

In Memory of Bishop Yanta

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

August 6th will be the first anniversary of the death of the visionary founder of the Polish Heritage Center, Bishop John Walter Yanta. Bishop Yanta's life showcased the spiritual and priestly talents of a well-formed faith, an ability to empathize with others, a willingness to go the extra mile and a strong prayer life. It also highlighted his business and institutional skills of management, leadership, and vision. Bishop's life abounded with friendships, challenges, loss of loved ones and countless masses, daily prayers, confessions, baptisms, marriages, funerals, and retreats.

Bishop Yanta firmly believed in the power of the Holy Spirit and in always being prepared for future needs. He began every project with research, talking to others, assembling a team, and encouraging consistent follow-up. He began each meeting with a prayer for guidance. And he was never shy about taking a stand.

Following a storied career spanning more than five decades, serving as priest, auxiliary bishop in San Antonio and Bishop of Amarillo, Bishop Yanta retired on January 3, 2008, moving back to San Antonio to be near his family roots in Runge and the friends of all ethnic backgrounds that he developed in this region. He also envisioned and began work on the crowning achievement of his last decade: the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria.

Bishop Yanta faced a life-threatening illness in December 2016 which had him out of commission for eight months, but he rebounded. It was inspirational to see him, despite his Trachea, learn to communicate first through an alphabet pad, then with a speaking device. He exercised daily, both spiritually and physically.

Bishop Yanta continued to work while in the hospital and rehab facility, meeting with the architect, designer and his Board. And he continued that work through the final years, despite several trips to the emergency room and short hospital stays.

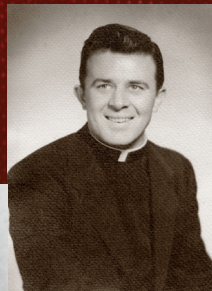
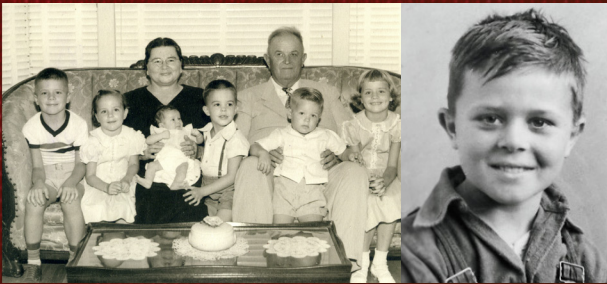
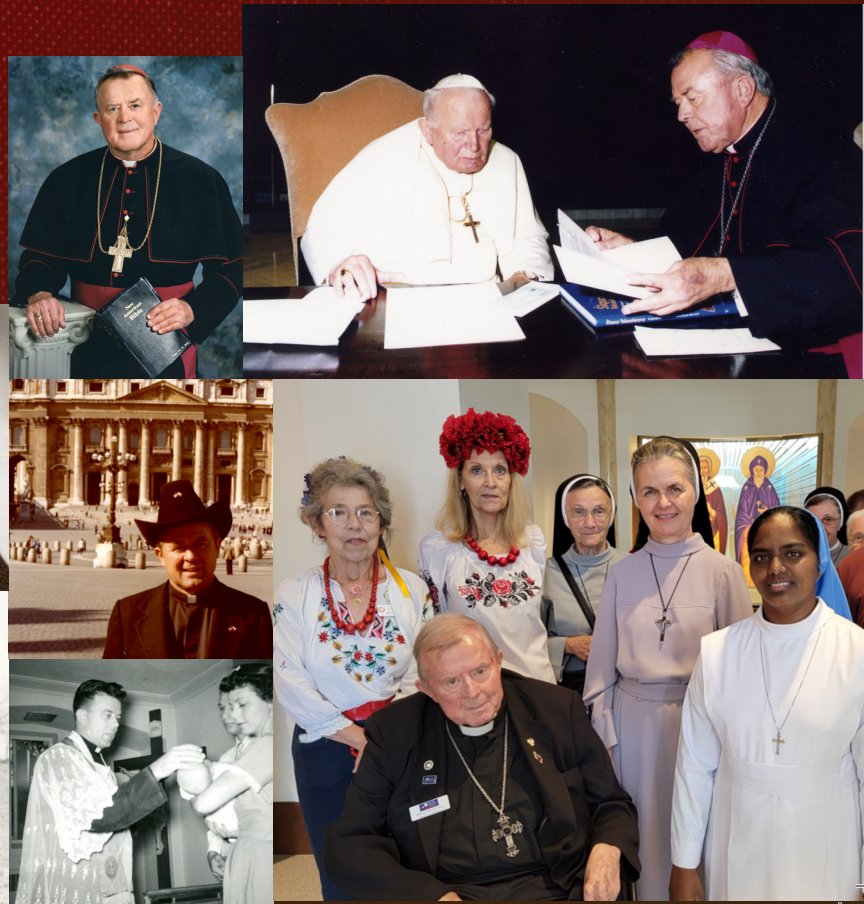
He chaired a weekly meeting with his "kitchen cabinet" and was actively involved in all aspects of the Polish Heritage Center. He loved coming to Panna Maria to see the progress and was able to take an active role in the Blessing and subsequent Grand Opening of the Polish Heritage Center in October of 2021, the month he turned 90 years old.

