



Polish Heritage Center

Visitor Experience #31



A New Year! A New Day!



Nowy Rok! Nowy Dzień!

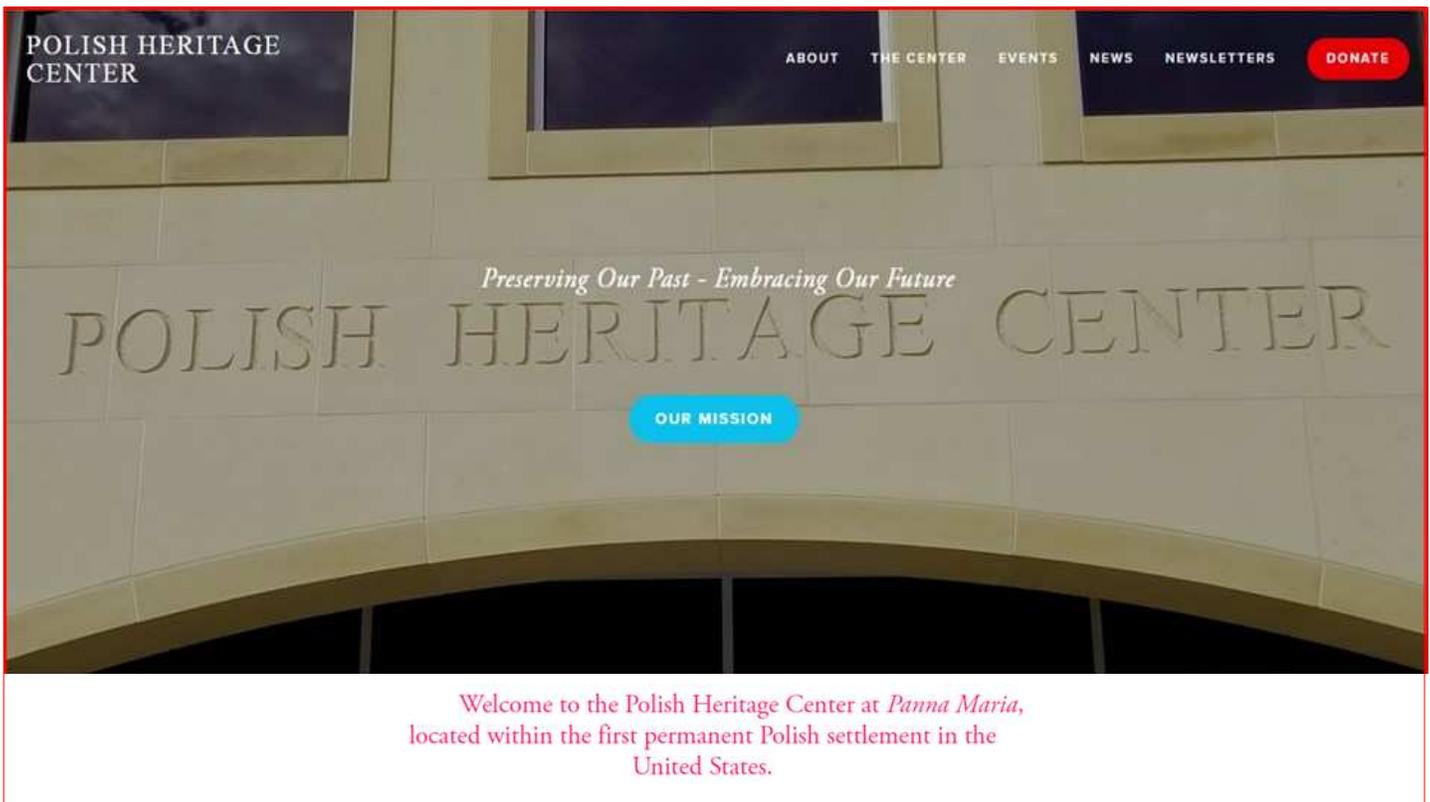
No Time to Ease Up!

