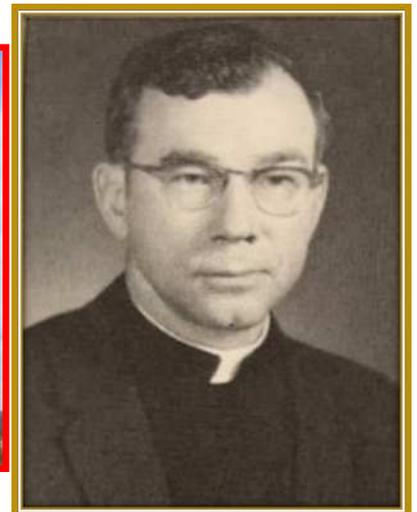
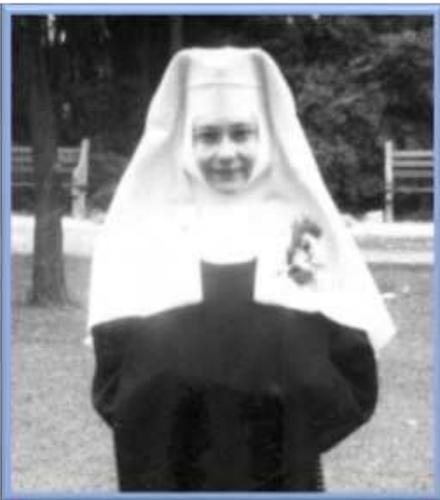




## Visitor Experience #38



# Remembering Those Who Preceded Us!

## Honoring Our Beloved Sisters

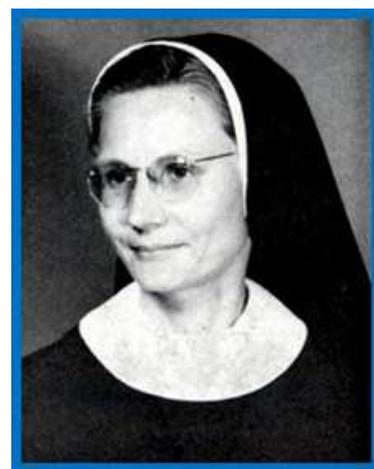
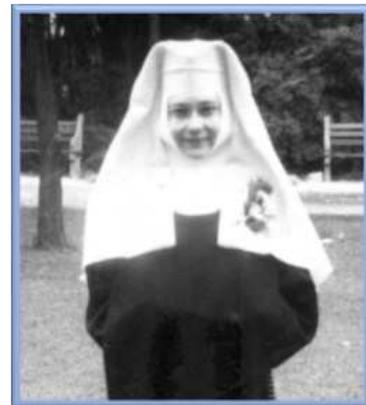
By Janet Dawson Ebrom

Below is a **partial list** of departed religious women who descend from our ancestral families. Do you recall a special teacher who was a sister? Do you recognize the name of a revered sister in your family? You may memorialize religious women for a place of honor in the Polish Heritage Center.

**ANDERWALD**, Bernadette: Sister Bernadette [1917-2016]  
**BIENEK**, Geraldine Ann: Sister Mary Geraldine [1950-2009]  
**DWORACZYK**, Euphemia Constance: Sister Wenceslaus [1919-2011]  
**DWORACZYK**, Mary Margaret Ann: Sister Mary Fermine [1929-2008]  
**FRANCKOWIAK**, Dorothy Helen: Sister Mary Wenceslaus [1882-1934]  
**GAWLIK**, Florence: Sister Mary Angela [1933-2015]