Bishop Yanta made friends wherever he went. He really cared for others and was interested in your family, your views, and your faith. His personal relationships included people from every walk of life, from every culture and from every generation.

His life should be an inspiration to each of us and a challenge to expand our daily prayer life, including the Blessed Mother's Rosary. As Bishop Yanta said: "Prayer is the most powerful force on Earth." He wants us to take God's gifts of time, talent and treasure and share them with others. This was Bishop Yanta's way of life, and he was able to engage each of us in a friendship and love that was a testament to his faith. His reliance on the Holy Spirit guided him throughout his life.

You can feel Bishop Yanta's presence in the Polish Heritage Center in the exhibits, the movies, the recognitions of the 13 original communities and the families who immigrated from the region of Upper Silesia, now a part of Poland, in the mid to late 19th century. We invite each of you to come and visit his vision and legacy.

Bishop Yanta honored those original immigrants who survived tremendous hardship for their faith, their families, and their communities. We honor our Bishop by honoring our immigrant ancestors in this special edition of the newsletter.



THE POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA

August 2023

Honoring Our Immigrant Polish Families

This list is courtesy of Silesian Profiles: Polish Immigration to Texas in the 1850s – 1890s. The 750-page ebook, which was researched, compiled and donated by the Silesian Profiles Committee, is available for your research in the PHC Library. Contact Librarian Lauren Robinson, laurenr@polishheritagecentertx.org for an appointment.



Brigid (Snoga) Gwasdz, 1923; Donated by Elsie Snoga Fluit



Homestead of Frank Yosko Sr., 1910; Donated by Elsie Snoga Fluit



Isidore and Otelia (Kravitz) Zaiontz and family, 1914; Donated by Janice Rakowitz Shadrock

ADAMIETZ, Jacob and RZILKA, Dorothea
 ADAMIETZ, Johann and CZECH, Helena
 ADAMIETZ, Michał and SITORZ, Maria
 ADAMIETZ, Simon and CONIETZKO, Josepha
 ADAMIK, Leopold and KOY / KOI, Maria
 ANDERWALD, Francis and ADAMIETZ, Elizabeth
 ANIOL, Valentin and MEMBEL / MENDLA Jozefa
 BAŁ / BONK, Anton and HUNSA, Caroline
 BANDUCH, Paul and WALENTEK, Agatha
 BEDNORZ, Joseph and BRZEZINA, Josepha
 BEDNORZ, Joseph and BOMBA, Constantina
 BIELA, Franz and PIECUCH, Mariana
 BIEMER, John and SPRANZEL, Mary
 BIEMER, John and MENARZ, Agnes
 BIENIEG / BIENIEK, Marcus and KUŚ, Theresia
 BOMBA, Joseph and PINKAWA, Franciska
 BOTHOR / BUTTER, Lorenz and PIETRUCHA, Marianna
 BROLL, Adrian and KORCZ, Francisca
 BROLL, Franz and ZIENTEK, Francka
 BROLL, Kasimir and BOK / BOCK, Constantina
 BRONDER, Caspar and KRAWIETZ, Franciska
 BRONDER, Simon and POLOCZEK, Julia
 BRYSCH, Michael and LYP, Lucia
 BRYSCH, Sebastian and BRZYTWA, Maria Anna

