



Visitor Experience #36

***SUPPORT
OUR WORK***



***IN
PROGRESS!***

Come and Partner with us!



Before you know it, the end of the year is upon us. Your children and grandchildren have returned to school. Football season is underway. The soon to be brisk autumn air beckons you to hunt. Plans are being made for Thanksgiving. And the great conundrum of what that special gift for Christmas may be for that special person in your life will raise its head. Let's face it, the break we needed during the "summer break" may have not done you many favors! And in the midst of all the things you have to tend to, the Polish Heritage Center as always, is awaiting your continued support and help.

Come and partner with us as we remember and celebrate our ancestors who have given us the opportunity to thrive and flourish! What we deal with today, as mentioned above, pales in comparison to the grit and determination that our ancestors needed that we might enjoy this better life than they could have ever hoped for.

That is why we ask your help. Not as individuals, but as a community, as a group with a common tie, and in many cases common relationships. The Polish Heritage Center is not meant to be shouldered by a few, but by the many! This is ALL our project. And as the end of the year fast approaches, plan now for how you can help in being our partner.

To the many of you who have partnered with us already and have given so generously, thank you! We could not have reached this point without your trust and unfailing support. And for the much LARGER number of you who have yet to join the cause, think of how you can! Remember that it is not about the size of the gift, it is all about the size of the **HEART** in the gift! Some of you are able to help us with monetary donations, which are always appreciated.

Or, it might be that you know, through your network of family, friends, and acquaintances, someone who has the ability to help out. They just need to learn about the project from you! Do not assume that *everyone* knows about the Polish Heritage Center project or correctly understands it as you.

Take the time to bring this up within your family and friends with whom we share this common bond and ancestry. In much the same way, we are spread out far and wide these days, just like our ancestors who left south central Texas for the panhandle, the lower Rio Grande Valley, and far off distant states. They all are still part of us and who we are: the descendants of that first and oldest permanent Polish settlement in America!

It will take *ALL* of us to see this project brought to completion at a time when this is our last good chance to capture and retain this precious ancestral heritage. We all have a stake and interest in seeing that who we are does not fade into the long corridors of time. In the midst of today's many uncertainties, we are certain with the unshakable faith that our immigrant ancestors passed on to their children, and then to their children, coming down to us, that we indeed possess a proud history that has formed and guided us, and directs our path into tomorrow.

That is why we ask again that you partner with us and ensure that who we are is not diluted into insignificance. Stand up, and be recognized as our history has taught us, that we are a proud and strong people, known for its enviable work ethic and personal integrity. Our word is our bond!

Partner with us so that our children, and all peoples, will know our history and heritage. Be proud, and have the resolution that continues as our parents and grandparents taught us. So as the end of the year approaches, we ask that you remember the Polish Heritage Center in your tax plans and end of year giving. And as **Bishop Yanta** reminds us:



“Now, let us get this job done!”

My Polishness

By Bishop John W. Yanta

My mother's ancestors - the **Pollok** family - came to Panna Maria on December 24, 1854, and were part of the first permanent Polish settlement and parish in the USA. The other members of my mother's family, the **Dziuks** and **Moczygembas**, arrived in 1855, and the **Gorzels** were in Texas by 1861. My father's ancestors came in 1855, also from Upper Silesia – **Jańta**, **Reyman**, **Kasprzik**, and **Zielinski** families. All farmers.

My immediate family belonged to the Panna Maria Parish until about 1929 when our parents decided to belong to the nearest parish, 6 miles away (Panna Maria was 13 miles away), which was St. Anthony in Runge which had only 5% Polish families, however, we children were attending the local public school. To get to Panna Maria required crossing two major creeks. We were 8 children; the first 4 children were baptized in Panna Maria, and the last four were baptized in the Runge church, including myself. The new town of Runge was mainly Protestant and the Polish families were less than a dozen.

I entered St. John's Seminary in San Antonio at age 14 years. I became a priest at 24 years of age, 1956. My archbishop never assigned me to one of our Polish parishes.

