



Everything Polish in Texas!





www.PolishAmericanCouncilofTexas.org

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COVER PHOTO:

PACT Members from all over Texas attended the 2018 Annual Meeting in Chappell Hill including Mass at St. Stanislaus Church. PHOTO BY JAMES SMOCK. NOV. 17, 2018.

- Publication designed and printed by Wilson County News (see page 43) -



Officers and directors Kiara Jaraczewski, Maureen Brown, Susie Kotara, Elaine Mazurek Stephens, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, John Wojtasczyk, Eric Opiela, Dr. Piotr Przybylski, Michael Kurtin, Genny Kraus, Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden gather at the Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum for the PACT Annual meetings, Nov. 17, 2018. Not pictured: Dr. Witold Lukaszewski, Marta Morowska, Sue McCarthy, Dr. Waldemar Priebe.



OUR LEADERSHIP

Founder and Chairman Emeritus Most Rev. John W. Yanta, D.D., Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Amarillo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OFFICERS 2019

President - Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz 1st Vice President - Elaine Mazurek Stephens 2nd Vice President - Dr. Piotr Przybylski Secretary - Eric Opiela Treasurer - John Wojtasczyk Youth Vice President Kiara Jaraczewski (2018-2019); Olivia Rytelewski (2019-2020)

2019 MEMBER EVENTS

JANUARY

1 – PACT dues are due, Polish American Council of Texas

FEBRUARY

23 - Austin, Member Dinner & Dance, Austin Polish Society

MARCH

3 – Austin, Polish Movie Screening, Austin Polish Societv

10 – Cestohowa. Presentation. Scanning for museum collections, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

17 – Falls City, Presentation, Scanning for museum collections, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

19 - St. Hedwig, Presentation, Scanning for museum collections, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

24 – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

24 - Floresville, Presentation, Scanning for museum collections, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

31 – Poth, Presentation, Scanning for museum collections. Polish Heri-



The procession from the opening ceremonies at Chappell Hill included participants from all over Texas.

tage Center at Panna Maria

APRIL 3 – Deadline for PACT Scholarship, Polish American Council of Texas

6 – Austin, Bigos Cook-Off, Austin Polish Society

7 – Austin, Polish Movie Screening, Austin Polish Society

7 – Panna Maria, Presentation, Scanning, Open House, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

14 – Austin, Pisanki & Easter Palm Workshop, Austin Polish Society

20 - Houston, Children's Easter. Blessing of Baskets, Swieconka Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church

28 – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

Last Sunday – St. Hedwig, Feast Day Celebration. Annunciation of the BVM Catholic Church

MAY

5 – Austin, Polish Movie Screening, Austin Polish Societv

1st Sunday Bandera, Parish Festival, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

11 – Yorktown, Presentation, Scanning for museum collections, Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

3,4,5 – Houston, Houston Polish Festival, Our Lady of Czestochowa Catholic Church

18 - Austin, Majowka Picnic, Austin

Polish Society

26 – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

3rd Sunday San Antonio, Spring Festival, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church

Dallas, Polish Picnic, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

JUNE

1 – Austin, Children's Day, Austin Polish Society

23 – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

21-22 - Bremond, Polski Dzien, Bremond Chamber of Commerce

> Please check mem pages and websites up-to-date info.

2019 MEMBER EVENTS



Dance Groups from Houston and Dallas provided traditional dance performances for us! PHOTO BY WAWEL PHOTOGRAPHERS

7,8 ,9 – San Antonio, Texas Folklife Festival, texasfolklifetestival.org

JULY

7 – Austin, Polish Movie Screening, Austin Polish Society

TBD – Austin, Potluck party, Austin Polish Society

<u>AUGUST</u>

4 – Austin, Polish Movie Screening, Austin Polish Society

TBD – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

1st Sunday – Kosciusko, Annual Picnic, St. Ann Catholic Church **SEPTEMBER** 8 – Austin, Polish Movie, Austin Polish Society

TBD – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

2nd Sunday – Yorktown, Parish Festival, Holy Cross Catholic Church

1st Sunday – Chappell Hill, Annual Homecoming Bazaar & Dożynki, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

