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“FOR THOUGH THEY BE PUNISHED IN THE SIGHT OF MEN,  
YET IS THEIR HOPE FULL OF IMMORTALITY...”<sup>\*</sup>  
REPORT ON INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE  
ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SOLEMN BEATIFICATION  
OF THE ULMA FAMILY

On 17 December 2022, i.e. 19 years after the initiation of the beatification process of the Ulma Family, Pope Francis approved the decree on their martyrdom. He authorised the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints to publish it, which meant that soon, Józef and Wiktoria and their seven children would be beatified.<sup>1</sup> This Polish family was murdered on the spot on 24 March 1944 in Markowa by German gendarmes from the Łańcut police station for helping Jews. Presumably, in December 1942, the Ulmas took eight people from the

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• Book of Wisdom 3:4. The Polish verse was used on one of the posters of the exhibition “Death for Humanity. The Ulma Family.”

<sup>1</sup> On 14 February 2023, the Archdiocese of Przemyśl announced that Ulma Family’s beatification would occur on 10 November 2023 in Markowa.

Didner, Grünfeld, and Goldman families under their roof.<sup>2</sup> Józef and Wiktoria, in helping them, were aware of the enormous risks it entailed.<sup>3</sup> In their case, as the documents collected by historians and the priests leading the beatification process show, evangelical love of thy neighbour overcame fear and strengthened their heroism and courage. For the first time in the history of the Church, a family who was murdered for helping Jews during the years of the German occupation of Polish lands was raised to the glory of the altars.

The solemn beatification mass presided over by the Holy Father's envoy, the Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, was held on Sunday, 10 September 2023, in Markowa. The liturgy was attended by more than thirty thousand faithful from Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine, and the USA. The Eucharist was concelebrated by about one thousand priests, six cardinals,<sup>4</sup> eighty bishops, including the President of the Polish Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, the Primate of Poland, the Metropolitan of Gniezno, Archbishop Wojciech Polak, and the main organiser – the Metropolitan of Przemyśl, Archbishop Adam Szal.<sup>5</sup> It was one of the most significant religious

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<sup>2</sup> The story of the Ulmas and their death is present in Polish and foreign language literature. See e.g. M. Szpytma, *Sprawiedliwi i ich świat w fotografii Józefa Ulmy*, third edition (Warsaw, 2023); M. Szpytma, *The Righteous and the Merciful: The Rescue of Jews by the Poles and the Tragic Consequences for Ulma Family from Markowa* (Warsaw, 2023); W. Burda, *Ku szczytom świętości* (Przemyśl, 2023); A. Bugała, *Ulmowie sprawiedliwi i błogosławieni* (Cracow, 2023); A. Bugała, *Ulmowci. Po stopach prwej blahoslaveney rodiny v dejinách Cirkvi* (Košice, 2023); P. Adrianik-Rytel, M. Tulli, *Uccisero anche i bambini. Gli Ulma, la famiglia martire che aiutò gli ebrei Copertina flessibile* (Milano, 2023); P. Adrianik-Rytel, M. Tulli, *Martyred and Blessed Together: The Extraordinary Story of the Ulma Family* (Huntington, 2023); J.O. Maynard, *No Greater Love: The Martyrdom of the Ulma Family* (London, 2023); E. Szulikowska, *Markowskie bociany. Opowieść o bohaterskiej Rodzinie Wiktorii i Józefa Ulmów* (Przemyśl, 2017); E. Szulikowska, *Wiktoria Ulma. Opowieść o miłości* (Cracow, 2023); P. Tołpa, *Sa-marytanie z Markowej. Błogosławiona Rodzina Ulmów* (Cracow, 2023); J. Ulma, *Józef Ulma. Opowieść pisana życiem. O moim wujku „Ulmie” słów kilka* (Cracow, 2024); W. Hanus, “Uniknęli kary. Ustalenia w sprawie Ericha Wildego, Michaela Dziewulskiego i Gustava Unbehenda, niemieckich żandarmów z posterunku w Łańcucie biorących udział w zbrodni w Markowej,” *Nasz Dziennik*, 6 September 2023 (Supplement: “Dodatek Historyczny IPN”).

<sup>3</sup> See “The Third General Governorate Residence Restriction Regulation, 15 October 1941,” in *Ten jest z ojczyzny mojej. Polacy z pomocą Żydom 1939–1945*, ed. W. Bartoszewski, Z. Lewinówna (Warsaw, 2007), pp. 645–646.

<sup>4</sup> Among them was the papal envoy, Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, and Cardinals Stanisław Dziwisz, Gerhard Müller, Kazimierz Nycz, Grzegorz Ryś and Robert Sarah.

<sup>5</sup> The beatification celebration was attended by representatives of the highest Polish state authorities: President Andrzej Duda with the First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda, Marshal of the Sejm, Elżbieta Witek, Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, as well as the President of the Institute of National Re-

ceremonies in Poland in recent years, an unprecedented event where an entire family, including an unborn child who was in the mother's womb at the time of death, was elevated to the glory of the altars.<sup>6</sup>

The President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, following the announcement of the decision of the Holy Father Francis on the beatification, on the 79th anniversary of the death of the Ulma Family during the celebrations of the National Day of Remembrance of Poles Who Saved Jews under German Occupation on 24 March 2023 in Markowa, inaugurated the activities of the Committee of the President of the Republic of Poland for the Celebrations Accompanying the Beatification of the Ulma Family. Its aim was to popularise the knowledge about the heritage of the Ulma Family and to build a national community around them, as well as to restore the remembrance of Poles who saved Jews during the German occupation<sup>7</sup> (the committee concluded its activities a year later, on 24 March 2024).

Grażyna Ignaczak-Bandyk, the head of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, explained during one of the organisational meetings that

Committee was established to coordinate and bring together various ongoing and future collaborative efforts. She emphasised that it was the President's wish that we celebrate and experience this significant event together as a community

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membrance, Dr. Karol Nawrocki, and his deputies Dr. habil. Karol Polejowski, Dr. Mateusz Szpytma and Dr. Krzysztof Szwagrzyk, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich, and the Deputy Ambassador of Israel to Poland, Shani Tayar.