*Photo courtesy of Dorothy Gawlik Moy, San Antonio, Texas*

**GIENIEC**, Elizabeth: Sister Mary Alexandrine [1917-2008]  
**GOLA**, Julia: Sister Mount Carmel [1870-1939]  
**IBROM**, Victoria: Sister Philomena [1875-1908]  
**JANTA**, Maria: Sister Mary Heliodora [1852-1925]  
**JANTA**, Anna Caroline: Sister Mary Władysława [1856-1944] – *already memorialized*  
**JASKINIA**, Barbara Philomena: Sister Mary Gerard [1923-1995]  
**JENDRUSH**, Albina Barbara: Sister Mary Bernardia [1922-2004]  
**KORZEKWA**, Emelia: Sister Cyrilla [1896-1982]  
**KOWALIK**, Mary Angelee: Sister Mary Angelee [1934-2016]  
**KRAWIEC**, Albina: Sister Mary Elizabeth [1864-1884]  
**KRAWIEC**, Anastasia: Sister Mary Joseph [1854-1919]  
**KRAWIEC**, Mathilda: Sister Mary Alacoque [1858-1881]  
**KRAWIECZ**, Barbara: Sister Cecilia [1859-1895]  
**KRAWIETZ**, Agnes: Sister Bronislaus [1888-1937]  
**KRAWIETZ**, Mary Anna: Sister Stanisława later named Sister Mary Teresa [1892-1985]  
**KULESZA**, Anna: Sister Karolina [1885-1972]  
**MOCZYGEMBA**, Joanna: Sister Ephrem [1860-1946]  
**MOCZYGEMBA**, Margaret: Sister Charlotte [1912-1991] – *already memorialized*  
**MZYK**, Helena: Sister M. Edith [1915-2008]  
**NIEMIEC**, Lucy: Sister Mary Louise [1860-1933]  
**OLEJNIK / OLENICK**, Salomea: Sister Sixtus [1906-1950]  
**RAKOWICZ / RAKOWITZ**, Barbara: Sister John Nepomucene [1885-1924]  
**SCZEPANIK**, Cecilia: Sister Jean Marie [1913-2005]  
**SOWA**, Balbina: Sister Mary Gabriel [1861-1906]  
**STANUŚ**, Anna: Sister Mary Clotilda [ca. 1855-1879]  
**STANUŚ / STANUSH**, Clara: Sister Mary Dominic [1897-1968]  
**STANUŚ**, Eva: Sister Mary Incarnation [1853-1936]  
**STANUŚ / STANUSH**, Maria Justina: Sister Mary Christina [1905-1961]  
**URBANCZYK**, Pauline: Sister Mary Veronica [1858-1942]  
**WACLAWCZYK**, Edna: Sister Mary Estelle [1929-2014] – *photo right*  
**WARMINSKI**, Mildred: Sister Mildred [1927-2012]  
**WINKLER**, Elizabeth: Sister Mary Dominic [1858-1916]  
**ZIENC**, Paulina: Sister Mary Clara [1861-1891]



If you would like to memorialize a religious woman or nun, please contact John Wojtasczyk at 210-387-7472

# *Coronavirus Pandemic & the oil market*

In between the time that this newsletter was being completed and on its way to be put in the mail, both the Coronavirus appeared on the horizon and the oil world market began to suffer from major declines. This issue was pulled due to the sensitivity of you, the many readers and supporters, of our Heritage Center Project. Know that we understand and are completely aware of the current economic climate in which many of you now find yourselves.

Many of you have been with us from the beginning and have weathered the many unforeseeable turns and turbulent twists of our economy. Through it all, whatever beset us, you have continued to support us and have brought our Heritage Center to where it is today! For this, we are immensely grateful and thank you.

Just as our ancestors endured the many unimaginable trials, inspired with their faith and confidence, we too will shoulder what has been thrust upon us today. As our ancestors both taught and handed on to us, we will not stop nor give in, we will persevere in all good time.

We thank you for being with us. We thank you for your support. We thank you for your encouragement. But most of all, we thank God for bringing us to a new land where we have been so greatly blessed.

Hardships reinforce gratitude for whatever we may already have. It reminds us of where ultimately all that we have received comes from. We are not its origin; we are the beneficiaries.

Let us all pray for those affected by the Coronavirus, for those who have died, the recovery of those sick, and for God's blessings on our state and nation.

# Reverend Benton Alfred Thurmond

“...God’s flock is in your midst...”

1921 – 2009

*By Janet Dawson Ebrom*

**Benton Alfred Thurmond** was born on March 27, 1921, in Inez, Victoria County, Texas. His parents, **Benton A. Thurmond** and **Rose Montag**, took their first-born baby to St. Joseph Catholic Church to be baptized on May 8<sup>th</sup> by **Reverend P. J. Bovin**, their pastor. **Adolph** and **Adeline Miller** had the honor of being godparents (p. 36, entry #232/95). His Baptism record had a notation added later when **Benton** received a private First Holy Communion in 1930.

As a boy, **Benton** attended public school in his home town of Inez, but his secure childhood was tragically interrupted when he was only 12 years old. His father, who managed a grocery store, was killed in an automobile accident in Victoria, Texas, on July 6, 1933. Benton’s young, widowed mother **Rose** was left to care for her seven children, and she supported them as manager of Thurmond Grocery Store.