OCTOBER All – Polish Heritage Month

6 – Austin, Polish Movie Screening, Austin Polish Society **TBD** – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

2nd Sunday – Panna Maria, Turkey Dinner & Homecoming, Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Dallas, Polish Festival, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

St. Hedwig, Polish American Priests Assn Celebration, Annunciation of the BVM Catholic Church

NOVEMBER TBD – Austin, Austin Polish Film Festival, Austin Polish Society

11 – Polish Independence Day, 16, Austin Ognisko Austin Polish Society

TBD – Austin, Polish History Club, Austin Polish Society

16 – Bandera, PACT Annual Meetings, Polish American Council of Texas

DECEMBER 1 – Austin, Polish Movie, Austin Polish Society

TBD – Austin, Christmas Party, Austin Polish Society

8 – San Antonio, Annual Gala, Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation

Holidays – Chappell Hill, Polskie Kolędy, St. Stanislaus Catholic Church

Holidays – St. Hedwig, Wigilia, Annunciation of the BVM Catholic Church

Holidays – Bremond, Kolędy, Toy Drive, Festival of Lights, Bremond Chamber of Commerce

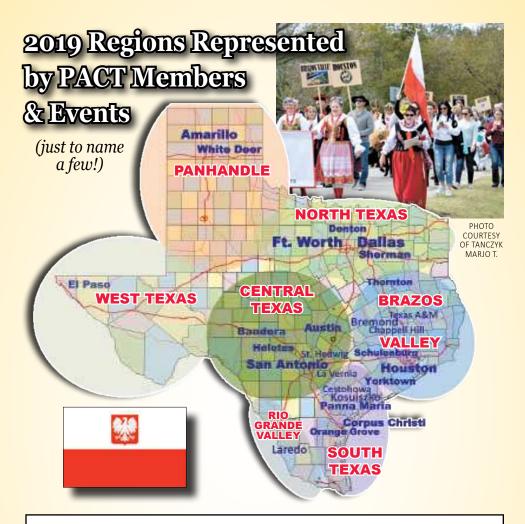
Holidays – Houston, Christmas Party, PNA Council #182

Holidays – Dallas, Christmas Celebration & Bazaar, Jan Karski Polish School

Holidays – Panna Maria, Polish Christmas Mass, singing and more, Immaculate Conception of the BVM



ber i for Submit YOUR Member events to PACofTexas@yahoo.com



PACT Donations in 2018

- \$400: Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, Saturday School, Trip to Poland in Summer 2018
 \$400: Jan Karski Polish School Of Dallas, to offset
- the price of tickets to Polish Teachers Conference
 \$200: Nicolaus Copernicus Polish Saturday
- School, Polish Teachers Conference in Oregon
 \$3,000: Awarded in Scholarships
- \$200: Quadrivium Quartet String Concert for Polish Independence Day celebration in Houston
- \$200: Transportation from Houston to PACT annual meeting



Recipients of the 2019 PACT Essay Scholarship Awards - \$1,000 to each

Alycia Caban-Johnson La Vernia High School

> Jacob Alexander Poth High School

Kristin Krozel Texas A&M Undergraduate

Kasia Krozel Texas A&M Graduate Student

2018 Polish Texan Lifetime Achievement Awards

The Polish Eagles Band and Daniel Cendalski and the Kwiatkowski Brothers



The Polish Eagles Band with a few of the living members of the band (Johnny, Leonard and Michael) with their families, along with family members of deceased band members.



Officers of PACT, in Polish costumes, congratulate Daniel Cendalski, holding award.

Congratulations and Dziękuję

Awardees 2018

The Polish Eagles Band Daniel Cendalski and the Kwiatkowski Brothers

Lenny Kwiatkowski, Matt Kwiatkowski holding his granddaughter, Maelynn Wasut, and Sissi Wellmann. They are Tado Kwiatkowski's sons, greatgranddaughter and daughter.





In memory of my great-greatgrandparents, John Kush and Josephine Opiela Kush.

