

A Short History of Polonia in Dallas/Fort Worth

The first Polish immigrants arrived in the Dallas – Fort Worth Metroplex, in around the second half of the 19th century. The very first communities of Polish immigrants lived East of Fort Worth in Thurber and Strawn and worked in the coal mining industry. This Polish ethnic group grew to be recognized in Dallas, on August 18, 1936, during the celebration of the Centennial of Texas. The first Polish priests in the area were Revs. Francis Kowalski and Paul Niedziela but more followed in the 1900's.

Polonia in the Dallas-Fort Worth area grew slowly until the end of World War II when an influx of Polish immigrants occurred in the Metroplex area. Those immigrants, war wanderers, served in the Polish Army, on the western European front during WWII. This group organized themselves by establishing the Polish Association in Texas in 1958.



The next, large influx of Polish immigrants to the DFW occurred in the beginning of the 1980's when the Solidarity movement in Poland was suppressed by the communist party; new immigrants then joined the Polish Association and pushed for establishment of Polish Apostolate at St Peter the Apostle in Dallas in 1986.