With this New Year comes the opportunity to renew the drive and momentum that has begun with the building of our Polish Heritage Center! Much like in football, the game is not over till it's over. And the ongoing construction of our Heritage Center is no different! At this point, we are just past the half way point in opening the doors. The building is beautiful on the outside, make no mistake. The *real* work is now underway. The building itself cannot tell the story of our ancestors' without the interior being completed. Everything pertaining to the interior is new, state-of-the-art, and custom made. There will be nothing that you will be ashamed of, and the Heritage Center will be around for generations.

We must not ease up on the mission at hand, to open the Polish Heritage Center and have it operational! As we marvel and take stock in all that our ancestors were able to accomplish with their meager resources, future generations will hold this tribute in awe of our gratitude to these early immigrants' legacy. There will be no confusion that our ancestor's sacrifices and values are alive and well. Our ancestors never gave up, and neither shall we. Many of us have heard the different family stories of the lives of our ancestors. Do not let these stories become just dust on forgotten books of their lives! Without our ancestors, where would we be?

We know where we are going because we know where we came from. This precious legacy is what is being passed on in the Polish Heritage Center. For the many of you who have supported the Center to date, **Thank You!** And for the still many more of you who have not responded yet, please take this time at the beginning of this new year to reflect on how you can be part of this truly historic project! Let me know your questions and ideas at wojtasczyk@sbcglobal.net or 210-387-7472 (*John Wojtasczyk*).

See What's New on our Website!



The New Year brings new excitement! Let me introduce to you the new Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria website! Here we invite you as another way of staying informed and up-to-date on the progress of our bold Heritage Center! With this new launch, we are excited to announce a very overdue feature, the ability to donate online!

This new feature provides a convenient, secure method of supporting the ongoing work without needing to write a check or risk sending cash through the mail. This new link allows you the option to not only do one time donations, but also *recurring* donations, which is so needed, as well! This new link allows you to place your donation using either your credit/debit card or the information from your check! You have the option of either setting up the recurring as an ongoing feature, or to make and set a pledge amount. In both cases, it is now much easier and simpler to support the ongoing effort. Check it out today! The site will be undergoing routine adjustments, so don't be surprised if something looks different from one day to the next. After all, there is a lot going on! The website address is:

<https://polishheritagecentertx.org>

In-Kind Donations

Let us face it, **\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$** is always great to receive for the ongoing work of the Polish Heritage Center. But sometimes there are other ways of supporting the project both now and for the future. These, of course, are called *In-Kind Donations*. Over the course of the project, there have been a number of these in-kind donations that were very important for the ongoing work of the Center. Some examples are: the drilling of the water well by **Thomas Moy & Sons Water Well Drilling**, a *very* important collection of books by **Judge Thonhoff**, and the labor portion of the work on the *Budka* by **Clem Bordovsky**.

Most recently, both **Sam & Susie Kotara** and **George & Betty Kowalik** bought and donated to the Polish Heritage Center tables and chairs, with their storage carts, that will seat approximately 100 guests! They realized the need to have on hand the ability to set up and arrange for events that required this seating capacity. This is both an incredibly generous and far sighted gift.

Thank you Sam, Susie, George, and Betty!

On this same topic, a **HUGE** thank you goes out to our CPA firm, **CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA)**. This firm acquired the firm **Tsakopulos Brown Schott & Anchors** a few months after our volunteer Polish Heritage Center CPA **Mickey Schott** retired in June, 2015. **CLA** continues to provide accounting and tax services to our Polish Heritage Center Foundation. After a major office renovation and move by the **CLA** firm last month, **Mickey's** former partner **Jim Tsakopulos**, a **CLA** Principal, was able to arrange for **CLA** to donate virtually everything we needed to professionally furnish and decorate our administrative offices, conference room, library, genealogical, and research areas. This in-kind donation of furniture and equipment would have cost us \$50,000 or more if we had to purchase outright! Thank you to both **Jim** and **Mickey** for negotiating this tremendous gift and then personally underwriting the cost of the move to our Heritage Center at Panna Maria.