They both came to Texas from the region of Silesia. in Poland. John arrived on the first ship in 1854 and was a stonemason who settled in downtown San Antonio and helped build many churches and buildings, including St. Michael's Church that stood in the footprint of the Tower of Americas, and where the couple wed in 1868. Josephine had come to Texas with her parents, Nicolaus and Josephine Opiela (buried in Panna Maria) and seven siblings in 1856. Their family home John Kush built remains in its original location in Hemisfair Park. I hope to honor them by serving as Director for the PACT and Marketing Director for the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. I only learned of my Polish ancestors after working with the PHC, Bishop Yanta, and the communities and now I am blessed and will treasure this heritage and will pass on to my family. - Maureen "Mo" Brown



John & Amanda Cebrowski

In Memory of ...

Wacław Siekierski and Jozefa Rząsińska Siekierski

Jolanta A. Mazewski- Dryden

•Director of Region H, Polish National Alliance •President, Polish Progressive Lodge 2335 & Representative Council 182



•Polish Events and Happenings in Texas and Beyond

Immigrated from Poland in the early 60's to Texas. Has been actively involved in the Polish community since she was five, performing with the Polish Eagle Dance Group & holding a variety of positions in the Polish National Alliance for over four decades.

Active promoter of Polish culture, history, language and arts via Polish displays throughout Texas. Involved in festivals, consumer events, debutante balls, and bazaars, church events and private events. Does speaking engagements and TV promos for the community.

Uses Polish Events and Happenings in Texas and Beyond to promote Polish Cultural events, arts & culture, language and current events. Owns a Consulting, PR and Marketing firm, Dryden Event Productions. Check out: https://www.facebook.com/ PolishEventsandHappeningsinTexas/ Contact: jola@drydeneventproductions.com

descendant of 1850 Polish settlers, the Kosub & Ploch families.

I'm a proud

Genny Kraus

Mazurka Polish Dancer PACT Member

Elenora Dugosh Goodley

- PACT Director
- Poland, USA & International Ambassador for City and County of Bandera, Texas
- Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation, Outstanding Service Award, October 8, 2005



- Bandera County Commissioners Court Distinguished Service Award, June 12, 2008
- Founder of the Bandera County Sister Partnership with Strzelce Opolskie, Poland, co-chair Bandera County Historical Commission

Proudly helping Grimes County and beyond with genealogy and translations!

Michael Kurtin 13300 FM 362 Navasota, TX 77868 713-446-7813 mktexwh@yahoo.com

17 years old in the service of his Nation



Witold Lukaszewski, PACT Director

Jan Lukaszewski, 100 Anniversary of Poland regaining independence

John and Frances Lewandowski - Chappell Hill



John Lewandowski (1875 - 1957)

John and Frances Jensurski Lewandowski arrived in Chappell Hill in 1899.



Frances Lewandowski (1879 - 1960)

We are the second and third generation of their offspring, Pete and Theresa Kapchinski Lewandowski.







F. B. "Ski" Lewandowski

Stanley, F. B. "Ski" and Johnnie Lewandowski

Norman and Evelyn Lewandowski Mushinski and F.B. "Ski" Lewandowski



Johnnie and Evelyn Mushinski Lewandowski, Brenda Lewandowski, Jame's Mushinski family



Happy to be part of the PACT as it fosters continued interest in the wonderful Polish Heritage. — Sue McCarthy

Pamela Mitchell Bremond, TX

Blessings from

Susan Moczygemba-McKinsey

Panna Maria, TX

Al & Angela Notzon

I have been working with Bishop John Yanta and have been involved in the Polish Heritage Center from its inception. I am



so thankful that my Polish ancestors risked so much to come to America and am humbled by the sacrifices they made for their future generations. I have sponsored the St. Michael's Cemetery window representation since my greatgrandfather and great-grandmother Notzon are buried there, and I want to honor their memories as well as all my Polish ancestors through my gifts to the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria.

Dr. Piotr Przybylski

•2nd Vice President of PACT & PACT Board Member

Born and raised in Kraków, Poland

•Oil & Gas advisor of Polish American Chamber of Commerce in Texas





Mary Ann Kotara Schirmer 5th Generation in Panna Maria Best Wishes to All!