BURDA, Franz and SOWIK, Anna
 CEBULLA, Johann and GABOR, Margaretha
 CIBIS / CYBIS, Marcin and HOLOWA, Marya
 CIESLIK, Anton and PIERDOLLA, Mary Magdalena
 COTULLA, Joseph and RIEDER, Maria
 CZAJA, Vincent and SPRENZEL, Agnes
 CZAMBER, John and LYSSY, Josefa
 CZAMBER, John and PRZYBYSZ, Magdalena
 CZERNER, Philipp Jacob and JACEK, Johanna
 CZERNER, Philipp Jacob and KOJ / KOY, Johanna
 CZERNER, Woitek (Albert) and IBROM, Renata
 DANYŚ / DANYSCH, Constantin and BROLL, Rosalia
 DANYŚ / DANYSCH, Florian and KOŁODZIEJ, Martha
 DŁUGI / DUGI, Woitek (Albert) and FRIDRICH, Marianna
 DŁUGOSZ / DLUGOSCH, Francis and PLOCH, Rosalia
 DŁUGOSZ / DLUGOSCH, Johann and KASPERCZYK, Franciska
 DŁUGOSZ / DLUGOSCH, Valentin and WOICIK, Thecla
 DRAGON, Joseph and JASKOLA / JASKUŁA, Carolina
 DRYŚ / DRESCH, Jacob and KOY / KOJ, Maria
 DRZYMAŁA, Johann and SOWA, Thecla
 DRZYMAŁA, Michael and SIODLACZEK, Francisca
 DUPNIK, Joseph and KACZMARCZYK, Johanna
 DWORACZYK, Jacob and LYSSY, Johanna
 DWORACZYK, Joseph and UNKNOWN, Jadwiga



Fluitt



Louisa, Ida, August, Julia, Amalie, Mother Julia, Hermine and Charlie Richter; Donated by Cheryl Lynn Highley



Frank and Mary Ann (Dlugosch) Tam, 1908; Donated by Paul and Iris Mueller Tam



Annie Pawelek; Donated by Lorraine Opiela Seidel



Vincent Joseph Sr. and Irene Maria (Pollok) Labus Wedding, 1919; Donated by Cynthia Labus Titzman



