Wolbrom, 12th Jan. 2016

Dear diary.

On 12th July I got up at 7 o’clock. It was a very sunny day ! I had a shower, ate breakfast and brushed my teeth. I put on comfortable, sport clothes. I had planned my vacation for that day. I wanted to travel by bike with my map on that day. I got out my bicycle from the garage and I rode to a nearby place, called Smoleń. There is a very old castle. I rode 80 minutes. When I was in this place I attached my bike to a bicycle stand. Next I walked to the castle. The track runs through the dark forest. The castle is huge and impressive. The highest point of the ruins of the medieval castle is a round tower. In order to climb the tower I had to walk up long stairs with a lot of steps. Upstairs the view is very lovely. From the tower I could see beautiful landscapes, I was looking at them for a long time. I saw a forest, the uplands, a river and the town of Wolbrom. Next I was walking around all the castle. At the bottom of the castle I put up a tent and made a fire. I took some sausages from home so I roasted them over the fire. When I was getting ready to go back home I saw a friend Marcin walking past my tent. We were happy about this unexpected meeting. We decided to continue my trip together.

In half an hour we arrived at a lake in Pilica. We swam in the warm water and relaxed on the beach. After some time we set off again. The sun wasn’t shining anymore and there was a refreshing wind. That’s why the journey was pleasant and fast. On the way home we stopped at the market square in Wolbrom. We left our bikes there and went on foot to an old wooden church. We managed to get inside. There were many amazing pictures and sculptures. We loved the architecture of this place. Finally, we returned to the marker square. There is a very nice café so we had some coffee together and later we cycled back home. It was a very pleasant and unforgettable day.

Wolbrom, 23th Dec. 2016

The day before Christmas Eve together with my mum, dad and sister Victoria I went to our house in the mountains, in Zakopane. We started the journey in the morning and it was long and complicated. We arrived in the evening. Our house is located in a remote area on the cliff among the trees. The place is lovely. The house has wooden walls in the living room and there is a fireplace. The house is decorated in a highland style. The terrace offers views of Mt Giewont and Sarnia Rock. Our highland house has two floors. Downstairs there is a large kitchen, and upstairs we have 4 bedrooms, one for each of us. After the arrival to Zakopane we ate a delicious dinner and unpacked our luggage, had a shower and we went to sleep in our rooms as we were exhausted. Very soon we fell asleep dreaming about the next great day. In the morning after breakfast we made a plan, because we didn’t have enough time to prepare the Christmas Eve. My dad and I were decorating the house, we hung trinkets and golden and silver stars over the porch and the terrace. Then, with my dad and sister Victoria I went for a walk in the forest. On the way back we met a neighbor, whom we offered help in chopping wood for fire. The neighbor was very pleased with our idea and invited us to his farm. Chopping wood took us an hour, then Mr. Stanislaw invited us for hot tea and delicious local type of cheese called “oscypek”. I was very happy with this snack because I like all kinds of cheese very much. After talking to Mr. Stanislaw went to our house which is located very close. In the kitchen, my mother and my sister Victoria were making dumpling stuffing and later we all worked together to prepare the dumplings called “pierogi” in Polish. On Christmas Eve in our family you have to try all the twelve dishes. But mainly, the dumplings and ravioli that are produced by my mom and sister in very large quantities are the most popular dish, my record in eating dumplings is 25 pieces. Finally, we made 300 dumplings. We put them in a big pot and cooked in salted water with a little olive oil. Then our parents cooked a few fish dishes. Later mom and sister, dad and I tried the gingerbread that my mother had baked in our house in Wolbrom. Gingerbread cakes were delicious although a little hard. At 3 o’clock we began the final preparations for the Christmas Eve dinner. My mother covered the table a beautiful white tablecloth, my sister and I brought all the Christmas Eve dishes from the kitchen and I put them on the table. According to the Polish tradition there should be twelve dishes. Dad brought a candlestick and he lit the candles, and he put some mistletoe at the ceiling. At the center of the table we put hay and white wafers. When mother came out of the kitchen she told us the history of the festive white tablecloth that belonged to our grandmother Helena. Then, dad wished everybody all the best and then we shared the wafer. Both I and my sister Victoria wished our parents health, comfort and well-behaved children, then we sat down at the table to have the Christmas Eve dinner. We ate herring prepared in several ways, fried carp and fish in jelly, cabbage with peas, noodles with poppy seeds, cheesecake, poppy seed cake and brownie, and also we drank compote. Then we all sang Christmas carols. The fire was burning in the fireplace while we were unpacking gifts and ate gingerbread. I got books and sweets, my sister a calendar book and jewelry, mom got a book and a candlestick, and dad got a watch and sweets. Before midnight we drove by car to the sanctuary in Krzeptówki. It was very dark in the middle of the church and there were a lot of people. However, when the priest came in and began the liturgy all the lights flashed and the brightness dazzled us. I was delighted by the midnight mass, people sang carols and were joyful to celebrate Christmas. After the midnight mass we returned to our house which looked lovely, lights were shining in the windows of the porch and the terrace. The Christmas tree looked lovely in front of the cottage decorated with colorful baubles. It was a lovely Christmas spent with family, I will remember it for the whole of my life.

Wolbrom, 17th Jul. 2016

The morning of 17 July 2016. greeted us with a beautiful sunshine. That day we woke up with joy because we had planned to go on a vacation trip in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains. We ate a delicious and healthy breakfast. We dressed in comfortable clothes, quickly took our backpacks that we had packed the day before and set off for the longed-for rest in the mountains. Dad was driving, I sat comfortably in the front seat and I was admiring the passing scenery. My sister Victoria, of course, was reading her favorite book, my mother sitting next to Victoria was reading a book of poems by Father Jan Twardowski. In the village of Książ Wielki we took a short break. We ate sandwiches. In a nearby store we bought bananas, ice cream, sweet rolls and mineral water. After eating the snacks we set off for the further journey. The first stop was at the Tokarnia Ethnographic Park. We curiously watched the old historic church bell tower, the pharmacy, the school and a home herbalist. A sudden downpour forced us to hide in one of the historic mills. After half an hour there was no sign of rain, full of impressions and glad we went to the parking lot and got on our car. The next stop was the shrine of Kałków. The amazing spiritual experiences caused that we wanted to go to the Golgotha mountain ​​next to the sanctuary. Unfortunately, I had a bad accident because I hit my head on the low ceiling of one of the caves on Golgotha and I had a little headache. Tired but cheerful we went to bed. At thelodgings we had dinner and took a bath and instantly we fell asleep. In the morning we went along the tourist track to the monastery at the Holy Cross mountain. Along the way, we admired the beautiful mountain views and a unique Gołoborze, which is a very famous deforested area. At the top of the mountain we visited the beautiful monastery and participated in the Mass celebrated by the monks. Later we went back down to the parking lot where we had left our car. We also wanted to go to Sandomierz. We were very curious what the city is like because there the “Father Matthew” series is filmed. We got there after an hour’s drive. We walked around the historic market square and saw places that are shown in the series about Father Matthew. My sister bought souvenirs and postcards from Sandomierz. After a short rest we set off on a journey back to Wolbrom. After midnight we were at home. It was a great two day holiday that I spent with my parents and sister.