Elaine Mazurek Stephens



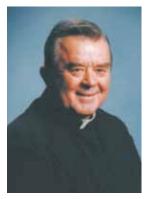
Descendant of Thomas Mazurek, one of the original Polish settlers in Bandera, Texas.

Also descended from surnames Gruszka, Haiduk, and Jureczki

1st Vice President, Membership & Directory Chairman, Polish American Council of Texas Marketing Committee Member, Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation & Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria

Honoring the Founder & Chairman Emeritus of the Polish American Council of Texas

Most Rev. John W. Yanta, Bishop Retired



We are thankful for his Vision and Prayers -The Polish American Council of Texas

PACT <u>Welcomes</u>

Robert Rusiecki Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Houston Krzysztof & Malgorzata Gajda

Sam & Susie Kotara

Actively involved in promoting the development of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria. George & Betty Kowalik

The Kuciemba Family



Rebel Ian, Rusty, Wuisayo, Liberty Rose Dr. Leon & Mrs. Alina Ordon Kundrotas

Grzegorz & Stephanie Kusinski

Descendant of Wielkopolska and Kujawsko-Pomorskie whose ancestors settled in Chappell Hill, Texas in the 1880's.

Dr. Jim & Kathy Mazurkiewicz

Regents Fellow Professor & Leadership Program Director Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication Texas A&M University

President & PACT Board Member

1470 William D. Fitch Parkway, Ste. 121 A College Station, Texas 77843-2137 979-845-1554 j-mazurkiewicz@tamu.edu http://tall.tamu.edu

Mark & Zhanna Sikorski

Eddie & Debbie Skrobarcek

Lambert & Rosalie Titzman



John (Treasurer for PACT) & Christie Wojtasczyk;

Descendants of Morawiecz, Schlesia, Pawlik, Hagel, Migura, Bednorz, Brzezina, Skrobarczyk, Grabon, Kowalik, Respondek, Czerner, & Ibrom

Additional PACT <u>Members</u>

Jerome Bielamowicz John Czyz Dr. Marian Kruzel Nick Kubiak Maria Lech Eric Opiela Thaddeus Zawistowski Rafal Zielinski John Zientek Jr. The Church was founded in 1855.

Annunciation BVM Church



St. John Paul II Parish Center

Pastor, Fr. Bill (Boleslaw) Zadora, SDS

14011 FM 1346, P.O. Box 100 Saint Hedwig, TX 78152 210-667-1232 • FAX: 210-667-9088 annun@sthcc.org • www.sthcc.org





Austin Polish Society

Celebrating Polish Heritage, Culture, Language, and Arts



AustinPolishSociety.org

Presenting Polish films, poster art, and artists since 2006



AustinPolishFilm.com

Cultural and Artistic events

Support for the Polish Studies Endowment at the University of Texas at Austin

Polish Language Classes Call Magda Boudni, 512-586-1104

> Monthly Polish Films at the Public Library

Polish Books Collection

Cooking Classes

Traditional Holiday Events

Social Events

JOIN us! We are on Facebook and Twitter



BANDERA COUNTY SISTER PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION

The Mission of the Bandera County Sister Partnership (BCSPA) is to advance peace through lasting relationships and international understanding, friendships, and diplomatic relations.

We take the United States of America, Texas, and Bandera County with us when we go abroad. Our goal is to spread peace and goodwill through sister partnerships with international cities, counties, schools, citizens, and diplomatic exchanges; to promote Bandera as the USA's best western cowboy culture vacation attraction helping to expand economic development in the city and county of Bandera.

The BCSPA promotes tourism, culture, and the cowboy traditions of Bandera County, Texas since first established in 2004.



The world is opening their arms and ready to embrace Bandera County and the City of Bandera,

"The Cowboy Capital of the World."

www.banderactyusa-sopoland.org



Father Leopold Moczygemba Foundation

In the early 1850s, Father Leopold Moczygemba, from Pluznica, Silesia, a region in Europe, now southwest Poland, came to south Texas. To help his suffering friends and families in Poland the new priest encouraged them to move to Texas, settling in Panna Maria and many other Texas communities. Their descendants continue to call South Texas home.