<sup>6</sup> The Vatican Dicastery for the Causes of Saints declared the child born and blessed, assuming that it was born during the crime at the time of the mother's martyrdom. See Communiqué of the Vatican Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, 5 September 2023, <https://www.causesanti.va/it/notizie/notizie-2023/nota-ulma.html>, accessed 12 March 2024.

<sup>7</sup> On behalf of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Grażyna Ignaczak-Bandyk, Head of the Chancellery, Wojciech Kolarski, Secretary of State at the Chancellery, and Adam Kwiatkowski, Polish Ambassador to the Vatican, were appointed to the Committee comprising: Marzena Machałek, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Education and Science, Jarosław Sellin, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Rychlik, Head of the Foreign Service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Barbara Socha, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Ewa Leniart, Voivode of Podkarpacie; Archbishop Adam Szal, Metropolitan of Przemyśl, Mateusz Szpytma, Deputy President of the Institute of National Remembrance, Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpacie Voivodeship, Monika Krawczyk, Director of the Jewish Historical Institute, Adam Krzysztoń, District Governor of Łańcut and Mirosław Mac, Mayor of the Municipality of Markowa.

and as a nation. While the beatification itself is the responsibility of the Church, our group's task is to prepare the accompanying events jointly.<sup>8</sup>

Among the numerous initiatives undertaken by the Presidential Committee for the Celebrations in cooperation with the Institute of National Remembrance in 2023 (IPN), the organisation of popular science conferences and exhibitions should be highlighted. The IPN prepared two themed exhibitions: "Death for Humanity. The Ulma Family" and "'Blessed are the Righteous, for...': The Story of the Ulma Family."<sup>9</sup>

The first of these – an outdoor one – was prepared by the IPN Branch in Rzeszów. The exhibition's originators were Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, Deputy President of the IPN, and Dr. Dariusz Iwaneczko, Director of the IPN Rzeszów Branch. The authors of the exhibition's program were Dr. Wojciech Hanus (IPN Rzeszów Branch), Dr. Maciej Korkuć (IPN Cracow Branch), and Dr. Mateusz Szpytma. Katarzyna Hudzicka-Chochorowska (IPN Rzeszów Branch) was responsible for the graphic design, drawings, and typesetting. The exhibition featured several dozen photographs and documents, some presented for the first time.

Grażyna Ignaczak-Bandyk<sup>10</sup> presided over the ceremonial opening of the exhibition on 21 August 2023 in front of the Presidential Palace in Warsaw. In her speech, she emphasised that the exhibition "is a very condensed form of a story not only about the Ulma Family, but also about Poles, about those times [i.e. German occupation], and about the fact that they helped and paid the highest price for it." The Head of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of

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<sup>8</sup> <https://dzieje.pl/wiadomosci/dzialania-towarzyszace-procesowi-beatyfikacyjnemu-rodziny-ulmow>, accessed 28 December 2023.

<sup>9</sup> In response to the requests of the faithful in the churches that received the relics of the blessed Ulma Family during the peregrination, the IPN also created an exhibition entitled "The Blessed Ulma Family from Markowa," curated by Dr. Paweł Rokicki of the Office of National Education in Warsaw. It has been displayed in various Roman Catholic dioceses in Poland and around the world since 4 February 2024.

<sup>10</sup> Among the guests invited to the opening were Cardinal Grzegorz Ryś, Metropolitan of Łódź and Barbara Socha, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The Institute of National Remembrance, apart from the already mentioned Dr. Mateusz Szpytma and Dr. Dariusz Iwaneczko, was represented by Marzena Kruk, Director of the IPN Archives, Dr. Adam Pleskaczyński, Director of the National Education Office, Dr. Maciej Korkuć, Head of the Office for Commemorating Polish Struggle and Martyrdom of the IPN Cracow Branch as well as numerous IPN employees.

Poland also emphasised an “optimistic note”: “It is a story also about those who survived.”<sup>11</sup> Dr. Szpytma, who spoke afterward, drew the attention of the audience to yet another aspect:

During the occupation, functionaries of the German authorities threatened Poles with death for deeds that were normal in free Poland – for welcoming someone under one’s roof, hospitality, sharing bread. Ordinary human reflexes were declared a crime by the German Reich. A simple act of humanity became an act of courage.<sup>12</sup>

The next speaker was Dr. Iwaneczko, who presented the exhibition. A twenty-page catalogue *Death for Humanity: The Ulma Family*,<sup>13</sup> prepared by the IPN Rzeszów Branch, was handed out to all who attended. The exhibition was on display until 7 September, after which it was transported to Markowa, where its second opening took place on 9 September in front of the St. Dorothy’s parish church.<sup>14</sup>

*Death for Humanity: The Ulma Family* was also shown abroad, including at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in New York (opening of the exhibition on 23 August 2023), at the Magisterial Cathedral of St. Justus and St. Pastor in Alcalá near Madrid (23 August 2023), at the Basilica of St. John in Berlin (9 September 2023) and in the courtyard of the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Vilnius (25 September 2023). The presentation of the exhibition abroad was made possible by the Polish National Foundation.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/smierc-za-czlowieczestwo-rodzina-ulmow-wystawa-przed-palacem-prezydenckim-nasze-wideo>, accessed 28 December 2023.

<sup>12</sup> <https://ipn.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/189552,W-Warszawie-zaprezentowano-wystawe-poswieconarodzinnie-Ulmow.html>, accessed 28 December 2023.

<sup>13</sup> The catalogue can be downloaded from the website: <https://rodzinaulmow.ipn.gov.pl/ulm/wystawy/20830,Wystawa-Smierc-za-czlowieczestwo-Rodzina-Ulmow-PLENG.html>, accessed 31 October 2023.

<sup>14</sup> The opening of the exhibition in Markowa was attended by Karol Nawrocki, Mateusz Szpytma, Dariusz Iwaneczko, Ewa Leniart, Władysław Ortyl and Fr. Dr. habil. Waldemar Janiga (who was representing Archbishop Adam Szal).