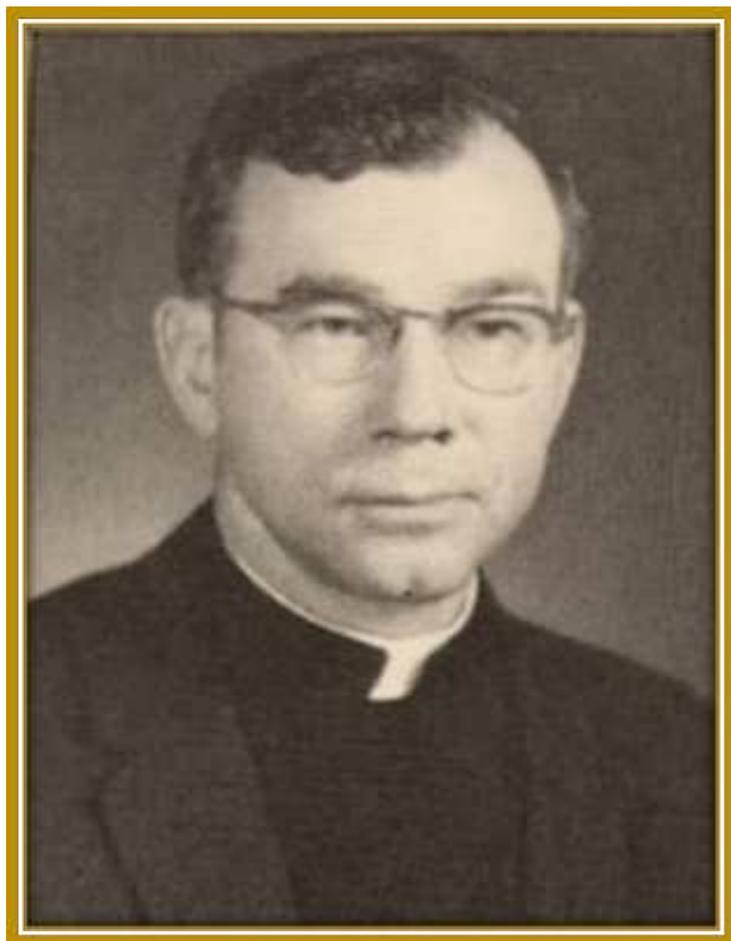
The children’s maternal grandmother, **Maggie Pantel Montag**, lived with the family; she had been born in the Baltic Sea port of Danzig, present-day Gdańsk, Poland (Texas Certificate of Death, stamped #53029). Thus, young **Benton** lived in a bilingual household.

When **Benton** was 14 years old, he entered St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio where he studied for the priesthood beginning in 1935. While he was a student in St. John’s Seminary Divinity School, he performed his civic duty by registering for the draft in 1942. His WWII Draft Registration Card described him as 6 feet tall with hazel eyes and brown hair.

*Photograph from Priest Forever: History of St. John’s Seminary, San Antonio, Texas 1915-1965, page 88*

**Benton** was named a Subdeacon in 1945 at St. John Seminary Chapel by **Most Reverend Robert E. Lucey**, Archbishop of San Antonio. The following year, **Benton** was ordained on March 19, 1946, in San Antonio at San Fernando Cathedral. **Father Benton** celebrated his First Solemn Mass at St. Joseph Church in Inez as a “son of the parish” on March 27, 1946 (Jansky, 21<sup>st</sup> page).

Photograph from *Archdiocese of San Antonio 1874-1974*. San Antonio, Texas, 1974, page 276