WAYS & MEANS OF DONATING

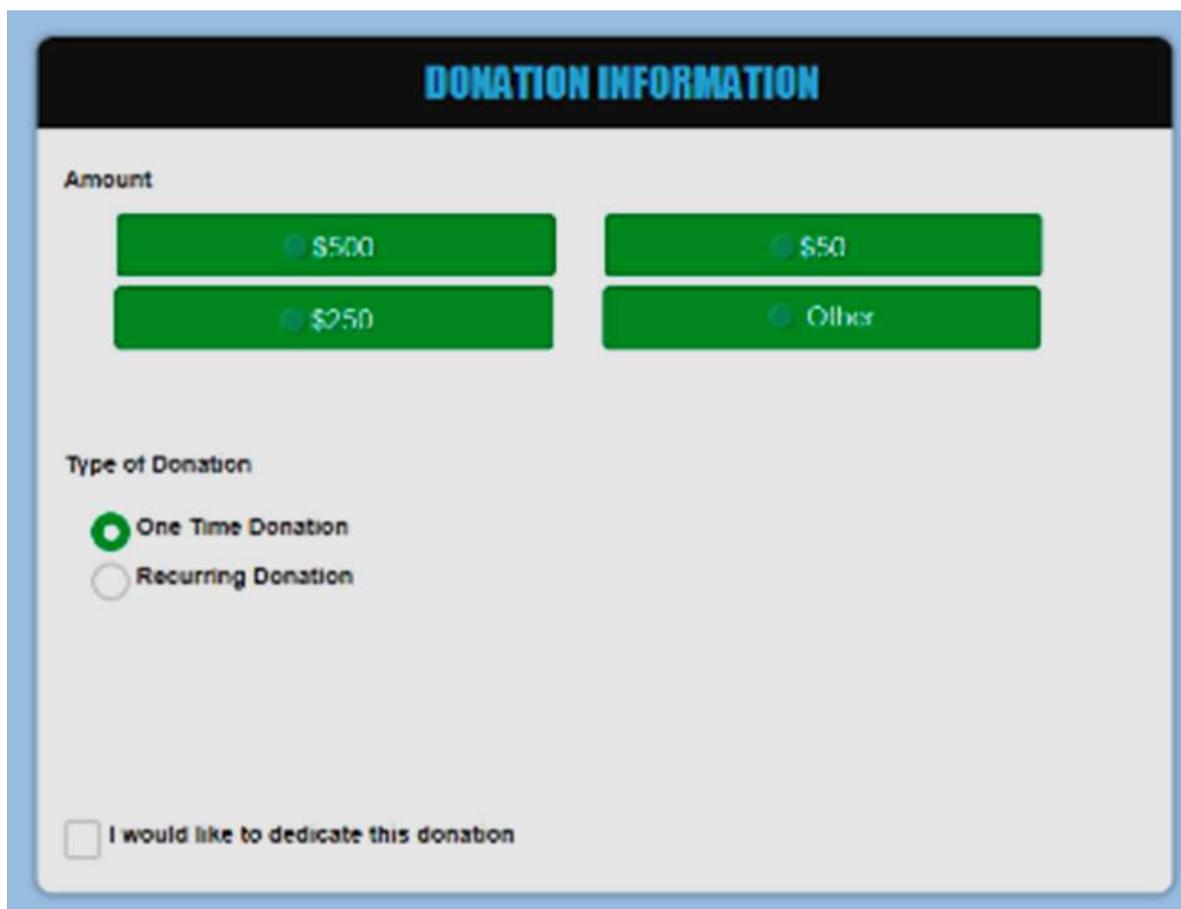
Hopefully by now, you are asking yourself *how can I help?* Or, *in what ways can I help?* These are very important and basic questions. Of course, the kind of help that is most helpful is that of money. Remember that *we are not going into debt to build the Heritage Center!* Ongoing progress depends on the donations that are received. The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation is also very realistic. Not everyone has the same resources to support the project. For some with very meager resources, they are excitedly passionate for the project. And with their limited funds, they support often as they can because they are excited to see the faith, value, and legacy of their ancestors live on and reveal themselves to the next generation. Others are watching, wanting to learn more; for you, we are only a call or email away in answering your questions.