by



Alex Jr. and Bernice (Kyrish) Dziuk Wedding, 1906; Donated by Bobby Moczygemba



Warzecha and Brysch Family, 1938; Donated by Diane Warzecha Felux

DYLLA, Franz and PAWLIK, Maria

DZIUK, Johann and WILLCZEK, Johanna

FELUKS / FELUX, Johann and MOCZYGEMBA, Marianna

FELUKS / FELUX, Johann and SZEPA, Francisca

FOEGELLE, Michael Peter and WRÓBEL, Francisca

GABRYŚ / GABRYSCH, Gervas and ZUBER, Josepha

GAWEL / GARVEL, Sebastian

GAWEL / GARVEL, Sebastian and KOZUB, Clara

GAWEL / GARVEL, Sebastian and SAMOL, Josefa

GAWEL / GARVEL, Sebastian and OBSTUJ, Francisca

GAWEL / GARVEL, Sebastian and HOLLEWA, Cristina

GAWEL / GARVEL, Sebastian and SIMONSKI, Mrs. Helena

GAWLIK, Johann and SLODCZYK, Johanna

GOLLA, Johann and NIKIEL, Josepha

GOLLA, Johann and DLUGOS, Agnes

GORYL, Valentin and CZAPLA, Josepha

GORZEL, Valentin and SOIKA, Getrude

GREGORCZYK, Franz and UNKNOWN, Johanna

GRUSCHIK / GROSZ, Kasper and KOJ / KOY, Johanna

GRUSKA / GRUSHKA, Anton and SZEPA, Francisca

GWOSDZ, Emanuel and RESPONDEK, Anna

HAIIDUK, Albert and GARBELA, Josepha

HAIIDUK, Thomas and MORAWIETZ, Catharina

HAIIDUK, Thomas and HOFFMAN, Rosalia

HALAMUDA, Jacob and KALISOK / KALISEB, Hedwig

IBROM, Bernard and SZOSTOK, Julianna

JANTA / YANTA, Woitek and JUNTZIK, Johanna

JAŃTA / YANTA, Szymon and REYMAN, Józefa

JANYSEK, Josef and REIMAN, Carolina

JANYSSEK, Constant and KASPRZYK, Paulina

JARZĄBEK / JARZUMBEB, Anton and SCHMIGA, Martina

JASKOŁA / JASKOLLA, Adam and HADRION, Josepha

JENDRUSCH / JĘNDRUŚ, Anton and BRYSCH, Marianna

JENDRUSCH / JĘNDRUŚ, Anton and KOWALIK, Catharina

JENDRZEJ, Valentin and PANIEZ, Catharina

JOHN, Caspar and DANYSCH, Barbara

JONIEC / JONIETZ, Carl and DYLA, Maria

JOSCHKO / YOSKO, Jacob and UNKNOWN, Mary

JOSCHKO / YOSKO, Jacob and SCHOLZ, Marianna

JURASCHEK, Vincent Peter and KRAIJCZYK, Marianna

JURECZKO / JURECZKI, Franz and KOZA, Caroline

JURECZKO / JURECZKI, Jacob and MATYSEK, Thecla

KACZMARCZYK, Johann and sisters Johanna, Maria, and Susanna

KACZMAREK, Paul and WALURA, Francisca

KALKKA, Casper and KOLIBABA, Marianna

KALKKA, Joseph and MORAWIETZ, Anna

KASPRZIK, Caspar and ZIELENSKI, Maria

KASPRZYK, Albert and NIEŚŁONY, Hedwiga



John, Jullia (Krawietz), and Gladys (infant) Szalwinski, 1900; Donated by Patricia Szalwinski



John and Katherine (Urbanczyk) Opiela Family; Donated by Lorraine Opiela Seidel



Vincent and Elizabeth (Mika) Dugi Wedding, 1910; Donated by Dorothy Dugi Collins



Isidor, Anton, and Henry Kotzur (sons of Leon and Elizabeth Korzekwa) Kotzur, 1939; Donated by Janice Jendrusch Lubez



Robert 'Bobby' Moczygemba, 1975; Donated by Bobby Moczygemba



Ernest Kyrish and son, 1907; Donated by Ernest Kyrish

KELLER / KOEHLER, Dominic and RZEPPA, Francisca Rosalia
 KELLER / KOEHLER, Dominic and JOSKO / YOSKO, Josepha
 KIEŁBASSA / KIOLBASSA, Peter and KACZMARCZYK, Antonia
 KIEŁBASSA / KIOLBASSA, Stanislaus and BURDA, Franzka
 KIERYŚ / KYRISH, Josef and BARTOSZEK, Lucia
 KIERYŚ / KYRISH, Josef and MOCZYGEMBA, Catharina
 KINDEL / KINDLA, Johann and GORYL / GOREL, Franciska
 KINDEL / KINDLA, Johann and GABOR, Margaretha
 KNAPPIK / KNOPIK, Joseph and PIECZKA, Magdalena
 KNIESKI, Albert and JENDRZEJ, Josepha
 KOCUR / KOTZUR, Franciszek and SEKULA, Susanna
 KOLENDA, Dominic and PIETRUSKA, Josepha
 KOLODZIEJ, Christian and PAWLIK, Anna
 KOLODZIEJ, Johann and STRZELCZYK, Franzka
 KOLODZIEJ, Johann and MASSELI, Rosalia
 KOLODZIEJ, Joseph and LYSSY, Francisca
 KOLODZIEJ, Joseph and PAWLIK, Anna
 KOLODZIEJ, Simon and SMYK, Maria
 KOLODZIEJCZYK, Simon and NOWAK, Catherine
 KOLODZIEJCZYK, Simon and BUCZEK, Marianna
 KOLONKO, Anton and HADRIAN, Rosalia
 KOPECKI, Albert and TITZMAN, Mary
 KORC / KORTZ, Martin and DRZYMALA, Petronella