I became very proficient in the Spanish language and its Mexican culture. Because God gave me the gift of organizing new projects and ventures, my archbishop arranged for me to take an active role in the War on Poverty of the federal government. One evening the US Postmaster General, **Hon. John Gronouski**, was guest speaker at St. Mary's University. He encouraged me to organize the Polish American Congress (PAC): Texas Division - and it happened in February 1971. Almost at the same time I began pondering - "You know all about the Mexican culture and its Spanish language and also now the Black culture - What do you know about your own Polish history, language, and culture? Nothing or very little. Shortly, I was in Chicago attending a War on Poverty seminar. While there, I arranged to go to the Polish area in downtown Chicago—the juncture of Division and Michigan Avenues. To my surprise I ate at a Polish cafeteria and saw the Sajewski Music store across the street. To my amazement, I bought 3 Polish newspapers, two in Polish, one in English. The English one mentioned a Summer Study Program in Poland sponsored by the Kosciuszko Foundation of New York. I applied and attended the 1971 summer program at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. The following year I sent 3 students to the Kosciuszko Foundation Summer Study Program in Poland that I attended previously. Also I attended another summer program in 1972 sponsored by the University of Kansas, at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland.

These two summer study programs gave me a new vision, energy, and excitement of what it means to be Polish. I was deprived and separated from our dear Polish culture. However, at home mom and dad often spoke in Silesian Polish and I would answer in English.

By God's grace I was president of the Polish American Congress (PAC): Texas Division for 5 years, assisted the formation of the Polish American Priests Association (PAPA) of Texas,

and served actively in various positions. I served as chairman of the first Polish American Priests Association (PAPA) Convention in San Antonio in 1990 and became its first president. I became the first Bishop from the Panna Maria immigration and the first Polish Bishop in Texas. I served as Auxiliary Bishop in San Antonio for 3 years and 11 years as Bishop of Amarillo. My ecclesiastical retirement took place in early 2008.

My vision of Panna Maria, the surrounding communities, and its thousands of descendants today need to know the value of our beautiful heritage. In my experience, the majority of Polish people, like myself, are deficient in their knowledge of our Polish heritage and its beautiful history.

The Polish Heritage Center will offer opportunities for a greater knowledge of history - the language and the customs of our Polish people. Praise be to God and to Our Lady of Czestochowa !



Bishop John W. Yanta, at an awards ceremony this past June 13th, 2019, in which President Andrzej Duda, of Poland, presented Bishop with the *Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland*. This honor is in recognition of the many years of tremendous work that Bishop performed in and for the Polish Community in America.

A Reflection on Our Ancestors

The founding mission of the Polish Heritage Center is to honor our ancestors. According to the teachings of our Church, the 4th commandment, to honor our father and mother, reveals God's desired order of charity – first God, then parents, then others. The Heritage Center offers you that opportunity to honor them and the ones who came before them.

In the spirit of those who came before us consider these excerpts from Polish Nobel laureate Wisława Szymborska's epic poem, *Our Ancestors' Short Lives*

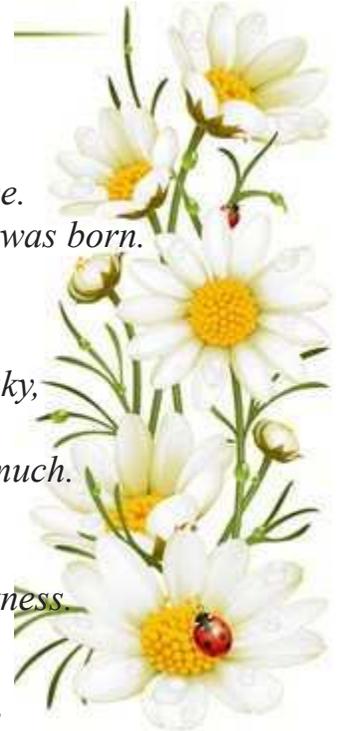
*Few of them made it to thirty.
Old age was the privilege of rocks and trees.
Childhood ended as fast as wolf cubs grow.
One had to hurry to get on with life
before the sun went down,
before the first snow.*

*Thirteen year-olds bearing children,
four year-olds stalking birds' nests in the rushes,
leading the hunt at twenty—
they aren't yet, then they are gone.
Infinity's ends fused quickly.
Witches chewed charms
with all the teeth of youth intact.
A son grew to manhood beneath his father's eye.
Beneath the grandfather's blank sockets the grandson was born.*