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we now have some new tools to help and promote this project. Likewise, as you consider how to support the project, have you thought about your family and how **all together** you can help? Our ancestors did not survive as individuals, but as a community. Take that to heart. In this manner, you and your family might consider a major gift of a Naming Opportunity of any of the numerous exhibits and locations within the Center. You may consider memorializing one of our many religious vocations which may have been either an aunt or uncle of yours. How wonderful would that be to both remember the religious and teach your family their legacy!

And if a period of time is needed to satisfy any pledge, your family's word is good enough! To learn more, please contact John Wojtasczyk at 210-387-7472 or wojtasczyk@sbcglobal.net, or reach out to any of the Board of Directors.

Using the new Donation Button

On our new website, Polishheritagecentertx.org, you will find on the top right corner, the **DONATE** button (see top right of page 3). This button will redirect you to our new *DonorPerfect* software site in which you can **easily** and **SECURELY** make one time donations, recurring donations, and donations towards a pledged amount. You also have the option of completing your gift either using your debit/credit card or checking account. Below are the specific screenshots that you will find. The rest of the fields are the standard info gathering screen that all websites use.



The screenshot shows a form titled "DONATION INFORMATION" with a black header and blue text. The form is divided into two main sections: "Amount" and "Type of Donation".

Amount: This section contains four green buttons with white text and a small blue circle icon. The buttons are arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top row has "\$500" and "\$50". The bottom row has "\$250" and "Other".

Type of Donation: This section contains two radio button options. The first is "One Time Donation" with a selected radio button (a green circle with a white dot). The second is "Recurring Donation" with an unselected radio button (a white circle with a grey border).

At the bottom of the form, there is a checkbox labeled "I would like to dedicate this donation". The checkbox is currently unchecked.

On the very lower left, allows you to indicate if this gift is to be in honor or memory of a loved one. At this point, you will be directed to the page (*seen right*) where you will set this up. If you choose to make your donation in memory or in honor, this is the screen that you see when you check the box. **Type of Tribute** refers to if this is in memory (for someone deceased) or honor (for someone living). The next box is where you would enter the name.

For now, to be on the safe side, if the tribute's name is long, lengthy, or contains more than one person's name, contact us either by mail or email with the completed listing so that we may ensure that the information is captured correctly.

Notice that you will then have the option to send a notification for whom the tribute has been made. This is particularly helpful for those recently deceased and requested a donation be made to the Polish Heritage Center in lieu of flowers.

Complete the following fields.

* Type of Tribute

* Tribute Name

Send Notification to:

Title

First Name

Last Name

Address

Address 2

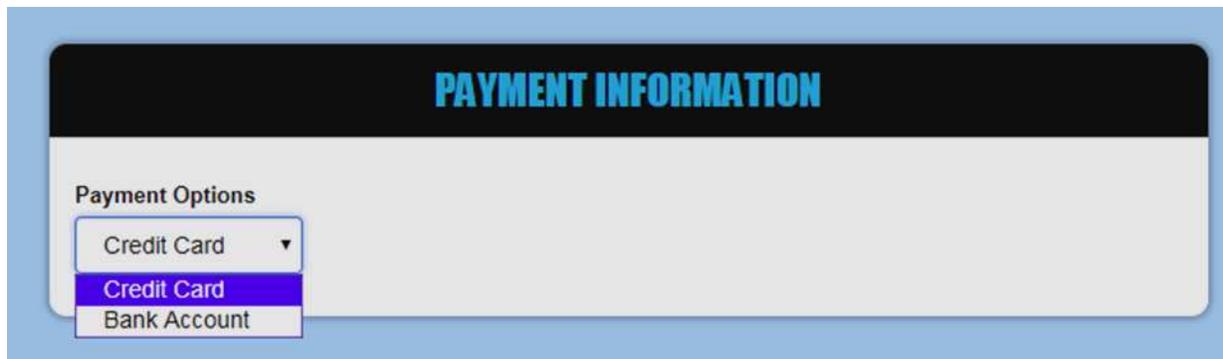
City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Email

Next, you choose how you wish to pay either using you debit/credit card or bank account.