<sup>15</sup> As part of an information campaign run by the Polish National Foundation to introduce the world to the Blessed Samaritans of Markowa, the exhibition “Death for Humanity. The Ulma Family” was presented in Polish schools in the USA. The tour was started on 29 September 2023 at the Blessed Father Jerzy Popiełuszko Polish Saturday School in Derby, CT. The exhibition visited a total of 22 Polish educational institutions in New York and other cities on the East Coast of the United States. The project ran until 25 March 2024, with the last stop being the John Paul II Polish Saturday School in Boston.

The second of the exhibitions, titled “Blessed are the Righteous, for...’ A Story of the Ulma Family,” was prepared by the Institute of National Remembrance Archives and the exhibition’s partner, the Ulma Family Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II in Markowa. Mateusz Szpytma was also the originator of this exhibition. The curators were Marzena Kruk, director of the IPN Archives, Mateusz Szpytma, and Paweł Zielony from the IPN Archives. Jarosław Kłaput and Marzena Kruk created the exhibition’s concept.

The exhibition’s opening was held on 9 September 2023 at the Museum of Poles Saving Jews in Markowa.<sup>16</sup> Speaking at the opening, Dr. Karol Nawrocki said, among other things:

The Ulma family, their life and death, fills the entire sermon of Jesus Christ on the mountain in Galilee. They simply became the light of the world and the hope of the whole world for the preservation of humanity in the face of the situation, in the face of the hecatomb, the pandemonium unleashed by the Germans and the Soviets on the territory of the Republic of Poland. It is they who today, emphasised the President of the Institute of National Remembrance, send a signal to the whole world that it is possible to preserve humanity despite this pandemonium, despite the cruelty and evil, because in this world, all things have their value, which can be replaced, for which an equivalent can be found, but human dignity has a value that goes beyond the space of this world and is born of the Gospel, which they professed so deeply.<sup>17</sup>

The next speaker, Director Kruk, invited those present to explore the exhibition, highlighting that it depicts both the murder and the perpetrators – the

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<sup>16</sup> The guests were welcomed by Dr. Dariusz Iwaneczko, Director of the IPN Rzeszów Branch. The opening was attended by Dr. Karol Nawrocki, President of the IPN, Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, Deputy President of the IPN, Waldemar Rataj, Director of the Museum of Poles Saving Jews, as well as representatives of local authorities and the clergy. Among them were: Dr. Ewa Leniart, Voivode of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, and Mirosław Mac, Mayor of the Municipality of Markowa, Fr. Dr. habil. Waldemar Janiga, representing the Metropolitan of Przemyśl, Archbishop Adam Szal, Fr. Roman Chowaniec, the parish priest of St. Dorothy parish in Markowa, as well as representatives of the law enforcement and military services (Border Guard, Polish Army, and Prison Service) and the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma’s siblings.

<sup>17</sup> <https://rodzinaulmow.ipn.gov.pl/ulm/wydarzenia/20947,W-Markowej-otwarto-wystawe-IPN-Blogoslawieni-Sprawiedliwi-albowiem-Opowiesc-o-Ro.html>, accessed 28 December 2023.

German gendarmes – as well as those who, in terrible times, showed what humanity is.<sup>18</sup>

The exhibition had a low-key character and referred to the local culture. The authors intended to invite visitors into the private world of the Ulmas, allowing them to experience the atmosphere of their home. The display featured prayer books and books belonging to Józef and Wiktoria from the collections of the descendants of Józef Ulma's siblings: Jerzy Ulma, Agata Frendo, and Piotr Sagan, as well as original documents from the collection of the Archives of the Institute of National Remembrance and objects found during the exhumation from the grave of the Ulma Family in the cemetery in Markowa and at the crime scene (including a button from Wiktoria's blouse, which she was wearing at the time of her death, nails and fragments of the coffin, as well as a German bullet and a shell casing). It was planned that the exhibition at the Museum of Poles Saving Jews in Markowa would be open to the public until 30 November 2023, but due to enormous interest, the deadline was extended several times, and it was finally agreed that it would last until 30 November 2024, i.e., until the first anniversary of the beatification.

In addition, as part of the initiatives of the Presidential Committee for the Celebrations, an exhibition entitled "The Good Samaritans from Markowa" by Mateusz Szpytma was also presented<sup>19</sup> that was on display for the first time on 24 March 2010 in Warsaw and has since toured many Polish and foreign cities on six continents. After six years – in connection with the opening of the museum in Markowa – it has been supplemented with additional photographs and a new graphic design.<sup>20</sup> This renewed version was prepared by the IPN Cracow Branch and the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. In the months leading up to the beatification, the exhibition could be seen, among others, at World Youth Days in Lisbon (1–6 August 2023) or during the 32nd National Agricultural Ex-

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<sup>18</sup> A report on the opening of the exhibition can be found at the link below: <https://rodzinaulmow.ipn.gov.pl/ulm/wydarzenia/20947,Blogoslawieni-Sprawiedliwi-albowiem-Opowiesc-o-Rodzinie-Ul-mow-otwarcie-wystawy-A.html>, accessed 31 October 2023.

<sup>19</sup> The exhibition can be downloaded from the website: <https://rodzinaulmow.ipn.gov.pl/ulm/wystawy/20595,Wystawa-Samarytanie-z-Markowej-Ulmowie-Polacy-zamordowani-przez-Niemcow-za-pomoc.html>, accessed 2 November 2023.

<sup>20</sup> <https://dzieje.pl/wystawy/26-krajow-odwiedzila-odnowiona-wystawa-samarytanie-z-markowej-o-rodzinie-ulmow>, accessed 7 February 2025.

hibition in Częstochowa accompanying the national harvest festival at Jasna Góra (2 September 2023), and just after the beatification ceremony, from 14 September 2023, at the Catholic University of Rosario in Argentina.

