

## Snapshots : Cross



There was a frost that night in Slonim, when the silence was sharply broken by the banging of fists and rifle butts on the convent door. The prison courtyard was freezing as they spent that last night waiting. The rest is history, as they say ... loaded onto lorries ... taken to the hill ... “this is for You Jesus, and for our poor Poland” ... sister Martha’s Cross held high ... the rattle of machine guns ... martyrdom.

The Cross that hangs in the alcove opposite the Szymanów school library used to hang in Slonim. They must have gazed upon it often, just like us. I wonder if they both looked at it that last day, entered into its secret, its mystery of suffering and redemption. It speaks a language that they both understood – expiation ... sacrifice ... love:



**SISTER MARTHA OF JESUS (KAZIMIERA WOŁOWSKA)**



convent in Slonim

*“You have spoken of expiation more than once, but I didn’t apply it to myself, because I consider such internal things far removed from the life I live. However, with God there is no “why”. He is our Lord, He governs, and directs us as He wishes, and He has the right to do exactly that”* (Letter to Mother Wawrzyna Szaszkiewicz, Wirow, 19.II.1931)

*“At Wirów, I saw, very very clearly, that Jesus requires expiation of me, and I know He will carry it out”* (Letter to Mother Zenona Dobrowolska, Maciejów, 20.XI.1933)

*“No student is above his Master ‘. She must have confronted that sentence internally because she often spoke very fervently about it, and wrote those words in her diary”*. (s. Szczesliwa Tuska, “Reminiscences of sister Marta (Wołowska) and the fate of the House in Slonim during World War II”, Nowy Sacz, 1965-1970)



**SISTER EVE OF THE PROVIDENCE (BOGUMILA NOISZEWSKA)**



Pietralewicka Hill

*“Teach me to discern Your thoughts, and to help You in the salvation of Your people through a hidden life and a martyr’s death. Amen”* (entry in spiritual notebook – around 1927)

*“Why is it necessary to suffer? I am completing the sufferings of Christ – for His Body, which is the Church. If you need a sacrifice for the salvation of souls, may it not be lacking”* (entry in spiritual notebook – 15.IV.1927)

*“I sacrifice everything to You with love”* (entry in spiritual notebook, Slonim, 1938)

**+ s. Martha Wolowska  
+ s. Eve Noiszewska  
19TH DECEMBER 1942 - SŁONIM**



(The Słonim Sisters, forced out by the Russians, brought the Cross to Szymanów in November 1945 – on the train!!!!)