

Paweł Adamowicz had Gdańsk in his DNA, even though he was a first generation Gdańsker. His family came from the Vilnius region from where they were resettled in Gdańsk after World War II. Gdańsk became his identity so much that he made his pride in this city and his creative drawing upon its traditions part of the message of his mayorship. And he was unquestionably successful in this regard. A journalist asked a lady why she was queuing for ours just to stop for a few seconds and bow her head before the mayor's coffin. She said: "He taught me to be proud that I'm a Gdańsker."

Perhaps it was the fact that Paweł Adamowicz's family came to Gdańsk as refugees was the reason why our mayor was especially sensitive to those for whom Gdańsk became their new home. From the beginning of his mayorship, Paweł Adamowicz made a point to bring to Gdańsk at least one Polish family from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan or other places where Poles would be exiled. He would personally seek accommodation and work for them. He helped them with their problems. He took interest in what became of them. It is no wonder that Gdańsk introduced the Immigrant Integration Model, a pioneering project on a national scale. After all, hospitality is one of Gdańsk's virtues.

It was fortunate that Solidarity came into Paweł Adamowicz's life. It awakened civic awareness in him. The famous motto: "Gdańsk – the city of freedom and solidarity" that he would repeat all the time, was not an empty platitude. He spoke with true gratitude about the Gdańsk shipyard workers, both the victims of the massacre in December 1970 and the heroes of the August Agreements in 1980. He often publicly expressed his praise for Lech Wałęsa. Paweł Adamowicz believed in solidarity: in a united effort toward a good cause, full of kindness,

attentiveness and respect. He also believed in freedom and individual choice that stands on the side of good.

Perhaps not many people know that over the last 20 years, Paweł Adamowicz privately supported a trio of orphans in the Congo and Rwanda by taking part in the “Heart Adoption” programme. It was the same, deeply Christian premise that did not allow him to remain silent when bad things befell migrants. All this in the name of solidarity and freedom.

It was also his faith that informed his genuine respect for his fellow man, regardless of our differences. He was curious about people, their points of view, he would exclude no one. Openness is another Gdańsk virtue.

Paweł Adamowicz was a patriot and a European. This made him consistent in implementing a plan for the development of our Gdańsk, the pearl in the crown of the Commonwealth, an important place on the map of Europe and the world.

Mr Mayor, Boss, Paweł, you must have seen from up above how the men and women of Gdańsk wept for you and how grateful they were for what you accomplished. You must have seen all the manifestations against hate and violence in so many cities and how local government in Poland felt united.

We remember. Let us remember all the good we got from our mayor. Let us remember our disbelief when we heard the terrible news. Let us remember the hope with which we turned on the morning news updates. Let us remember the pain of bereavement, our helplessness against aggression and all the evil unnecessary words. Let us remember how our voices broke and tears came to our eyes. Let us remember how we could not stay at home but had to come out

and be with others. Let us remember our personal resolutions. Let us remember well, for memory is a pledge.

Let us do all we can to be such a community as our mayor dreamed of. Let us be open, hospitable, let us respect those who have a different opinion, let us try to convince each other by the force of argument, not the argument of force, let us be in solidarity every day, not every so often. Let us live better together and for ourselves.