

Is Our Polonia Doomed To Extinction?

— by Robert Strybel, Polish/Polonian Affairs Contributor

WILL A NEW INFLEX REVITALIZE OUR POLAM COMMUNITY?

The prediction of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz appeared likely to come true. During his stay in the U.S. before the outbreak of World War I, he had turned down an invitation to attend the dedication of a newly built Polish school. Sienkiewicz felt Polonia was doomed to rapid assimilation, hence such projects were a waste of time, money and effort. He could hardly have envisaged the DP (displaced person) generation of post World War II émigrés who revitalized the Polonian scene just when it appeared to be sinking deeper into cultural stagnation.

By the 1960-70s, Polonia was again facing a crisis. The postwar flight to suburbia and resultant decline of the once tight-knit Polish neighborhoods had taken their toll. But that was when ethnic renaissance loomed on the horizon. Suddenly it became *in to be ethnic*. “Black is Beautiful” and “Kiss Me I’m Irish” were proclaimed by T-shirts and bumper stickers. African Studies programs began arising at universities, and cultural pluralism now appeared to be to growing thing. PolAms, including many third and fourth generation Polonians, contributed to this development. The *Polack joke*, widely peddled by America’s entertainment industry at that time, in many cases made PolAms more assertive and willing to stand up for their heritage than ever. At the height of the hippie era, the late Michal Krolewski, the leader of Detroit’s militant youth group, the PolAm Folk Theater, used to say: “We get high on Polish folk culture, not on drugs!”

The vicious *Polack jokes* lost much of their steam after a Polish cardinal from Kraków became Pope John Paul II, inspiring the Solidarity Movement which led to the collapse of communist rule in Poland and across the continent. The Warsaw regime’s 1981 martial-law crackdown only delayed communism’s ultimate demise, but resulted in yet another revitalizing wave of immigration to America. Since then, other Poles have moved to the United States, including winners of the U.S. visa lotteries. Have enough of them become involved in PolAm community affairs and business ventures to assure our Polonia’s continued development? That is the 64-zloty question!

There has been a certain amount of friction between successive immigrant generations. The old bread-seeking immigrants of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were suspicious of the post-World War II DPs who, with the passage of time, themselves became the *Old Polonia*. Many did not see eye to eye with the post-Solidarity influx and those had different priorities than the visa-lottery winners. Such differences are completely normal. At the same time, each successive wave helped rejuvenate

Polonia, breathing new life into existing organizations and new ones. If Poles and Polonians had been more inclined to work together for the good of the PolAm community rather than having their own way, probably much more could have been accomplished.

At present, there is no on the horizon that would major wave of Polish America’s shores.

When and if Poland is finally included in the U.S. visa-waiver program, the existing trickle of Polish newcomers may increase slightly, but that will not produce a significant influx. Those concerned about our community’s continued existence and development will probably have to work mainly with our existing human resources, and possibly introduce some innovative approaches to the task. Still, just as Sienkiewicz was proved wrong, we cannot rule out some turn of events that would witness a new wave of Poles hoping to find a new life for themselves in America.

THE NOSTALGIC GOOD OL’ DAYS WILL NOT RETURN

The first significant groups of Polish immigrants landed in the US in the latter half of the 19th century. They first saved up money to build a church, then a school, then a social hall. In the meantime, Polish-style meat markets and bakeries as well as drug stores, doctors’ and lawyers’ offices, a Polish-language newspaper and other facilities serving Polonian customers sprung up. Such tight-knit Polish communities eventually arose in countless localities of the American northeast and midwest.

The post World War II era marked a major turning point for Polonia. Although many traditional Polish neighborhoods were still thriving on into the 1960-70s, and even longer, suburban dispersal was already taking its toll. The most distinctive landmarks indicating where Poles once lived are the often impressive neo-Gothic and Baroque churches colloquially known in America as *Polish cathedrals*. Most still remain standing, some continue to function as churches, often serving Hispanic, Vietnamese or other groups, while others have been declared historic sites, converted for other purposes, and in some cases torn down for industry.

Many older PolAms are pained to see that the church where they made their First Holy Communion and got married and the parochial school where the Good Sisters taught them the four R’s (reading, ‘riting, ‘rithmetic, and religion) are no more. The same goes for the Dom Polski social halls that once dotted Polish America. Some are still operating, but it’s a far cry from the days when they were the hub of the PolAm community. Weddings every Saturday except during Lent, showers, polka parties, *opłatek*-dinners and *gwieconkas*, Polish language and culture classes and folk-dance practice, not to mention meetings of different Polonian organizations — something was always happening there.