*And anyway they didn't count the years.
They counted nets, pods, sheds, and axes.
Time, so generous toward any petty star in the sky,
offered them a nearly empty hand
and quickly took it back, as if the effort were too much.
One step more, two steps more
along the glittering river
that sprang from darkness and vanished into darkness.*

*There wasn't a moment to lose,
no deferred questions, no belated revelations,
just those experienced in time.*

*Wisdom couldn't wait for gray hair.
It had to see clearly before it saw the light
and to hear every voice before it sounded.*



Wisława Szymborska, 1923-2012, famed poet and essayist, won the Nobel Prize in 1996, the fourth Pole to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

**Polish Heritage Center Outreach to Corporations:
It's Critical to Our Success!**

By: Mary Kaznowski Havel, Grants Director

Corporate philanthropy has always been a resource for nonprofit organizations, and we would like you to know that the Polish Heritage Center has been active in this arena.

Many companies create corporate giving programs as a way to create partnerships between themselves and nonprofits. It is a good way for them to be good corporate citizens and give back to their local communities, and it is also a way to increase employee engagement through causes that are meaningful to the employees.

Did you know that almost every company has a budget for making donations to worthy causes? Many have donation funds, matching gift programs, employee volunteer programs, and even in-kind donations where they donate equipment, technology, or even personnel.

I've been busy reaching out to the companies listed below. I am very interested in knowing if any of you reading this article can be of assistance helping me to get appointments with decision makers at any of these firms.



BP PLC
Broadway Bank
Cheniere Energy
Chevron Corporation
Comstock Resources
Earthstone Resources
Encana Corporation

Ensign Energy
Enterprise Pipeline
EOG Resources
Flint Hills Resources
Freeport LNG
Frost Bank
Kinder Morgan

Magnolia Oil
Marathon Oil
McCombs Foundation
Murphy Oil
NuStar Energy
Sanchez Oil & Gas
Valero Energy

PLEASE HELP US GET A CORPORATE GIFT.

If you have any connections with the companies above – or others not listed here – please contact me at polish.heritage.tx@gmail.com. All I need is the name of the company, the contact's name, and their contact information. Perhaps you can provide an endorsement to make a better case for their support. We'll do the rest!

Donor companies will have the opportunity to be recognized in our Heritage Circle or in our Donor Gallery, depending on the size of their gift. Public recognition is very important to corporations.

Speaking for Bishop Yanta, and the rest of the team, we greatly appreciate your help. Let's get the Center completed! Thank you!

Pat & Barbara Moczygemba Hoffmann

Why we support the Center!



***Pat & Barbara Moczygemba Hoffmann
with Bishop John Yanta***

We began our support of the Heritage Center in September 2014. Initially, we attended a scanning session in Falls City and, while there, first met Retired **Bishop John W. Yanta**. Ultimately, we agreed to visit him later at his residence in San Antonio to further discuss the Heritage Center.

During the visit some two weeks later, **Bishop Yanta** presented the details of a state-of-the-art education center to celebrate and learn about our Polish immigrant ancestry. During our discussion Bishop Yanta never once asked for a specific dollar amount donation. He merely asked us to pray and then decide what we would contribute. Needless to say, we were so inspired by his vision, passion, and personal commitment, we decided to become supporters of the Heritage Center.

We are descendants of **Joseph Moczygemba** and **Frank and Hedwig Swientek Manka** who were among the original settlers of Panna Maria. Almighty God had truly blessed us in every generation since their arrival. Now we had an opportunity to become good stewards and honor our ancestors. Their history, values, customs, and traditions have to be preserved for the current and future generations. We became members of the Heritage Circle for the naming rights of the listing of Panna Maria Pastors. Also, with other family members we are sponsoring the exhibit window representing the Falls City parish.

We are continuing to support by utilizing the Heritage Center website's Recurring Donation option. As stated by the Polish Nobel laureate **Czeslaw Milosz**, *The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them.*" Also stated another way, according to British author George Eliot, *"Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them."* God Bless You,

Pat and Barbara Moczygemba Hoffmann

Construction Updates and Photos

Landscaping going in! A 5 foot rock boundary around the Center to protect it. Soon the sod will be laid to lock and hold the soil in place.



Large limestone blocks installed on the south side and the inner curb is poured.

The loading dock area and a section of the inner curb.





