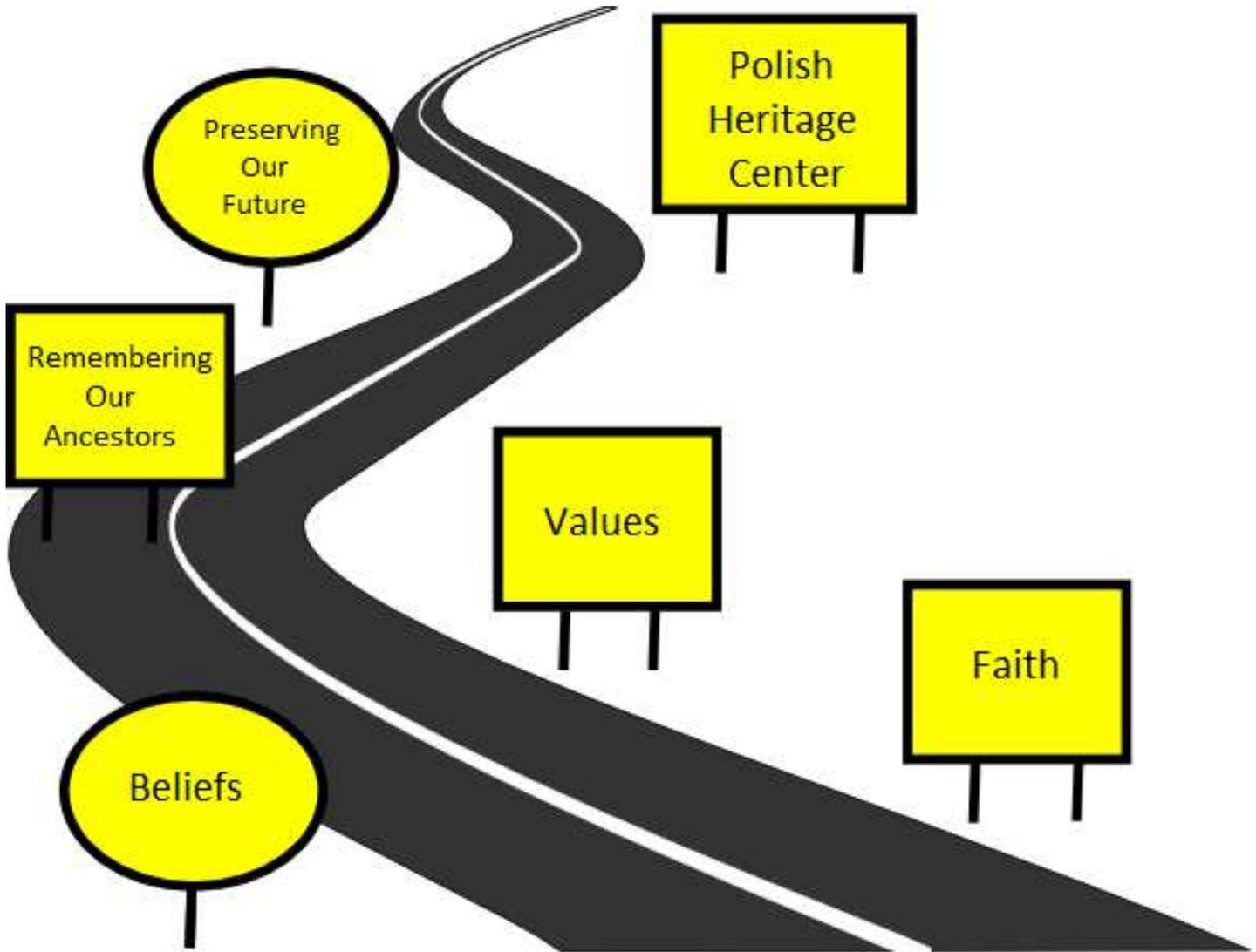




Polish Heritage Center

Visitor Experience #32



Our Journey!

