

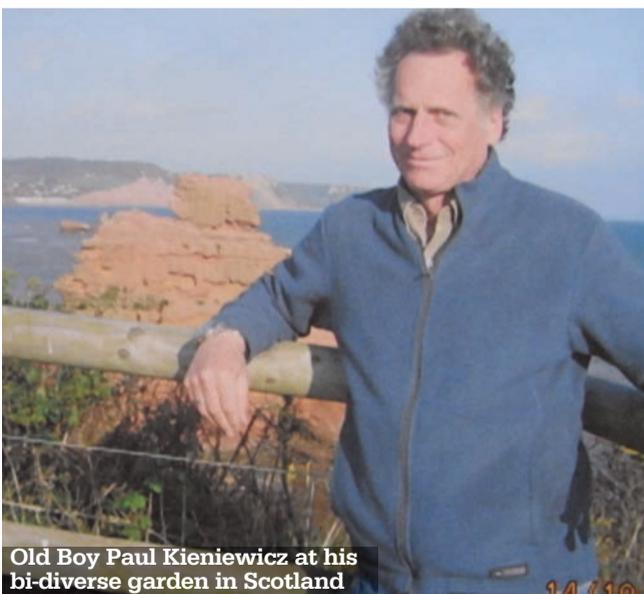
THOSE WERE THE DAYS... THESE ARE THE DAYS... A REBIRTH...

...The Easter story of Fawley Court's and Polonia's inspiring priest, mystic and spiritualist, Father Andrzej Glazewski (or in English – Fr. "Glass of Whisky"). "Harmony of the Universe – The Science behind Healing, Prayer and Spiritual Development" – a rare, much needed book on Fr Glazewski's teachings by Old Boy Pawel (Paul) Kieniewicz.

Divine Mercy College, (Kolegium Bozego Milosierdzia), was helped put on it's feet by Rector Andrzej Janicki. A hero of the Warsaw Uprising, Father Janicki was one of the most decent, intelligent, original – albeit at times mysterious – and disciplined of Polish Roman Catholic priests one could hope to meet. He had a very good friend. Also an Andrzej (or Andre), Father Glazewski. He too was a war veteran. Together, the two priests Andrzej's, made for an inspirational Easter (*rekolekcje*) retreat at Fawley Court.

In the mid 1960s the boys at Fawley Court underwent – somewhat cautiously – Lent and *rekolekcje*. A pre-Easter retreat which was a time of fasting (of sorts), religion, spiritual re-awakening, and moral re-examination. A dull affair at the best of times for teenage boys cooped up in a boarding school, who had not yet even had time to sin properly, you might think. But the two Andrzej's, with Father Wlodzimierz Okoński, but especially Father Glazewski, made Lent special. They brought it to life. In tandem with Jesus Christ, and His, the Lord's Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection. Such a momentous, miraculous chapter in Christian history (Prime Minister David Cameron please note) was infused with a religious charm and spiritual lightness that was made all the more special by the mystic aura, brought in by Fr Glazewski's series of soul searching, spiritually captivating and reflective Roman Catholic religious teachings, and more, which many Old Boys, and others hold dear to this day. The boys walked about quite lightheaded, enlightened for a few days. That is what the good retreats, and the good Fawley Court, Polonia air does to one.

Old Boy, Paul (Pawel) Kieniewicz, a pupil at Fawley Court for five years in the 1960s has captured much of the mood in his book *Harmony of the Universe – The Science behind Healing, Prayer and Spiritual Development* not only of these Fawley Court Lent retreats, but importantly having later – over many years befriended him – Father Glazewski's clearly uplifting, at times challenging esoteric teachings. Paul Kieniewicz is himself a geologist, astronomer, novelist and linguist. He lives on three acres of land, currently being transformed into a bio-diverse garden in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. At school, Paul was talentedly studious, theological, giving the impression that a spiritual career or even a calling to the priesthood was on the cards...



Old Boy Paul Kieniewicz at his bi-diverse garden in Scotland

Of Father Andrew Glazewski (1905-1973), one can say he had a warm, charismatic genial personality. Intellectually affectionate. Born into wealthy, landed gentry, the family home was on the banks of the Dniester river, near Chmielowa, Ukraine, where – in the geo-political 'absence' of Poland – the Polish culture thrived,



Father Andrzej Glazewski

and the Polish language was strong. The First World War saw the family, with two brothers Konstanty and Gustav move to Lwów (Lviv). Fr. Glazewski's first love was the piano, at which he became very adept, "dazzling", reputedly even getting lessons from Poland's pianist Prime Minister Ignacy Padarewski.

At Lwów University – parties, dances, girls – it appeared that a career in law was to be Fr. Glazewski's calling. This was not to be. A spiritual calling first, and then the priesthood beckoned. It all happened unexpectedly, quickly in 1925, during a celebratory mass to St Therese of Lisieux and sermon at a Carmelite church. Before that Fr. Glazewski heard invisible voices in an empty street... thereafter despite his Father's insistent wishes, and having (strangely) failed the university Latin exam, the decision to enter the priesthood prevailed.