Such a place was this writer’s hometown of Hamtramck, Detroit’s once predominantly Polish enclave-suburb. You would hear Polish spoken on the streets and attend to all your business in that language. Paper boys would bring to the *DZIENNIK POLSKI* (daily) to nearly every home. Families tuned to WJLB’s *POLISH VARIETIES PROGRAM* and (on Sundays) to the Father Justyn Rosary Hour. And the wonderful scent of Polish bread, *babka* and *paczki*, and the smoky-garlic fragrance of Polish sausage wafted into the street delighting passers-by of the many Polish bakeries and meat markets.

Even after moving away, many PolAms would make pilgrimages to the old Polonian neighborhood to stock up on the ethnic goodies not widely available in antiseptic suburbia. And, as long as the Polish-born grandparents were alive, there would be homecoming for Christmas, Easter, birthdays and other family meet-ups. When *Babcia* and *Dziadek* went on to their reward, the drift-away from things Polish often accelerated. Most of that is now only a memory.



POL-AM EXTINCTION? – Continued from previous page

It can be nostalgically reminisced about and maybe shared with younger family members, but there's no going back. Barring some unforeseeable calamity, the tight-knit Polish neighborhood of yesteryear is not likely to reappear. Does that mean (as the title of this article suggests) that Polonia is doomed to extinction? Maybe yes, maybe no. One thing is certain: the PolAm community of the future will be different and will have to adjust to changing lifestyles, educational levels and residential patterns. It appears then that Polonia will have to think innovatively, blaze new trails and redefine itself or perish!

YOUTH OUTREACH — THE ONLY SOLUTION

What does the future hold in store for the PolAm experience? That all depends on individual Polish Americans. Every Polonian group, organization or community hoping to survive and pass its ideals and values down to coming generations should display sufficient interest in and concern about its young people. It is they, after all, who will carry the torch and hopefully one day pass it on to the next generation.

But what if the young people aren't interested? It is easy enough to get preschoolers involved in ethnic activities, since they are still quite family-minded and usually eager to be part of things. Grade-schoolers can be signed up by their grandparents for insurance with a PolAm fraternal and take part in some of its activities. They can be taken to this or Polish

fest or other ethnic event by their parents, be driven to their Polish Saturday School or maybe even talked into joining some PolAm youth club or dance group. But as childhood turns into pre-adolescence, things often get more difficult. By then they are likely to have their own popculture-inspired and peer-reinforced interests (rock music, cars, computers, sports, the opposite sex) with little time or inclination for anything else.

Appreciation for one's Polish heritage is not something that can be forced on anyone, and attempting to do so may have the exact opposite effect, especially among rebellious teenagers. But it should be remembered that those same restless but gullible teens are such easy prey for the pop-culture establishment which uses every psychological trick and marketing gimmick in the book to make the gadget, snack, pop hit, computer game, fashion, lifestyle or viewpoint they happen to be peddling appear desirable and attractive. The powers of omnipresent commercialism exploit the teenager's feelings of inadequacy, uncertainty, confusion and fear of rejection and persuade him that by using their product or following their advice he will gain peer acceptance.

Perhaps Polonia would do well to implement some of those techniques in dealing with the younger generation. Isn't the popularization of our heritage among Polonia's young people at least as important as some mega-corporation launching a new fast food, pop song or dress fad?

Below are some ideas worth considering:

Polish Saturday Schools: Polish Supplementary Schools, also known as Polish Saturday Schools, operate in most North American cities with a considerable Polonian population. Classes are conducted at the elementary and high school levels and include Polish language, history and culture, folk dancing, crafts and field trips. Some young people may balk at having to attend school on Saturday, but many make friends with others young PolAms with whom they have much in common. Visit: WWW.SZKOLYPOLSKIE.ORG

Polish Scouting: The Polish Scouting Organization is Polonia's scouting movement for boys and girls of all ages, from Cub Scouts (Zuchy) to Eagle Scouts (Starsze Harcerstwo). Besides acquiring typical scouting skills such as woodland survival techniques, harcerze also learn Polish campfire songs, games and activities and get exposed to the Polish language and tradition. Polish Scouts have their headquarters in Chicago and operate several woodland camps. Details at: OKREG@ZHPPGK.US

National Polish Apostolate Youth Leadership Conference: The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA, is the venue of a gathering meant to unite, strengthen, and prepare the future leaders of the U.S. Polonia. Bright, ambitious young PolAms aged 16-29 meet to discuss how Polish cultural and religious heritage, the traditions and beliefs passed down through generations influence their lives. Camping, movies, group games, and other activities are included. Visit: PYLCUSA@LIVE.COM

American Polish Advisory Council: Young PolAms interested in politics may find this group a rewarding experience. It is a not-for-profit group incorporated in the District of Columbia in 2004 that launched a Polish-American Platform, which was signed by over 300 Polish American organizations. Its main thrust is to make Polonia's priorities known to candidates for political office. Visit: WWW.APACOUNCIL.INFO

Polish Knowledge Olympics: This Polish Knowledge Bowl, whose sponsors include the Polish Consulate and the Polish National Alliance, seems an interesting way to promote interest in Polish affairs, history and heritage. One year it attracted some 600 students from 16 Chicagoland public schools with bilingual Polish-English curricula who had made it to the finals. Trophies were awarded to winners in five different categories, and all the finalists were treated to dinner in a Polish restaurant.