KORUS, John and STRZELCZYK, Marciana
 KORZEKWA, Anton and WIATREK, Josefa
 KOSSOK, Johann and NIEŚŁONY, Maria
 KOTARA, Johann and WINKLER, Agatha
 KOTULLA, Carl and ENGLERT, Elisabeth
 KOWALIK, Johann and SNOGA, Agnieszka
 KOWALIK, Melchior and UNKNOWN, Anna
 KOWALLIK, Nicolaus and PIECUCH, Agnes
 KOWALLIK, Nicolaus and SMIGA, Maria
 KOZIELSKI, Anton and FILLA, Franciszka
 KOZIELSKI, Anton and SMUDA, Josepha
 KOZIELSKI, Anton and FIKUS, Lucia
 KOZUB, Adalbert and ROZWADOWSKI, Francisca
 KOZUB, Anton and ZUBER, Marianna
 KOZUB, Anton and KIOLBASSA, Francisca
 KOZUB, Franz and SCHOLTYSIK, Maria
 KRAWIETZ, Thomas and SCHYGULA, Agnieszka
 KROLL / KRÓL, Franz and RESPONDEK, Anna
 KUCZKA / KUTCHKA, Johann and GOHLA, Catharina
 KUŚ / KUSH, Johann and JOŃCZYK, Josefa
 KUŚ / KUSH, Johann and OPIELA, Josepha
 KUTCHKA, Joseph and SZULZ, Josepha
 LABIŚ / LABISH, Jan and ZMUDA, Maria



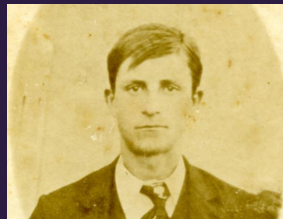
Lawrence and Katherine Pollock Family, 1900; Donated by Anton Kyrish Jr.



Joseph and Tekla (Jendrej) Yanta, 1900; Donated by Dr. Shirley Ann Yanta



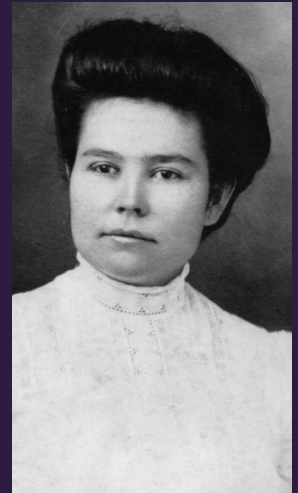
Lawrence and Katherine (Dziuk) Pollok family; Donated by Loretta Niestroy



Joseph Pieprzyca , 1902; Donated by Alice Kotzur



William and Albina (Skrobarczyk) Sowa, 1910; Donated by Janet Dawson Ebrom



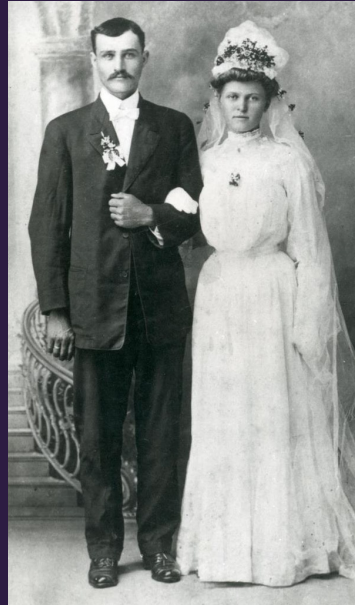
Petronella Moy, 1910; Donated by Rosalie Pawelek Titzman

LABUS, Adam and KNOPP, Jozefa
 LABUS, Franz and KNOPP, Johanna
 LEDWIG, Joseph and SOWIK, Mary
 LIPOK, Simon and PALICA / PALITZA, Mathilde
 LUBOJANSKI, Jacob and ZAIĄC / ZAJAC, Maria
 LUBOJANSKI, Jacob and RESPONDEK, Marianna
 LYSSY, Franz and KROLL, Catharina
 MADLA, Matheus, KROLL, Constantina
 MAINKA / MANKA, Franz and SWIENTEK, Hedwig
 MARON, Phlipp and STANKO, Pauline Thekla
 MAZUREK, Thomas and BOTHOREK, Hedwig
 MAZUREK, Thomas and GRUSKA, Maria
 MICHALSKI, Joseph and PIERDOŁA, Francisca
 MIGURA, Johann and ZIENTEK, Julianna
 MIGURA, Joseph and GWOŹDZ, Maria
 MIKA, John Paul and WRÓBEL, Johanna
 MIKOSZ / MIKOSCH, Franz and KNAPIK, Barbara
 MIOSGA, Johann and OPIELA, Maria
 MIOZGA, Casper and TUDYK, Barbara
 MIOZGA, Casper and ROZWADOWSKI, Maria
 MIOZGA, Casper and BUKOWSKI, Catherine
 MOCZYGEMBA, Anton and WENZ, Philippina
 MOCZYGEMBA, August and YOSKO, Maria