An equally important event organised by the Institute of National Remembrance in cooperation with the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland through the Presidential Committee for the Celebrations Accompanying the Beatification of the Ulma Family was a popular science conference summarising previous research into the German crime in Markowa entitled “Niemiecki mord na Ulmach. Represje za pomoc ludności żydowskiej w kontekście realiów czasu Zagłady” (The German Murder of the Ulmas. The Repressions for Helping the Jewish People in the Context of the Realities of the Time of the Holocaust), held on 7 September 2023 at the Belweder Palace in Warsaw. The session was divided into three-panel discussions: “The State of Knowledge on Poles Rescuing Jews During the German Occupation,” “The German Terror and Repression of the Civilian Population for Helping Jews,” and “The German Murder of the Ulmas as an Element of the Occupier’s Terror in the Polish Lands.” The panellists for the first discussion were Dr. habil. Sebastian Piątkowski (IPN Delegation in Radom), Dr. Tomasz Domański (IPN Delegation in Kielce), and Dr. Alicja Gontarek (IPN Lublin Branch). The second discussion featured Dr. habil. Bogdan Musiał, Dr. habil. Grzegorz Berendt (University of Gdańsk, Director of the Museum of World War II), and Dr. Maciej Korkuć (IPN Cracow Branch). Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, Dr. Wojciech Hanus (IPN Rzeszów Branch), and Fr. Dr. Witold Burda (Director of the Department for Canonisation of the Metropolitan Curia in Przemyśl) participated in the third discussion. The final panel explored numerous detailed aspects. Participants had the opportunity to understand the motivations that led Józef and Wiktoria Ulma to hide eight Jews in their home, as well as the circumstances of the murder, the exact sequence of events, and the fate of the German gendarmerie officers involved in the crime in Markowa.

Summing up the conference at the Belweder Palace, Dr. Szpytma said:

[...] I would like that Germany, both as a state and as a society, to know much more about the crimes that the German Reich committed on Polish soil in 1939–45. An important signal of the willingness to learn about the realities of

those days would be the broadcasting on a German public television channel of the film *Historia jednej zbrodni* (The Story of One Crime), which recounts not only the crime committed against the multi-child Ulma Family for hiding Jews, but also the post-war fate of Eilert Dieken, who during the war commanded operations during which many Jews and Poles were murdered.<sup>21</sup>

Other activities of the Presidential Committee for the Celebrations include the presentation at the Warsaw Central Railway Station on 13 July 2023 of an engine with a print depicting the Ulma Family and the caption “Murdered by the Germans for Saving Jews During World War II.” Until 4 September 2023, this train ran on the Przemyśl–Berlin route. In parallel, in the main hall of the railway station until 24 July 2023, travellers could visit the exhibition “The Good Samaritans from Markowa.”

The celebrations marking the naming of the railway station in Łańcut after the Ulma Family on 30 August 2023<sup>22</sup> and the announcement on 8 September 2023 of a competition for teachers for the best scenario of the lesson “The Righteous from Markowa” were significant events. These formed a part of the activities of the Presidential Committee and were held with the participation of the IPN who organised the competition along with the Ministry of Education and Science.

In preparation for the beatification celebrations, the IPN has created a bilingual website dedicated to the Ulma Family,<sup>23</sup> containing a wealth of important information on the subject. Among other objects, it contains documents of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma (including notice of graduation from the National Agricultural School in Pilsen, Wiktoria Ulma’s *Kennkarte* or the “Righteous Among the Nations” certificate of honour) and archival materials being an integral part of the IPN Archive (including the minutes of the interview with the witness Franciszek Szylar, the indictment and an excerpt from the sentence of 30 August 1958 of the Voivodeship Court in Rzeszów, which sentenced Josef Kokott, one of the German

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<sup>21</sup> <https://ipn.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/189835,Konferencja-naukowa-Niemiecki-mord-na-Ulmach-Represje-za-pomoc-ludnosci-zydowski.html>, accessed 13 March 2024.

<sup>22</sup> The ceremony also saw the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and a mural dedicated to the Ulma Family by Arkadiusz Andrejko.

<sup>23</sup> <https://rodzinaulmow.ipn.gov.pl/>.

gendarmes involved in the crime in Markowa, to death). The IPN publications and exhibitions dedicated to the Ulmas could be explored on the website, the recorded discussions and films viewed, and educational folders about the Polish Righteous downloaded.

The IPN New Technology Office developed an interactive educational project about the fate of the Ulma Family, entitled „Świadectwo poMOCY” (The Testimony of Help). The project consists of two main parts: a virtual reality film etude and an immersive exhibition, housed in a custom-made mobile container. The premiere of the immersive film etude took place on 9 September 2023 in front of the IPN Branch building in Rzeszów. Each screening was preceded by a brief lecture by the Branch staff.

On the day of the beatification, the IPNtv channel broadcast (in three language versions: Polish, English, and Spanish) a short film made by the IPN International Cooperation Office. The film consists of three parts: the first tells the story of family life as seen through the eyes of Wiktoria Ulma, the second provides the historical background (occupation and German terror), and the third is a discussion of the beatification process. The soundtrack for the film is also composed of three elements: choral music, a traditional melody from the village of Markowa performed by the Folk Band “Markowianie,” and a specially composed piece reflecting the horror of the occupation.<sup>24</sup>

As far as the printed word is concerned, on the occasion of the beatification process, the Institute of National Remembrance has reissued books by Mateusz Szpytma entitled *Sprawiedliwi i ich świat w fotografii Józefa Ulmy* (The Righteous and Their World in Photos by Józef Ulma) and *The Righteous and the Merciful*. It has also published the popularising text, *Nie tylko o Ulmach. O pomocy udzielanej Żydom przez Polaków podczas okupacji niemieckiej w latach 1939–1945*, edited by Tomasz Domański and Alicja Gontarek.<sup>25</sup> This latter book, to which the in-

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<sup>24</sup> The film etude can be viewed at the link below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfjhLvsnyQg&list=PLqh0OnxCcUeSyZ-zQjaXoo5PwySwVpap2&index=4>, accessed 2 November 2023.