Folk-Dancing: There are Polish folk song and dance ensembles throughout North America, and many of them are populated largely by teenagers and young adults. Participation cultivates grace, stamina and overall fitness, gives participants an opportunity to travel and perform before audiences and come into contact with PolAm peers. Many singles eventually "got hitched", set up families and often provide another generation of Polish folk dancers. PolAm folk-dance groups take part in a World Polish Folklore Festival in Rzeszow, Poland. Visit: WWW.PFDAA.ORG

Greater Diversity - the New Poland: Even if you're crazy about polkas and obereks, for the sake of Polonia's future occasionally try to rise above personal preference. You may hate hip-hop, techno and heavy metal, but that's what the younger set is into. Featuring the Polish version of those music styles may be an eye-opening experience to younger PolAms who often consider Polish things to be old and corny. That revelation could provide an indirect way of exposing them to more valuable aspects of our heritage.

Trip to Poland: When all is said and done, there is no better way to getting a young PolAm hooked on his heritage than taking or sending him or her on a vacation to Poland. Nearly everyone who has visited in their formative years has come away with a deeper appreciation for and interest in things Polish. They may balk at first, "What's there to do and see in Poland?" So include London, Paris, or Rome as an additional stop.



Polish American Leadership Summit

On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11 and 12, a meeting of the leaders of the major groups within Polonia in the United States was held in Pittsburgh, PA. This Leadership Summit was brought about through the efforts of Dr. Don Pienkos, Ph.D., and put forth by the Wisconsin Division of the Polish American Congress in May, 2013. Don was joined in this endeavor by Tim Kuzma, who sought and received support from the National Executive Committee of the PAC, of which he is National Secretary, and President of the Polish Falcons of America. Tim was also responsible for much of the ground work for the Summit and he also secured the participation of Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf from the Republic of Poland, who was with us during the Summit. In September of 2013, Dr. Barbara Anderson of the PAC Washington, D.C. Office joined Don and Tim in making this meeting a reality. It is important to note that all but one of the groups invited was represented and participated in this historic Summit.

The aim of the Summit was to engage the leadership of Polonia to come together to discuss the issues and challenges facing the Polish American Community in a substantial and open manner. Secondly, to develop, agreed upon and effective responses, to the challenges facing Polonia and Poland in the 21st Century.

After formal introductions given by all present, the following groups (chosen for the Panel discussion before the Summit gathered) presented their views on the greatest challenges facing the Polish American Community today: Tim Kuzma, Polish Falcons; Nick Sadowski, Polish Daily News; Deborah Majka, American Council for Polish Culture; Fr. Walter J. Ptak, Polish American Priests Association; Thaddeus Radzilowski, Piast Institute and Polish American Historical Association.

The second day of the Summit was dedicated to small group discussion on five important topics concerning Polonia. After discussing these issues in four breakout groups, the results were brought back to the whole group for comment and or further discussion. At the end of day two, cut short by the approaching snow storm, we decided to wait until the information we had to share was tabulated and distributed to all participants before the next step was decided upon. All were in agreement about the positive outcome of this first Summit.

This meeting is a new beginning for Polonia to come together and work side by side for the good of all who make up this large group in our American Society. Together we can and will accomplish many things. Alone, the future is not so bright. More information will follow as it becomes available.

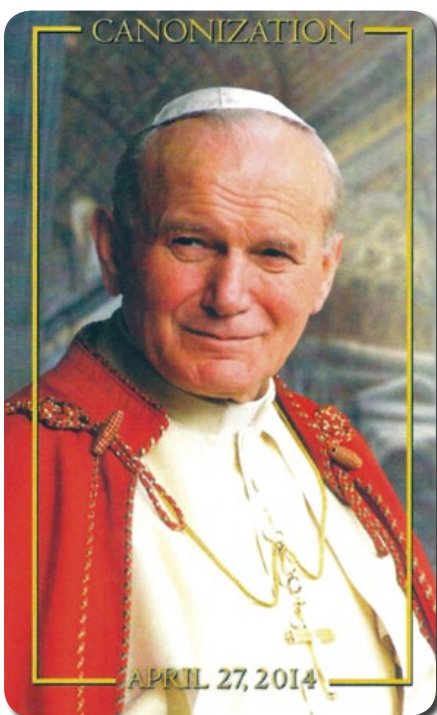
The participants of the conference were as follows: Barbara Anderson, PAC Washington D.C.; Dorota Andraka, Polish Supplementary School Council of America; Anthony Bajdek, Polish American Congress; Alex Fiedotjew, National Advocates Society/National Medical and Dental Association; Gregory Fryc, Pangea Alliance; Irene Jugan, Polish National Union; Jim Kaczynski, Polish American Journal; Boiena Kaminski, Polish American Congress; Ewa Koch, Polish Teachers Association; Timothy Kuzma, Polish Falcons; Susanne Lotarski, American Polish Advisory Council; Msgr. Thomas Machalski, The Orchard Lake Schools; Deborah Majka, American Council for Polish Culture; Donald Pienkos, Polish National Alliance; Mary Kay Pieski, Kosciuszko Foundation; Fr. Walter Ptak, Polish American Priests Association; Thaddeus Radzilowski, Piast Institute/Polish American Historical Association; James Robaczewski, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; Nick Sadowski, Polish Daily News; Jan Saykiewicz, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America; Anna Sokolowska, Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; Sharon Zago, Polish Women's Alliance of America.

– Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak, PAPA President

USCCB President Says St. John Paul II National Shrine A 'Fitting Tribute' to The Late, Great Pope

The U.S. bishops' March 19 designation of a center in Washington as the St. John Paul II National Shrine reflects U.S. Catholics' love for the late pope, said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky. As president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he signed the decree declaring the designation for the site of the former John Paul II Cultural Center. It took effect April 27, 2014, the day Pope Francis canonized St. John Paul II and St. John XXIII. Liturgical celebrations, a reception and a gathering of young people marked the occasion. "This national shrine is truly America's fitting tribute and remembrance of his legacy," said Archbishop Kurtz. The JPII Center, which first opened in 2001 as a cultural center, named for the pope, with a research component, museum and gallery, sits on 12 acres in Washington D.C.'s northeast quadrant just steps from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and The Catholic University of America. The Knights of Columbus took ownership of the facility in 2011, with plans to create a shrine dedicated to the Saint and his contributions to the Church and society. It had recently been known as the Blessed John Paul II Shrine.

– Submitted by Fr. Leonard Konopka



Your Excellency, are YOU Polish?

Throughout the years of your priesthood you must have wondered how many members of the hierarchy of the Church in the United States are of some Polish origin. I found out that one of them is by listening to his homily in which he referred to his "Polish Grandmother's cooking."

At the beginning of the twentieth century the creation of the Polish National Catholic Church had as one of the reasons for its establishment the absence of a Polish bishop among the hierarchy at that time. We love and pray for our Polish American Catholic bishops listed below.

If you are of Polish ancestry and have been omitted from the list, please let PAPA know, and we'll be honored to add your name to the list below in our next PAPA BULLETIN. Please email us at: OLCHANCELL@AOL.COM



Polish American Bishops

Among The Roman Catholic Episcopacy of the United States

- 
- Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, PA
Archbishop-Emeritus Eusebius Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, OK
Archbishop Leonard Blair, Archbishop of Hartford, CT
Bishop Paul Bootkoski, Bishop of Metuchen, NJ
Bishop Robert Brom, Bishop-Emeritus of San Diego, CA
Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz, Diocese of Lincoln, NE
Archbishop Robert Carleson, Archbishop of St. Louis, MO
Bishop Daniel Walkowiak, Diocese of Grand Rapids, MI
Bishop Raphael Fliss, Diocese of Superior, WI
Bishop Edward M. Grosz, Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo, NY
Bishop Donald Hanchon, Auxiliary Bishop Archdiocese of Detroit, MI
Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda, Coadjutor-Archbishop of Newark, NJ
Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, Diocese of Peoria, IL
Bishop Edward Kmiec, Bishop-Emeritus, Buffalo, NY
Bishop Joseph Kopacz, Diocese of Jackson, MS
Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville, KY
Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI, Archbishop of Milwaukee, WI
Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop-Emeritus, Archdiocese of Detroit, MI
Bishop Dale Melczek, Bishop of Gary, IN
Bishop Robert Morlino, Diocese of Madison, WI
Bishop Thaddeus Paprocki, Diocese of Springfield, IL
Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, Archbishop-Emeritus of Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH
Bishop Francis Reiss, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Detroit, MI
Bishop Mitchell Rozanski, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD
Archbishop Alexander Sample, Archbishop of Archdiocese of Portland, OR
Archbishop Roger Schwietz, OMI, Archbishop of Anchorage, AL
Bishop Gilbert Shelton, Bishop-Emeritus of Diocese of Steubenville, OH
Edmund Cardinal Szoka, Archbishop-Emeritus of Archdiocese of Detroit, MI
Archbishop Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Archdiocese of Miami, FL
Bishop Andrew P. Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Chicago, IL
Bishop John Yanta, Bishop-Emeritus of Diocese of Amarillo, TX
Bishop Andrzej Jerzy Zgliszewski, Auxiliary Bishop of Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY
Bishop David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, PA