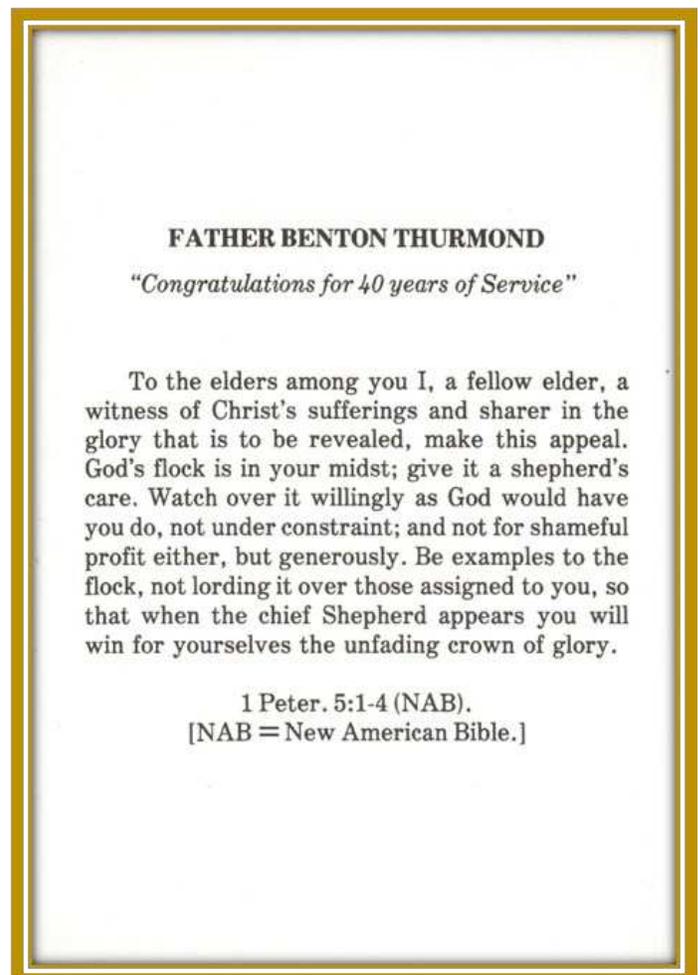
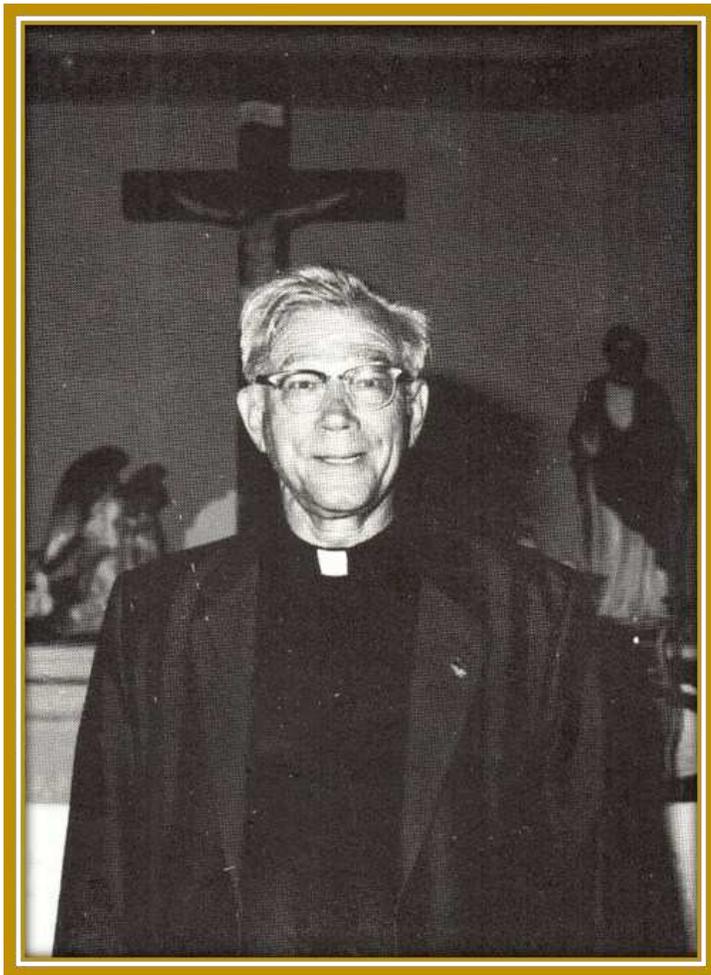
**Father Thurmond** served as a priest in the San Antonio Archdiocese for 36 years in the following places: Seguin, Karnes City, New Braunfels, Weimar, Flatonia, Fredericksburg, Plum, Hostyn, El Campo, Devine, High Hill, Nixon, Runge, and Nordheim.

Later, after the Victoria Diocese was established, he ministered for 14 years in the following towns: St. John, Moravia, Wharton, and Inez.

**Father Thurmond** was known for his thought-provoking questions and interest in historical research. He was actively involved with scouting, Little League baseball clubs, and the Lions Club. Well versed in Spanish, he was knowledgeable about Latin American affairs (Jansky, 17<sup>th</sup> page).

