



POLISH HERITAGE CENTER

Visitor Experience, #25 in Series

PHASE III HAS BEGUN!



Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation
P.O. Box 28125, San Antonio, TX 78228
Tax ID: 46-0561240. A 501(c) (3) organization.
<http://www.polishheritagecenter.texas.org/>



A Family Prayer

God made us a family
We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another
We work together
We play together
We worship together
Together we use God's word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all men
Together we serve one God
Together we hope for heaven

These are our hopes and ideals
Help us to attain them, oh God
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord
Amen

Welcome — Witamy!

June 25, 2018



From our Designer, Steve Harding

Selected Views of Exhibits, Entry Lobby:

Visitors enter the lobby space and are greeted by a colorful mural as seen on page 1, measuring 30' x 11.' The mural is a sweeping tableau depicting the arrival of the first Polish immigrants from the Silesian region to Texas in 1854 and illustrating their first churches, schools, marriages, Baptisms, First Communion — hard working men and women and families building their lives in Texas through the decades. At the center of the mural, Our Lady of Czestochowa is surrounded by Saint John Paul II, Saint Stanislaus, Saint Hyacinth and Saint Hedwig. The saints represent the immigrants' deep and abiding faith and a continuity with their homeland. The mural concludes on the right depicting descendants of those early pioneers returning to their Polish Silesian homeland to reconnect with their history.

To the left, visitors see a Family Prayer, recognizing the importance of faith and family. Flanking the prayer are eight small, programmable, video monitors, displaying welcoming messages, images of pioneers, families, and events.

To the right side of the lobby, a large multiscreen video display provides visitors with a view of the villages that the original settlers emigrated from and the parishes they first settled in Texas.

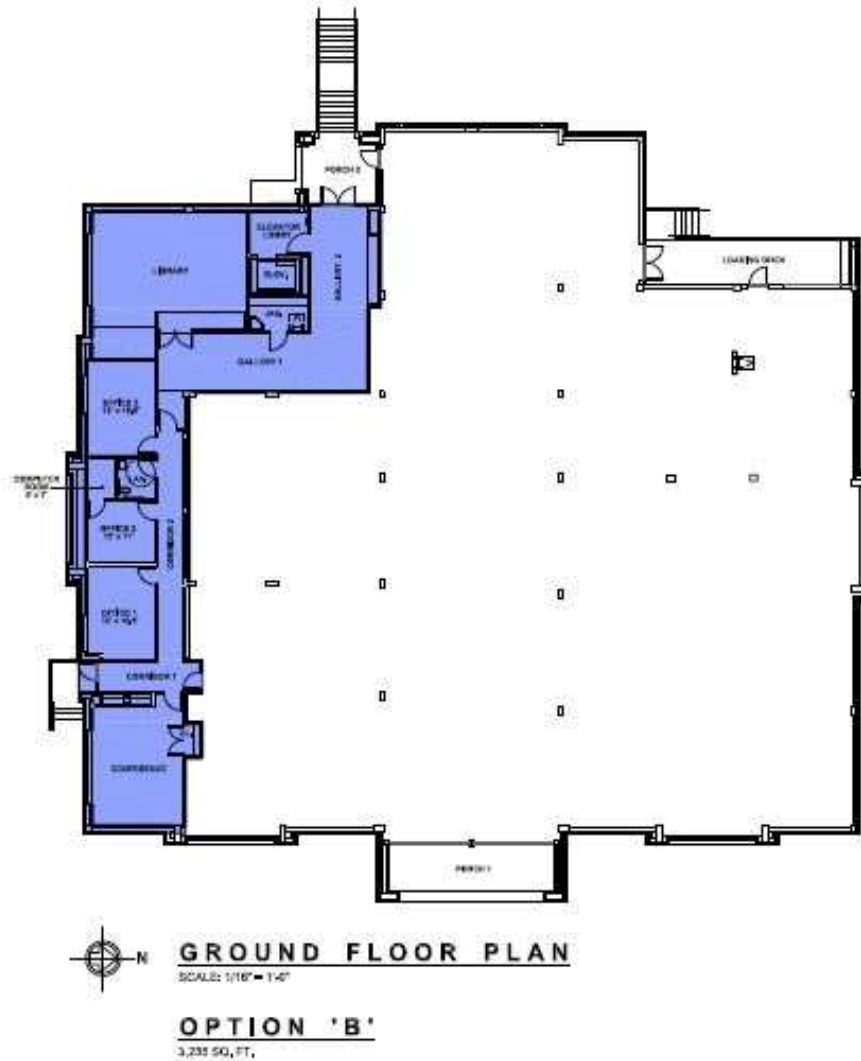
To their direct front, and flanking the opening leading to the rotunda, visitor attention is drawn to five large, elegant, artistically lighted, etched glass panels. The names of the Center's generous donors are proudly displayed on these panels along with those they chose to remember and the exhibits they have sponsored.

