



Visitor Experience #44

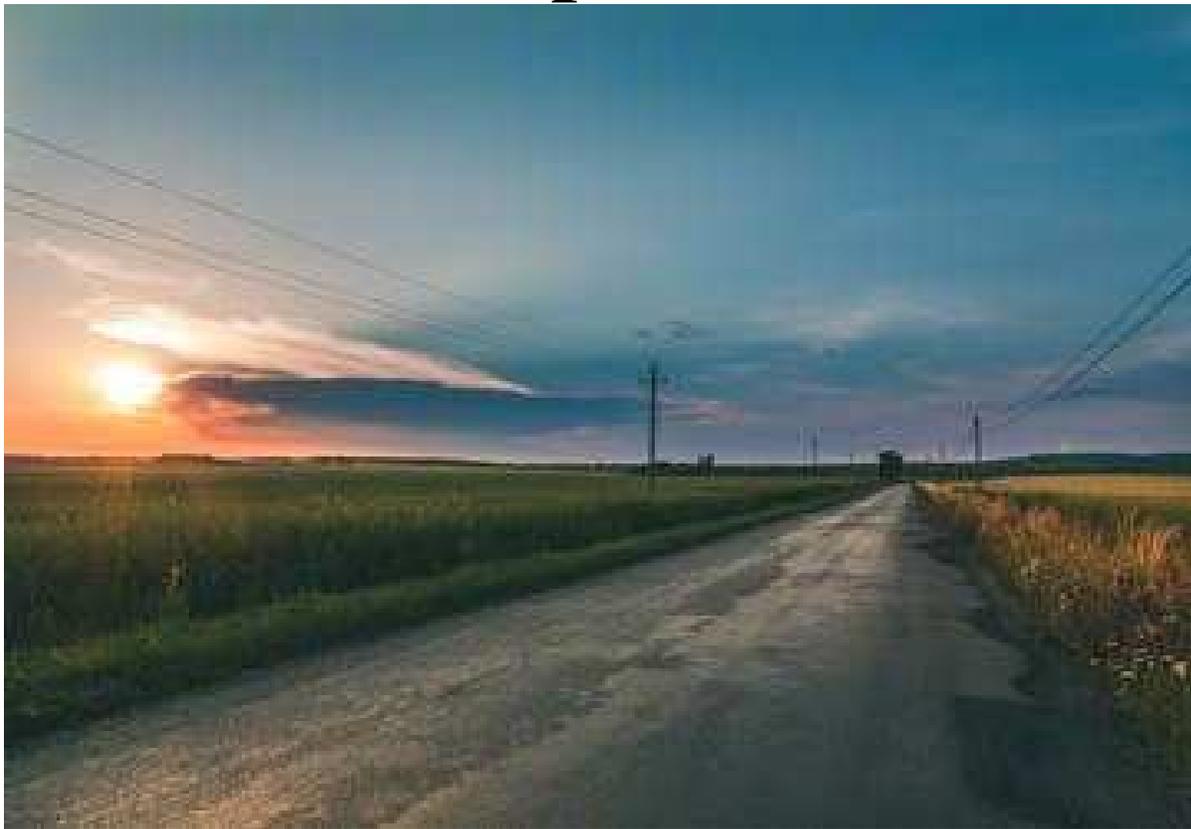


Photo by Peter Fazekas from Pexels

Most of the storm that is the year 2020 is moving behind us. As we see the end of this year draw ever closer and closer, we use this time to remember that we are also nearing the end of the building of the Polish Heritage Center. You are as important as ever to seeing this project finished. We invite you to join us in completing this project by remembering us in your year-end gift plans.



Knowing where we are going because of where we came from!

