

FAITH • FAMILY
COMMUNITY



POLISH
HERITAGE
CENTER
PANNA MARIA, TEXAS

Visitor Experience #56



Now Open!
The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria!

Photograph courtesy of: Miguel Ramos

Polish Heritage Center Update

Thanks to the many donors and supporters who have helped make Bishop John W. Yanta's vision a reality, the Polish Heritage Center is now open to the public for everyone to enjoy and be inspired by the history and contributions of the first Polish settlers!

The Center will be open to the public Thursdays through Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The admission fee is \$10.00 for adults and children under 12 \$5.00. The Research Library & Archives will open sometime after the New Year. To schedule a tour or a possible library/archival donation, please email Angelica at angelicad@polishheritagecentertx.org.

Now that the Center is open, please look forward for onsite activities! On Saturday, November 20th, will be "Honoring Polish Independence Day and Remembering Our Veterans Family Day" and on Saturday, December 11th, we will be celebrating Polish Christmas Traditions. Please check the Center's website and Facebook page for additional information.

Executive Director,



Angelica Docog

Thank You, Thank You, Dziękuję, Dziękuję
Betty Kowalik

These are very exciting times!!! The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria is complete and open to the public. All who visited the center during the opening events were in awe with the beauty of this state-of-the-art center and the wealth of information contained within. No doubt, there is not a heritage center or museum as advanced as this anywhere in the State of Texas.

Thanks to the donors who made this project possible. We could not have accomplished this feat without our donors. Again, thank you!!!

Clarification to Donors

All donations for society recognition status are based upon the aggregate donations of a donor; therefore, the societies will be updated after December 31, 2021. It is important to note that much care is taken when updating the societies which includes compiling, editing, the use of a designer, printing or etching and installation. We make every effort to ensure our donor information is accurately represented; therefore, donors will be recognized in the appropriate society early in 2022. This will be the last update to the heritage circle and the societies which recognize the founding donors.

The capital campaign is closing; therefore, if you would like to enter a society or move up to a different society, please consider supporting the Polish Heritage Center with a new or an additional donation on or before December 31, 2021. The societies are listed below.

Saint John Paul II Society *

\$1,000,000 and above

Father Leopold Moczygemba Society *

\$750,000 to \$999,999

Families of Original Settlers Society *

\$500,000 to \$749,999

Saint Faustina Kowalska Society *

\$250,000 to \$499,999

King Jan III Sobieski Society *

\$100,000 to \$249,999

Saint Hedwig Society

\$75,000 to \$99,999

Marie Skłodowska Curie Society

\$50,000 to \$74,999

Nicolaus Copernicus Society

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Tadeusz Kościuszko Society

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Frédéric Chopin Society

\$5,000 to \$9,999

**** Indicates Heritage Circle***

For information concerning recognitions in the Heritage Circle or in the societies, please do not hesitate to contact Betty Kowalik at kowalibetty@gmail.com or by calling 830-583-6236.

PRESERVATION IN THE ARCHIVE



This ordination pillow was made by the ladies of the Panna Maria community to celebrate the ordination of Rev. Edmund Dragon. The Polish Heritage Center also has an ordination pillow made for Rev. Theodore Janysek. Both were ordained on March 25, 1930. *Photograph courtesy of: John Wojtasczyk*

Closely associated with the Library, although it might seem less classy, is the Archive Storage Room. While the Library will display many of the books, photographs, and records that are important, the Archive Storage Room is that out-of-the-way room that is normally out of sight, yet it is one of the most important areas of the Polish Heritage Center. While many times the Library may be in the lime-light, many of the more priceless treasures are actually kept in the safe confines of the Archive Storage Room.

Being a Heritage Center, the focus of our Center is not necessarily built around the collection of items and artifacts. The primary mission of a Heritage Center like ours is to preserve and tell the story of our legacy. A museum is specifically about the collection and displaying of items and artifacts. Not that we will not collect and accept some donations of items and artifacts; we will. The layout and design of the Center does not lend itself to a large collection of items and artifacts.

The Polish Heritage Center is in the process of establishing a collections policy and a collections committee. The purpose is to ensure that proper handling and storage is afforded to any donated item. This is to guarantee that the Polish Heritage Center is the proper repository for cherished artifacts. In the majority of

PRESERVATION IN THE ARCHIVE

cases, family items and artifacts are better suited being kept within the family, as it is their heirloom. This is why the majority of collections will be digital in nature. The added benefit is that it is far better and easier to store and make available in a database containing scanned images of pictures, documents, and book collections.

The safety of all items entrusted to the Center is of paramount importance. Built and enclosed with fire resistant masonry block stone, the Archive Storage Room is only one of two spaces within the Center that has a state of the art fire extinguishing system installed. The Halon fire suppression system is installed in both the Archive Storage Room and in the Multi-Purpose Room. These are the only two areas where authentic items and articles may be placed on display or stored. So for the reason of insurance and the desire to have items on loan to the Polish Heritage Center, this feature is crucial to the credibility of the Center.



A wide view panoramic photograph in 1935 of the Panna Maria community
The UT Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, No. 079-0436
Photograph courtesy of: Barbara Jendryczka

PRESERVATION IN THE ARCHIVE

As the Center moves forward, and the scope of the collection becomes better defined, archival storage systems will be installed. It will be designed to safeguard the items and to maximize the storage potential of the limited space. The plan is to include the ability to store large flats items like maps, photographs of all sizes, tall hangings for such items as tapestry and banners, along with various drawers for objects that are not flat, etc. The plan is also to be able to accommodate items that are on loan from other centers around the world. The goal is that one day we might be able to receive on loan items from Poland and other Polonia centers around America!

