



PANNA MARIA NEWSLETTER

PANNA MARIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POST OFFICE BOX 52 PANNA MARIA, TX 78144

March 2006



Listed on National Register of Historic Places as
THE OLDEST PERMANENT POLISH SETTLEMENT IN THE USA

The President's Column

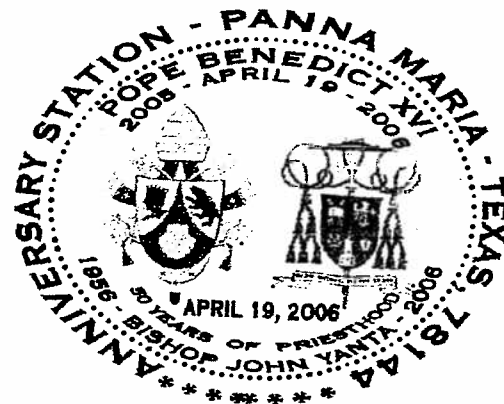
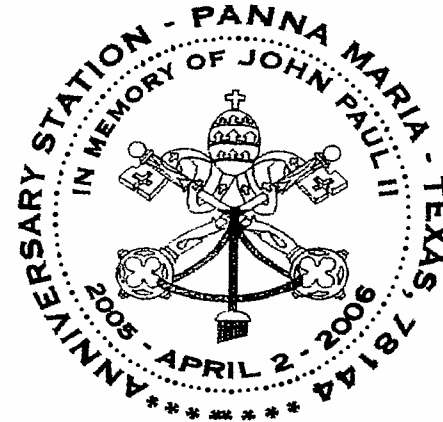
By Elaine Dolores Moczygemba

LOCAL EVENTS – **Sunday, April 2**, is the date of the **Spring Social** to benefit the Panna Maria Altar Society and the Panna Maria Hall Association. All are invited to enjoy the barbeque meal, bingo, silent auction, cake stand, and raffle. Raffle tickets are \$1 each. (The Hall Association is planning a new diner to be built after the parish's October 8 Homecoming Turkey Dinner.)

Saturday, May 6 - The **Classic Car Cruise** along the Alamo-LaBahia Corridor will take place Saturday, May 6. The route is also recognized as a corridor of the old Spanish route, El Camino Real. Vehicles start arriving around 10 a.m. and keep coming at staggered times until about 4 p.m. We hope folks will come and meet these car owners. The Visitors' Center will be open, and our active volunteers will serve cheese, crackers, and tea with delicious baked goods for sale. For any visitors who wish to see the Museum, tours will be offered. Come and make this a good stop for the classic car owners.

Sunday, June 11 - St. Helena Church in Helena, Texas, will have its annual picnic starting at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 11. Activities include a carne guisada meal, bingo, auction, and raffle.

PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS – One of our historical society members, Zbigniew "Zyggy" Szymanski of Spring, Texas, drafted two pictorial cancellations that have been approved by the U.S. Postal Service for use in Panna Maria. For **April 2**, Panna Maria will have a cancellation for **the first anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II**. For **April 19**, we will have a cancellation honoring **the first anniversary of the election of Cardinal**



Joseph Ratzinger as Pope Benedict XVI—BUT additionally, the cancellation honors the 50th anniversary of Bishop John Yanta's priesthood which he reaches on March 17. This cancellation combines the crests of the Pope and Bishop Yanta. Bishop Yanta was the first priest from this historic Silesian area to have been ordained a bishop. Happy Anniversary! These cancellations may be requested on your postage stamps for up to a month after the date. If you send postcards or envelopes with stamps to be cancelled at the Panna Maria Post Office (78144), make sure you provide a cover envelope with sufficient postage to mail the enclosures back to you.

VISITORS - We had a delightful surprise at the Visitors' Center on December 22 when Tom and Doris Salata of Nocona, Texas, stopped by. Tom



has a similar interest in preserving Polish tunes and traditions. He got out his violin and played a couple of kolędy for us. Originally from the South Bend, Indiana area, they now live in North Texas and came down to Austin to visit their family.