The image above, *Getting Started*, was featured in newsletter #8. This perhaps has been the most striking image that has been commissioned as an exhibit piece for the Polish Heritage Center for me. From the stories that I heard as a child, I always knew that our ancestors endured great difficulty. But there were no pictures nor sketches of what this “looked” like. Based on families stories that have survived, this image draws us into that new world our ancestors toiled in, cultivated, and survived! Their hardship steeled their faith and resolve as they forged on for the generations to come! It is to these intrepid immigrants that we shall always be indebted. It is upon their shoulders that we *continue to develop, evolve, and blossom* as the fruit of their seed into the vast family that we are today. It is to them that we owe our gratitude and ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten or allowed to fade. Continue your partnership with us in the completion of building of the Polish Heritage Center in your year-end gift giving plans!

Dziękuję! *John Wojtaszyk*

HERITAGE OF HARVESTING

“...continue to develop, evolve, and blossom...”

By Janet Dawson Ebrom

In sharp contrast to the bleak surroundings upon our ancestors' arrival were productive fields cultivated by each succeeding generation. Some of you generously brought photographs to be scanned for the Polish Heritage Center which featured your families' farmsteads and livestock. These images are visual proof of our agricultural heritage and reliance on the land. Our Polish Heritage Center will pay tribute to many ancestral families because you shared your bounty and blessings.

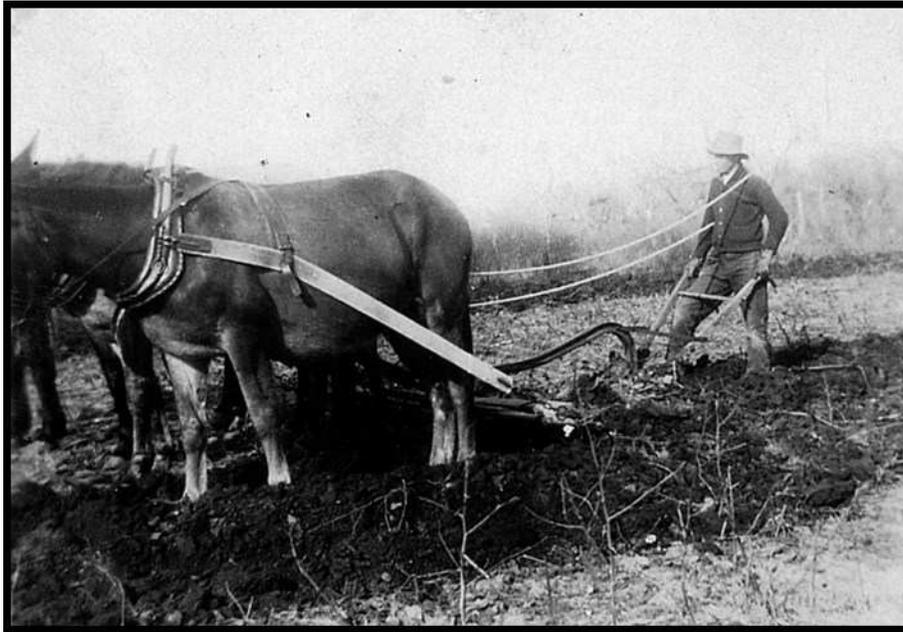
John Opiela (with cotton sack), son **Theo**, wife **Gertrude** and two children, **Katherine Urbanczyk Opiela**; (Back) sons, **Clem Opiela**, **Domin Opiela**, and **Felix Opiela**, in Panna Maria cotton field



Photograph courtesy of: Lorraine Opiela Seidel, Floresville, Texas

HERITAGE OF HARVESTING

August Anton Skloss, 1934, Cestohowa, Texas



Photograph courtesy of: Theresa Skloss Allen and Virginia Skloss Phillips, Mission, Texas

Telesfor Haiduk plowing with horses and mules in White Deer, Texas



Photograph courtesy of: Jimmy Haiduk, White Deer, Texas

HERITAGE OF HARVESTING

Mary Olenick Moczygamba, 1951, at the Stanik and Mary Moczygamba Homestead built in 1934, Kosciusko, Texas



Photograph courtesy of:
Lucille Moczygamba, Stockdale, Texas

Mary Ann Kotara, 1961, in flax field at Kotara Family Ranch, New Bremen Community, Karnes County, Texas