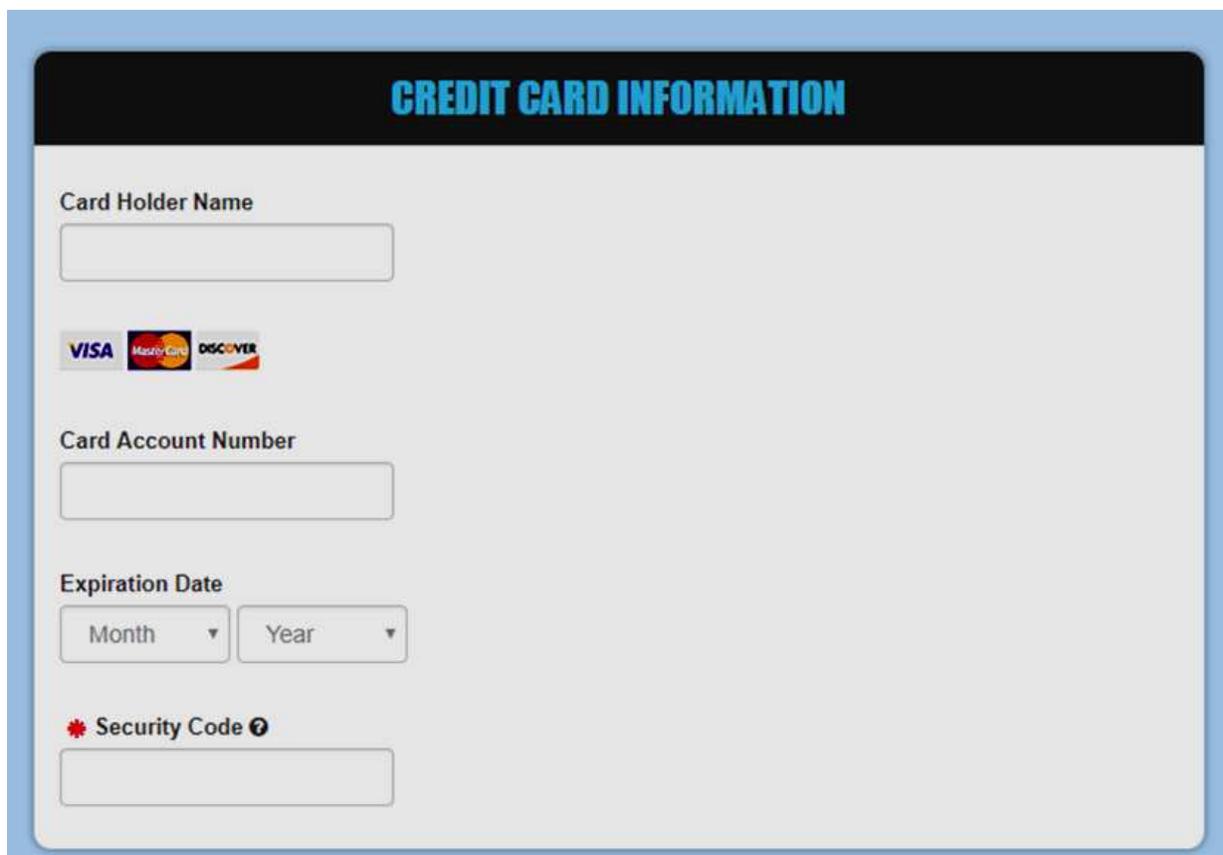


PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment Options

- Credit Card ▼
- Credit Card
- Bank Account

If you chose debit/credit card, this is where you enter your payment information.



CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Card Holder Name

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

Card Account Number

Expiration Date

Month ▼ Year ▼

* Security Code ⓘ

If you opt for using your bank account, this is what the screen will look like:

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Account Holder Name

Account Type
checking ▾

Bank Routing Number ⓘ

Bank Account Number

It is hoped that this will make it easier for you to help continue the cause for supporting the building of the Polish Heritage Center. Yes, this has been a long time in coming, but it is here! The early response from those who have used the Donate Button is that they liked it very much. They found it easy to understand and navigate. In the days, weeks, and months ahead, the site will undergo some fine tuning, so don't be caught off guard if things change a little bit.