The Foundation hosts musical performers from Poland, annual trips to Poland and a large annual Gala; presents service awards and essay contest scholarships, and maintains two websites, resulting in the building of bridges and relationships between Poland and Texas.

ANNUAL GALA December 8, 2019

www.FLMFoundation.org www.silesiantexans.com





Emily Kotzur Kolodziejcyk accepts the FLMF Outstanding Service Award from Monsignor Frank Kurzaj, the FLMF President.



Fr. Frank presents an Outstanding Service Award to Warren Kolenda.

Congratulations to Pollok & Sons Surveying Inc., recipients of a 2018 Outstanding Service Award for a business.





Rev. Roger Hawes 1214 Zorn Road Yorktown, TX 78164 361-564-2893 HolyCrossYorktown.net

> Mass: Sat. 5 pm; Sun. 9:30 am

PARISH FESTIVAL - 2ND SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

"We are proud of our Holy Cross Catholic Church Cemetery and our ancestors whose memories we honor there."

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church



— Panna Maria —

Founded: 1854



13879 N. Farm Rd. 81 Panna Maria, Texas 78144 830-780-2748



PHOTOS COURTESY: Thank you, James Smock aka www.Polish-Texans.com



Join us today!

Alicja 214-842-1612 contact@jagodadance.org Facebook/jagodafolkdance www.jagodadance.org





Jan Karski Polish School of Dallas

offers classes for children 4 and up. Students learn reading, writing, and speaking in Polish, the history and geography of Poland, as well as Polish culture and traditions.

Children and adults who do not speak Polish, learn Polish as a second language in two "Polish 101" classes. We prepare our students to Seal of Biliteracy exam.

For more information contact us at jankarski@polishschooldallas.org or visit our website www.polishschooldallas.org.













Once again, we say Dziekuje bardzo! to Chappell Hill and St. Stanislaus Catholic Parish for making our annual meetings fun and outstanding!

SEE A FLIP-BOOK OF THIS DIRECTORY ON POLISHAMERICANCOUNCILOFTEXAS.ORG!

Meeting at Chappell Hill, Texas

At the Welcoming Ceremonies for our Annual Meeting in Chappell Hill, the Key Note address was given by Polish Consul General Robert Rusiecki, center.

Szkola Polska in

Kopen

Join PACT at our 2019 Annual Meeting for Members & Directors November 16, in Bandera, Texas



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELAINE STEPHENS, MARJO TANCZYK, & JAMES SMOCK



Maintaining the awareness of the Polish historical and cultural heritage among children and young people of Polish descent who live in Texas, United States.



Our Lady of Czestochowa Polish Church (Parish Hall) 1712 Oak Tree Dr., Houston, TX 77080 Hanna Tomaszkiewicz - School Principal - haneczkat@hotmail.com

www.szkolapolskahouston.com



Our Lady

of Sorrows Fr. Marian Piekarczyk, SDS

Polish Catholic Mission of San Antonio An outreach program Mass on the first Saturday of the month, 7 pm www.pmk-sa.com

Spring Festival **3rd Sunday of May**

3107 N. St. Mary's St., San Antonio 210-732-6295 www.ourladyofsorrows-sa.org

Masses: **Saturdays** 6 pm, English Sundays 8:30 am, Spanish 10 am, English 11:30 am, English 1 pm, Polish



PANNA MARIA Visitors' Center & Historical Society

Located in the Panna Maria Historic District on FM 81 in the historic Pilarczyk's Store building

•**Thursdays** 10 am–3 pm •Saturdays 10 am–4 pm (3rd weekends only) •Sundays 1-4 pm (3rd weekends only)

Call for tours and information 830-780-4471 or email: pmhs.vstrctr@gmail.com.

13780 FM 81, P.O. BOX 52, Panna Maria, TX 78144 www.pannamariatexas.org

Polish American Priests Association



Founder: Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta, D.D. of the Amarillo Diocese

Celebrating 25+ years in Texas. In 2018, there are now 100 Priests from Poland or of Polish descent serving in Texas.

