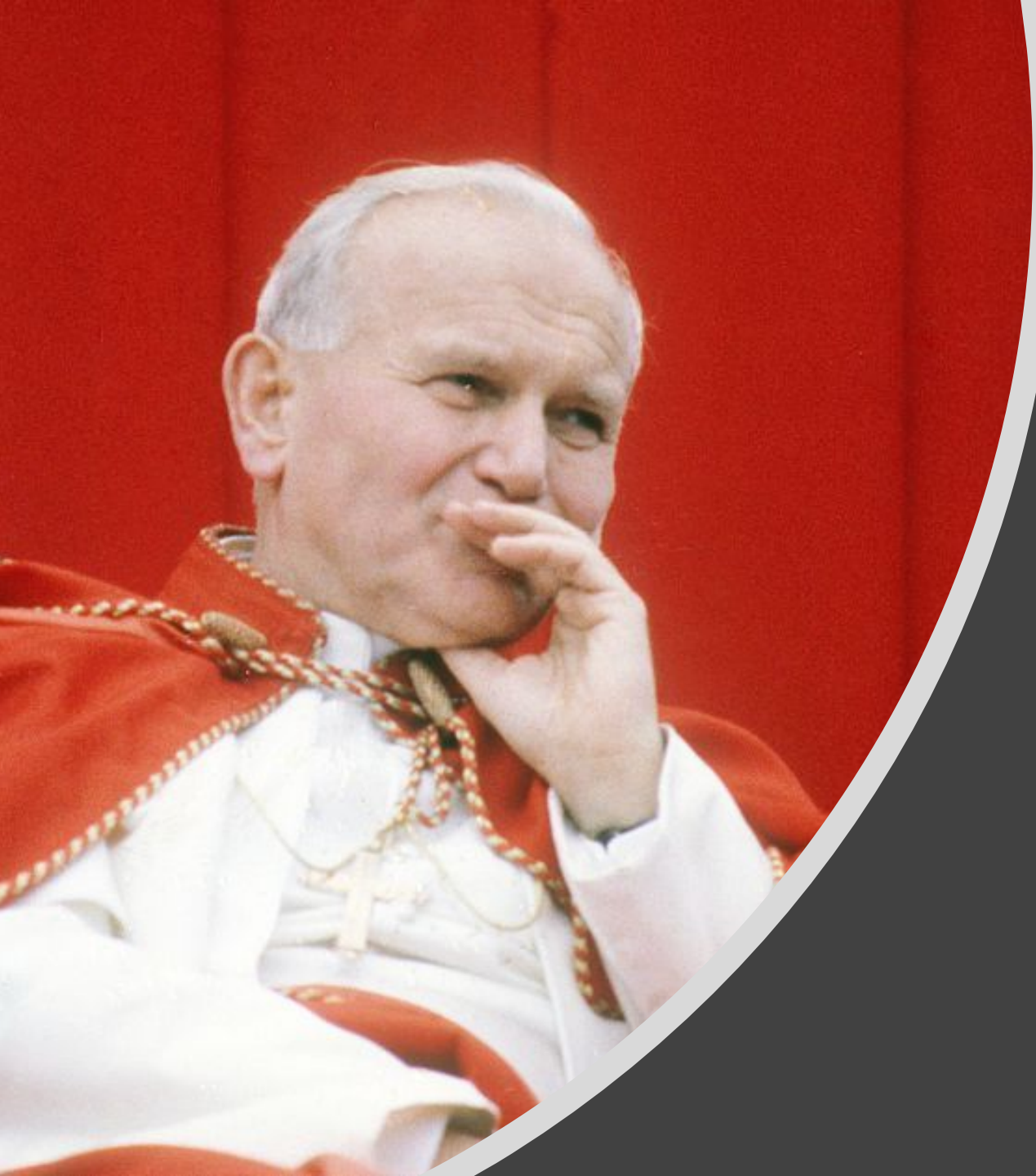




- John Paul II became known as the "Pilgrim Pope" for having travelled greater distances than had all his predecessors combined. According to John Paul II, the trips symbolized bridge-building efforts between nations and religions, attempting to remove divisions created through history.