But perhaps the most exciting feature is the ability to now setup your own terms for ongoing gifts. Those wishing to sponsor a Naming Opportunity will still need to contact us. If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please contact John Wojtasczyk at wojtasczyk@sbcglobal.net or at 210-387-7472 or 210-733-1979.

More on this new site will be covered in a future newsletter!

Memorialization's & Tributes

Due to the holiday mail load, not all donations were received in time for this issue. Those not on this issue will be in the next.

Bari Bett, West Salem, Ohio
James & Barbara Britton, San Antonio, Texas
Elizabeth Burda, Yorktown, Texas
Marysia Caupryhowska, Katy, Texas
Betty Chrisman, Converse, Texas - *In memory of the Opiela family*
Jim & Dorothy Collins, San Antonio, Texas - *In memory of Finis & Velma Collins and Theo & Eleanor Kowalik Dugi*
John Czop, Ridgewood, New Jersey
Shelby & Gretchen Dupnik, Kenedy, Texas
Edwin & Theresa Dziuk, Poth, Texas
Betty Ebrom, San Antonio, Texas
Jessie, Susie, Annette, & Jeannette Estrada, San Antonio, Texas
Art Gmurowski, Austin, Texas - *In Memory of Wacław Walter Gmurowski (1905-1985)*
Pat & Barbara Hoffmann, San Antonio, Texas
Theresa Hollaway, Sugar Land, Texas - *In memory of Walter Gawlik*
Helen Ivy, Round Rock, Texas
Michael & Velma Janysek, Karnes City, Texas
Vincent & Mary Jane Janysek, Karnes City, Texas
William & Beatrice Jarzombek, Schertz, Texas - *In memory of Bill Jarzombek*
Stephen & Marilyn R Jendrusch, Falls City, Texas
Bernadette Jiral, St. Hedwig, Texas
John & Mary Yanta Memorial Trust, San Antonio, Texas
Thomas Kean, Centennial, Colorado
Margaret Kolodziej, Falls City, Texas
Michael Kolodziej, Falls City, Texas
Louise Kosub - *In memory of Aggie Lyssy*
George & Betty Kowalik, Panna Maria, Texas
Rosemary E Kowalski, San Antonio, Texas
Frank & Mary Kruciak, Karnes City, Texas
Margaret Little, Corinth, Texas
Joe Luna - From Facebook
Marcus and Helen Lyssy, Adkins, Texas - *In memory of Aggie Lyssy from Marcy Shodrock*
Mike & Adelene Manka, Schertz, Texas - *In memory of Fr. Goebel; Henry & Regina Pilarczyk Manka; Bernard & Helen Kotara Rapstine; Anton & Mary Smolka Moczygemba; and Stanik & Frances Lyssy Moy*
David Martin - From Facebook
Susan Moczygemba McKinsey, San Antonio, Texas
Walter & Carol Mika, San Antonio, Texas
John & Patty Moczygemba, Floresville, Texas
Richard Moczygemba, Falls City, Texas
Robert Moczygemba, Panna Maria, Texas
Msgr Terence Nolan, San Antonio, Texas
Al & Angela Notzon, San Antonio, Texas
Martin Notzon, San Antonio, Texas
Sean & Janis O'Brien, Karnes City, Texas
Alois & Lillian O'Berg, Shavano Park, Texas
Carlos & Guadalupe Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas - *In memory of Severiano & Tomasita Ontiveros and Jesus & Maria De Jesus Malacara*
Hubert & Cecilia Padalecki, St. Hedwig, Texas - *In memory of Henry and Aggie Lyssy*
Palmer - From Facebook
John & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas
Anton Pliska, Plover, Wisconsin