An old saying reminds us that *the longest journey begins with a single step*. No matter where we mark the beginning of our own journey, it had a start. Whether it was our birth, a new job you began, an era in life like when **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba** welcomed his family, relatives, and friends to the new world; journeys are all around us!

Bishop Yanta's first steps on the journey towards a Polish Heritage Center had him envisioning just one room in the old Panna Maria School. But for the journey that our ancestors endured for our benefit, this would have been an injustice! How can we pay back to them for all that they underwent for us? From our youngest years, they attempted to hand on to us what they themselves received; namely the faith, values, and traditions that served them so well for centuries. How can we in only a few generations become mindless and not honor those who could not imagine what we take for granted today?

Each of us, in our own way, not only have the ability but the responsibility in honoring those who have prepared us. The Polish Heritage Center is about this honor, and we all have a stake that this honor is not forgotten. For some of us, like the *Champions*, have a direct call to help spread the word about our Center by helping identify groups that our Presenters can excite and inform. Others, meaning the rest of all of us, can help by looking for those opportunities equally share the info of our Center. It can be as simple as sharing this with especially the Polish members of our family and friends. Do not **ASSUME** that they know! Others take random and planned opportunities along the way to do this as well.

A wonderful example is a summary of a report submitted by *Champion Matt Kraus*. Last year, as part of planned trips that he took, he made use of that opportunity to share with interested groups and organizations what we are achieving here in South Texas. What **Matt** did was not complex, he just kept an eye for the opportunity!

*And now, the travel Journal of
Matt Kraus!*

On September 13th, 2018, **Matt Kraus** and his mother, **Genny Kraus**, traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, for an annual celebration in St. Stanislaus Parish. This parish has a very large and vibrant Polish community. **Matt** arranged for himself and his mother to meet with **Fr. William Sanderson**, **Tom Jodlowski**, and **Nancy Schlesigt**.

There **Matt** presented an overview of the Polish Heritage Center project which was received with great enthusiasm! **Tom Jodlowski** commented that they are very interested to organize a road trip to Panna Maria, Texas, in the near future on the completion of the Polish Heritage Center.

In addition, **Tom Jodlowski** was already getting the word out about the Polish Heritage Center within his parish community. *Our Heritage Center is not even finished, yet there are people already wanting to come!!!* **Matt** left them with material so that they could refer back. During a dinner in which **Tom Jodlowski** invited **Matt** and **Genny Kraus**, many of the attendees approached **Matt** asking him more about the Heritage Center.



Genny Kraus, Father William Sanderson, pastor, Dr. Matthew Kraus

Roughly two weeks later, **Matt** had to go on business to California. When he had a little time on his hands, **Matt** started out seeing where he might seed the Heritage Center. One of his stops was at Guardian Angel Polish Catholic Church. *This church is part of the National Polish Catholic Church.* **Matt** placed a call to the church office and spoke with the receptionist, where he offered to mail a packet of information for their consideration.

Continuing along, because one must eat, he came across *Polka Polish Cuisine*. In speaking with the waiter, he became very excited in hearing of the Polish Heritage Center project. Before leaving, **Matt** was able to leave a stack of brochures near the front door and next to a poster of *Guy Fieri*, the host of *Diners, Drive Inns and Dives*. *Guy* had made a stop and had visited the restaurant!

The next day was a trifecta! **Matt** visited the *Pope John Paul II Polish Center* in Yorba Linda, California. There **Matt** was fortunate to speak with **Fr. Zbigniew Fraszczak, SVD**, or **Fr. Zibi** for short! **Fr. Zibi** was completely receptive and interested in our Center. **Fr. Zibi** connected with **Matt** and the need of building the Heritage Center because he expressed his own concerns of a dwindling and older Polish population and the lack of desire in the young to even want to learn their heritage.