<sup>25</sup> *Nie tylko o Ulmach. O pomocy udzielanej Żydom przez Polaków podczas okupacji niemieckiej w latach 1939–1945*, ed. T. Domański, A. Gontarek (Warsaw, 2023). The book was also published in English under the title *Not Only About the Ulmas: Assistance Offered on Polish Territory to Jewish People During the German Occupation 1939–1945* (Warsaw, 2023).

roduction was penned by the President of the IPN, Dr. Karol Nawrocki, begins with an interview with Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, entitled “Heroizm przezwyciężył lęk” (How Heroism Overcame Fear), conducted by Jan M. Ruman. The whole title is made up of five more articles: “Co wiemy o pomocy udzielanej Żydom przez Polaków w okresie II wojny światowej?” (*What Do We Know About the Aid Poles Gave to the Jews During World War II*) by Tomasz Domański and Alicja Gontarek, “Niemiecka polityka gospodarcza w okupowanej Polsce a materialne warunki niesienia pomocy Żydom” (German Economic Policy in Occupied Poland and the Material Conditions for Helping the Jews) by Grzegorz Berendt, “Rada Pomocy Żydom ‘Żegota’ w strukturach Polskiego Państwa Podziemnego” (*The Council for Aid to Jews ‘Żegota’ in the Structures of the Polish Underground State*) by Waldemar Grabowski, “Pomoc uciekinierom żydowskim po stronie aryjskiej Krakowa” (*Helping Jewish Refugees on Cracow’s Aryan Side*) by Roman Gieroń and “99 ofiar. Niemiecka pacyfikacja wsi Białka pod Parczewem w dystrykcie lubelskim w odwecie za pomoc ukrywającym się Żydom i jeńcom sowieckim” (*Ninety-Nine Victims. The German Pacification of the Village of Białka near Parczew in the Lublin District as Retaliation for Offering Shelter to Jews and Soviet POWs*) by Rafał Drabik.

Thanks to the efforts of the Metropolitan Curia in Przemyśl, a collective work titled *Ulmowie. Przestrzeń świętości* (The Ulma Family. A Sphere of Holiness) was published<sup>26</sup>. This work provides a comprehensive look at the life, devotion, faith, and sacrifice of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and their seven children. The more than four hundred pages publication consists of twenty-eight scholarly articles divided into three thematic blocks: historical, biblical & theological, and pastoral. Articles by the IPN staff have also been included in this book: *Polnische Polizei jako element realizacji niemieckiej polityki okupacyjnej w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie* (Polnische Polizei as an Element in the Implementation of German Occupation Policy in the General Governorate) by Tomasz Domański, “Josef Kokott ‘Diabeł Łańcucki’. Funkcjonariusz posterunku żandarmerii niemieckiej w Łańcucie, zbrodniarz niemiecki. Współsprawca zbrodni na Rodzinie Ulmów

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<sup>26</sup> *Ulmowie. Przestrzeń świętości*, ed. W. Janiga (Przemyśl, 2023).

w Markowej i ukrywanych u nich Żydach” (Josef Kokott “The Devil of Łańcut.” An Officer of the German Gendarmerie Post in Łańcut, a German Criminal. A Co-Perpetrator of the Crime Against the Ulma Family in Markowa and the Jews Hidden with Them) and “Lata wojny i okupacji na terenie wschodniej części byłego woj. lwowskiego. Proces zagłady i pomoc Polaków dla tamtejszej ludności żydowskiej” (The Years of War and Occupation in the Eastern Part of the Former Lwów Voivodeship. The Extermination Process and the Assistance of Poles to the Local Jewish Population) by Wojciech Hanus; “Świadomość historyczna a kształtowanie uczuć patriotycznych” (Historical Awareness and the Formation of Patriotic Feelings) by Krzysztof Kaczmarek, “Rodzina Ulmów – wzór męstwa w nieludzkich czasach” (The Ulma Family. A Model of Bravery in Inhuman Times) by Mariusz Krzysztofiński, “Ideologia narodowosocjalistyczna w szkoleniu niemieckiej policji porządkowej w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem wątków antypolskich i antykatolickich” (National Socialist Ideology in the Training of the German Police in the General Governorate with a Particular Reference to Anti-Polish and Anti-Catholic Themes) by Marcin Przeglęta, and “Samarytanie z Markowej. Słudzy Boży Ulmowie – rodzina, która oddała swoje życie za pomoc Żydom” (The Samaritans of Markowa. Servants of God, the Ulmas – a Family who Sacrificed their Lives to Help Jews) by Mateusz Szpytma.

Mention should also be made of the IPN Office for Commemorating Polish Struggle and Martyrdom (*Biuro Upamiętnienia Walk i Męczeństwa*, BUWiM), which conducted the exhumation of the remains of the Ulma Family in the parish cemetery in Markowa from 30 March to 1 April 2023. The anthropological and forensic examinations were carried out by the staff of the Chair and Department of Forensic Medicine of the Silesian Piasts Medical University of Wrocław in collaboration with the BUWiM. In addition, in the cemetery in Markowa, the IPN reconstructed the gravestone of the Ulma Family, which is an exact copy of the historical grave from the 1960s (which was completely destroyed due to the impermanence of the material).<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> The written instrument entrusting care for the former grave of the Ulma Family was handed over to the parish branch of *Akcja Katolicka* (Catholic Action).