Photograph courtesy of: **Mary Ann Kotara Schirmer, Panna Maria, Texas**

Telesfor Haiduk, White Deer, Texas



Photograph courtesy of: **Jimmy Haiduk, White Deer, Texas**

HERITAGE OF HARVESTING

James Dlugosch working new
John Deere Tractor



Photograph courtesy of: Ted Dlugosch, Yorktown, Texas

Leroy Haiduk on high hay in
White Deer, Texas



Photograph courtesy of: Jimmy Haiduk, White Deer, Texas

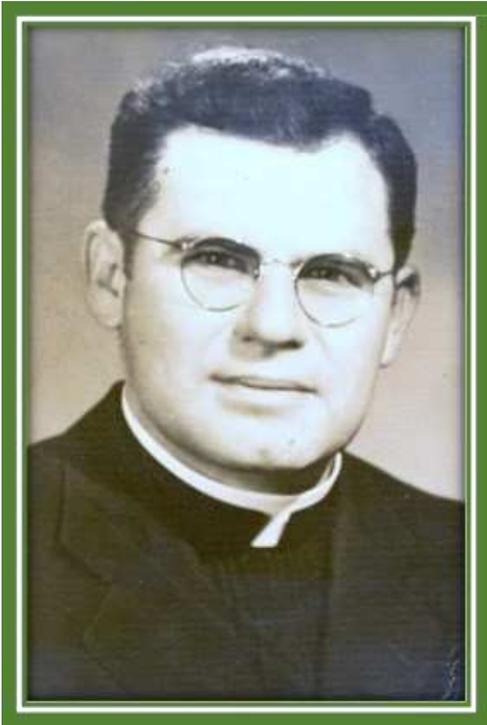
Evelyn Keller feeding chickens at **Victor Keller Farm**,
1952, Kosciusko, Texas



Photograph courtesy of: Evelyn Lyssy, San Antonio, Texas

Reverend Monsignor Henry Moczygemba

1914 – 1995



Henry Moczygemba, the son of **Frank Moczygemba** and **Julia Sekula**, was born on April 4, 1914, in Cestohowa, Texas. He chose **Isidore** as his Confirmation name on October 29, 1923, in Cestohowa. After attending St. John's Seminary, he was ordained on May 28, 1949, at the San Fernando Cathedral. He ministered throughout Texas in Floresville, Nixon, Devine, Kerrville, Falls City, Karnes City, Fashing, Yorktown, Runge, Meyersville, Asherton, Catarina, Big Wells, Helotes, Poteet, Stockdale, and San Antonio. *The 125th Anniversary of the Nativity of the BVM Catholic Church, Cestohowa, Texas, 1873 – 1998*, captured his personality: "He never needed a loud speaker

because he had a very distinctive voice...He was a jolly man and always had some funny stories to tell in his sermons. He said many Masses for the homeless and many Masses were even said on the hood of his car. He was affectionately known as the 'Roving Ecclesiastical Evangelist' and known as '**Father Henry**' to everyone" (p. 38). He died on March 2, 1995, and was buried in his home town of Cestohowa.

The legacy of **Msgr. Henry Moczygemba** has recently been honored by having him memorialized in the Polish Heritage Center by **Susan Moczygemba McKinsey & Robert "Bobby" Moczygemba**, Panna Maria, Texas. Their generosity is greatly appreciated. You may also memorialize a priest, nun, or religious brother from our ancestral families with a \$10,000 donation.



Bishop Yanta being serenaded by a group of nurses singing *Happy Birthday!*

On a periodic visit to the hospital for a scheduled routine procedure which happened to be on **Bishop Yanta's** birthday, October 2, after learning that it *was* his birthday, a group of nurses from Methodist Main Hospital wished **Bishop Yanta** well and sang *Happy Birthday* in a festive manner. This of course, brought a pleasant smile to **Bishop Yanta**. Everything went well and **Bishop Yanta** is fine.

As mentioned above, this past October 2nd was **Bishop Yanta's** 89th birthday. The following is one of the many kind birthday cards that he received from **Gilbert & Valerie Pawelek** that Bishop would like to share:

Blessed be that October day 89 years ago that gave birth to an incredible life, your incredible life of service to the Lord and to the community, especially the Polish community.