In an earlier phone conversation, **Matt** had spoken with **Ewa O'Neal**, the president of *Polish University Club of Los Angeles (PUCLA)*. Among the many items that were covered, it was discovered that the University Club could lend itself to the future possibility of having students doing fieldwork internships at the Heritage Center! The *PUCLA* is very close to the parish of Our Lady of the Bright Mount Catholic Church, and so **Ewa** previously arranged to go to the Church and to take **Matt's** info to them.

Lastly, in needing to eat again, **Matt** found himself at the *Polka Deli* in Orange, California. **Matt** spoke with the owner and her husband. She was very interested and asked a lot of questions about the Polish community in San Antonio.

Her daughter is applying for a professor position here in San Antonio! It was not clear where because she referred to it as *public university*. **Matt** left them with a supply of brochures before he left.

The reason in sharing all of this is to help afford all of you hope, courage, and some simple ideas of how along the way, you too can reach out and help continue to grow our Polish Heritage Center. Remember, we do not want to keep this as a *sleepy little project here in South Texas*. Just as although we might not have English blood, but as Americans, *Plymouth Rock* still belongs to all of us as part of our collective history. So too does our *Polish Heritage Center* belong to all Poles here in American Polonia! Thank you for all your help!

Thank You, Matt!



Matt at the Polka Polish Cuisine

PHASES?

Now we are embarked on Phase III (3)-C. Now, you may be asking, “*What is Phase 3-C?*” Here is a brief recap. Phase I was all about the start up! The formation of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation, selecting a designer, architect, clearing and preparing the land where the Center will be located, and so on. Phase II was simply all about the construction of the outer shell of the beautiful building that you see today in Panna Maria. Phase III (or 3) is what we are working on now, and that is interior construction that will prepare the way for the exhibits, which is Phase IV (4), to be installed. The last Phase is V (5), which is the final attention to the exterior such as the paving around the building and landscaping.

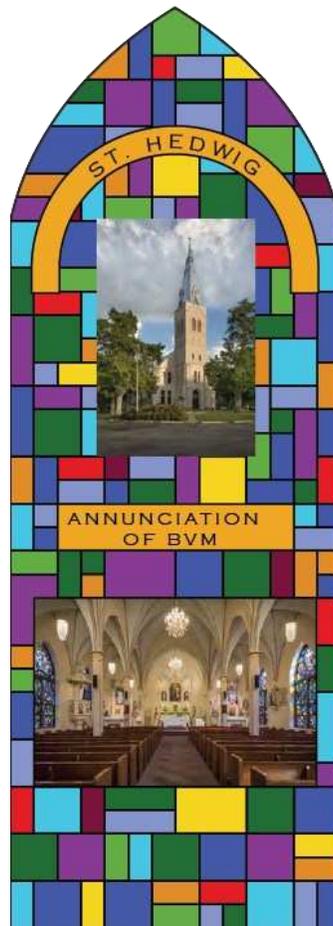
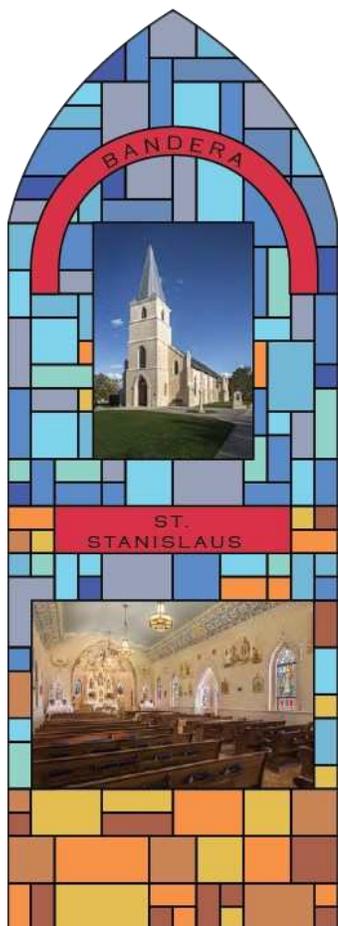
Now, this is where the *rubber meets the road*, as mentioned before, how much of what is done is driven by the \$\$\$! The current Phase, which is III (3)-C, means that we are on the third step of the Phase dedicated to finishing out the interior. Phases III (C) - A, B, & C, sizes were all determined by the funds on hand. We are not going to go in debt building the Heritage Center! Your donation and support is what is keeping us moving forward. Without you, there would be no

Polish Heritage Center. And if that were the case, our ancestors’ memories would soon fade. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do!