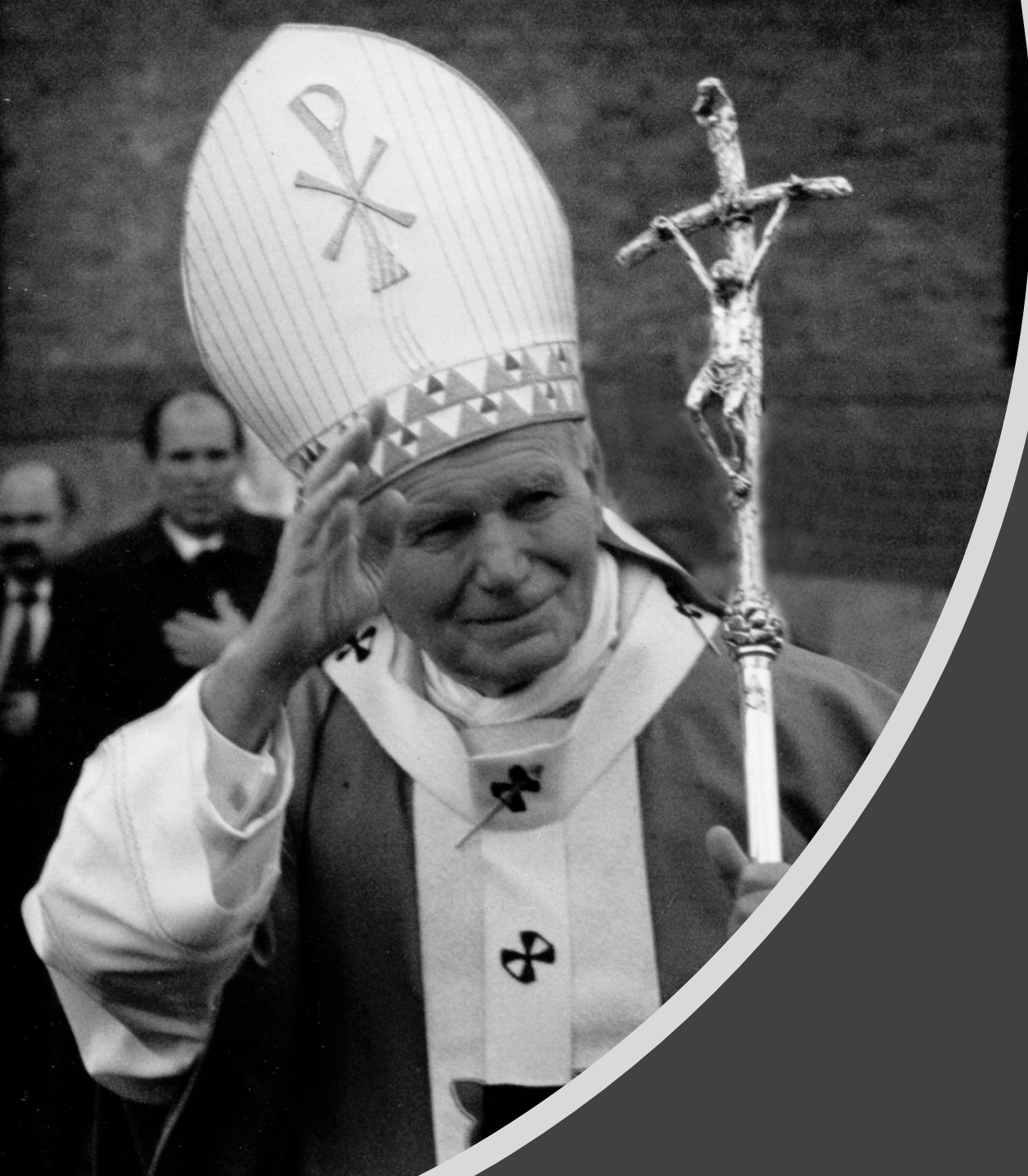


- The first of John Paul II's three pilgrimages to his homeland began on 2 June 1979. The Pope visited Warsaw, Gniezno, Częstochowa, Cracow, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wadowice, Oświęcim, Nowy Targ and again Cracow.

