

**CHRONOLOGY OF THE  
JOSEPH CARDINAL BERNARDIN CENTER**

- October 1985: Spertus College of Judaica serves as a co-sponsor of the Chicago celebration of the 20th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*. Shortly thereafter, the establishment at the College of a center for Christian-Jewish dialogue focusing on Eastern Europe and Chicago is proposed.
- 1986-1987: Plans for the Center are formulated. Joseph Cardinal Bernardin agrees to the College's proposal that the Center would bear his name.
- July 22, 1987: The Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Center is established at a formal celebration at Spertus College.
- Summer 1987 - Spring 1988: Planning begins for a Summer 1989 Seminar in Chicago for Polish-Catholic seminarians.
- April 1988: A delegation from the Bernardin Center, led by President Howard A. Sulkin, visits Poland on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In meetings with Cardinal Macharski, Archbishop of Krakow, the Cardinal proposes that Priest-Professors be sent to Chicago in Summer 1989 for a two-month seminar in Judaism to be held at Spertus College.
- Summer 1988: An Advisory Committee is formed to help plan the Summer 1989 Polish Priest-Professor Seminar with Fr. Dan Montalbano as Chairperson. The Committee holds regular meetings through Spring 1989.
- November 21-22, 1988: Fr. Montalbano reviews the Committee's recommendations with Bishop Muszynski in Wlocawek, Poland.
- \_\_\_\_\_, 1989: Archbishop Jerzy Dombrowski of the Polish Episcopate visits Chicago, representing Cardinal Primate Glemp.
- June 29, 1989: 21 Polish Priest-Professors and one Orthodox Christian Professor arrive in Chicago to commence the historic seminar co-sponsored by the Bernardin Center and the Archdiocese. This is the first time Polish priests are studying Judaica in an institution of higher Jewish learning.
- July 5, 1989: The seminar begins. There are seven weeks of intensive study of Jewish theology, liturgy and classical texts; religious pluralism; American Catholicism; "Polonia." An international faculty of 25 renowned Jewish, Protestant and Catholic scholars serve as instructors. Participants enjoy their first exposure to a "living" Jewish community, to Chicago "Polonia" and to the diversity of the Chicago Archdiocese. Rabbi Dr. Byron L. Sherwin serves as Dean. Father Dr. John

- Pawlikowski serves as Senior Consultant. J. Michael Thompson serves as coordinator. Bishop Dr. Piotr Skucha leads the Polish delegation. Fr. Dr. Waldemar Chrostowski serves as coordinator of the Polish delegation.
- July-August 1989:** The controversy over the Carmelite Convent at Auschwitz threatens to sever Catholic-Jewish dialogue.
- August 9, 1989:** The Seminar concludes formal classes.
- August 14, 1989:** The Seminar concludes with Vespers.
- Fall 1989, Winter 1990:** Extensive press coverage in Poland and the United States on the Seminar appears. Participants incorporate what they have learned in Chicago into seminary curricula in Poland.
- Winter 1990:** Participants of the Seminar invite a delegation from the Bernardin Center to visit Poland. Planning begins.
- May 4-16, 1990:** A delegation from the Center arrives in Poland, consisting of Rabbi Sherwin, Fr. Joseph Mytych, and Michael Terry of Spertus College's Asher Library. The team meets with Cardinal Primate Glemp, Cardinal Macharski, and the Polish Episcopate's Commission for Dialogue with Judaism. Sherwin becomes the first rabbi to lecture at Catholic seminaries in Poland, specifically in Lublin, Wlocawek, and the Jesuit Academy of Krakow. Sherwin also lectures at the Christian Academy of Theology, the Academy of Catholic Theology, and at meetings of Catholic Intellectual Clubs in Warsaw and Krakow. Terry lectures in Gniezno. Terry examines Judaica books and manuscripts in Church hands; helps plan Shalom Library in Krakow. Mytych serves as liaison with the Polish Church. A "reunion" with participants of the seminar is held in Auschwitz.
- May 23, 1990:** Bishop Muszynski, Chairman of the Polish Episcopate's Commission on Dialogue with Judaism, visits Spertus College to express appreciation of Bernardin Center programs with the Polish Church.
- Winter 1990:** Spertus' Asher Library contributes a collection of books to help found the Shalom Library in Krakow. Planning begins for a Spring 1991 visit to Poland of a delegation from the Bernardin Center.
- April 10-23, 1991:** Fr. Mytych and Rabbi Sherwin represent the Bernardin Center in Poland. Private meetings are held with Cardinal Glemp, Cardinal Macharski, Nuncio Archbishop Kowalczyk, and Bishop Muszynski. Sherwin delivers keynote address at an international scholars' conference at the Academy of Catholic Theology, and lectures at seminaries in Lublin and Wlocawek.

- April 12, 1991: Frs. Mytych and Pawlikowski, Rabbi Sherwin and Rektor Jan Lach sign an agreement establishing The Institute for the Study of Judaism, co-sponsored by the Academy of Catholic Theology and the Bernardin Center of Spertus College.
- May 1991: *Dzieci Jednego Boga - Children of One God* is published in Warsaw by the Academy of Catholic Theology. This volume summarizes the 1989 Seminar and contains the results of scholarly research done in Chicago by its participants.
- September 29, 1991: Cardinal Primate Glemp visits the Center as the guest of Cardinal Bernardin. Glemp's only visit to a Jewish institution during his U.S. pastoral visit.
- November 3, 1991: The Bernardin Center sponsors the first public symposium in Chicago on Polish-Jewish Relations. Speakers are Dr. Stanislaw Krajewski of Warsaw, Consul Andrzej Jaroszynski, Fr. John Pawlikowski, and Rabbi Sherwin.
- May 8-22, 1992: Rabbi Sherwin returns to Poland for an intensive and extensive lecture tour organized by Fr. Chrostowski. These include a keynote address at an international scholars' conference at the Academy of Catholic Theology, a lecture series at the University of Warsaw—the first program of the Bernardin Center-Academy of Catholic Theology Institute for the Study of Judaism established in 1991—first rabbi in 500 years to lecture at the diocesan seminary in Bialystok, lectures at the Jesuit Academy of Krakow and the Pontifical Theological Academy of Krakow; keynote address at the first conference on Religion and Medicine in Poland at Children's Memorial Hospital; lecture at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland. Sherwin also addresses the professional staff of the Auschwitz Museum. Private meetings with Cardinal Glemp, Nuncio Kowalczyk, Archbishop Muszynski. Extensive TV, radio and newspaper coverage.
- May 12, 1992: Sherwin becomes the first recipient of the "Man of Reconciliation" award of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews in recognition of his work on behalf of the Bernardin Center.
- May 25, 1992: Spertus College and the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland sign a cooperative interinstitutional agreement.

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Future Plans: Spring 1993 Lecture Series in Poland.

Expansion of programs to Prague in May 1993.

Increased Chicago programming in Polish-Jewish, Catholic-Jewish Dialogue.

**Events in Chicago commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.**

**Initiation of an extensive publication program in Poland and in Chicago.**

**Professor Chrostowski of the Academy of Catholic Theology – Warsaw to serve as a Visiting Professor at Spertus College, Winter 1994.**