



Wawel Villa

SENIORS RESIDENCES

„The home with a heart”



880 Clarkson Rd. S. Mississauga ON L5J 4N4

enquiries@wawel.org

www.wawel.org

tel: 905.823.3650

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On December 9th, we had the honor of hosting Bishop Marek Ochlak, who visited us with parish priest, Father Bogdan of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. Father Marek Ochlak is the last clergyman appointed bishop by Pope Francis. Bishop Marek shared with us memories of his 26-year mission in Madagascar. His passion and commitment to pastoral work were incredibly moving. He spoke about projects he had undertaken, such as the construction of waterworks, wells, schools, and a hospital in Befasy, and recounted how he had traveled to visit the faithful who lived deep in the bush and had no contact with civilization for weeks. Thanks to his determination and hard work, many people gained better living conditions and access to education and healthcare. The bishop delighted us with his sense of humor; his anecdotes brought smiles to the faces of all our seniors, and the atmosphere in the chapel was joyful and warm. Finally, Bishop Ochlak blessed us all, a beautiful culmination of this exceptional visit. He promised to visit us again. We are immensely grateful to Bishop Marek for the time he spent with us and for his fascinating stories about the work of the Oblate Fathers in Madagascar. The gathering was a unique event, full of joy, humor, and emotion.



Christmas celebrations at Wawel Villa began on December 13th. On that day, we hosted the youth group from the Radość -Joy band. The little ones "stole" the hearts of everyone in our home. The youngest members of this group were Nikuś, two years old, and Julia, almost three years old. The others were four and five-year-olds, and the most enthusiastic dancer was four-year-old Lilianka. The older ones performed dances and songs from various regions of Poland, and at the end, they performed a daring cowboy dance from Canada. We sang Christmas carols with our guests. It was a moving and joyful gathering.



On December 17th, the Christmas party at Wawel Villa was filled with warmth, joy, and a unique, family atmosphere. During the gathering, we were visited by Santa Claus – Marek, Jola's husband from Activities, accompanied by a smiling Mrs. Claus Lidka from PSW. Together, they got everyone into the holiday spirit and gave out Christmas gifts to the residents. Deacon Mike extended touching holiday wishes to everyone. Mr. Janek Kornel accompanied us, playing the piano, as we sang our beautiful Polish carols and English Christmas songs. Administrator Jon Grayson extended warm words to the residents. Mr. Konrad Goździk, a representative of the Board of Directors, extended warm and friendly holiday wishes to everyone. There was also plenty of festive treats – the kitchen staff prepared delicious cakes, which were served with hot coffee and tea. It was a special day, full of smiles, emotion, and the true magic of Christmas.



December 24th – Christmas Eve. In keeping with our Polish tradition, during lunch, residents and employees exchanged holiday greetings by sharing the Christmas wafer. After dinner, a solemn Christmas Mass was held.



On **Boxing Day**, we were visited by carolers – the "Sokoły" group from the Radość-Joy band. A highlander a star led the Marshal, the devil (who wanted to kidnap King Herod for his wicked deeds), and finally a shepherd. There was "Death", angels, women from Łowicz, and highlander women. They sang carols and acted out cheerful scenes.





The New Year's Eve gathering began with Administrator Jon Grayson, who, as usual, opened bottles of non-alcoholic champagne and offered New Year's wishes. Jola and Lauren explained how New Year's Day is celebrated in different countries, where champagne corks are popped first, and what traditions are associated with this day. We danced to the music of ABBA, Boney M, and the Andre Rieu Orchestra, and watched videos of New Year's celebrations around the world. Colorful balloons flew overhead, adding to the festivities. Everyone had a wonderful time.



On December 31st, a New Year's Mass was celebrated in our chapel by Father Jonasz from the St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish. The acolytes at the Mass included Łukasz, Kasia's son from the Activities Department, and Brothers Dominik and Hubert. The priest visited residents who were unable to attend Mass, and also visited the kitchen staff.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, due to the outbreak, we were unable to invite our residents to the Three Kings' procession. We organized a luncheon gathering in the dining hall. The ladies from the Activities Department represented the Three Kings, Melchior (Jola), Caspar (Ania), and Balthazar (Kasia), led by Star(Ela). Our procession proceeded around the tables so that everyone could admire the beautiful costumes and gifts the Kings brought to Baby Jesus. As is tradition, these were myrrh, gold, and frankincense. Afterward, we sang Christmas carols together.





On February 6th, Our Home hosted a Valentine's Day carnival party. The fun was exceptional. We watched videos of carnival parades in Rio de Janeiro, Venice, and Nice. We danced the Brazilian samba and lambada, and to the rhythm of songs by Dalida, Adriano Celentano, and the Slovak band Kandracovci. There were also competitions with prizes. In the first competition, five contestants participated. They had to demonstrate their knowledge of staff members and guess where a given photo was taken. In the second competition, five residents also had to answer randomly selected questions. For a correct answer, Ms. Jola would attach a heart to the photo. The person with the most hearts won a chocolate heart. The prizes were elegantly presented by Administrator Janusz. There were also consolation prizes. Everyone did a great job. The party was a real success.



On March 13, we held a special celebration to recognize everything the month of March brings. The event highlighted occasions such as International Women's Day, Men's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and the start of Spring. We began with a brief look at the history of March. We listened to songs about the Spring season. To celebrate Women's Day, various feminine items were displayed and showcased attributes of being a beautiful, proud woman. Our residents learned some fun facts about St. Patrick's Day. We also enjoyed watching some lively Irish dancing and listened to some festive music. We talked about the rich traditions and history behind Irish culture and St. Patrick's Day. The celebration included a special guest – a cheerful Leprechaun (Ela). To make the celebration even more special, staff dressed up for the occasion in beautiful dresses, or a handsome outfit with hair and makeup done to match the festive theme. The joyful atmosphere brought everyone together, creating wonderful moments of laughter, connection, and celebration.



On the occasion of Easter, we wish you joy, peace, and health. May these holiday days be filled with love and family.

Happy Easter!
Wawel Villa Staff