CELEBRATING OUR PAST



POLISH ASSOCIATION IN TEXAS

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

www.polishassocintexas.org



Polish National Alliance

PNA is the largest Polish - American fraternal benefit society!

Proudly serving families since 1880, providing a wide array of life insurance and annuity products and supporting its members through fraternal benefits.



In addition to the fine array of Insurance and Annuity Products there are many benefits to belonging to the PNA family. Programs Include:

- Quarterly Magazine Zgoda
- Support of Polish Dance & Choral Groups
- Support of Polish Language Schools
- College Scholarship Programs
- Sports Programs
- Senior Meetings
- Participation in local PNA lodges

PERMANENT INSURANCE PLANS

PROJEC

✓ 20 Pay Life, Life paid up at 65, Life Paid up at 90, Single Premium, Universal Life

TERM INSURANCE PLANS

 2 Year Term, 10 Year Term, 20 Year Term, Student Term to Age 25

ANNUITY PLANS

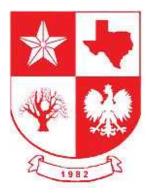
✓ Traditional IRA, Roth IRA, Tax Deferred Annuity

Life insurance helps you prepare for the unexpected, so the future will always be bright for the ones you love.

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR FRATERNAL FAMILY www.pna-znp.org • 713.805.5810 or 800.621.3723

Preserving our Proud Polish Heritage

Polish Genealogical Society of Texas





Join PGST

Annual dues of \$25 (USD) includes two issues of *Polish Footprints* and access to our online Surname Index. www.pgst.org/membership.htm or mail your check with contact information to: PGST 2019 P.O. Box 820386 Houston, TX 77282

Our Goals:

- Introduce and unite Polish researchers
- Provide medium for sharing research
- Publish books for previously undocumented matters relating to Polish immigration to Texas
- Sponsor meetings and workshops on historical and genealogical topics helpful to researchers of Polish ancestors
- Provide speakers to educate others about Polish immigration to Texas and Polish culture
- PGST meets four times a year: February, May and September at the Tracy Gee Community Center in Houston, and November for an annual social

501(c)(3) Organization

Come Celebrate & Learn

About Polish immigrant ancestry and be a part of the new 16,500 square foot state-of-the-art Heritage Center!



The Polish Heritage Center (PHC) at Panna Maria is currently being established on location of the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the U.S. It will soon be a destination for families, educational groups, scholars, researchers, and tourists and will include the following:





•Permanent & Temporary Exhibits — interactive & immersive experiences from early Polish history to the present. Highlights to focus on early Polish immigrant settlements & lifeways in Texas.

•Archives & Collections – will house & preserve photographs, documents & artifacts

•Library & Reading Room — will have a variety of books in Polish & English

•Genealogy Room & Oral History with computer stations for visitors to access family research and photographs

•Visitor tours, educational programs & workshops

•Theater, concessions, conference meeting rooms and event center

Please join us in the celebrating & preserving our Polish heritage!

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria is currently under construction & the PHCPM 501c (3) Foundation is well underway in raising funds for its Capital Campaign! Every dollar counts & your support is appreciated & crucial to the building of the new facility!

Visit https://polishheritagecentertx.org Follow on Facebook & Twitter



SACRED HEART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Thankful for our Polish ancestors"

Window from the original church, moved to the present church built in 1961

P.O. Box 427 White Deer, Texas 79097

WHAT IS APERT SYNDROME?

Apert syndrome is a genetic disorder which causes abnormal development of the skull. Babies with Apert syndrome are born with a distorted shape of the head and face. Many children with Apert syndrome also have other birth defects. Apert syndrome has no cure, but surgery can help correct some of the problems that result.