He was a committed member of the Polish Priests of America in Texas and demonstrated a genuine appreciation for family history and cultural identity. He kindly wrote a letter in reply to the author of this article when asked for some of her family’s ancestral information from his parish archives.

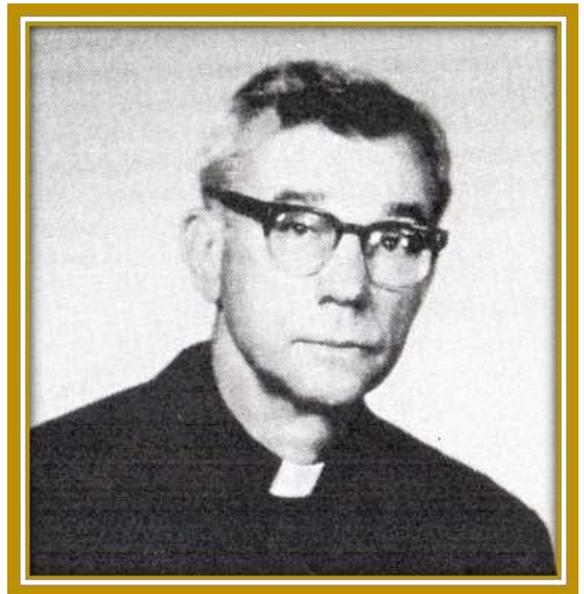
In 1986, **Father Benton Thurmond** celebrated 40 years of pastoral service as shown on this keepsake card. The verse reflects his own view of the ministry:



Another special milestone was when **Reverend Thurmond** was named a Monsignor by **Pope John Paul II** on May 16, 2001. His final assignment was St. Joseph Catholic Church in Inez, Texas, the place of his birth.

In the Inez parish cemetery was a constant reminder of his connection to his ancestral Motherland – the grave of his great-grandfather, **Franz Gasch**. As a young, single man in 1855, **Franz** had emigrated from Warłów, Upper Silesia, in present-day Poland (*Jonca*, p. 69). **Franz Gasch's** daughter **Mary** married **Orville Erasmus Thurmond** on July 20, 1887, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Victoria, Texas (p. 18, entry 66); this was the wedding of Benton's paternal grandparents.

Even though **Msgr. Benton Thurmond** had pastored in many parishes throughout Texas, his family was anchored in Victoria County. He retired from ministry in 2003. At the age of 88, having devoted his life to serving God and his parishioners, **Msgr. Benton Alfred Thurmond** passed away on November 7, 2009, in Edna, Texas. Visitation was held at Slavik Funeral Home in Edna. A Rosary was recited, and his funeral Mass was offered at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Inez, Texas, on November 11, 2009. He was laid to rest in St. Joseph Cemetery (*Today's Catholic*, p. 18).



Photograph from 1873-1973  
*Centennial: St. Joseph's Parish, Inez, Texas*

Sources:

- Jansky, Rev. Edward J., compiler. *1873-1973 Centennial: St. Joseph's Parish, Inez, Texas*. Privately printed, [1973].
- Jonca, Karol. "Emigracja Ze Śląska Opolskiego Do Teksasu 1853-1857" [Emigration from Opole Silesia to Texas 1853-1857]. *Studia Śląskie* 57 (1998): 43-88.
- Priest Forever: History of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Texas 1915-1965*. American Printers Incorporated, San Antonio, Texas, 1966.
- Today's Catholic*, December 18, 2009, San Antonio, Texas.
- Wangler, Rev. Msgr. Alexander C., editor. *Archdiocese of San Antonio 1874-1974*. San Antonio, Texas, 1974.

The legacy of **Monsignor Benton Alfred Thurmond** has already been honored by having him memorialized in the Polish Heritage Center by **Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta**. **Reverend Thurmond** was pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Runge, Texas, where the Yantas were parishioners. Each departed religious vocation from our immigrant families can be recognized. If you would like to memorialize a nun, priest, monk, or religious brother, please contact John Wojtasczyk for more information at 210-387-7472 or [wojtasczyk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wojtasczyk@sbcglobal.net).