Knowing that we have the capacity to receive, protect, and provide for the safe display of special items and artifacts is a bright feather in the cap of the Polish Heritage Center! The addition of these unique items adds to the experience that all our visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy. Much planning went into the Archive Storage Room, and this continues to demonstrate the complete thoughtfulness that was first envisioned.



Stay tuned for more!

On special display in the West Lobby are examples of colorful regional costumes. This showcase has the potential of displaying various items in support of activities and programs at the Polish Heritage Center.

Photograph courtesy of: Lauren Robinson

Polish American Historical Association Award

Dear Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta,



On behalf of the Polish American Historical Association (PAHA), I am thrilled to inform you that The Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria has been awarded the Skalny Civic Achievement Award for highlighting the Polish American experience in such a visual and engaging way. While PAHA decides who receives the award, please know that you were nominated by a member of the Polish community who recognizes the work you and others have done to promote research and awareness of the Polish American experience.

We invite all PAHA awardees to join us at an awards ceremony that accompanies our annual conference that is held in early January in affiliation with the American Historical Association. Because of the current global health crisis, the 2022 conference is still scheduled but we are in communication with our parent organization should things change. As of my writing, the PAHA 2022 conference is scheduled to take place in New Orleans January 6th through January 8th and we would like to invite you to join us there. The awards dinner is planned for the evening of January 8th. We hope to be able to honor this and last year's awardees (PAHA 2021 was cancelled), as we usually do, in person.

We will be in touch with you as we learn more details regarding the January award presentation. Once again congratulations!

Sincerely,
Ewa Barczyk, chair
PAHA Awards Committee

Email on September 17, 2021

POLISH PRIDE!

Olympian Auctions Silver Medal for Infant's Heart Surgery

Article appearing in the *Polish American Journal*, September 2021 issue



Photograph courtesy of: <https://sport.onet.pl/>

Not even two weeks since winning a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, Polish javelin thrower Maria Andrejczyk put it up for auction to help save an infant's life.

Andrejczyk announced an auction on Facebook on Aug. 11 — five days after securing the medal — to raise funds for Miłoszek Małyśa, an 8-month-old boy who needs to travel from Poland to Stanford University in California to have

life-saving heart surgery. She didn't know Małysa, but wrote that she knew his cause was the right choice after reading online pleas for help from his parents, who needed roughly \$385,000 USD to cover the costs of his transportation and medical care. Half had already been raised by the family's online fundraiser.

Andrejczyk, 25, is a cancer survivor, having osteosarcoma, a type of cancer that forms in the cells that form bones. She required surgery in 2018, but not chemotherapy, and was able to restart training for the Tokyo Games in 2019. She previously competed in the Rio Olympics in 2016, where she finished in fourth place.

A Polish convenience store chain called Zabka made the winning bid, and told Andrejczyk her medal will stay with her in appreciation of her "beautiful and extremely noble gesture."



Photograph courtesy of: <https://sport.onet.pl/>

Heartfelt thanks to our supporters from September 22 to October 21!

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 Shirley Yanta, Burnet, Texas

Calendar of Events

Many of our communities are still examining moving forward with their celebrations;
 many of the listed events ARE PLANNED BUT NOT FINALIZED!

November 13: PACT ANNUAL MEETING, St. Joseph Church, New Waverly, Texas

November 20: *Honoring Polish Independence Day and Remembering Our Veterans Family Day* at the Polish Heritage Center, Panna Maria, Texas

December 2: Lecture on St. John Paul II at Univ. of St. Thomas, Houston (in-person and online).

December 3-5: Blanco, Texas Festival of Texas Fiddling

December 11: *Polish Christmas Traditions* at the Polish Heritage Center, Panna Maria, Texas

December:
 Chappell Hill, Polskie Kolędy, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church
 St. Hedwig, Wigilia, Annunciation of the BVM Catholic Church
 Bremond, Kolędy, Toy Drive, Festival of Lights
 Houston, Christmas Party, PNA Council #182
 Dallas, Christmas Celebration & Bazaar, Jan Karski Polish School
 Panna Maria, Polish Christmas Mass, singing, Immaculate Conception of the BVM
 Austin, Christmas Party, Austin Polish Society
 January 1, 2022: Kolędy St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Chappell Hill at noon

BISHOP'S CHAPEL

Last month, I introduced you formally to my chapel. Now I would like to share with you some of the items that are particularly important to me.

To the left of the large wooden crucifix is an image of Our Lady of Czestochowa done in wheat straw. This art form is called *grafika ze słomy* or straw graphics. This is an old and very common form of art.

In the center are two crucifixes, a large wooden crucifix made from a tree native to South Texas and Northern Mexico, and below is a smaller brass crucifix; this was given to me by a housekeeper that belonged to their pastor who had passed away.

To the right of the wooden crucifix is the image of St. Joseph holding the infant Jesus. This image has always been important to me because in it you see the tenderness in which St. Joseph is embracing the child Jesus. That was



given to me by the Pro-Life movement of the Diocese of Amarillo.

On the altar, too small to see clearly, are several relics of the saints. Among them are relics of: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Vianney, and St. Maria Goretti. These relics are important to our faith because they are touchstones, or connections, to the saints and all those who have gone before us. The Saints are with us now just as any of us are present to one another. Their communion with us is not broken, shattered, or diminished because of

death.

Just as a friend coming to any one of us for support or prayer, the saints are there for us, interceding on our behalf before God. They encourage us to live rightly, that we may be able to join them in giving thanks to God. And very importantly, their presence reminds us that we are not alone on this journey of faith!

God Bless You and Yours, Bishop John W. Yanta,