Rudolph Pollok, San Antonio, Texas
 Jerry & Marilyn Pruski, Adkins, Texas - *In memory of Henry & Magdalene Pawlik Pruski, Benedict & Susie Lyssy Wiatrek, and Zygmund & Patricia Pruski, San Antonio, Texas*
 Robin Raquet, San Antonio, Texas - *In honor of Bishop Yanta*
 Leon & Vivian Respondek, Yorktown, Texas - *In memory of our families: Dworaczyk, Migura, Dudlefski, Respondek*
 Dr. Martha Respondek & Larry Haas, Corpus Christi, Texas
 Alice Reue, Yorktown, Texas - *In memory of Anton & Victoria Respondek Ibrom and John & Frances Pollok Kowalik*
 James & Angela Richter, San Antonio, Texas
 David & Mary Ringer, San Antonio, Texas
 Andy & Joyce Rives, Panna Maria, Texas
 Fernando Rodriguez, San Antonio, Texas
 Mr. Robert Rusiecki, Houston, Texas
 Jose & Terelyn Santos, San Antonio, Texas
 Julia Schappals, Bedford, New Hampshire
 John S and Marcy Shodrock, San Antonio, Texas
 Mark & Zhanna Sikorski, San Antonio, Texas
 Clare & Kevin Smith, Portland, Texas
 James Soto - From Facebook
 Elaine Stephens, La Vernia, Texas - *In Honor of Lavonne Mazurek*
 Frank & Martha Elaine Styra, Yorktown, Texas
 Ellen Tisdale - From Facebook
 Oran & Beverly Tsakopoulos, San Antonio, Texas
 Spiffy Tumbleweed - From Facebook
 Rosalie Walker, Killen, Alabama - *In memory of Bobby Sherrill Walker; Henry and Susie Pieprzyca; Lorraine Chandler by Rosalie Pieprzyca Walker*
 Archie & Elaine Wiatrek, San Antonio, Texas
 Shirley Wiatrek, Karnes City, Texas - *In memory of Great-Grandparents Melchor & Mary Ann Opiela Pawelek; Grandparents Vincent & Regina Pawelek Kotara, Sr; Parents Ben C & Agnes Irene Kotara Wiatrek; & Brother Ivan James "Sonny" Wiatrek*
 Leon & Joan Witte, Karnes City, Texas
 John & Chris Wojtasczyk, Panna Maria, Texas
 Dennis Yanta, Houston, Texas
 Joe & Joyce Yanta, Shavano Park, Texas

A very special thanks and appreciation for all who have supported the Polish Heritage Center here listed.

A Special Note...

Bishop Yanta

I knew you when I was a teen. I always listened to your advice and happy I did. I grew up in Karnes City and Panna Maria. My grandparents were Henry J. & Rose Moczygemba. My mother was Alice Kotzur. Thank you for visiting her when you were with Ms. Yanta at Blue Bonnet Nursing Home. Hope this helps. Helen Kotzur Ivy

Bishop's Corner



What is Ordinary Time?

Ordinary Time has been lived religiously and faithfully by our Polish ancestors. And ordinary time guides us today. There are 52 weeks in the year, 33 or 34 weeks are not connected with our big seasons of Christmas and Easter.

We have celebrated the Christmas season until the Baptism of Jesus, January 13, then we begin Ordinary Time – “no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time” (Universal Norms, 43). The color of the vestments is green, a sign of growth in Christ.

March the 6th, Ash Wednesday, we begin the penitential season of Lent that finishes on Easter Sunday, April 21st. The Easter season continues until Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. Ordinary Time resumes again until the beginning of Advent, December 1st – Four Sundays before Christmas 2019.

Saint Pope John Paul II reminds us of Sundays as the Holy Day of the week. Our Polish ancestors are known as faithful observers of every Sunday as a little Easter. They abstained from unnecessary work and attended Mass regularly in spite of nature's bad weather. May our devout Polish ancestors intercede with our Lord that our generous gift will finish the interior of our beautiful building dedicated to the Lord in memory of our ancestors who suffered much to get started here in a new land that we enjoy today.

May the Lord continue to bless you and your family as we respond as good stewards in Christ and His blessed Mother bless you and your families.

†Bishop John W. Yanta