



dr hab. Paweł Kaźmierczak, prof. UIK
(1970–2024)

Eulogy for Paweł Kaźmierczak, Esteemed Professor of the Ignatianum University in Cracow

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Professor Paweł Kaźmierczak served as a distinguished member of the Ignatianum University in Cracow since 2006. Prior to his tenure as a professor, he completed his Master's degree in 1998 and earned his doctorate in 2002 at the same university. In 2020, he was awarded his habilitation (equivalent to a full professorship) at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, with a dissertation titled "The Neo-Aristotelian Philosophy of Education from the Perspective of Alasdair MacIntyre."

Throughout his extensive academic career, Professor Kaźmierczak devoted much of his intellectual focus to studying the works of Alasdair MacIntyre and made a lasting contribution to popularizing his ideas. Simultaneously, he deeply engaged with the writings of other eminent thinkers such as Karol Wojtyła, whose personalist vision of education and human growth particularly resonated with him, as well as Joseph Seifert, Dietrich von Hildebrand, Feliks Koneczny, and many others.

In the last two years, Professor Kaźmierczak dedicated himself to an in-depth study of Hans Urs von Balthasar's theology and its intricate relationship with the mystical insights of Adrienne von Speyr, some of whose unpublished works he rendered into Polish. In fact, beyond his notable scholarly contributions, he was an accomplished translator, who dedicated substantial time to bringing philosophical and spiritual writings to Polish readers. His translations introduced a wide array of international authors to Poland, including Joseph Ratzinger, David Steindl-Rast, Mark E. Thibodeaux, Laura Swan, Wilfrid J. Harrington, Carol Camp Twork, and Stuart Sacks, among others.

Beyond his impressive scholarly work, Professor Kaźmierczak made meaningful contributions to the academic community through a variety of important administrative roles. Most notably, he served as editor-in-chief of the *Multidisciplinary Journal of School Education*. In this capacity, he

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benefited from the invaluable support of colleagues such as Prof. Krzysztof Biel, Prof. Ewa Dybowska, and Prof. Dominika Ruszkiewicz. His relentless dedication to improving the rigor and reputation of the journal, jointly edited by the Ignatianum University in Cracow and Abat Oliba CEU University in Barcelona, led to a marked rise in its academic standing. Under his leadership, the journal became an important platform for academic dialogue on pressing educational issues.

Another example of Professor Kaźmierczak's generous dedication to the university was his involvement in organizing the International Conference Word in Education. Since its inception in Barcelona in 2012, the conference has been supported by an international scientific committee in which Professor Kaźmierczak, alongside Prof. Krzysztof Biel, Prof. Sylwia Wojciechowska, and other scholars from Ignatianum, actively participated. Two subsequent editions of the conference were held in Cracow in 2016 and 2020, both under the coordination of Professor Kaźmierczak and his close collaborators. A third edition, scheduled for September 2024, was organized posthumously following his passing. Due to his advancing illness, Professor Kaźmierczak entrusted the conference coordination to Prof. Krzysztof Biel and Prof. Miguel Ángel Barbero but continued to provide guidance and support almost to the very end, despite his waning strength.

Finally, it is important to highlight Professor Kaźmierczak's profound dedication to his students at Ignatianum. Many students and faculty members have attested to his steadfast readiness to help with any questions or challenges his students encountered, whether in his courses or while working on their undergraduate, postgraduate, or doctoral dissertations. His heartfelt commitment was always to help his students understand the essence of the topics he lectured on and, in doing so, to enrich their intellectual perspectives through the ideas—often related to education—that he passionately shared in his courses. In June 2024, as he was completing his final academic year, I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand his devotion to his students, even as he struggled to correct final exams and conduct personal interviews amidst his declining health.

It is no exaggeration to state that his unwavering dedication endured until the very end.

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In conclusion, I can say with immense gratitude and pride that, from my perspective—which I am certain is shared by many—Paweł Kaźmierczak was not only a remarkable academic and an exemplary colleague and friend, but also the best brother I could have ever hoped to have.

Requiescat in pace

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