# Memorializations & Tributes

*The memorializations, tributes, and gifts represents what was received from November 3, 2019 to February 15, 2020*

- In Honor of Bishop John W. Yanta** by Robin Raquet, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Moy and Mr. & Mrs. William Mainz** by Richard Dugger, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of Bennie & Susie Yanta** by Don Yanta, Karnes City, Texas  
**In Memory of Edward J & Theresa Dupnik Pawlik, Sr.** by Thomas Pawlik, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of Felix & Mary Mika** by Dennis & Vivian Mika, Karnes City, Texas  
**In Memory of Florence Sowa Bitterly** by Ronnie & Laura Bitterly, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of Adam W. Cywar** by Adam Cywar, Austin, Texas  
**In Memory of Henry & Regina Pilarczyk Manka and William & Barbara Jarzombek Moczygamba** by Pat & Barbara Hoffmann, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of Hortencia G. Santos** by Mr. & Mrs. Jose Santos, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of Isidore & Barbara Moy Sekula** by their children (Adrian Sekula, Virginia Sekula Janysek, Janette Sekula, Sally Sekula Schaefer, Mary Sekula Eiserer, Eugene, Sekula, Lucian Sekula, Larry Sekula, Therese Sekula Boss, & Isidore Sekula, Jr.)  
**In Memory of John & Helen Banduch** by Michael Pawelek, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of John August & Suzie Bednorz Wojtasczyk** by John & Christie Wojtasczyk, Panna Maria, Texas  
**In Memory of Leon V. Padalecki** by Mrs. Leon Padalecki, Mr. & Mrs. Dwayne Padalecki, Mr. & Mrs. David Padalecki, and Donna & Dove Solarczyk  
**In Memory of Leonard & Virginia Lyssy Jendrusch** by Ann Christenson, San Antonio, Texas, Diane Miller, Southbury, Connecticut, & Laurie Clark, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of Msgrs. Casey Jarzombek & Benton Thurmond** by Rev. Frank Lenz, Houston, Texas  
**In Memory of Rachel Dziuk** by Randy & Debbie Labus Pawelek, Panna Maria, Texas  
**In Memory of Rev. Edmund Dragon** by Annie Dragon, Karnes City, Texas & Edwin Dragon, Panna Maria, Texas  
**In Memory of Vincent & Elizabeth Lyssy Jarzombek and Vincent & Lucy Lyssy Pollok** by Rudy & Emily Jarzombek Pollok, San Antonio, Texas  
**In Memory of Vincent Sr. & Leona Janysek** by the Janysek brothers & Families  
**In Memory of Vincent T. & Marcy Anna Moczygamba, Magdaline, Victoria, Casper, Vincent B (Slim), and Mary Ann** by Casper & Rosa Lee Jiral Moczygamba, Falls City, Texas  
**In Memory of Vincent & Victoria Titzman** by the descendants of Vincent & Victoria Family (Darlene Swize, Carolyn Osburg, Archie J. Titzman, James Vistuba, John D. Prukop, & Helen F. Orsak)

If you wish to enroll, simply detach this page, complete, and return in the remit envelope.

## OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA GUILD

### ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP



Yes, I accept membership in Our Lady of Czestochowa Guild. I understand that the Guild has been created to recognize donors who have included the Polish Heritage Center in their estate planning, and that planned gifts are a meaningful way to ensure that the needs of the Polish Heritage Center are met now and well into the future.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I qualify for membership in the Guild by having placed the Polish Heritage Center in my estate plan through one of the following:

My Will \_\_\_\_\_ A Trust \_\_\_\_\_ Beneficiary of a Life Insurance Policy \_\_\_\_\_  
Beneficiary of a Pension Plan \_\_\_\_\_ Beneficiary of a Bank Account \_\_\_\_\_  
Creating a Charitable Gift Annuity \_\_\_\_\_

Can you please tell us why you decided to name the Polish Heritage Center in your estate planning? (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May we use your name and statement to promote membership in the Our Lady of Czestochowa Guild? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to membership, and for your willingness to help us encourage membership in the Guild.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation is a Texas 501c(3) non-profit, and our tax ID# is 46-0561240. Please mail this form to: Polish Heritage Center, PO Box 28125, San Antonio, TX 78228 Phone: 210-733-1979

# Recognition of Veterans Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice



Memorial Day is a national holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971.

Every day will be Memorial Day inside the Polish Heritage Center. Yes, every day!

## Here are the Criteria:

We will honor the Polish-American immigrants and their descendants, who died while serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. We will honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Texas-Indian Wars, Civil War, Comanche Campaign, Spanish-American War, Banana Wars, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Lebanon Crisis, Vietnam War, Invasion of Grenada, Gulf War, Somali Civil War, Bosnia & Kosovo Wars, War in Afghanistan, War in Iraq, Intervention in Syria, and other conflicts.