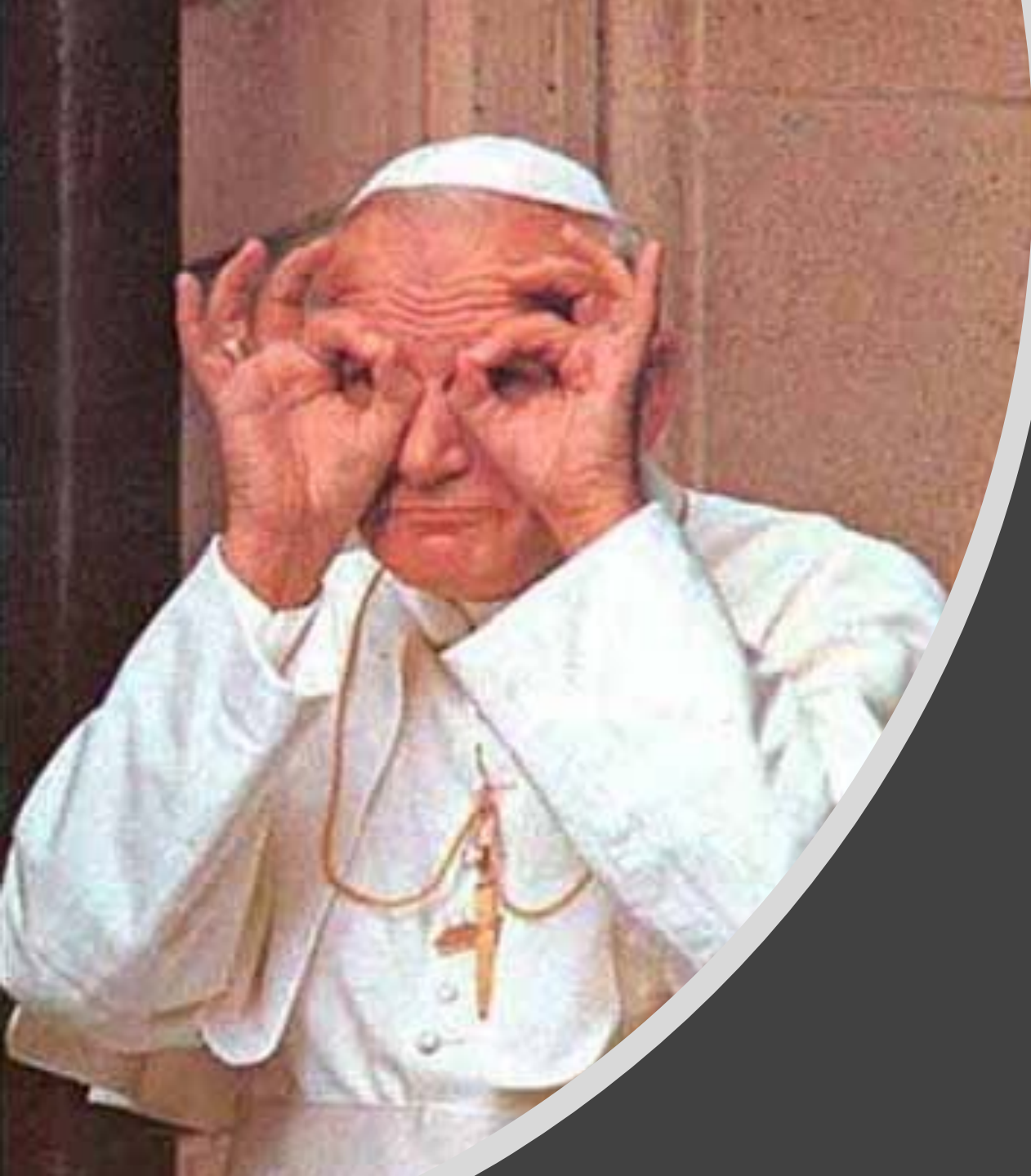


- Pilgrimage of hope – the Pope in communist Poland under martial law. On June 16-23, 1983, the seemingly impossible happened. With Poland reeling from the imposition of martial law, Pope John Paul II visited for the second time.





- 11 June 1987 Pope **John Paul II** arriving at the military airport at Gdynia on his **third** Papal visit to **Poland**.



- Polish pride, spirituality and reverence ran high on April 27th, 2014, when the country's beloved Pope John Paul II was canonised by Pope Francis I. Aside from the Vatican, no city is more associated with the late pope than Kraków, which remained his spiritual home throughout his life.