

# St. Stanislaus Catholic Church Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

*By Virginia Felchak Hill*

Chappell Hill, a rural community, with rolling hills is located between the cities of Austin and Houston, Texas. As early as 1852, Polish Catholics were present in Chappell Hill. The state of Texas was an underdeveloped frontier with Catholic churches in scattered locations. The missionary priests traveled to Washington County to minister to the faithful from Austin, Brazos, Colorado, and Nacogdoches counties. The Polish immigration came from *Wielkopolska*.

In 1880, Catholics from Chappell Hill traveled ten miles for services at the new St. Mary Catholic Church in Brenham, Texas. The first St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Chappell Hill was dedicated on November 25, 1894. It was destroyed by the 1900 hurricane on September 9, 1900. The second church was built 1901-1902 and destroyed by fire on December 4, 1921. The third church was dedicated on November 25, 1924 and it is the present church.

A restoration of the church (2014-2015) for the celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the parish and the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church in November 2014. Upon completion in 2015 a rededicated was held.

*Koleđy* are held in December, while visiting the homes of parishioners.