2013 PAPA Convention Report

The 24th Polish American Priests' Association Convention, hosted by the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and Altoona-Johnstown, PA, began on Monday, April 8, 2013 with a welcome banquet at the Pittsburgh Doubletree Hotel, venue for the duration of the 2013 PAPA Convention. The Most Rev. William Waltersheid, Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh, welcomed the 60 convention delegates in the name of the Ordinary, His Excellency Bishop David Zubik and the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Business sessions were conducted on the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, which consisted of reports from various PAPA Diocesan chapters. The Most Rev. Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, and Executive Director of the CATHOLIC LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND spoke to the delegates regarding the work and needs of the LIGA.

His Excellency John Yanta, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Amarillo, TX, and founding member of PAPA, spoke on the progress of the Cultural Center in Panna Maria in his home state of Texas.

Msgr. Thomas Machalski, Jr., Chancellor-Rector of the Orchard Lake Schools (OLS) updated the delegates on recent developments at OLS as well as Seminarian enrollments in the theologate there.

Delegates spent afternoons visiting Diocesan and Polish points of interest. Tuesday afternoon, they prayed and then toured the Cathedral of St. Paul in Pittsburgh, followed by a tour of the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh. A visit was made, with a prayer service included, at the Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka, the oldest Polish Parish in Western Pennsylvania. Bishop John Yanta was Celebrant at a convention Mass held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit. A dinner followed Holy Mass, at which Betty Seymour from the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and Postulator for the Cause of Father (Prince) Demetrius Gallitzin, spoke on the life of the Prince-Priest who, served for nearly 40 years as a missionary priest in Western Pennsylvania.

On Wednesday afternoon PAPA Convention attendees visited the neighboring Diocese of Greensburg. It began with a Holy Hour at St. Joseph Church in Everson, PA, at which they watched a presentation on the life of Fr. Justin Figas, OFM, Conv., who was founder of the media-favorite FATHER JUSTIN ROSARY HOUR and who was also a native of the Everson Parish. Next stop was a

visit to the St. Maximillian Kolbe Shrine in Footdale, PA, followed by Holy Mass for the PAPA Convention (in Footdale) celebrated by the Most Rev. Mark Bartchak, Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. At the dinner following the Mass, Timothy Kuzma of the Polish Falcons of America gave a talk on the work of that organization.

We spent Thursday afternoon visiting St. Adalbert Catholic Church site at the Prince of Peace Parish, where delegates had the opportunity to meet and greet His Eminence Stanisław Cardinal Dziwisz, Archbishop of Kraków, Poland, and 40-year Secretary to our Polish Pope, St. John Paul II. The Cardinal also joined the delegates for a Polish luncheon. The highlight of the 2013 PAPA Convention was the Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in the Polish Hill Section of Pittsburgh, concelebrated by their Eminences Cardinal Dziwisz and

Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop-Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Detroit. While previous conventions hosted Cardinal Maida and various archbishops and bishops, the convention in Pittsburgh was the first time that two living Cardinals of the Church were present at a PAPA Convention Mass. The Most Rev. David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, gave the homily at the Mass, attended by more than 500 people.

The 2013 PAPA Convention Planning Committee agreed on a unique venue for the closing evening banquet by opting to hold it as a cruise on the GATEWAY CLIPPER on the Three Rivers in Pittsburgh. Sister Mary Christopher Moore, CSSF, Provincial of the Felician Sisters of North America was the keynote speaker. Sister Moore took the opportunity to speak of the rich heritage that connected Polish American people with their Polish priests.

Highlighting the evening PAPA Banquet was the presentation of the 2013 PAPA REV. LEOPOLD MOCZYGEMBA AWARD to Fr. Joseph Swierczynski, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, for his longstanding efforts in promoting Polish culture, customs, and dedication to Polonia in Pittsburgh.

The 2013 PAPA Convention closed Friday, April 12, with Mass and a final business session. We offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the members of the PAPA Convention Planning Committee from the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, and Altoona-Johnstown for an outstanding and enjoyable 2013 PAPA Convention.

– Fr. Ronald V. Osinski



Prayer for the Intercession of St. John Paul II



O Blessed Trinity, we thank You for having graced the Church with Saint John Paul II,
And for allowing the tenderness of Your Fatherly care,
The glory of the Cross of Jesus Christ,
And the Splendor of the Holy Spirit of Love to shine through him.
Trusting fully in Your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother,
He has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd.
He has shown us that holiness is
The necessary measure of ordinary Christian life
And is the way of achieving eternal communion with You.
Grant us, by his intercession, and according to Your will,
The graces we implore,
Through Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

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PAPA CORRESPONDENTS

Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois

Greetings and Salutations to all!