Areas of construction in this Phase
Phase III-A: Administrative area
Phase III-B: Installing studs and conduit
Phase III-C: Restroom & Concession Area
Phase III-D: ?, depends on \$\$\$!

Large Electronically Illumined Graphics Appearing To Be Beautiful Stained Glass Windows



These two simulated windows of the second and third oldest Polish communities in the United States have had no one to sponsor them! What would be missed if no one sponsored these to represent their community and ancestors? Remember, and this is encouraged, that families go in together for sponsorships. Even different families can come together to ensure that these sponsorships are not missed. To sponsor the St. Stanislaus of Bandera opportunity is \$50,000, and to sponsor the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of St. Hedwig is a \$75,000 opportunity. There are a number of other sponsoring opportunities! To learn more, please contact John Wojtaszyk at 210-387-7472 or email wojtasczyk@sgcglobal.net. Thank you!

Very Reverend Canon Bernard Marcelli Goebel 1905-2001

Memorialized by Mike Manka

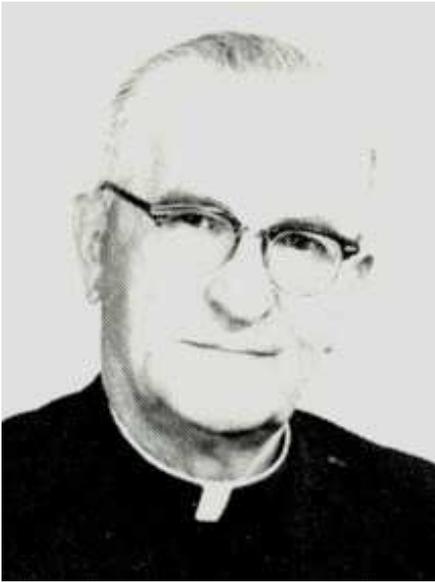


Photo from: Archdiocese of San Antonio 1874-1974, page 268

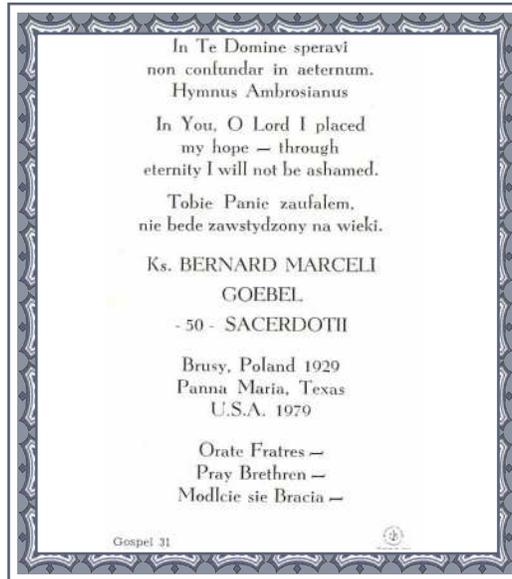


Image from
<https://silesiantexans.com/priests/>

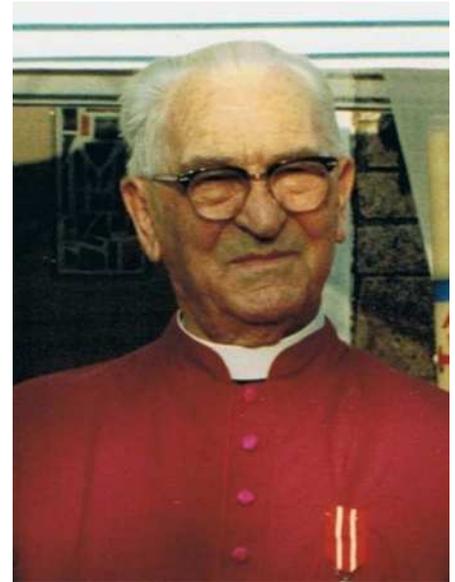


Image from
<https://www.geni.com>

FEARLESS PRIEST OF GOD, PASTOR OF PANNA MARIA, TEXAS

Catholic priests who refused to renounce their faith were deemed one of the "asocial" groups who were ordered into concentration camps by the Nazis.

In 1940, **Bernard M. Goebel** was a young priest. He was arrested and sent to the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau, where he and some other Catholic priests were held until liberated in 1945. They performed secret Masses and rites and served the spiritual needs of the prisoners at Dachau however they could.

Fr. Goebel (prisoner No. **22805**) was one of 16 priests at Dachau who spoke in detail about his experiences to **Rev. Bedrich Hoffman**, who was also held there. **Rev. Hoffman** wrote a book about the 2700 Catholic priests who were interned at Dachau.

Rev. Hoffman published a book in the Czech language on the persecution of the priests at Dachau, using Nazi records he had stolen and the personal testimonies he had taken. The book was called "And Who Will Kill You?"

As details of the Nazi horrors flooded out and the slow business of justice, healing, and reconciliation ground on, **Fr. Goebel** left Europe for the US. He arrived in the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio in 1951, and began serving the predominately Czech, Bohemian, and Polish residents of the area.