On January 3, a family arrived when the Visitors' Center was closed. It was good that I noticed them, for Stan and Edith Heleniak were visiting from Toronto, Canada. Stan told an interesting story about his father who had served with General Anders at Monte Cassino and later moved to Canada. His father, who died not too long ago, had enjoyed reunions in England honoring the soldiers of that well-known battle.

Visiting as many Polish communities in South Texas as he could on March 13, David Lepranowicz, originally from Vancouver, plays with the ice hockey team in Laredo. Informed by Bishop Yanta that Panna Maria was not that far away from San Antonio, the Most Rev. George M. Jachimczyk, Bishop of that city's Polish Orthodox community, came to visit on March 16. A group from the Heritage Museum of the Texas Hill Country Association (Canyon Lake/New Braunfels) came for a tour as well as a group from a San Antonio retirement community.

I can imagine that we miss out on meeting many interesting visitors when our center is closed; however, the church is open daily. Quite a few visitors from Poland have signed the register this past year.

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION - The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)

and it's Alamo-LaBahia Corridor Committee presented a certificate of appreciation to **Rosalie Dziuk Moczygamba** on her 80th birthday. Rosalie has, for close to 23 years, been mowing the large churchyard and trimming the bushes to keep the area attractive for the parish and for visitors to this area.

AACOG Certificates of Appreciation also arrived for the **volunteers** who worked during the Pony Express ride through Panna Maria on the first Saturday of December. They decorated, brought home-baked goods and/or prepared the sausage meal at Snoga's Store on the day of the ride. Thanks go out to **Regina Foegelle, Alphonse and Mary Moczygamba, Florence Opiela, Elizabeth Kopecki, Christine Kyrish, Bernice Keller, Leona Janysek, Alice Banduch, Betty Kowalik, Rosalie Moczygamba, Robert Moczygamba, Dolores Moczygamba, and Clarence and Linda Janysek.**

POLISH CHOIR – Cestohowa had a crowd of worshipers from Karnes and Wilson Counties for the December 24 Pasterka at 3 p.m. There were some 19 singers in the choir. We are grateful to Sister Emilia Rzeźnik from the John Paul II Nursing Home in Kenedy for directing all those voices while I played the organ. In January, members of the Polish choir went caroling at a nursing home in Floresville that has several residents of Silesian background. You could tell that they enjoyed the kolędy especially when they sang along.

Sunday, May 28 – We anticipate singing in Polish at a special Mass being planned in Panna Maria around noontime for those attending a Polonia Teachers' Convention in Houston sponsored by the Polish American Congress.

This year's rotating **countywide Pasterka will be in Kosciuszko on Sunday, December 24**, starting at 2:30 p.m. with kolędy and Mass at 3 p.m. Mark your calendars and come.

Gorzkie Żale will be sung on Good Friday starting at 2:15 p.m. in Panna Maria prior to 3 p.m. services. All are welcome.

Someone is looking for music and words to two hymns: *Już Się Zbliża Jezus Miły* and *Jezus*

Szczęście Moje. If you know where we can obtain these, let Elaine know at (830) 780-4005 or e-mail cdrmoczygemba@yahoo.com



BOOKS ADDED TO OUR LIBRARY:

Henry Homitz of Mentor, Ohio sent us two books for our library. One is *The Polish Way, A Thousand-year History of the Poles and their Culture* by Adam Zamoyski. The other is *A Question of Honor, The Kosciuszko Squadron, Forgotten Heroes of World War II*, by Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud. These may be read at the Visitor's Center. Our thanks to Mr. Homitz.

F-16'S IN POLAND – LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Folks listening to the news know that Poland will be receiving the F-16 for its air force. A Silesian descendant from this South Texas area was involved in the transition initiative for this program. **MSgt Dennis Kotzur**, Texas Air National Guard,



was at Lask Air Base, Poland (about 20 miles from Łódź), for two weeks in September with the 149th Fighter Wing. Dennis' mother, my childhood neighbor Jo Nell Pollok Kotzur, told us about her son during one of her trips to bring her mother Christine Kasprzyk Pollok to visit here. Christine, who is going to be 92, has been crocheting scarves

and shawls for sale at our Visitors' Center. Dennis' father is the late Lucian Kotzur who grew up in Cestohowa, Texas. Dennis resides between Floresville and La Vernia, Texas. This visit to Poland was Dennis' first and was the first visit to Poland by any member of his family.