The IPN also made a new tombstone for Jan and Helena Cwynar, whose house Abraham Segal lived in to see the end of the German occupation. On 5 June 2023, on the initiative of Dr. Nawrocki, the IPN also conducted archaeological work at the site of the execution of the Ulma Family and the Jews they were hiding.<sup>28</sup>

Another activity of the IPN BUWiM undertaken in preparation for the beatification was the commemoration of the Jews from the Goldman, Grünfeld, and Didner families, who were slaughtered along with the Ulmas. These Jewish families – like others murdered in Markowa – did not have a traditional Jewish gravestone at their burial site. On 10 September 2023, at the War Cemetery of the Victims of Hitlerism in Jagiełła-Niechciałki, a monument in the shape of a matzevah funded by the IPN was unveiled<sup>29</sup> in memory of the Jewish citizens of the Second Polish Republic murdered in Markowa between 1942 and 1944 by functionaries of the German state.<sup>30</sup>

One of the elements of the educational activities of the Institute of National Remembrance was the preparation of three historical supplements which, after being published in the press, were posted on the IPN website. The first of

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<sup>28</sup> During the archaeological works carried out at the crime scene the following items were found: a 20-grosz coin minted in 1923 in Warsaw – found in the top layer of soil behind the commemorative plaque; a 7.92 mm calibre Mauser ammunition shell, manufactured at the Märkisches Walzwerk GmbH factory in Strausberg, batch no. 7, 1941 – found in the top layer of soil, 4–5 m from the above-mentioned memorial plaque, as well as a 9 mm calibre pistol bullet – found in one of the two burial pits (140–160 cm below ground level), which were the original burial sites of the executed.

<sup>29</sup> The ceremony at the cemetery in Jagiełła-Niechciałki was attended by President Andrzej Duda with his spouse Agata Kornhauser-Duda and ministers from the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, including Grażyna Ignaczak-Bandych, Piotr Ćwik, Wojciech Kolarski. Also present were Ewa Leniart, Władysław Ortyl, Karol Nawrocki, Mateusz Szpytma and representatives of Jewish communities. The prayer in front of the monument was said by the Chief Rabbi of Poland, Michael Schudrich, and Cardinal Grzegorz Ryś, Chairman of the Committee for Dialogue with Judaism of the Polish Bishops' Conference, and Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, envoy of the Holy See, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints.

<sup>30</sup> The text of the inscription reads: "To the memory of the Jewish citizens of the Second Polish Republic murdered in Markowa in the years 1942–1944 by officers of the German occupation forces, exhumed from the places of execution and transferred to this cemetery in 1947. Here rest, in blessed memory, murdered with the Ulma Family, Saul Goldman, Mechel Goldman, Joachim Goldman, Baruch Goldman, Mojżesz Fajwel Goldman, Gołda (Gienia) Grünfeld, Lea Didner, Reszla (Reiszel) Didner, Masia Grinbaum, Rojza Grinbaum, Ryfka Grinbaum, Szloma Loberfeld, Lejzor Lombarfeld, Hadasa Miller, Szmul Tencer and 34 unknown persons."

these – “Rodzina Ulmów. Samarytanie z Markowej” (The Ulma Family. The Samaritans from Markowa) – was published on 16 February 2023 in the bimonthly *W Sieci Historii*.<sup>31</sup> It featured the following articles: “Ukarane człowieczeństwo” (Punished Humanity) by Karol Nawrocki, “Ratując życie innych, złożyli w ofierze własne...” Rodzina Ulmów z Markowej” (“Saving the Lives of Others, They Sacrificed their Own...” The Ulma Family from Markowa) by Wojciech Hanus and “Samarytanie z Markowej – droga do chwały ołtarzy” (Samaritans from Markowa – the Road to the Glory of the Altars) by Fr. Witold Burda. The first text briefly describes the personality of Eilert Dieken, the commander of the German gendarmerie post in Łańcut, who gave the order to murder the Ulma Family and the Jews they were hiding. The second text presents the life story of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and their children, from their birth to their martyrdom, and the process of their commemoration. The last text explains the history and proceedings of the Ulma Family’s beatification process.

Two other supplements were attached to widely read national dailies. On 6 September 2023, *Nasz Dziennik* published the first of them, “Błogosławieni z Markowej” (The Blessed from Markowa), with an article by Karol Nawrocki entitled “Ulmowie i ich kaci” (The Ulmas and their Executioners), and “Uniknęli kary” (They Escaped Punishment) by Wojciech Hanus, as well as an interview by Dariusz Pogorzelski with Dr. Mateusz Szpytma entitled “Waga ofiary Ulmów” (The Weight of the Ulmas’ Sacrifice). The second, published on 8 September 2023 in the daily *Gazeta Polska Codziennie*,<sup>32</sup> featured “Przypowieść o błogosławionych Ulmach i łańcuckim diable” (Parable of the Blessed Ulmas and the Łańcut Devil) by Karol Nawrocki, “Josef Kokott – zbrodniarz niemiecki, współodpowiedzialny za śmierć rodziny Ulmów z Markowej i ukrywanych u nich Żydów” (Josef Kokott – a German Criminal, Co-Responsible for the Death of the Ulma Family from Markowa and the Jews Hidden by Them) by Wojciech Hanus, and an interview by Maria

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<sup>31</sup> The Supplement is available online: <https://rodzinaulmow.ipn.gov.pl/ulm/publikacje-o-ulmach/dodatki-prasowe/20652,Rodzina-Ulmow-Samarytanie-z-Markowej-dodatek-historyczny-IPN-w-magazynie-W-sieci.html>, accessed 3 November 2023.

<sup>32</sup> The Supplement is available online: <https://rodzinaulmow.ipn.gov.pl/ulm/publikacje-o-ulmach/dodatki-prasowe/21007,Dodatek-historyczny-Institutu-Pamieci-Narodowej-do-Gazety-Polskiej-Codziennie-po.html>, accessed 3 November 2023.

Kobylińska with Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, entitled “Dziedzictwo Ulmów” (The Heritage of the Ulma Family).