My name is Fr. Edward Mikolajczyk. Last June, I was elected President of the PAPA Chapter in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I am privileged and honored to accept this responsibility. Under the guidance of the Most Rev. Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, we remain a strong organization that serves the Polish community in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

We gathered as an organization in November 2013. At this meeting, we were reminded of our call to serve and minister to the people in our parishes. The challenge for us was to go back and encourage young people and priests to learn and appreciate the traditions and the heritage of Poland and continue to share and live them with our children and families in our parish communities.

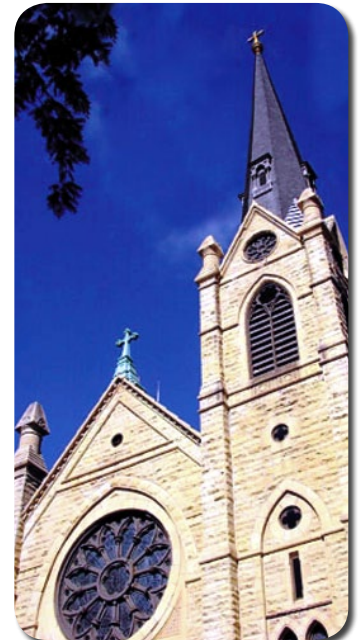
One of our goals as an organization was to continue to evangelize and inform the priests and the seminarians about PAPA. We have a wonderful presbyterate. The opportunity to support and collaborate our efforts as a presbyterate is something we are trying to achieve. Our intention is to organize and plan a luncheon for the seminarians at Mundelein and Bishop Abramowicz Seminary twice during the year in an informal setting, giving us a chance to get to know them and encouraging them to learn about PAPA.

During the 2013 Fall congregation of Chicago priests serving Polonia in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Joliet, and Gary dioceses, Bishop Wypych introduced a project called *Our Lady of Czestochowa Ministry Network for Polonia in the Archdiocese of Chicago*. Composed of clusters of parishes with Polish ministry the purpose would be to unite Chicago Polonia through formation and nurturing of strong Catholic families. We pledged our active support for that project to further benefit Polonia and priestly brotherhood.

We are truly excited about the canonization on Divine Mercy Sunday of St. Pope John Paul II and St. Pope John XXIII. Several celebrations marked this special occasion. We encouraged our parishioners to pray for vocations and emphasize their importance to the Church. We remain very grateful for all contributions that PAPA has made over the years to assist and minister to the Polish community.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy Easter Season. *Wesołego Alleuia!*

– Fr. Edward Mikolajczyk President, PAPA Chicago Chapter. Correspondent



Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago

Remembering Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Thad Jakubowski

Retired Auxiliary Bishop Thad Jakubowski, 89, died July 14, 2013, at St. Mary's of Providence Home, where he lived. We remember him as a pastor and teacher, someone who was direct and approachable. "He was a realist," said the Most Rev. Timothy Lyne, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus and Vicar for Senior Priests for the Archdiocese of Chicago. "He was very perceptive when facing challenging issues and seeing people and accepting them as they were."

Bishop Jakubowski was born in Chicago in 1924. He attended St. Mary Magdalene School and Quigley Preparatory Seminary before entering St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein. He earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology there, and later a Master of Arts degree in Classics from Loyola University Chicago.

He was ordained by †Samuel Cardinal Stritch in 1950, and then Auxiliary Bishop by †His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Bernardin in 1988. He served as Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate IV, which comprises the Northwest Side of Chicago and the near west suburbs.

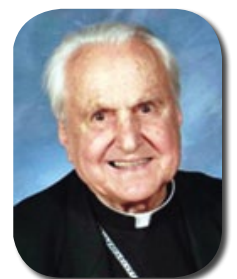
As a priest he served as Associate Pastor at St. Ann Parish (1950-1957), before teaching classical languages and eventually becoming Dean of Students at Quigley North (1957-1976). He also served as Associate Pastor at St. Bartholomew, Pastor at St. Robert Bellarmine (1976-1988), Urban Vicar (1977-1984) and Dean of Deanery Eight (1984-1988). He then resided as Chaplain-in-Residence at St. Mary of Providence, a home for women with developmental disabilities.

He also served as Executive Director of the CATHOLIC LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND.

During his years as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, he served as the Cardinal's Liaison to the Polish Community and was intensely and consistently involved with Chicago's Polish Catholics. His work was recognized by that Community first in 1997 with the COPERNICAN AWARD and in 2009 with the COMMANDER CROSS WITH STAR AND WHITE EAGLE OF THE ORDER OF MERIT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND, the highest honor medal awarded to a non-citizen of Poland.

A vigil was held July 18, 2013 at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated on July 19 at Holy Name Cathedral. Fr. Thomas Mulcrone, Chaplain of the City of Chicago Fire Department, who lived with Bishop Jakubowski at St. Mary of Providence, gave the homily. He is survived by a brother, Edward, and several nieces and nephews.