Polish Air Force pilots who will fly the F-16's and Polish F-16 logistics personnel visited Panna Maria over the past year during their studies at the Defense Language Institute at Lackland AFB and/or the flight school at Randolph AFB. Some of these military were escorted from San Antonio to Panna Maria by Col. and Mrs. Ed McCarthy (USAF, Ret.).



LTC Zawada, LTC Malinowski, MAJ Wisniewski, MAJ Próchniak
CPT Lyżwa, CPT Pawelec

STUDY OF POLAND AND POLISH DANCE AT ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL

– The fourth graders taught by Sister Victoria at St. Benedict School in San Antonio studied the country of Poland in February in preparation for an evening school presentation. Elaine Moczygemba was called upon to come and teach them a dance. She also brought wood carvings, a basket of decorated wooden eggs, embroidered/sequined vests, and enlargements of colorful wycinanki plus costume photos to decorate the classroom for the school's evening program. The six students learned the dance *Mysliwiec (The Hunter)* from the Cieszyn region. (About once each year, a call comes from a school in San Antonio to assist with a Polish program for a social studies class or a multi-ethnic program. We need such interest by the young folks in the local area. Most of the students over the years participating in a Polish dance or song did not even have Polish backgrounds.)

ART CONTEST – The Polish Museum of America and The Polish Arts Society of Chicago are sponsoring a 7th Annual Polish Constitution Day Art Contest. It is open to all students in Grades 6 – 12. **The deadline is April 17.** The artwork must be at the Chicago address by that date.

This year's theme is the 160th anniversary of the birth of the famous Polish author and Nobel Prize Winner in Literature, Henryk Sienkiewicz. Students are asked to illustrate one of Henryk Sienkiewicz's literary works. Be creative! Be colorful! Use any medium you like! You must use 24"x30" poster board. Title your artwork with the name of the book you illustrate. Entry forms (available at the Panna Maria Visitors' Center) should be attached to the back of your entry. Mail the form and entry to PMA Art Contest, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622-4101

Prizes will be awarded in the following two divisions: Grades 6-8; Grades 9-12. First prize, \$100; 2nd, \$75; 3rd, \$50; and 4th, \$25. All artwork becomes the property of The Polish Museum of America. Winners' artwork will be displayed on the PMA float in the Polish Constitution Day Parade on Saturday, May 6. See entry form page 7.

POLISH-AMERICAN CENTER, SUNDAY, MAY 7 - Polish Constitution Day (May 3) will be observed at the Polish-American Center in San Antonio with a 3 p.m. program on Sunday, May 7. Celebrations in past years have included a guest speaker, singing, dancing, a home-cooked meal, and a band afterward for dancing. All are welcome.

TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL, JUNE 8-11 - Holy Name Parishioners in San Antonio will be sponsoring a Polish food booth at the Texas Folklife Festival on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures. Please stop by the Polish booth June 8-11 and support their work.



NEW CHURCH PEWS AND CARPETS

By Betty Kowalik



We are very excited to announce that **Bradley Fluitt** donated \$25,000 toward the purchase of new pews for our beautifully restored historic church. The selected design of the pews compliments the structure of the church. The pews will be made of solid oak and have a lifetime guarantee.

The community had intended to focus on a single project per year and has been working toward constructing a new diner. However, for several years, the pews have been in disrepair. Adrian Niestroy has diligently worked to keep the pews from becoming a safety hazard. During the pew evaluation process, it was determined that the carpet in the church also needs to be replaced, and it would be best to install the carpet when the existing pews would be removed from the church. If the carpet is not replaced in conjunction with the installation of the new pews, but at a later date, the new pews would need to be removed from the church, the carpet installed, and then the pews reinstalled.