If the lineage of those who died facing hostile fire can be traced to the immigrant families we honor, in any way, they will be honored in Donor Gallery 2 in an interactive display that will permit visitors to locate family members or loved ones who died in combat.

## We need your help! This is a team effort, just as you see in the photo above!

We ask everyone receiving this newsletter to contact us if they know of anyone who died in combat with their name, branch of service, rank, war or conflict in which the person died, commendations received, and the name of the parish or community from which they came.

This may involve reaching back into family records, parish records, visiting cemeteries, and examining local memorials. We have already begun the process of informing heritage area Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Posts of this initiative. We ask your help in spreading the word. Please help us honor these heroes.

## Point of Contact:

Please email John Cebrowski, PHC Board member, and VP-Director of Development with the information noted above. John is a US Marine Corps attack pilot veteran of Vietnam. His email address is [jcebrowski39@gmail.com](mailto:jcebrowski39@gmail.com).

## A Memorial Event is on the Agenda:

Pending the pandemic crisis situation, a “Memorial” celebration in Panna Maria will be held at an appropriate time for family members of the deceased and for Polish-American veterans who are members of VFW or American Legion Posts in the heritage area. Watch this newsletter for more information on a forthcoming event.

## Special Note:

This memorial initiative is at the personal request of Bishop Yanta. Bishop believes strongly that this remembrance is imperative and is consistent with the mission of the Polish Heritage Center to honor our ancestors and family members. Thank you.

# We appreciate the many donors who are continuing to make the ongoing work of the Polish Heritage Center possible!

*The memorializations, tributes, and gifts represents what was received from November 3, 2019 to February 15, 2020*

Edward Alcantar, San Antonio, Texas  
Felix Almaraz, San Antonio, Texas  
Anonymous Donations  
Ida Arrambide, San Antonio, Texas  
Austin Polish Society, Austin, Texas  
John & Shirley Bordovsky, San Antonio, Texas  
Marvin R & Janet M Boroski, San Antonio, Texas  
Barbara Kiolbassa Britton, San Antonio, Texas  
Elizabeth Burda, Yorktown, Texas  
Carlos & Dina Cortez, Shavano Park, Texas  
Gianna & Children Cortez, Shavano Park, Texas  
Doug Cross, San Antonio, Texas  
Mary Currien  
Roselyn Dove, Three Rivers, Texas  
Ken & Helen Dugosh, Boerne, Texas  
Jerry Dworaczyk, Kenedy, Texas  
Betty Ebrom, San Antonio, Texas  
Jessie Estrada, San Antonio, Texas  
Karl & Stephanie Gager, Uvalde, Texas  
Krzysztof Gajda, Sherman, Texas  
Jacob Garcia, San Antonio, Texas  
Richard & Lynne M Govers, San Antonio, Texas  
Raymond & Patricia Hannigan, Bryan, Texas  
Paul & Doris Heinlein, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania  
Jerry & Ann Janecka, San Antonio, Texas  
Estate of Fr. Casimir Jarzombek, Bay City, Texas  
John & Mary Yanta Memorial Trust, San Antonio, Texas  
Thomas & Mary Kean, Centennial, Colorado  
Kevin & Kelly Ebrom Kennedy, San Antonio, Texas  
Sandra Kiolbassa, San Antonio, Texas  
David & Pat Ebeier Koch, Round Rock, Texas  
Margaret Kolodziej, Falls City, Texas  
Melvin Kolodziej, Falls City, Texas  
Michael Kolodziej, Falls City, Texas  
Sam & Susie Grothues Kotara, Karnes City, Texas  
Agnes Kotara, Saint Hedwig, Texas  
Stanley Kotzur, San Antonio, Texas  
George & Betty Hooks Kowalik, Panna Maria, Texas  
Frank & Mary Felux Kruciak, Karnes City, Texas  
Leonard & Mary Krzywosinski, San Antonio, Texas  
Leon & Aline Kundrotas, Helotes, Texas  
Barbara Lemecha, Dearborn Heights, Michigan  
Margaret Little, Corinth, Texas  
Tanya Yanta Lykes, Victoria, Texas  
Gene Lysik, San Antonio, Texas  
Charles Malik, Karnes City, Texas  
Raymond & Debra Martinez, San Antonio, Texas  
Mike & Adelene Moy Manka, Schertz, Texas  
Clarence Maron, Saint Hedwig, Texas  
Susan Moczygemba McKinsey, San Antonio, Texas  
Richard & Carolyn Moczygemba, Falls City, Texas  
John & Patty Moczygemba, Floresville, Texas  
Roger Moczygemba, Falls City, Texas  
Robert Moczygemba, Hobson, Texas  
Dorothy M Moy, San Antonio, Texas  
Al & Angela McCaffrey Notzon, San Antonio, Texas  
Martin Notzon, San Antonio, Texas  
Ramo Octavia  
Carlos & Guadalupe Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas  
Sr. Crispina Parraguirre, San Antonio, Texas  
Alfred Pawelek, Karnes City, Texas  
John & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas  
Robert & Geraldine Piegza, Marion, Texas  
Dr. Mark Pienkos, Sarasota, Florida  
James J & Lorraine M Polonis, San Antonio, Texas  
Howard & Lorraine Manka Polish, Uvalde, Texas  
Jerome & Victoria Yanta Respondek, Yorktown, Texas  
Martha Respondek & Larry Haas, Corpus Christi, Texas  
Alice Reue, Yorktown, Texas  
Andy & Joyce Pawelek Rives, Hobson, Texas  
Charles Schulte, Bandera, Texas  
Seraphic Sisters - Beethoven, San Antonio, Texas  
Seraphic Sisters - Woodlawn, San Antonio, Texas  
Anton Shadrock, Helotes, Texas  
David & Jeanne Smith, Boerne, Texas  
David & Babette Spinhirne, Channing, Texas  
Mark Sprenzel, Burnet, Texas  
Gladys Stanush, San Antonio, Texas  
Gladys J Pawelek Stearns, Janesville, Wisconsin  
Patricia Szalwinski, Pleasanton, Texas  
Lambert & Rosalie Pawelek Titzman, Gillett, Texas  
Donald & Catherine Varella, San Antonio, Texas  
Wendel Voigt, Pflugerville, Texas  
F.L. Whitley, San Antonio, Texas  
Leon & Joan Witte, Karnes City, Texas  
Jan Wojciechowski, Sherman, Texas  
Bishop John W. Yanta, San Antonio, Texas  
Edwin & Margie Yanta, Devine, Texas  
Joe & Joyce Polston Yanta, San Antonio, Texas  
Julia Yanta & Mariam Weathersby, Houston, Texas  
Shirley Yanta, Burnet, Texas  
Fred Yanta, San Antonio, Texas  
Valida Yanta, Runge, Texas  
Pete Zaiontz, Falls City, Texas  
Thaddeus Zawistowski, Richmond, Texas