Visitors now transition into the rotunda and approach the beautiful painted icons of Saints Cyril and Methodius, standing together on a lighted pedestal.



What a marvelous sight! But there is still a lot of work to do before the Polish Heritage Center opens. Many see this beautiful building and are asking when will it be opened? In short, we are about half way finished. Right now, it is VERY important that we continue the Capital Campaign; it is a MUST! At the beginning of the building project, we looked at what we had and what was pledged and saw that it was enough to begin our Heritage Center. In other words, to build the building. We are now focused on the continued need of being able to move the project forward. We are building the office and administrative spaces on the south side of the building overlooking the beautiful San Antonio River valley.

If all stays on track with the Capital Campaign fundraising, it is “**possible**” for the Polish Heritage Center to open in late 2019! This lead time is also needed because although the images of the interior exhibits have been finalized, they still need to be made, and that takes time. Everything in the Polish Heritage Center will be custom made. The plan is to do Phase III in stages. The first stage is to build out the offices and meeting room so that we can have an actual presence in the building. In other words, we will have a base of operations. Then, we will proceed by completing the interior, having the many exhibits installed, and then open so that we may showcase our ancestors and their faith, God willing!



The plan is to build out the area shaded in blue. This is the administrative and office area of the Polish Heritage Center. It consists of the Conference Room, three offices, restroom, computer room, Library-Archive room, and the connecting hallway. *There will be an elevator near the west entrance which will be enclosed for now and will be added at a later date.* This will then allow us to remove the *budka* (the nickname given to the red building that had been serving as our field office, the word means *shed* or *small building* in Polish) and become a functioning office. We will be able to have our Campaign Steering Committee, Solicitors Committee, Board of Directors, and many other support activities meetings! Our plan is to have the office staffed so that when you or visitors come by, we will be able to present the most up-to-date report on the progress of the Heritage Center and showcase the near future plans as well. It is exciting that soon we will have a presence in our Center to better be able to show it off!

What Are We – Museum or Heritage Center?

From Steve Harding

What is a Cultural/Heritage Center and how does it compare to a Traditional Museum?

A Museum is typically an institution devoted to acquiring, preserving, caring for, and organizing objects, groups of objects, or artifacts of lasting interest and importance for display.

A Cultural or Heritage Center can take many forms and may resemble a museum in that it may collect and display objects of lasting interest. *However*, the Cultural or Heritage Center typically dedicates itself to informing and educating visitors about a particular group of people, their customs, beliefs, traditions, material traits, and religious and social forms. In many instances the customary or traditional process used by these groups for handing down patterns of thought, action, beliefs, and customs has been by word of mouth or by example without written instructions.

Many Cultural or Heritage Centers have been established to inform and educate visitors about the refinement of intellectual and artistic taste or cultural beliefs of groups that no longer exists. These groups may have been destroyed, scattered or adsorbed into a larger, more diverse social landscape or so diluted through social integration that they no longer retain their cultural identity.

The goal and the challenge for the Polish Heritage Center is to inform and educate visitors and retain for posterity customs, beliefs, and traditions of the first permanent Polish Silesian settlers in America and their descendants. The further goal is to keep Polish Silesian customs, beliefs, and values vibrant and relevant in today's constantly changing cultural milieu.

We would like to thank and express our appreciation for those who have supported the Polish Heritage Center since our last newsletter:

Anonymous (3)

Velmon and Peggy Buehring, Karnes City, Texas

Elizabeth Burda, Yorktown, Texas

Carlos and Dina Cortez, Shavano Park, Texas

Lawrence Dabrowski, via Facebook

Robert C & Shirlene Skrobarcek Dillon, Jr, Taft, Texas

Jolanta Mazewski Dryden, Seabrook, Texas

Rebecca L. Eckerle, Runge, Texas

Jesse Estrada, San Antonio, Texas

Mr. & Mrs. Garland Gloor, Goliad, Texas

Fabian R & Gladys Janysek, Karnes City, Texas

Linda C Janysek & Family, Karnes City, Texas

Michael J & Velma M Janysek, Karnes City, Texas

Dorothy Kissling, San Antonio, Texas

William Krawietz, Bulverde, Texas

Leonard J & Mary L Krzywosinski, San Antonio, Texas

James K Lammons, St. Hedwig, Texas

Chris Makgy, Castroville, Texas

Guadalupe & Carlos Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas

Richard & Carolyn Osburg, Callham, Texas

John H. & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas

James J & Lorraine M Polonis, San Antonio, Texas

Clarence & Olivia Moczygemba Sobeczek, Adkins, Texas

Ronny and Elaine Stephens, La Vernia, Texas

District 11 TCAAA (Texas County Agricultural Agents Association), Cuero, Texas

Archie J & Alice F Titzman, San Antonio, Texas

Bobby & Rosalie Pieprzyca Walker, Killen, Alabama

Geraldine Moczygemba Wilder, Portland, Texas

John A and Mary Pollok Yanta Memorial Trust, San Antonio, Texas

Inspired by the Holy Spirit...