We are a very small parish and do not generate adequate funding to support a project of this magnitude. However, the Fluitt donation has enabled us to move forward. We are very thankful for his generosity. To date, we have collected 50% of the cost of the project. The remaining 50% needs to be collected prior to this July. The cost of one pew is approximately \$1,000. The names of donors who contribute \$200 or more will be recognized on a plaque that will be displayed in the entry to the church. Anyone interested in contributing to the pew/carpet fund may do so by sending contributions made out to the Immaculate Conception Church and mailed to Immaculate Conception Church, Pew/Carpet Fund, P. O. Box 9, Panna Maria, Texas 78144.

Any and all contributions will be greatly appreciated.

NEW DINER BEING PLANNED

By Mark Pieprzyca

The Panna Maria Hall Association is accepting donations to construct a new Diner Building. This new building, designed to accommodate the Annual Turkey Dinner, will be 60X100 ft in size, (old Diner is 60X80), and of metal construction to match the BBQ Pit Building. The size of the kitchen will be greatly increased, and handicapped-compliant restrooms will be installed. The building will have a "mostly open" interior finish, and best of all, it will be air conditioned. The cost of this building was estimated at \$130,000, and once \$90,000 of dedicated funds and donations are received, construction can start.

Anyone wishing to donate to this new Diner Building should make their checks out to Panna Maria Hall Association and mail to:
Panna Maria Hall Association
PO Box 15
Panna Maria, TX 78144

up your family tree in the many genealogy volumes prepared by Gayle Olenick.

This is a perfect place for a retreat with Masses celebrated in the Chapel Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and in the Immaculate Conception Church next door the rest of the week.

Or spend the day visiting historic Helena, Texas, only 5 minutes to the east, or Karnes City & Kenedy only 10 or 15 minutes to the south. Visit the neighboring Polish parishes of Cestohowa, Kosciuszko, Falls City, or St. Hedwig & update your family tree. Perhaps your ancestors are buried in the cemeteries of our parish or these surrounding parishes.

If you prefer, drive to the many surrounding cities such as San Antonio, about 50 miles to the north and see the famous Alamo or spend the day at Fiesta Texas, Sea World, or walk along the famous River Walk & enjoy the many riverside cafes and shopping malls. Goliad, with its historic forts & battlegrounds, is only about 40 miles to the southeast.

Our Bed & Breakfast quarters include:

Living room, kitchen, dining room, and 4 bedrooms with double beds - 2 bedrooms with single beds & 3 bathrooms. Enough room to sleep up to 10 people.

\$60.00 per night per couple

\$40.00 per single bed

Extra nights and people, call the number below

For reservations call: (830) 789-2003

CONVENT BED & BREAKFAST



Spend a night in the quiet country atmosphere of Panna Maria, Texas, in our Convent Bed & Breakfast located between the Immaculate Conception Church & St. Joseph School Museum. Wake up to the sounds of birds singing, roosters crowing, & church bells ringing. Enjoy a Continental Style breakfast of Polish pastries & coffee or fruit with bread & jellies. Spend the day strolling through the historic village of Panna Maria, Texas, the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the USA. Browse through the Visitors Center and find one-of-a-kind items to buy, or just visit with the volunteers. You may look



GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

FROM

PANNA MARIA!

Immaculate Conception Church Cookbook containing 764 recipes, Polish Sayings, Home Remedies, & Cooking Hints.....\$12.80. Add \$4 if you want us to send 1st class mail.

Panna Maria: An Image of Polish Texans

A photographic essay by Joseph Jaworski, with documentary. 90 pages-82 photos.....21.35

The Polish Texans

Authored by T. Lindsay Baker, 113 pg. Book tells of the first immigrants from Poland—numerous photos...\$11.74

First Polish Americans-Silesian Settlements in Texas

Authored by T.Lindsay Baker, 268 pg. book w/photos.....\$26.69

By Miłość Była Kochana – 8 Polish Hymns sung by Fr. Jan Klak, Sr. Emilia, Sr. Sancia, Sr. Inez, Sr. Krystiana & congregation of Seraphic Sisters celebrating 25 years jubilee of life in USA.....\$7.47

Postcards Mosaic of Our Lady of Czestochowa; Gold Jewel Encrested Chalice & Paten received from Pope John Paul II,..... each \$.53
4 postcards of scenes of Panna Maria.....each \$.43