Kazimierz (Casimir) Pulaski of Ślepowron was a Polish nobleman, soldier and military commander who has been called, together with his counterpart Michael Kovats de Fabriczy, "the father of the American Cavalry".

A hero of the American War of Independence, he died October 11, 1779 at the Battle of Savannah. It was at the recommendation of **Benjamin Franklin**, that **Casimir** traveled to America and became involved in the Revolutionary War. He distinguished himself as a leader and had even saved the life of **General George Washington**. **Casimir**, himself, was given the rank of General in the Revolutionary Army.

Today, there are numerous parades and celebrations that commemorate Pulaski's legacy, even outside the Polish community. Today, there are roads, parks, monuments, bridges, and even a ballistic missile submarine named in his honor. **Pulaski** is celebrated in October because it was on the 11th when he died in Savannah

OCTOBER

Polish Heritage Month

October 13 - Panna Maria, Turkey Dinner & Homecoming, Immaculate Conception of the BVM

October 20 - Cestohowa, Turkey Dinner, Nativity of the BVM

-Dallas, Polish Festival St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

-St. Hedwig, Polish American Priests Assn Celebration Annunciation of the BVM Catholic Church

TBD Austin, Polish History Club Austin Polish Society

NOVEMBER

November 11 - Polish Independence Day

November 16 - Austin, Ognisko Austin Polish Society

November 16 - Bandera, PACT Annual Meetings Polish American Council of Texas

Thank you for your support!

Greg Adams

Anonymous Donation

Benny Arfele, Jr, Mcallen, Texas

Stephen Berestka, Saint Croix Falls, Wisconsin

Marvin R & Janet M Boroski, San Antonio, Texas

John Cebrowski, San Antonio, Texas

Clarence Ciomperlik, San Antonio, Texas

Ken Czarnick, Beatrice, Nebraska

Billy G & Brenda Feuge, San Antonio, Texas

John Hertz, Edna, Texas

Pat & Barbara Moczygemba Hoffmann,
San Antonio, Texas

Michael & Velma Janysek, Karnes City, Texas

Darryl & Bernadette Jiral, Saint Hedwig, Texas

John & Mary Yanta Memorial Trust,
San Antonio, Texas

Jeff & Elizabeth Skrobarczyk King, Dallas, Texas

Leonard & Mary Krzywosinski, San Antonio, Texas

Thelma Lyssy, San Antonio, Texas

Leonard Moy, Jr, Poth, Texas

James & Helen Noll, Falls City, Texas

John Nunez, Victoria, Texas

Carlos & Guadalupe Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas

Helen Orsak, Houston, Texas

Richard & Carolyn Osburg, Calliham, Texas

John & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas

John Prukop, Bishop, Texas

Katie Reed, Floresville, Texas

Thomas Respondek, Austin, Texas

Peter Scheffler, Falls City, Texas

Peter Snoga, San Antonio, Texas

Gladys Stanush, Adkins, Texas

Edward & Shirley Stolorski, Saint Hedwig, Texas

Darlene Swize

Archie Titzman, San Antonio, Texas

Lambert & Rosalie Pawelek Titzman, Gillett, Texas

Peter A. Valentik

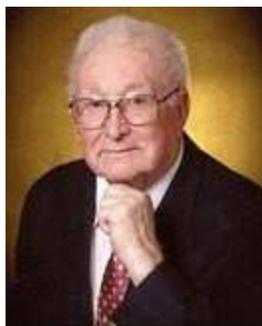
James Vistuba, San Antonio, Texas

John & Chris Wojtasczyk, Panna Maria, Texas

Bishop John Yanta, San Antonio, Texas

Tim & Linda Yanta, Portland, Texas

Memorializations and Tributes



Nick Gawlik, Sr.
April 15, 1924 -
June 21, 2019

Photo from:
[https://
www.legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com)