Blessed also, be the day, soon when the dream in Panna Maria will finally be completed and all our hopes, dreams, wishes and intentions will be put in motion, a motion that reflects those early Polish families that endured so many hardships and yet celebrated, in thanksgiving, Midnight Mass at the foot of the famous Oak Tree. May the spirit that guided them dwell in all of us and give us the strength to endure the perils that lay before us.

May the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria be “your house” and “our house” to preserve our ancestry for all time.

Thank you for your insight and hard work. The Lord must be pleased. Happy birthday Bishop Yanta. We pray for your health and our troubled country.

Gilbert & Valerie Pawelek

Donations

From September 26, 2020 through October 23, 2020

Armando A. "Rocky" Aranda, Sr, San Antonio, Texas
Marvin R. & Janet M. Boroski, San Antonio, Texas
Jessie & Susie Estrada, San Antonio, Texas
Mary Kaznowski Havel, Boerne, Texas
Paul H. & Doris A. Heinlein, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania
Pat & Barbara Moczygemba Hoffmann, San Antonio, Texas
Lorraine Lyssy Janysek, Seguin, Texas
John & Mary Yanta Memorial Trust, San Antonio, Texas
Sandra Kiolbassa, San Antonio, Texas
Peggy Lindley, Humble, Texas
Rev. Canon Philip S. Majka, Annandale, Virginia
Susan Moczygemba McKinsey, Panna Maria, Texas
Robert "Bobby" Moczygemba, Panna Maria, Texas
Michael Morris, San Antonio, Texas
Carlos & Guadalupe Malacara Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas
John & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas
Lambert & Rosalie Pawelek Titzman, Gillett, Texas
John & Christie Schroeder Wojtasczyk, Panna Maria, Texas
Bishop John W Yanta, San Antonio, Texas
Thaddeus Zawistowski, Richmond, Texas

Our Lady of Częstochowa Guild

The Our Lady of Częstochowa Guild represents those who have informed us that they have included the Polish Heritage Center in their estate plan. With grateful thanks, we acknowledge:

Susan Moczygemba McKinsey
Robert "Bobby" Moczygemba
Roger Moczygemba
Richard Sowa
Bishop John W. Yanta

Remember the Polish Heritage Center in your estate planning. Dziękuję!

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation

P.O. Box 28125, San Antonio, TX 78228

Tax ID: 46-0561240. A 501(c) (3) organization.

<https://polishheritagecentertx.org/>

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October 31, 2020

The Construction Keeps

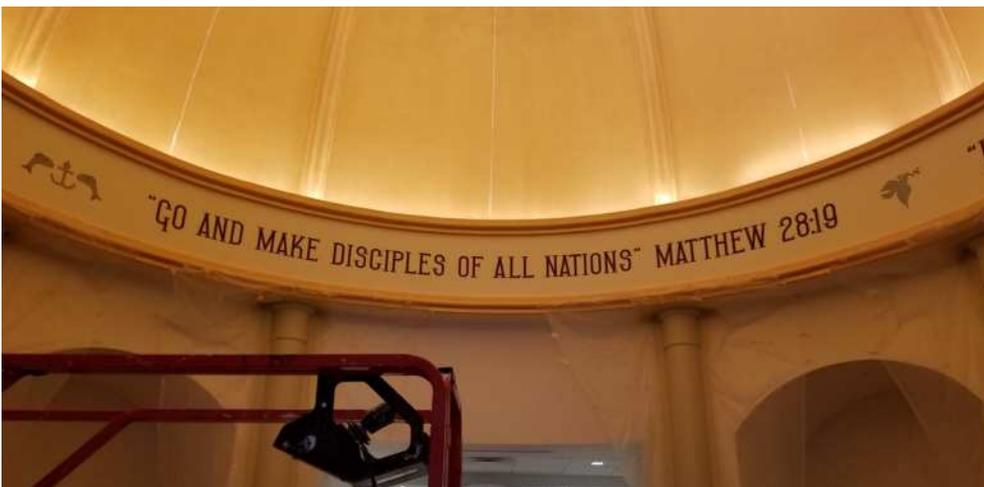


To the left is the stately entrance of the Polish Heritage Center.