Panna Maria Christmas Cards – one showing the interior of Immaculate Conception Church decorated for Christmas – another the outside of the Church at dusk, sidewalks lined with luminaries.....each\$.1.07
Box of 20 cards/envelopes.....\$19.22

Panna Maria Souvenir Pen in velvet pouch\$2.12
Church Picture Magnet.....\$3.00

Panna Maria ornaments (3 ½ in. diameter) shaped like the logo. Comes in velveteen case with short history of Panna Maria..... \$10.67

Souvenir T-shirts w/Sesquicentennial logo on the back. Adult sizes S, Lg, & XXlg.....\$13.34

Panna Maria T-shirts: Shirts in red w/white lettering with handshake & “Jak Sie Masz” on the back in S, M, L, XL, XXL\$13.34



Children’s T-shirts (6-8, 10-12, & 14-16) come in red with a white church on the front & 2 children riding bikes on the back with “Jedziemy do Panna Maria, Texas” on the back of the shirt.



White shirt with red bikes & lettering in 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, XXL..... ..\$11.34

Panna Maria Caps: Red Mesh with stamped oak tree symbol, “Panna Maria, Texas” above tree & “Est.1854” under, plastic back adjustment.....\$5.34

White material cap as above, leather/buckle back adjustment, embroidered green tree, red letters.....\$12.81

Ceramic Coffee Mugs White/red imprint of Church.....\$4.97

Insulated Mugs red/white imprint of Church.....\$4.97

Insulated Lunch Bags Blue/white imprint of Church & lettering “Panna Maria est. 1854” about 10”X6”X4”.....\$6.39

Tote Bags Red/white imprint of Church & lettering.....\$6.39

Envelope cache featuring U.S. and various foreign country visits of Pope John Paul II with special cancellation of Pope’s UN visit.....\$3.74 or 3/\$10.68

Commemorative items – 1 of 5 beautiful designs celebrating Pope’s Visit to UN\$11.48 ea.

All five of above in protective cover\$53.38

(All prices include tax.)

Add \$3.85 per item (\$1.50 for each set note cards, post cards, or other small items) shipping & handling. Make check or money order payable to the Panna Maria Historical Society. Send order to:

Panna Maria Historical Society
PO Box 52, Panna Maria, TX 78144

Looking for a unique gift or a gift for someone who “has everything?” Give an associate membership to the Panna Maria Historical Society.

\$10.00 Annual Dues – Receive Quarterly Newsletter
\$75.00 Lifetime dues – A listing in the St. Joseph School Museum and receive quarterly Newsletter

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone _____

7
7TH ANNUAL

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY ART CONTEST

*Sponsored by:
The Polish Museum of America and
The Polish Arts Society of Chicago, IL*



Illustrate one of Henryk Sienkiewicz's literary works. Be creative! Be colorful!
Use any medium you like!
Size: Must use 24" x 30" poster board.
Winners' artwork will be framed.
Title your artwork with the name of the book you illustrated.
Questions? Call (773)384-3352 ext. 104.
Deadline is April 17, 2006.

**Theme: The 160th Anniversary
of the Birth of the famous
Polish author and
Nobel Prize Winner
in Literature,
HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ**

**Open to all students in
Grades 6—12**

PRIZES

Prizes awarded in the following categories: Grades 6-8 & 9-12

1 st	\$100.00
2 nd	\$75.00
3 rd	\$50.00
4 th	\$25.00

All winning entries will be displayed on the PMA'S float in the Polish Constitution Day Parade on Saturday, May 6.

Cut out this form and attach it to the back of your entry. All artwork becomes the property of The Polish Museum of America. Mail this form and entry to:

**PMA Art Contest
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60622-4101**

.....

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Area Code and Phone Number

School

Grade Teacher's Name

Title of Henryk Sienkiewicz's Book that Your Artwork illustrates



Mr. Alphonse J. Moczygamba
 531 Prestwick Blvd.
 San Antonio, TX 78223



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SAN ANTONIO
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VISITORS CENTER HOURS
 MON., WED.,- SAT. 10am-4pm
 SUNDAY 2-4 PM

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Room for all your parties! Seating for 40
people indoors. In warm weather, a deck
is available to accommodate larger crowd
with space for washers etc.