



# Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

The past few weeks have been particularly busy and fulfilling for the Polish Heritage Center, as you will see in the photos in this newsletter. The Bishop John W. Yanta room has officially been dedicated, graced by a magnificent portrait of Bishop Yanta, commissioned by his good friends George and Betty Kowalik, which now greets visitors as they enter this beautiful room in the Center.

Bishop Yanta's vision for the PHC is that it continues to be a first class, state of the art center which honors our hard working, courageous and dedicated Polish ancestors who left the region of Upper Silesia and came to Texas in the mid-19th century. So it was fitting that one week prior to the dedication, we opened the "Celebrate Cestohowa" exhibit. and in the Bishop Yanta Room, watched the CCD students of our Lady of the Nativity of the BVM perform a stick dance that depicted the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Please watch their awesome performance on the PHC website.) The exhibit and performance fulfill Bishop's dream of providing a place for pilgrimage and his desire to involve the younger generations, all to promote

faith, family and community. It was wonderful, and I know Bishop Yanta would be elated. The exhibit celebrating Cestohowa's 150th anniversary, which will be on display for several months, and the blessing of the Cestohowa window in the chapel area, show the opportunity to use the Polish Heritage Center in community celebrations.

The PHC Board of Directors, desiring to recognize the contributions that our men and women in the Armed Services have made to our great country, will now honor all active service members and our military veterans with valid identification, with free entry into the Polish Heritage Center. We invite everyone to visit our exhibit honoring veterans descended from the original immigrations to Texas.

We thank Karnes County Commissioners Court for their proclamation recognizing October as Polish Heritage Month, with special thanks to Wayne Tiemann for his efforts in securing the proclamation. We also thank our donors who are contributing to sustaining the Polish Heritage Center and request your donations to the Center as you consider year end contributions. You make the Center and Bishop Yanta's dream possible.

## Bishop Yanta Room Dedication

Right: Yanta family members and friends gather before ribbon cutting of Bishop Yanta's portrait

Right below: Knights of Columbus participate in the dedication of the Bishop Yanta Room

Below: Toasting Bishop John



# Celebrate Cestohowa



Cestohowa community members view photos and artifacts spanning 150 years.



Father Wieslaw cuts ribbon for Cestohowa exhibit opening with Alice Poore, Wayne Tiemann, Peggy Lindley and Al Notzon.



Super volunteer Susie Kotara (with pal Cindy Yosko) baked coffee cakes for the event.



Cestohowa exhibit grand opening



Father Wieslaw blesses Cestohowa window in the PHC chapel exhibit.

# 150th Anniversary



Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller celebrates Cestohowa's 150th anniversary with parish youth.

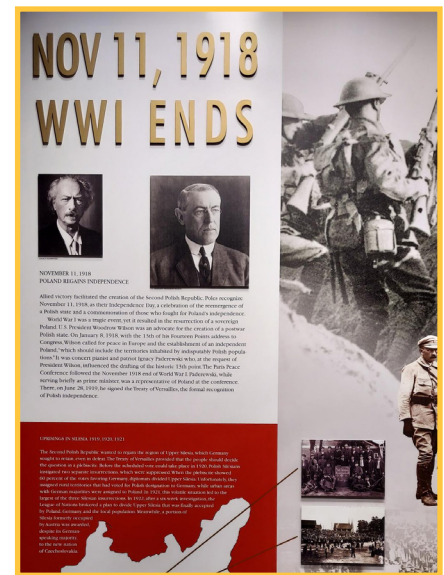


Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz brought students from the Texas A&M Polish Association to Cestohowa's 150th anniversary celebration.

# From the Exhibit: World War I Ends and Poland Regains Independence

Allied victory on Nov. 11, 1918 ended the Great War and brought about the creation of the Second Polish Republic. This date is recognized by Poles as their Independence Day. On June 28, 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Polish independence was formally recognized.

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was a staunch advocate for the creation of a postwar Polish state. In his Fourteen Points address to Congress, he called for peace in Europe and the establishment of an independent Poland “which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations.” That did not exactly work out for Poles in the region of Upper Silesia, which Germany sought to retain, leading to uprisings in 1919, 1920 and 1921. Finally in 1922, the League of Nations brokered a plan for Upper Silesia that was accepted by Poland, Germany and the local populations.



Photos in this issue courtesy of Maureen Brown, Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz and Susan Moczygemba-McKinsey.



TPR program on Polish culture and cuisine featuring moderator Dan Katz, Susan Moczygemba-McKinsey, Rusty Kiolbassa, Lauren Robinson and Michelle Waclawczyk.



Bishop Gary Janak of the Archdiocese of San Antonio dropped by to view Bishop Yanta's portrait. Bishop Gary joined KJZT Family Life for their Dist. IV social in Panna Maria.

**POLISH AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEXAS**



## Annual Meeting in Bryan, TX on Nov. 11

Join PACT for fellowship, food and fun Saturday, Nov. 11 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bryan. Events start at 8 a.m. with Mass at 11 a.m. Meal tickets are \$20 at the door and \$15 online + \$1 fee at PACTx.org thru Nov. 9. Processions, Polish dancers, silent auction and more. Join us!



Texas Monthly photo shoot capturing images from the Cestohowa exhibit.



**THE  
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER  
AT PANNA MARIA**

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PHC hours: Wed. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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**News from the Heritage Communities**

### St. Hedwig's Pre-Thanksgiving Bash

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary church in St. Hedwig invites you to the Rosary Society Turkey Dinner on Sunday, Nov. 19. Plates are \$10 and serving begins at 10:45 a.m. There will be silent and live auctions, a country store, bingo, kids' games, music and entertainment... all centered at the John Paul II Center next to the church.

Photos and information provided by Laura Krawietz Dylla

