

Deklaracja Związku Górnośląskiego

Declaration of upper Silesian Union

Tłumaczona na język angielski przez p. Jerzego Mańkę

The goal of the Upper Silesian Union is the intention to defend Upper Silesian values of culture and civilization formed on the basis of Christianity as well as to work toward the integration of the region around its old and new values and to work toward harmonious development of people living here to ensure the wellbeing of every person.

The Union is a voluntary organization, community of people identifying with its values Representing Upper Silesia. It is an organization independent of political powers. The Union wants to become an advocate of the values, aspirations, ambitions and interests of Upper Silesia on nationwide scale.

The Union wants to establish its identity derived from Piastovian origins of Upper Silesian principalities: Opole, Raciborz, Cieszyn Zator-Oswiecim, Siewierz, Bytom, Nysa and Opawa-Karniow.

The Union considers as its own heritage values conveyed by:

- great Silesians who awakened moral and national consciousness, including clergy of all denominations, community activists, intellectuals and artists;
- religious orders including: Cistercians, Defenders of Holy Sepulcher, Franciscans, Jesuits and Diaconate community of Evangelical Church.
- Organizations: pre-World War I Academic Association, Union of Schools, Aloysius, Falcons, Eleusis, Silesia Superior, Society of Friends of Science in Silesia, Union of Poles in Germany, Union of Poles in Czechoslovakia, Silesian Insurgents, Defenders of Silesia in September of 1939, Home Army soldiers in Silesia and Silesian Boy scouts and Girl scouts.

The Union sees its principal objective in maintaining the awareness of people of Upper Silesia that they are hosts of their "little homeland", responsible for cultural heritage, including dialects and customs, for riches of natural landscape of the earth, for their identity which despite all

obstacles and destructive trends, particularly in last half century, must not disappear but continue to develop, preserve and enrich its wealth of cultural values on national and European arenas.

The Union is to new values in philosophy, arts, education, technology and economy.

Their responsibilities also include:

- dissemination of the truth of Upper Silesia,
- respect for the achievements of the past multinational generations of the region and of the people that came from other parts of the country;
- development of vibrant forms of social life and cultural heritage and encouragement of formation of neighborhood and social ties;

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- taking action to restore healthy living conditions and stopping further degradation of natural environment;
- taking care of the monuments of Polish, Czech, Moravian, Slovak, German and Jewish culture;
- maintaining contacts with other regional organizations of similar profile such as: Kashub-Pomeranian Association and Union of Podhalans;
- maintaining ties with Upper Silesian communities outside of the region and beyond the country.

The Union aims to achieve its goals by fostering traits which have been the determinants of Upper Silesian identity for generations. They are: commitment to Christian values and traditions, work ethic, love of freedom, fairness, family, tolerance and openness, good management of economy as well as social orientation “from self to a neighbor”.

The Foundation of the Upper Silesian Union will be established publishing, science, research, arts, education, working with youth, organizing clubs, exploration of nature and also in economic and interventional activities to support these activities.

The Union is open to anyone who feels emotionally connected with Upper Silesia and regards this region as a place where he or she wants to live with children and future generations anyone who can say and confirm it with proper attitude toward society “THIS IS MY HOMELAND”