Popular science articles in digital versions could be accessed on the websites: *Wszystko Co Najważniejsze* (Karol Nawrocki, “Martyrdom is Testimony”<sup>33</sup>; Mateusz Szpytma, “What Makes the Ulma Family Special?”<sup>34</sup>) and *Przystanek Historia* (Wojciech Hanus, “Josef Kokott. Funkcjonariusz żandarmerii niemieckiej współodpowiedzialny za śmierć rodziny Ulmów” (Josef Kokott. German Gendarmerie Officer Co-responsible for the Death of the Ulma Family); Wojciech Hanus, “Michał Dziewulski. Funkcjonariusz żandarmerii niemieckiej współodpowiedzialny za śmierć rodziny Ulmów” (Michał Dziewulski. German Gendarmerie Officer Co-responsible for the Death of the Ulma Family); Agnieszka Szajewska, “Ulmowie – Błogosławieni z Markowej” (The Ulmas – The Blessed from Markowa); Mateusz Szpytma, “Błogosławieni Sprawiedliwi. Życiorys Józefa i Wiktorii Ulmów oraz ich rodziny” (The Blessed Righteous. A Biography of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma and Their Family).

At the end of 2023, the IPN produced 20 podcasts, each several minutes long, dedicated to Poles murdered for helping Jews. These podcasts were recorded by IPN employees, including participants of the Central Research Project “The History of Jews in Poland and Polish-Jewish Relations in the Years 1917–1990.” Each podcast told the story of one family or one person. The themes of particular episodes included the cases of the Kowalski or Baranek families. The recordings, added with iconographic and archival material, were successively published on the IPN website.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> <https://wszystkoconajwazniejsze.pl/karol-nawrocki-wiktoria-i-jozef-ulmowie/>, accessed 3 November 2023.

<sup>34</sup> <https://wszystkoconajwazniejsze.pl/mateusz-szpytma-wyjatkowosc-rodziny-ulmow/>, accessed 3 November 2023.

<sup>35</sup> The recordings featured IPN employees: Tomasz Domański (IPN Delegation in Kielce), Roman Gieroń (IPN Cracow Branch), Tomasz Gonet (IPN Katowice Branch), Martyna Grądzka-Rejak (IPN Headquarters), Wojciech Hanus (IPN Rzeszów Branch), Janusz Kłapeć (IPN Lublin Branch), Maciej Korkuć (IPN Cracow Branch), Edyta Krężolek (IPN Delegation in Kielce), Aleksandra Namysło (IPN Katowice Branch), Sebastian Piątkowski (IPN Delegation in Radom) and Damian Sitkiewicz (IPN Warsaw Branch).

During the months of preparations for the beatification, IPN employees delivered lectures,<sup>36</sup> papers,<sup>37</sup> and talks<sup>38</sup> concerning the Holocaust, Poles rescuing Jews, and the history of the Ulma Family. They took part in workshops<sup>39</sup> and

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<sup>36</sup> On 28 June 2023, a conference entitled “Rodzina Ulmów – świadectwo i testament” (Testimony and the Legacy of the Ulma Family) was held at the Warsaw Archbishops’ House (See of the Warsaw Archbishop Metropolitan). The event was organised by the Fundacja na Rzecz Wymiany Informacji Katolickiej (Foundation for Catholic Information Exchange) in cooperation with the Katolicka Agencja Informacyjna (Catholic News Agency). The conference was attended by Waldemar Rataj (Director of the Museum of Poles Saving Jews in Markowa), Fr. Dr. Witold Burda (the postulator in the Ulma Family’s beatification and canonisation process), as well as employees of the Institute of National Remembrance – Dr. Martyna Grądzka-Rejak (IPN Historical Research Office), who delivered a paper on “Represje za pomoc Żydom na okupowanych ziemiach polskich w czasie II wojny światowej” (Repressions for Helping Jews in Occupied Polish Territories during World War II), and Dr. Mateusz Szpytma (Deputy President of the IPN) with a paper entitled “Ulmowie, Szylarowie i inni – jak wieś Markowa pomagała Żydom” (The Ulmas, the Szylars and Others – How the Village of Markowa Helped Jews).

<sup>37</sup> On 31 August 2023, in the course of a training course for teachers entitled “Pomoc Żydom w czasie II wojny światowej na przykładzie Ulmów” (Helping Jews during the Second World War Using the Example of the Ulma Family) organised by the Voivodeship Methodology of Teaching Centre in Rybnik, Dr. Marcin Chorążki delivered a lecture entitled “Wieś polska podczas niemieckiej okupacji na przykładzie Markowej. Codziennosc w rzeczywistości okupacyjnej” (The Polish Countryside During the German Occupation Using the Example of Markowa. Everyday Life in the Occupation-Era Reality). The same historian, in course of another training course for teachers, organised online, this time by the Silesian Board of Education, Delegation in Gliwice, on 12 October 2023, introduced the audience to the topic of “Polacy Ratujący Żydów podczas II wojny światowej na przykładzie rodzin z Markowej” (Poles Rescuing Jews During World War II Using the Example of Families from Markowa) and on 22 November 2023 at the Muzeum Mieszkańców Ziemi Oświęcimskiej (Remembrance Museum of the Land of Oświęcim Residents) he delivered the lecture “Sytuacji polskiego społeczeństwa pod okupacją niemiecką ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem położenia ludności żydowskiej” (The Situation of Polish Society under the German Occupation with Particular Reference to the Position of the Jewish Population).

<sup>38</sup> Lectures for high school pupils: “Rodzina Ulmów. Bohaterowie z Markowej” (The Ulma family. Heroes from Markowa) in Bydgoszcz, 7 September 2023, “Samarytanie z Markowej. Ulmowie – Polacy zamordowani przez Niemców za pomoc Żydom” (The Good Samaritans from Markowa. The Ulma Family – Poles Murdered by the Germans for Helping Jews) at the opening of the exhibition in Gietrzwałd, 8 September 2023, “Nasi sąsiedzi, Żydzi... Losy Żydów, obywateli polskich z Kreis Jaroslau (1939–1944)” (Our Neighbours, Jews... The Fate of Jews, Polish citizens from the Kreis Jaroslau (1939–1944)), 11 November 2023 by Dr. Marcin Chorążki for pupils of grades 7 and 8 of the Stefan Żeromski Primary School No. 4 in Jaroslau and “Rodzina Ulmów jako przykład Polaków ratujących Żydów” (The Ulma Family as an Example of Poles Saving Jews) for schools in Szczecin, Koszalin, Kraków, and Gorzów Wielkopolski.