Fr. Goebel began the process that brought the body of **Fr. Leopold Moczygemba** back to Panna Maria from Michigan at the November 23, 1973, annual meeting of PAPA (Polish American Priest Association) in San Antonio, Texas.

He was pastor in Panna Maria from 1968-1988.

Following are some interesting milestones of Fr. Bernard Goebel:

Career: administrator, St. Nicholas Parish, Pawlowo and Zwiniarz (Poland), 1930-31; pastor, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Ostrowite (Poland), 1932-38, St. Stanislaus Church, Medromierz (Poland), 1939; concentration camps prisoner, Stutthoff (Poland), Sachsenhausen, Dachau (Germany), 1939-45; pastor, DP Camps, Straubing, Dingolfing (Bawaria), 1945-49, IRO Emigration Center, Ludwigsburg (Germany), 1949-50; assistant, Archdiocese of San Antonio (TX), 1951-60; administrator, St. Boniface Parish, Hobson (TX), 1960-68; pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, Panna Maria (TX), 1968-88. Retired. Chaplain, Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, San Antonio, 1988 -.

Member of: co-founder, Polish - American Priests Association of Texas, 1971; Polish National Alliance (P.N.A.); Polish Artistic and Cultural Foundation, San Antonio, Texas.

Honors: Pomeranian Front award (for volunteer service in Polish Army, 1920), 1923; Very Reverend Canon, **Bishop M. Przykucki** (Poland), 1985; L. Moczygemba Award, Polish - American Priests Association, 1988; Cross of Defender of Homeland, **L. Walesa**, President of Poland, 1992.

Served with: Polish Army, Infantry, Polish - Bolshevik War, volunteer, 1920

Languages: Polish, German, English, Latin, French

Hobby: hunting

(preceding from http://www.poles.org/db/G_names/Goebel_BM.html)

We all are very thankful for the family of Mike Manka in remembering and memorializing Fr. Bernard Goebel. Those of the Panna Maria community remember with great love and respect this Priest of God who bore those numbers that marked him as a young man. He did not walk or shy away from his Faith. Instead, this witness to faith is exactly what is needed, yet is in short supply today. This is the faith and courage that causes us to honor and pay tribute to our ancestors. I chose the information above because it is important to remember the cost of what we enjoy and take for granted today. If our future were to change, and the evil of yesterday becomes the reality today, what happens tomorrow? How would we fare?