Georgia Dupnik
February 22, 1961 -
June 12, 2019

Photo courtesy
Of Ruth Krawietz

Edna Bednarz	Johnnie Moy
Robert Brandt	Richard Murry
Amy Clark	Elmer & Lillian
Claude Dugie	Mzyk
Billy G Feuge	Richard & Carolyn
David & Lisa	Osburg
Gambill	Wilburn & Roberta
Alvin & Anna Mae	Ottmers
Gawlik	Evenlyn A Page
Cynitha Gawlik	Gary A Reile
Thomas & JoAnn	James Richter, Jr
Gawlik	Elaine Savoie
Diane Gribble	Charles M Smith
Linda Hausenfluke	Diane Kruciak Smith
Matthew & Kathy	Glen & Phyllis Snoga
Keller	Gladys Stanush
Gladys Koenig	Darlene K Stewart
Sam Kolodziej	Rayleen Sullivan
Al & Emily	Bill & Rose Tabbert
Kolodziejczyk	John M Titus
Eddie & Debbie	Greg L Witcher
Kruciak	Nancy Zaiontz
Donald Lackey	Eddie & Debbie
Rudolph Lyssy	Kruciak
William R Lyssy	Knights of
Carlton & Anna Moy	Columbus, Our Lady
Jason & Deborah	of Fatima Council
Moy	

Alice Banduch	Gary & Karen Jendrusch
Albert & Patsy	Theresa Kotara
Bordovsky	Anthony Kruciak
Leroy & Sheryl Camber	Frank & Mary Kruciak
Eloy Cisneros	Vincent & Bernadine
Ethel Creswell	Labus
Joe & Maryann Dragon	Ben & Lillian Laskowski
Terri Dworaczyk	Adrian & Mary Lyssy
Paul & Laura Dylla	Leo & Jeanette Lyssy
August & Magdalen	John Moczygemba
Friesenhan	Richard & Carolyn
Kenneth & Bonnie	Moczygemba
Gawlik	Edwin & Agnes Moy
Florence Kruciak	James & Helen Noll
Hernandez	Alvin Palitza
Dorothy Hrbacek	Ethel Pawelek
Joe & Janice Jaksik	Lucille Pawelek
Carol Janysek	Randy & Debbie Pawelek
Clarence & Linda Janysek	Mark Pieprzyca
Joe Janysek Family	Alex & Karen Pollok
Mary Katherine Janysek	Russell & Diane Pollok
Matt & Emily Janysek	Glen & Sharon Robbins
Mike & Velma Janysek	Mary Louise Rutkowski
Vincent & MaryJane	Sue Rutkowski
Janysek	Gerald & Lillian Sekula
Alice Jarzombek	Donald & Evelyn Starnes
Almarence Jarzombek	Jim & Sharon Stavinoha
Doris Jarzombek	John Urbanczyk
Terry Jarzombek	Rose Urbanczyk
Ivan & Peggy Jaskinia	Michael & Jane Yeater
Ernest & Aileen	Anthony & Kathy Zunker
Jendrusch	

By Ronnie & Laura Bitterly, San Antonio, Texas:

In memory of Florence Sowa Bitterly

By Janice Connor, San Antonio, Texas:

In memory Of Alex V. Mihalski & Cecilia V. Mihalski (parents), Alex M. Michalski & Susie Michalski (grandparents), and Joseph Michalski & Francisca P. Michalski (great-grandparents)

By Greg Rapstine, White Deer, Texas:

In memory of Herbert Rapstine & Donald Rapstine

By Zygmund & Patricia, San Antonio, Texas:

In memory of Rosie Pruski

By John M Titus, San Antonio, Texas:

In memory of Brenda & John Titus, Debbie & Ray Gawlik, and Joyce & Allen Moczygemba

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation

P.O. Box 28125, San Antonio, TX 78228

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<http://www.polishheritagecentertexas.org/>

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BISHOP'S CORNER



HERE'S A CHALLENGE!

A group of donors have anonymously committed to a **\$500,000 "matching gifts challenge"** to both previous and new donors. They will match, dollar-for-dollar, any gift of **\$25,000 or more between October 1 and December 31, 2019**. Here is your opportunity as an individual, a family, or a business to 'double your impact' in aiding the Polish Heritage Center. And don't forget, your donation will also qualify you for either the Nicolaus Copernicus Society, The Marie Curie Society, or the St. Hedwig Society in the exquisite Donor Gallery...and if your donation is \$100,000 or more you're in the HERITAGE CIRCLE...in lighted etched glass in the Lobby!

Please contact our Vice President - Director of Development, **John Cebrowski**, with your questions. John can be reached at 210-370-3953 or jcebrowski39@gmail.com.

Thank you all and may God bless you!

Remembering you and yours in my daily Mass and prayers,

✠**Bishop John W. Yanta**