Two Priests Memorialized!



Rev. Peter Leo Foegelle
1901 - 1986



Rev. Theodore Joseph Janysek
1905 - 1989

Photos from *Priest Forever: History of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Texas 1915-1965*

The Holy Spirit sometimes whispers softly to inspire us. Such may have been the case when some family members of these two priests decided to memorialize them since our last newsletter. With special thanks, we appreciate the families of **Linda C. Janysek** of Karnes City and **Rebecca L. Eckerle** of Runge for making the generous and inspired choice to honor the legacies of *both* **Msgr. Foegelle** and **Msgr. Janysek**.

Each religious vocation from our immigrant families can be recognized! These men and women have unselfishly devoted their lives that we might continue to celebrate the faith of our ancestors. If you would like to memorialize a priest, nun, monk, or religious brother for a \$10,000 donation, please contact **John Wojtasczyk** at 210-387-7472 or 210-733-1979.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT ARTICLE IN THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS!



By Jennifer Hiller, San Antonio Express-News. Photo: John Davenport, San Antonio Express-News

Kiolbassa has operated out of its Brazos Street headquarters since 1949 when **Michael Kiolbassa's** grandparents, **Rufus and Juanita Kiolbassa**, founded the Kiolbassa Provision Co. When **Rufus** died at age 45, their son **Robert** — **Michael's** father — took over leadership of the business. **Michael**, shown above, joined the company in 1987.

A few years ago, San Antonio-based Kiolbassa Smoked Meats was growing — on its way to selling its smoked sausage, bacon and chorizo products in all 50 states. Kiolbassa Smoked Meats has around 275 employees, mostly in San Antonio, though there also are sales teams in Florida, the Midwest and Northwest Arkansas — near the large grocery chains where the company sells its sausage.

What's your morning routine? Get up around 5-5:15 every morning. Do some reading and prayer time between 5:15 and 6:30. Usually I spend most of my days on people. I make a people list every day rather than a task list. These are people I want to connect with and talk to whether they're customers or team members or suppliers.

Yes! *If it's not the best sausage you've ever eaten, I'll give you your money back.*

MICHAEL KIOLBASSA ★ 210.226.8127

Comments or Questions? Kiolbassa.com



In 1949, Rufus & Juanita Kiolbassa founded our family company to enrich the lives of others. Every day, we carry on the tradition with our team, the communities we serve, and you! You're the reason we slow-craft our smoked sausage using only the finest meats, spices and ingredients and never any fillers, gluten or MSG.

Thanks for your business, Bob, Barbara, Sandra, & Michael
KIOLBASSA PROVISION COMPANY, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78207

Bobby Kiolbassa, son of Rufus & Juanita Kiolbassa, was the 2nd generation family member to run the family business. Today, 3rd generation member Michael is at the helm.

Our name means sausage!

Holy Father St. John Paul II is shown at his 1987 San Antonio Papal Visit. On his left is Msgr. Thomas Lyssy. The hand that the Holy Father is reaching out to greet is that of Msgr. Harry Mazurkiewicz, Austin Diocese.



FUNERAL MEMORIALS



Clem Bednarz

1922-2018

Funeral memorials made by family & friends to the Polish

Heritage Center in memory of *Clem Bednarz*

Henry Bednarz, Stella Bednarz, Theresa & Bernadette Blulm, Ethel Creswell, Paul & Laura Dylla, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Dziuk, Joe & Janice Jaksik, Carolyn Janysek, Clarence & Linda Janysek, Alice Jarzombek, Alice & James Jarzombek, Doris Jarzombek, Terry Jarzombek, Louise & James Jurgajtis, Kathy & Milton Kopecki, Anthony Kruciak, Frank & Mary Kruciak, Ben & Lillian Laskowski, Mike & Adelene Manka, Philip & Stacey Mika, Alison Moczygamba, Leroy & Debbie Moy, Lillian Moy, Daryl & Michelle Pawelek, Randy & Debbie Pawelek, Adrian Pawelek, Lottie & Sam Pieprzyca, Glen & Sharon Robbins, Mary Lou Rutkowski, Mary Ann Kotara Schirmer, Donald, Evelyn, & Steven Staines, John W Urbanczyk, Kenneth & Bonnie Wiatrek, and Lori & Jeff Wiatrek.