To enquire about memorializing one of our many vocations, please contact
John Wojtasczyk, 210-387-7472 or email wojtasczyk@sbcglobal.net

Memorializations & Tributes

Felix Almaraz, San Antonio, Texas
Patricia Barbieri, Saddle Brook, New Jersey
Fabian & Marilyn Biela, Karnes City, Texas
Marvin & Janet Boroski, San Antonio, Texas
Barbara W Budkowski, Royal Oak, Michigan
Velmon Buehring, Karnes City, Texas
Denise Chidgey, San Antonio, Texas
Susan & Everett Clyne, Karnes City, Texas

Roberta Coronado, Georgetown, Texas
Doug Cross, San Antonio, Texas
Anton Czaja, San Antonio, Texas

Michael Davis, San Antonio, Texas
Paul & Laura Dylla, Adkins, Texas

Clarence Dziuk, Falls City, Texas

Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation of 1992, San Antonio, Texas
Valerie Ermis Langridge, Woodsboro, Texas
Lucille Fleming, Falls City, Texas
Monika Freyman, Chilliwack, British Columbia

Walter & Mary Lee Doege Golla, Adkins, Texas

Raymond & Patricia Hannigan, Bryan, Texas
Paul & Doris Heinlein, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania
Harriet Herbert, Longview, Texas
Wayne & Charlene Hierholzer, Karnes City, Texas
Pat & Barbara Moczygemba Hoffmann, San Antonio, Texas
Jeffrey Jendrzey, Victoria, Texas
John & Mary Yanta Memorial Trust, San Antonio, Texas
John G & Marie Kenedy Memorial Foundation, Corpus Christi, Texas
Amy Klug, Morristown, New Jersey
Melvin Kolodziej, Falls City, Texas
Gabe & Bertha Dworaczyk Korzekwa, Gillett, Texas
Sam & Susie Kotara, Karnes City, Texas
Melvin Kotzur, La Vernia, Texas
Michael Kurtin, Navasota, Texas
Live Oak Livestock Auction, Inc, Three Rivers, Texas
Gene Lysik San, Antonio, Texas
Lester F Lyssy, Poth, Texas
Carole Marshall, Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas
Alicia McNichols, Pearland, Texas
Richard & Lucy Metjek, Yorktown, Texas
Dennis & Vivian Mika, Karnes City, Texas
Walter & Carol Mika, San Antonio, Texas

In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Alice Marie Kotzur

In memory of Jean Moczygemba Perkins

In memory of Robert Busselman, Pete DeLeon, Telia Diaz,
Clifton Flieller, Michael James Janysek, Valeria Janysek,
Carolyn Jarzombek, Jessie Kotzur, Kenneth Matthews,
Robert (Bobby) Pieprzica, Mary Schulz,
Charles Ray Tiemann, Andrew Urbanczyk

In memory of Vincent & Agnes Sprencel Czaja and
Francis & Victoria Anderwald Jendrush
In memory of Msgr. John Wagner
In memory of Michael Janysek
In memory of Carolyn Jarzombek
In memory of Caroline Jarzombek
In memory of Jerome May
In memory of Anna Snoga Pruski

In honor of Stanislaus & Franzka Haiduk Palica

In memory of Janina Jadwiga Freyman of
Vancouver, British Columbia
In memory of Ben & Lucy Stolorski Golla and
Eddie & Cecilia Skrzycki Doege

In memory of Geri Yanta Bannister
In memory of Joe & Theresa Felux Jendrusch
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek

In memory of Lawrence and Helen Jendrzey

In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Rev. Edwin Wright, O.S.B.
In memory of Claude Dugie