<sup>39</sup> On 6 September 2023, the IPN Lublin Branch organised a workshop for secondary school pupils at its headquarters on Wodopojna Street. The workshop’s title was *Fotografia życia rodziny Ulmów* (A Photography of the Life of the Ulma Family). Employees of the IPN Białystok Branch on 11–22 September 2023 conducted workshops with teachers on the basis of an educational portfolio, “Polacy ratujący Żydów” (Poles Rescuing Jews.) On 6 October 2023, the IPN Gdańsk Branch held a seminar for teachers entitled “Ulmowie i inni Sprawiedliwi. Na ratunek Żydom w czasie II wojny światowej” (The Ulmas and Other Righteous. Rescuing Jews During the Second World War) with the participation of Dr. Tomasz Domański (IPN Delegation in Kielce).

discussions,<sup>40</sup> were interviewed by the media, provided consultation to film directors and participated in recordings.<sup>41</sup> On 9 June 2023, the premiere of *Historia jednej zbrodni* (A History of One Crime), directed by Mariusz Pilis and featuring Dr. Maciej Korkuć and Dr. Joanna Lubecka, took place. On 25 August 2023, the film *Ulmowie. Błogosławiona rodzina* (The Ulmas. A Blessed Family), directed by Dariusz Walusiak, premiered. Finally, on 9 September 2023, *Przykazanie miłości. Historia rodziny Ulmów z Markowej* (The Commandment of Love. The Story of the Ulma Family from Markowa), directed by Marta Pietrasiewicz, was showcased.

It would be impossible to omit the activity of the Organising Committee of the Year of the Ulma Family in the Podkarpacie Region, which brought together the following partners: the local government of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, the local government of the Łańcut district, the local government of the Markowa municipality, the St. Dorothy Parish in Markowa, the primary school in Markowa, the Society of Friends of Markowa, the SOAR Ulma Family Foundation, the Subcarpathian Philharmonic, the Museum in Przeworsk, the Museum of Poles Saving Jews in World War II in Markowa and the Institute of National Remembrance

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<sup>40</sup> On 4 September 2023, the film *Historia jednej zbrodni* (A History of One Crime) was screened at the Iluzjon cinema in Warsaw. The screening was followed by a discussion attended by director Mariusz Pilis, Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, Dr. Maciej Korkuć and moderated by Marcin Wikło. On 5 September 2023, the screening of the film and a discussion with Mariusz Pilis, Mateusz Szpytma, Eldad Beck (correspondent of the Israeli daily *Israel Hayom*) and Florian Peters (Silent Heroes Memorial Center – German Resistance Memorial Center Foundation in Berlin) took place at the headquarters of the Pilecki Institute in Berlin. On 18 September 2023, the film was also shown at the Dolnośląskie Centrum Filmowe (Lower Silesian Film Centre) in Wrocław. This time the debate – along with the film's director – was attended by Dr. Marcin Chorążki (Historical Research Office, IPN Cracow Branch), Dr. Wojciech Hanus (Historical Research Office, IPN Rzeszów Branch) and Dr. Michał Siekierka (Historical Research Office, IPN Wrocław Branch). The National Education Office, IPN, organised the latter event in Wrocław. Another event that provided an engaging educational experience was prepared by the IPN Rzeszów Branch on 5 October 2023, within the framework of the Congress of National Remembrance in Podkarpackie Voivodeship. It was a panel discussion entitled “Miłość bliźniego w niehumanicznych czasach – świadectwo rodziny Ulmów z Markowej” (Love of the Neighbour in Inhuman Times: Testimony of the Ulma Family from Markowa) with the participation of Dr. Aleksandra Namysło, Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, Fr. Dr. Witold Burda, Dr. habil. Sebastian Piątkowski and Mateusz Dzieduszycki.

<sup>41</sup> The author of the present article was a content consultant for a film produced by TVP Polonia entitled *Przykazanie miłości. Historia rodziny Ulmów z Markowej* (The Commandment of Love. The story of the Ulma Family from Markowa) directed by Marta Pietrasiewicz, which premiered on 9 September 2023 on TVP Polonia. In addition, the historians of the Institute of National Remembrance: Dr. Elżbieta Rączy, Dr. Mariusz Krzysztofiński, and Dr. Wojciech Hanus participated in the shooting of a film recorded by TVP Historia and TVP Rzeszów entitled *Porzucone kwiaty* (Abandoned Flowers) directed by Fr. Józef Brzostowski, telling the story of the Ulma family.

Rzeszów Branch. The Committee met monthly at the offices of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship's Marshal's Office in Rzeszów. As a part of its activities, the IPN, in collaboration with the Department of Promotion, Tourism, and Economic Cooperation of the Podkarpackie Marshal's Office, prepared a brochure titled *Błogosławieni i miłosierni. Rodzina Ulmów z Markowej* (The Blessed and the Merciful. The Ulma Family from Markowa). The brochure was authored by Marcin Bukała (IPN Rzeszów) and Wojciech Hanus (IPN Rzeszów Branch), with graphic design and typesetting by Katarzyna Hudzicka-Chochorowska (IPN Rzeszów Branch). The brochure was distributed on 8 June 2023, the Corpus Christi feast, during the *Jednego Serca, Jednego Ducha...* (One Heart, One Spirit...) concert in Rzeszów, during various other events preceding the beatification, and on the day of the beatification.

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To sum up – the Institute of National Remembrance, up to the date of beatification, undertook a great many different initiatives and activities aimed at commemorating the Ulma Family and Poles rescuing Jews on Polish soil under the German occupation and popularising knowledge on this subject. The above article describes mainly those carried out up to 10 September 2023 by the IPN Headquarters in Warsaw and the Rzeszów Branch, whose territorial responsibility range covers also the village of Markowa. It should be emphasised that the IPN has not ceased in its efforts to uphold the remembrance of the Ulma Family as a symbol of sacrifice and martyrdom of all Poles who rescued Jews and importantly, it both organises and supports other projects to this end.