Fr. Glazewski entered the Dominican order, which he left after a year because of the severe austerity – novitiates had to kneel long hours bare-knee'd on bare-stone. However not all ties with the Dominicans were broken. He became a secular priest, ordained in 1931 and continued his much loved theological studies at the University Angelicum, Rome, run by the Dominicans. The force behind Fr. Glazewski's science based, healing religion was the 13th century theologian Thomas Aquinas. Returning to Poland, WW2 broke out, he was part of secret dealings with the Roman, Armenian and Ruthian congregations taking a stand on the Soviet invasion.

Fr. Glazewski was twice wounded in the war, serving with the First Rifle Brigade, France (D-Day), and saw human slaughter at first hand. He was decorated with the Polish Cross of Valour (twice), and Silver Cross of Merit with Swords.

Eventually his life's – post-war work – was to culminate at the Polish parish at Ilford, Devon. Here he was much loved, respected and listened to. His simple greeting was *Pax* (Peace), and going to confession to Fr. Glazewski was not an ordeal, but an uplifting spiritual event – "A Treat". He gave enthusiastically received retreat talks around Great Britain, which included Fawley Court.

A smoker, Fr. Glazewski was disarmingly acceptably, correctly incorrect. Of a high pronounced intellect he interwove the Roman Catholic teachings with scientific knowledge/scrutiny, and delivered his faith, sermons in an understated, with at times alluring wit. The Fawley boys, all who knew him, including this author, whilst not in awe of his presence, were certainly spellbound by him, his easy manner, and readiness to share with us another universe – God's Kingdom, to which he was far closer than any of us. As Paul Kieniewicz says in the foreword of *Harmony of the Universe*: "He



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(Fr. Glazewski), knew that a study of natural law would lead him to understand the 'mind' of God."

And what of the book? *Harmony of the Universe* (190 pages, 16 Chapters), is at once fascinating, expertly researched, understandably academic, but simultaneously uplifting. It requires some meditative, contemplative patience to access readily. It is not a quick read. It repays very careful (re-)study. For those of the Polish Roman Catholic faith ready to embellish their faith with some mystic, spiritual adventure, and scientific discipline than this book is for you. For example chapters: (1) The Science behind Healing; or (3) The Mechanics of Prayer; or (4) Touching the Divine; or (13) The Healing hand; or indeed Chapter (14) The Music of Crystals, Plants, and Human Beings; are laced with scientific diagrams, and explanatory pictures. All is delivered as if at a camp fire talk. Gently and leisurely. A warm intellectual, spiritual glow. Pages 125 – 128 deal with the amazing world of the snow crystal: the crystal's 'sonic' wave and it's electrical, mechanical, and optical axes together with the snow crystal's musical properties, or "how musical harmonic proportions can be present in the morphological appearance of crystals. And just as crystals have a 'life' so do plants, which grow in accordance to distinct natural laws, and mathematical progressions (Kaysers' "Harmonia Plantarium"), which in turn govern the world of art, and which lead to the same biological, spiritual patterns present in man: they can be pure, unbroken, giving "a glimpse into the realm of natural theology... a natural philosophy, the world of science that does not contradict, but on the contrary, supports the beauty of the teaching of Christ."

This is all very heady material, and the reader might shudder at such intellectualization. But consider this. In the school much was made of the powers of supranatural, religion allied healing. Fr Andrzej Janicki often by placing his motioning hands either side of a boy's headache, creating some kind of alleviating 'magnetic' fields – instantly 'cured' the headache. Or here we have Waldemar Januszczak's, a one time pupil, former Guardian literary editor, now eminent art critic, and BBC presenter, reminiscing in 1988 about his Fawley Court school days: "...Five of the priests were endowed, or said to be endowed with special powers. These took the form of faith-healing rituals and the like. I remember evenings spent on the roof of our Christopher Wren country house looking for flying saucers under the guidance of the school's Rector (A. Janicki). The Divine Mercy College Space Watch... Curiously enough some of these special powers seemed actually to work and the one and only quasi-supernatural experience of my life occurred just before a large open air mass at which I was due to be the head altar boy. I was stung by a bee. My face swelled up. Father Superior, the Madame Blavatsky of Fawley Court, made a few passes across my face with his hand and flicked the invisible spiritual poison into the grass. The swelling immediately went down." (W Januszczak, *Forever Poland-on-Thames*, Guardian, 2 August 1988).

Or what of this author's own Fawley Court experience(s) ? Christmas 1964, and to the tune *Ave Maria* beautifully played from a Lourdes model of Our Lady, he was astral projected, felt a calm as never before. This mystic experience went on for five days (!). Homework, and other school chores were blissfully ignored... no one seemed bothered. Or what of the friendly light (apparition) in the top floor dormitory at midnight, experienced by seven boys, quite amicably circling the room with the curtains tightly closed...?

First and foremost Fawley Court is Polonia's exclusive Christian shrine (Prime Minister David Cameron please note), but that God's greater and Christ's, mysterious, unifying energies also reign supreme on this "Beautiful part of England, that is forever Poland", is unquestionable.

Mirek Malevski
Chairman, Fawley Court Old Boys/FCOB Ltd

Harmony of the Universe By Father Andrew Glazewski with Paul Kieniewicz. 190pp, with photos, Amazon books, £14 or visit web page: paulkieniewicz.co.uk