# BISHOP'S CORNER

## *Lent: A Call To Discipleship*



**Bishop John W. Yanta** in his chapel, holding his Baptismal Certificate. He was born on October 2, 1931, and was Baptized on October 11, 1931, in St. Anthony's Church, Runge, Texas, by **Rev. Laurence J. FitzSimon**, who later became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of Amarillo. I became the 7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Amarillo. My godparents were **William Yanta** and his wife, **Agnes Kowalik**.

A disciple accepts the message to follow Jesus. Jesus introduced the disciples to the Kingdom. Jesus gave his disciples a share in His mission, sufferings, and joy.

Lent calls for more prayer. Perhaps daily Mass if you do not already attend every day. Praying the Rosary daily. Participating in the Stations of the Cross in your parish. Receiving the sacrament of penance, also known as Reconciliation or Confession. A renewal of daily family prayer, or spousal prayer with your wife or husband.

Lent is also a time for fast and abstinence. Is your relationship with your TV so strong that it overpowers the call of Jesus and his call to a more simple style of life? We abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent.

Almsgiving and stewardship, all of us are blest with faith and material blessings. Jesus said: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person with more" *Luke 12:48*. Maybe you have been thinking of the first use of your money should be a thanksgiving to the Lord for his generous love: Tithing. Besides taking care of your family and your parish church and the many invitations of giving to the poor, may our Polish Heritage Center be a way of paying tribute to your family and ancestors who sacrificed and endured hardships for our sakes today.

Lent is a great time to check on your self in living the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Church. Lent turns into Holy Week, which is an accompanying of Jesus from the joy of Palm Sunday to the Holy Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus when we will repeat our Baptismal vows.

May God Bless you and yours with Easter Joy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "† John W. Yanta".

†Bishop John W. Yanta