To the right is the curved wall upon which a large mural will be displayed in the lobby.



Below is the inscription in English of the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. This



This is also displayed in Polish and Spanish around the rim of the Rotunda.

On Going On!



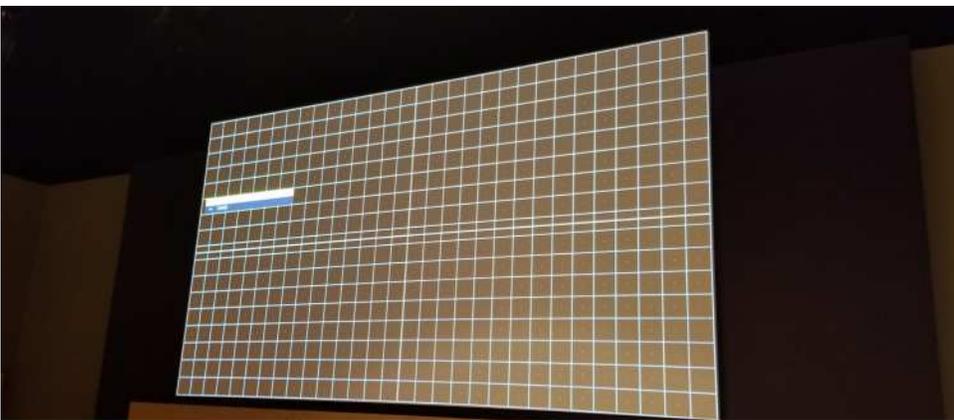
On the left is a view of the ceiling in the “Chapel” and its track lights.



Above right are 60 multi-functioned seats in the Theater. There is a pullout desk surface for writing.



To the right is a view of the chandelier located in the Temporary Exhibit space. It is patterned after the Cathedral in the Wieliczka salt mine.



Left is one of the many projectors showing a test pattern so that it may be properly aligned.



Fr Yanta's 1973 Trip to Poland: A visit to the residence of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński

Stefan Wyszyński (3 August 1901 – 28 May 1981) was a Polish prelate of the Roman Catholic Church. He served as the bishop of Lublin from 1946 to 1948, archbishop of Warsaw and archbishop of Gniezno from 1948 to 1981. He was created a cardinal on 12 January 1953 by Pope Pius XII as the Cardinal-Priest of Santa Maria in Trastevere. He assumed the title of Primate of Poland. **Stefan Wyszyński** was often called the Primate of the Millennium.

When the Second World War broke out with the German invasion of Poland in 1939, he was forced to leave Włocławek because he was wanted by the local Nazi Germans on account of his position as an influential pastor for the local population. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, **Wyszyński** aided several Jews. In the fall of 1941, the future cardinal had arrived in Żułów to an estate run by Franciscan nuns to hide from the Gestapo. While there, **Wyszyński** and another man helped hide a Jewish widower and his two children - who would later be denounced by a

Ukrainian nationalist and killed by the Germans - in an attic.

In 1945, a year after the end of war in the area, **Wyszyński** returned to Włocławek, where he started a restoration project for the devastated seminary, becoming its rector as well as the chief editor of a Catholic weekly.

Beginning in 1953, another wave of persecution swept Poland. On 25 September 1953 he was imprisoned at Rywałd. He was released on 26 October 1956. He never stopped his religious and social work.

Wyszyński triumphed in 1978, when Karol Wojtyła of Kraków was elected **Pope John Paul II**, followed by a spectacular papal visit to Poland in 1979. **Wyszyński** did not turn a blind eye towards the civil unrest in 1980. When the Solidarity trade union was created in Poland, he appealed to both sides, the government as well as the striking workers, to be responsible for their actions.

May God Bless you and yours,
 †Bishop John W Yanta

Excerpts above from article
 found on Wikipedia

Picture above courtesy of
Louise Janysek Jurgajits