– Chicago Catholic News World



† Bishop Thad Jakubowski

Archdiocese of Hartford, Diocese of Bridgeport, Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut



Our regular yearly schedule for the Association of Polish Priests of Connecticut is a meeting in April and in October/November, when we celebrate our Mass for deceased Polish Priests. We also gather at least 13 of our Polish parishes in Connecticut for the Celebration of 40 Hours Devotions during the year.

Most of our parishes have survived not being linked and none have been closed as of now.

Officers of the Association of Polish Priests of Connecticut are Fr. Darius Gosciniak, President; Fr. John Goias, Vice-President, Fr. Damian Tomiczek, Secretary, and Msgr. Dan Plocharczyk, Treasurer.

Your PAPA National President and PAPA BULLETIN Editor have explained in other articles why it made sense to cancel the 2014 PAPA Convention. We stand ready to accept the 2015 or 2016 Convention – whatever the PAPA National Officers decide.

On December 16, 2013, the Archdiocese of Hartford installed its Fifth Archbishop, His Excellency the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, formerly Bishop of Toledo. Archbishop Blair has been listed in our list of Bishops who claim Polish ancestry. The Archbishop's mother's maiden name was Majewska. He grew up in the Archdiocese of Detroit under Cardinals Dearden, Szoka, and Maida. We have prayerfully welcomed him as our new Archbishop. We are still in the process of compiling and adding on to our Association's history, which is being worked on by Professor Romuald Byczkiewicz from Central Connecticut State University in New Britain.

– Msgr. Daniel Plocharczyk, PAPA Past President, President, Association of Polish Priests of Connecticut, Correspondent

2013 Report From Priests Conference for Polish Affairs Of the Archdiocese of Detroit



Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
I bring you greetings from your brother priests of the *Priests Conference for Polish Affairs* of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Over these many years of the existence of PAPA we continue hoping for a larger membership from our priest groups at these annual gatherings. I believe that from our group we have six attendees.

Our group meets four times a year, each meeting at a different venue. Traditionally the June meeting takes place at Orchard Lake prior to the annual dinner of appreciation to which all priests of the archdiocese are invited. At this meeting the Bishop Stephen Woznicki award is presented to a deserving member. Last June the recipient was our National President, Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak.

The December meeting and Wigilia Dinner takes place at Our Lady of Częstochowa Parish of the Society of Christ fathers. Our other two meetings were held at Wyandotte Mt. Carmel Parish in March where our National President, Father Walter Ptak, is pastor. The September meeting was at the parish of our conference's treasurer, St. Therese of Lisieux. After our meeting Polonia and parishioners' joined us for Mass commemorating the 25th anniversary of the visit to Detroit of His Holiness, Blessed John Paul II. The celebrant of the Mass was Cardinal Edmund Szoka who was the Archbishop of Detroit at the time and who was responsible for the visit to the Archdiocese of Detroit of Blessed John Paul II.

Our conference of priests is the most generous group supporting PAPA. During this past year we contributed \$900.

We were deeply saddened by the death of two of our members last June: Msgr. Walter Ziemba and Fr. Clifford Ruskowski, both members of the Orchard Lake Schools faculty. Msgr. Ziemba spent all 61 years of his priesthood at the Orchard Lake Schools.

During this past year we worked with the Orchard Lake Schools to organize a Memorial Mass for Józef Cardinal Glemp.

Our members participated in the Silver Anniversary of Ordination of our National PAPA President, Fr. Ptak.

With the Orchard Lake Schools we hosted Stanisław Cardinal Dziwisz in July. After a Solemn Liturgy a banquet was held in the Orchard Lake Schools banquet hall to raise funds for the John Paul II Foundation founded by the Cardinal in Kraków.

Yours truly has served as an officer of the PCPA for 20 years, a treasurer for two terms, and three different times elected as president. This past March I refused nomination. The new President is Fr. Stanley Ulman; the Vice-President is Fr. Bogdan Miłosz; Fr. Gary Michalik continues as Secretary, and Fr. Larry Zurawski serves as Treasurer. Both are here during this writing.

Our treasury has approximately \$6,000 in its operating funds and more than \$41,000 in its endowment fund.

We support the Orchard Lake Schools by donating a \$1,000 annually for a Cum Laude Membership in the Chancellor's Senate; the purchase of four tickets to the annual Founder's Dinner; and support for the weekly Polish Radio Mass.

God bless all our priest brothers, especially you bishops and priests attending this convention. *Oremus pro invicem* now and when we no longer walk on this earth.

