

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

Visitor Experience, #14 in Series

“On December 30, 1944, Fr. Drees consecrated our family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fifty years later, to the day, I was ordained Bishop,” recalled Bishop John W. Yanta who just celebrated his 22nd anniversary of his being ordained a bishop.

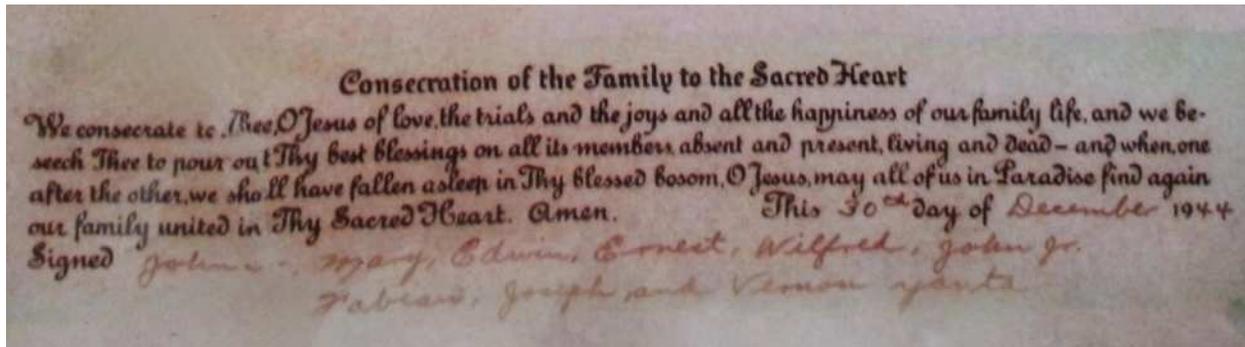
Every story has a beginning. For Bishop Yanta, this was his. He remembers Fr. Drees, the family pastor, coming over for dinner and informing the household that he was consecrating them to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It was not by accident, but rather it was God’s hand moving through life as he says, fifty years later to the date, he would be ordained

Bishop, the first of our Silesian Polish descendants to become a Bishop. But it was God’s hand moving through his life. So his story begins, with the arrival of the parish priest for dinner and in return, offering something that God’s



Copy of the Consecration Certificate that hangs in Bishop Yanta's chapel

Grace would reveal only years later! But God's Grace is like that. We talk about it, we wonder about it, at times we have our doubts about it, and at times we rejoice about it! But for most of us, it is only looking back and reflecting on the events of our lives, that it finally becomes apparent, and only then we see God's hand moving about us.



The family names are recorded: John (father), Mary (mother), Edwin, Ernest, Wilfred, John Jr. (Bishop), Fabian, Joseph, and Vernon Yanta

It is a rare soul that sees God's hand as it is unfolding. God uses many hands in and around our lives. Sometimes we recognize it right away, sometimes only later. Sometimes, we see something great or good, but we don't always connect the dots back to God. Then we wonder why we didn't see God's providence sooner. Many are involved in the Polish Heritage Center project, and yet many more are needed. There were 9 in the Yanta family that invited one more to the table. *The oldest, Valeria had recently married and no longer lived at home.* With 9 mouths to feed, is there ever more than enough? But when they sacrificed for that one more mouth that was fed that night, the entire Yanta family was entrusted to the loving Sacred Heart of Jesus and graces flowed as they could never imagine. So Trust!

We want to acknowledge and thank those who are contributing to the ongoing project of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. Some have given out of the surplus of blessings that they have received, and others have given out of their want, because they too cherish the moving of God's hand. With special thanks, we acknowledge the new gifts received from November 7th to present:

Leon & Joan Witte, Zygmund & Patricia Pruski, Col. Walter & Carol Mika, Mary Louise Moczygemba & Janice Stolle, Michael Lee & Vivian Hudson, the Salvatorian

Fathers & Fr. Jozef Musiol, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church-Chappell Hill, TX, Joe & Joyce Yanta, Frank & Mary Kruciak, Jose & Terelyn Santos, Mary Lou Schroeder, Dennis & Vivian Mika, Donna & John Titzman, Ross & Jacqueline Moczygemba, Velmon & Peggy Buehring, Margaret A Little, Edmund/Lucy/Joshua Titzman, Lillian & Alois O'Berg, Betty & George Kowalik, Angela Richter & Nick Gawlik, Sam & Nancy Kolodziej, Carlos & Lupe Ontiveros, Sandra Kiolbassa, Al & Angela Notzon, Randy & Debbie Pawelek, Andy & Joyce Rives, Alice J. Reue, James & Helen Krawietz Noll, Annunciation Church-St. Hedwig, TX, Elizabeth Burda, Fernando & Adeline Rodriguez, Robert Moczygemba, Lorraine M. Pruski, Thaddeus & Rita Wisniewski, Gladys & Clarence Dziuk, and Gertrude B Mika .

Bishop Yanta has championed the cause of the Polish Heritage Center. He has not asked of anyone what he has not done! And for the many of you who have stepped up, whether large or small, it is the stepping up that counts. By now, most of you know that Bishop Yanta has been very ill for the past month. He was first admitted to Methodist Hospital in the Medical Center and is now in a Rehab facility. He is undergoing therapy and is improving each and every day. Your many prayers and well wishes have been a great comfort for him and are truly appreciated. But now, more than ever, it is up to us to see God's hand moving in our lives and bear witness to the blessings we all have received from Him.

Everything that we have comes from God, so it is God's. And in preserving this faith, we bear witness to the faith that we were given as a gift. Let us all continue to make the Polish Heritage Center a reality so that our children, and their children, will know not only where they came from, but why!

Enclosed is a remit envelope for your donation. We need many one time, short term, and long term gifts. Even ongoing small gifts are important because THEY ADD UP! Every gift counts and is important. Bishop says *gives till it feels good!* Everyone's situation is different and that's okay. The goal is to give according to the blessings that you have received and as you receive them! Newsletter #13 had some very helpful information for those needing to consider their taxable situation. Take it and consult with your CPA or tax attorney. There are naming opportunities for those who wish to memorialize a family member or loved one,

and these pledges too can be fulfilled over time. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to call John Wojtasczyk at 210-387-7472 or email him at wojtasczyk@sbcglobal.net.



The field office, or “*Bishop’s Budka*,” for the Polish Heritage Center should be open sometime in the second week of January. Come by to see and learn about our project!



37th week of construction: Things are looking good!