In honor of Chester & Eleanor 'Nora' Kotzur

In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Agnes Przybysz
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek

In memory of Felix & Mary Mika

Marilyn Millikin, Poth, Texas
Gery Moczygemba, Seguin, Texas
Lucian Moczygemba, Falls City, Texas
Raymond Moczygemba, Karnes City, Texas
David Moran, Richmond, Texas
Carlton & Anna Moy, Floresville, Texas
Bernice E Niemietz, Adkins, Texas
Carlos & Guadalupe Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas
Cecelia Padalecki, San Antonio, Texas
Alfred Pawelek, Karnes City, Texas

Jeff J Pawelek, Spring, Texas
Michael Pawelek, San Antonio, Texas
Randy & Debbie Pawelek, Hobson, Texas
The Jerome J & Alice M Pawelek Trust, Horseshoe Bay, Texas
Thomas & Bridget Pawlik, San Antonio, Texas
John & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas
Lorraine Pawelek Pruski, San Antonio, Texas
Arthur Rakowitz, Adkins, Texas
Mark & Audrey Respondek, Falls City, Texas
The Rosenstiel Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Maryann Schirmer, Panna Maria, Texas
Nancy Shamrock, New Braunfels, Texas
Gladys Stanush, Adkins, Texas
Edward & Shirley Stolowski, Saint Hedwig, Texas
Irene H. Szurgot, San Antonio, Texas
Donald and Catherine Varella, San Antonio, Texas
John Warzecha, Floresville, Texas
Allan & Vernell Wiatrek, San Antonio, Texas
Shirley Wiatrek, Karnes City, Texas

John & Chris Wojtasczyk, Panna Maria, Texas
Bishop John Yanta, San Antonio, Texas
Fred Yanta, San Antonio, Texas

In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Albert Mutz
In memory of Elmer Pawelek

In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek

In honor of Bishop Yanta's 63rd Anniversary of Priesthood
In memory of Steven Steve Kyle Yosko
In memory of Alice Marie Kotzur
In memory of Ann Marie Mikulencak
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Aloys & Rose Pawelek
In memory of Edna Louise Kowalik Pawelek
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Lambert "Johnny" & Betty Gene Pawelek
In memory of Carolyn Jarzombek
In memory of Johnny "Lambert" Pawelek
In memory of Steve Kyle Yosko

In memory of Alice Marie Kotzur

In memory of Alice Marie Kotzur

In memory of Emil Dzuik

In memory of Lambert "Johnny" Pawelek
In memory of Claude Dugie

In memory of brother Ivan James "Sonny" Wiatrek
In memory of Ben C & Agnes Irene Kotara Wiatrek
In memory of Grandparents Vincent & Regina Pawelek Kotara, Sr
In memory of Great-Grandparents Melchor & Mary Ann Opiela Pawelek



Bishop's Corner



Classmates, Bishop John Yanta and Msgr. Emil Wesselsky, celebrating their 63rd Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood on March 17th, 2019

It was 1956, during the seven year drought that Deacons Emil Wesselsky from Shiner, Texas, and myself from Runge, Texas, were ordained at the historic Cathedral of San Fernando. It was Passion Sunday of Lent, Saint Patrick's Day on the secular calendar, from the parish of Saint Anthony's, I was the first priest ordained from this parish of Runge. My pastor was Father Rudolph Hoffman from Nada, Texas. Because it was Lent, my parish held a scaled down version of a reception dinner of which the proceeds generated, both public & private, were given to me as a gift of \$300. With that \$300, I additionally borrowed \$300 from the bank in Runge, and paid \$600 for a 1953 Chevrolet.

Jesus said to those who stood by him in his trials: I confer a kingdom on you, that you may eat and drink at my table. (Cf. Lk 22: 28-30) Bring me, Holy Father, to serve you faithfully and to spend my life boldly and zealously for the salvation of all humanity. (Prayer from the Roman Missal)

†Bishop John W. Yanta