Bishop Yanta's Mail Bag

Rev. Msgr. Bernard A. Przybocki

Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Pennsylvania

Dear Bishop Yanta:

*Your representative, **John Cebrowski**, talked to us at this year's PAPA Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, April 9 –13. I have not written earlier because I wanted to study my bank statements to make sure I have enough to make a donation.*

I would like to make a major donation in memory of my parents and their 12 children. Could you please send me more information so I can proceed with this project.

I congratulate you on your efforts to build such a memorial and I do want to help.

The astonishment continues with a letter that he received from a member of the Congregation of St. Brigid who teaches at the Mexican American Catholic College and whom some of you might recognize!

Dear Bishop John,

I received this gift (\$60) from a student. With joy I share it with you for your project of Evangelization. May you see it finished and operating the way the Lord wants it to function. I look forward to doing a retreat there some day.

Sr. Luz Moreno, CSB

Dear Bishop Yanta,

*My mother is **Mary Manka**, daughter of **Alex & Julia Manka**, and was born and raised in Panna Maria. Enclosed is a thumb device that contains the back and front of all her holy cards and a few pictures of her prayer books in Polish. After looking at them if you want them I would be happy to donate part or all.*

Jeanelle Respondek

Houston, Texas

Texas Folklife Festival 2018 at the San Antonio Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, Texas



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June 25, 2018

ANNUAL REPORTS

We are going to recognize and thank **ALL** our donors in our first annual report, which is really a five year report beginning August 1, 2012 till December 31, 2017. This is a cumulative report of your gifts because many of you have given several gifts, i.e. annually, monthly, etc., over time. We are in the process of completing our first annual report. Please donate what you can as the Lord has blessed you so that we might have a proper faith filled remembrance of our deceased ancestors and family members. Every donation is needed and appreciated as we go forward to the total completion of our Polish Heritage Center. Below is the report format. Thank you!

Levels of Giving

Recognition for Capital Campaign & Sustaining Endowment

*Saint John Paul II Society **

\$1,000,000 and above

*Families of Original Settlers Society **

\$500,000 to \$999,999

*Father Leopold Moczygemba Society **

\$100,000 to \$499,999

Marie Skłodowska Curie Society

\$75,000 to \$99,999

Copernicus Society

\$50,000 to \$74,999

Tadeusz Kościuszko Society

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Casimir Pulaski Society

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Peter Kiolbassa Society

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Frederic Chopin Society

\$1,000 to \$4,999

American Polonia Donor Book Listing

Up to \$999

* signifies Heritage Circle Membership

Campaign Steering Committee gathered in front of the Polish Heritage Center



From left to right: Judy Jarzombek Scheffler, Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden, Al Notzon, Sam Kotara, Mary Havel, John Wojtasczyk, Rev. Wiesław Iwaniec, John Cebrowski, Susan Moczygemba McKinsey, George & Betty Kowalik, Laura Dylla, Joe Yanta, Susie Kotara, & Pat Hoffmann

Members of the Campaign Steering Committee and Polish National Alliance Region H director, **Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden**, gathered for a quick photo op in front of the newly completed building for the Polish Heritage Center before their meeting to discuss and go over the current Capital Campaign for the Heritage Center. These individuals are your front line in finding out not only the latest on the progress of the Polish Heritage Center, but more importantly how **YOU** can be part of the success in preserving our proud Polish heritage and legacy.



From left to right: Bishop Yanta, Sam Kotara, Al Notzon, Joe Yanta, Laura Dylla, Robert Morkovsky, Mark Morkovsky, and John Cebrowski. At this meeting, Mark & Robert Morkovsky present a proposal regarding the beginning of the first stage of Phase III.

Bishop's corner

Praise Be Jesus Christ!

This newsletter is very important because we are now dedicating our attention to the beautiful interior of our Polish Heritage Center. The exhibits tell the story from the very beginning of our faith and Polish culture in 966 A.D. Jesus said *Go and make disciples of all the nations (Mt 28:19)*. St. Patrick gets credit for the conversion of the Irish people. Our Mexican brothers and sisters became Catholic in 1531 after Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico City. How did we become Christians? It began with Saints Cyril and Methodius, Greek brothers who evangelized the Slavic peoples. In 966 A.D., Prince Mieszko of Poland married the Czech Princess Dobrawa, a strong Catholic. With that he became a Catholic, and also the rest of Poland became Catholic.



God Bless You and Yours,

†Bishop John W. Yanta

The conversion and Baptism of Poland and her people in 966 A.D.

Image designed by George Lepo