– Very Rev. Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, P.A., President of the PCPA of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Correspondent
PAPA Convention April 8-12, 2013, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2013: Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan



Niech Będzie Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

We express our sincere thanks to our host, Father Walter J. Ptak, pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, for hosting the Spring Meeting of the Priests' Conference for Polish Affairs (PCPA).

We especially would like to welcome Bishop Wypych of the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Bishop is the Episcopal Moderator of the CATHOLIC LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND. He is accompanied by Father Idzi Stacherczak, the Secretary for the Catholic League, and we welcome him as well. The Bishop will be making a presentation concerning the Catholic League (LIGA), as noted in the agenda for today's meeting.

As most of you are aware, the Archives of the Catholic League are located within the Archives of the Orchard Lake Schools. Fr. Stanisław Flis is the Orchard Lake Schools Archivist managing the Catholic League documents.

Since our last Wigilia meeting at Our Lady of Częstochowa Parish of the Society of Christ, we mourned the passing of the Cardinal Primate Emeritus of Poland, Józef Cardinal Glemp. We prayerfully commend his soul to our Savior, and God.

As you are aware, the PCPA, in union with the Orchard Lake Schools, arranged for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to be offered for the happy repose of the soul of † His Eminence Cardinal Glemp. That service was conducted on Sunday, February 3, for all of Detroit's Polonia. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

While we gather, the Cardinals of the world are meeting at the Vatican in conclave to select our new Holy Father. Let us pause and pray the Lord's Prayer for our Holy Father Emeritus and the Cardinal Electors.

Your officers met on Valentine's Day to prepare the agenda for this meeting. Near the end of this meeting, a new administration will be chosen to lead us.

You have honored me by selecting me as your Treasurer twice (1966-70 and 2000-02), your Vice-President (1970-72), and three times as your President (1972-77, 1991-95, 2002-13). In service to the PCPA for a total of 20 years, it has been an honor that I have cherished and will remember always.

I want to thank all of the members for their contributions to the welfare of the PCPA. Your cooperation with PAPA was outstanding. No organization of priests in the United States can match what you have done or what you are currently doing.

I could not have had anyone more generous, kind and cooperative to work with than my fellow officers.

To Fr. Stanley Ulman, our Vice-President, Fr. Gary Michalik, our Secretary, Fr. Larry Zurawski, our Treasurer, and of course, all our esteemed members who graced our meetings, some never having missed a single one, I thank you for the privilege of your support during my service.

Bóg Wam Wszystkim Zapłać.

– Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, P.A., 2013 PCPA President, Chancellor-Emeritus, Orchard Lake Schools



2014: Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan

The Priests Conference for Polish Affairs (PCPA) of the Archdiocese of Detroit currently has 39 dues paying members and nine parish paying members. Current officers include Rev. Stanley Ulman, President; Rev. Bogdan Miłosz, Vice-President; Rev. Larry Zurawski, Treasurer, and Rev. Gary Michalik, Secretary. Będzie Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

The PCPA meets quarterly at different locations with the winter meeting normally at Our Lady of Częstochowa Parish and the summer meeting at Orchard Lake. In the Archdiocese of Detroit there are currently ten sites that offer Mass in the Polish language.

During the 2013-2014 fiscal year members of the PCPA were involved in many diocesan and organizational activities. They provided the hospitality bags for the Archdiocesan Convocation for Priests, conducted a survey of all Polish and Polish American priests of the Archdiocese, and sponsored a 9/11 Memorial Mass at St. Faustina Parish in Warren, Michigan. The annual sharing of the Christmas opłatek took place at the winter meeting. The PCPA provides an annual scholarship for study in Poland for a priest of Polish descent assigned to the Archdiocese of Detroit. The amount of the scholarship was increased this year and extended to seminarians of Polish descent studying for the Archdiocese of Detroit. The PCPA continues to support the Orchard Lake Schools: St. Mary's Preparatory, SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, and the Polish Mission. It encourages participation in the CATHOLIC LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS ASSISTANCE TO POLAND AND POLONIA, and has been extremely excited about the recent canonization of John Paul II and upcoming WORLD YOUTH DAY in Kraków, Poland.

Priests who participate in the PCPA say they attend meetings for the fraternity they find there as well as to keep abreast of the needs of the Polish American community. There is always a sharing of ideas and support. They look to the PCPA to provide guidance as the Archdiocese consolidates, as well as the needs of Poland, Polonia, and Polish American cultural changes. Most recently members were challenged to enhance their ministry to married couples and those preparing for marriage.

Each year the PCPA closes with the presentation of the BISHOP WOZNICKI AWARD, recognizing the outstanding contribution of a priest to the Polish American community. This award doesn't diminish the daily contribution of our other priests to the well-being of their parishes and institutions or to the service they provide to their parishioners and friends and to the good of the Church here and in Poland.

Bóg Wam Wszystkim Zapłać.

– Rev. Stanley Ulman, PCPA President