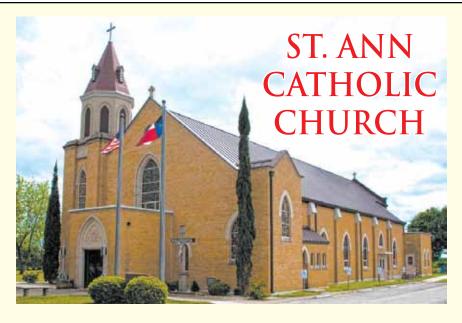


Please contribute generously to this cause! Every single donation counts! Please go to smallbighearts.org to learn more.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT ACP



The organization of an observership for practicing and already experienced surgeons from Poland, along with Dr. Jeffrey Fearon and the surgeons on his team, to provide Polish surgeons with the necessary training to organize ONE center to provide the surgical procedures and care for children with Apert's, Crouzone's, and Pfeiffer's syndromes in Poland.





COURTESY: Thank you, James Smock aka www.Polish-Texans.com

ANNUAL PICNIC

Ist Sunday in August Bingo • Auction • Barbecue Plates Horseshoe Tournament Games •& More

830-745-2541 • Corner of FM 541 & 1347, Kosciusko, TX 78160

Kosciusko, or more properly spelled Kosciuszko, was named for the Polish General Thaddeus Kosciusko when it was established March 12, 1880 by sixty-five Polish families. In 1892 a Polish Catholic school was built. The first Church was built in 1898. The people gathered together and with \$2,000 built the first Church and named it St. Ann. The wooden church measured 80ft x 40ft.

MASS: SAT. 4:30 PM SUN. 8:30 AM

St. Michael Catholic Church

Twelve years after Polish-Silesian immigrants arrived in San Antonio, they received ecclesiastical permission to establish a parish. It was the year 1866 which was their way of also celebrating the 900th Anniversary of Polish Christianity and the beginning of the Polish nation. St. Michael was chosen for its name and it became the third oldest parish in historic San Antonio.

It began with the arrival of Father Vincent Barzynski of the Resurrectionist Order who was the earliest resident pastor. On November 8, 1866, the first Mass of the newly organized parish was celebrated in the San Fernando Cathedral. St. Michael's divine services were initially held in a rented one-story, rock building owned by Emanuel Rzeppa.

In 1867, Rev. Barzynski wrote to Father General Kajsiewicz from San Antonio: "It is true that the population of my parish amounts to some 44 to 50 families ... the total number of people under my protection ... comes to about 250 ..." The first church was constructed in 1868, and five years later, St. Michael's School was opened.

Father Vincent Barzynski was transferred to Chicago where a large number of Polish immigrants began to arrive. In 1874, he became the pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, the first Polish church in Chicago. He became the most influential dominant leader of Chicago's Polonia until his death in 1899.

The first native born Texas priest, Rt. Rev. Monsignor Thomas Moczygemba



(pictured above left) was pastor of St. Michael's for 48 years - 1912 to 1960. His assistant, Msgr. Edward Dworaczyk succeeded him.

In 1922, the original church was torn down and a larger edifice of white brick was erected. The cornerstone of this majestic church was laid on July 4, 1922, followed by the dedication on October 25, 1922.

The blessing of the beautiful stained glass windows took place on December 2, 1923. The parish thrived with a grade school and even a high school. In 1947 St. Michael's was changed from a national parish to a territorial (neighborhood) parish in the Polish Quarter that was changing as many Polish residents had moved to the new suburban areas in a growing San Antonio.

This historic church was demolished in 1968 and the Polish Quarter vanished by Urban Renewal to make room for Hemisfair 1968. The beautiful stained glass windows were put into Immaculate Heart of Mary Church located in the western part of downtown San Antonio. St. Michael's cemetery, located a couple of miles away from the Church, still exists but accepts no new burials.

The modern St. Michael Catholic Church is located at 418 Indiana St., San Antonio, Texas 78210. For information please call 210-263-7270.



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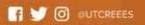
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POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEXAS

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PACT is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization established with the following mission: To further knowledge of Polish culture, traditions, history, language, arts, current affairs, and statewide events in Texas. To facilitate networking among Polish American groups in Texas.

WHO WE ARE

Our members include Polish American individuals, clubs, organizations, churches, professionals, societies, artists, genealogists, teachers, cultural events, businesses and more. We welcome you!

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