MOCZYGEMBA, Johan and FELUKS / FELUX, Marya
 MOCZYGEMBA, Johann and CADENA, Maria Carmen
 MOCZYGEMBA, Joseph and ZIENC, Tecla
 MOCZYGEMBA, Joseph and SCHYGUDA, Carolina
 MOCZYGEMBA, Reverend Leopold
 MOCZYGEMBA, Thomas and KRUPPA, Katarzina
 MORAWIETZ, Ignatz and JASCHKOWITZ, Carolina
 MORAWIETZ, Lorenz and UNKNOWN, Francisca
 MORAWIETZ, Ludwig and RUDOLF, Marianna
 MOY, Lucas and SKORUPA, Maria
 MROZ, Valentin and PLOCH, Barbara
 MUTZ, Franz and KOLIBABA, Josepha
 MZYK, Franz and WIATREK, Agnes
 NIEMIECZ, John and BRZYTWA, Barbara
 NIESTROJ, Philipp and PRZYBYSCH, Agnieszka
 NOCOŃ / NOTZON, Matheus and MASSELI, Rosalia
 OBSTUJ, Joseph and UNKNOWN, Mary
 OCZKO, Franz and RUDEK, Josepha
 OLEJNIK, Franz and OPIELA, Maria
 OLEJNIK, Thomas and WIECZOREK, Margazeta
 OPIELA, Anton and NIEMIETZ, Francisca
 OPIELA, Jacob and MAI / MOY, Catharina
 OPIELA, Nicolaus and HANSA, Josepha



John Rakowitz family, 1914; Donated by Janice Rakowitz Shadrock



Wladyslaw 'Walter' Cielencki and Anastasia Sowa, 1907; Donated by Janet Dawson Ebrom



Victoria (Sekula) Titzman Donated by Loretta Niestroy



Frank and Hedwig (Migura) Notzon, 1893; Donated by Jackie Clothier-Barlow



Robert and Johnny Ebrom, 1935; Donated by Janet Dawson Ebrom



Florian Pilarczyk; Donated by Elsie Snoga Fluitt



Paul Banduch and Agatha Walentek, 1897; Donated by Lucille Moczygemba Fleming

PALICA / PALITZA, Stanislaus and HAIDUK, Franzka

PANEK, Ignaz and GDOWKA, Jadwiga

PANEK, Paul and OCHMANN, Catharina

PANEK, Paul and WOICIK, Thecla

PASCHKE / PATZIG, Anton and HEIDRICH, Berta

PAWELEK, Maciej and KOSSAK, Josepha

PAWELLEK, Wawrzin / Lawrence and KATZMAREK, Maria

PAWLIK, Johann and KOWALIK, Eva

PAWLIK, Joseph and PRUKOP, Josepha

PIECUCH / PIEZUCH, Joseph and SCHYGUDA, Johanna

PIEGSA, Thomas and RESPONDEK, Johanna

PIEGZA, Joseph and DŁUGI, Francisca

PIEGZA, Joseph and PAWELEK, Agnes

PIEPRZYCA, Johann and KROLL, Katarzyna

PIERDOŁA, Adam and GAURZEL, Maria

PIKOS, Frank and ZMUDA, Francisca

PIKOS, Frank and WINKLER, Josepha

PILARCZYK, Maciej and SKROBARCZYK, Constantina

PŁACZEK, Joseph and KOSUB, Josepha

PLASZYK, Gervais and BROLL, Julia

PLOCH, Casper and GOLLA, Józefa

PLOCH, Laurentz and MUTZ, Francisca Emelia

POLOK, Caspar and PIERDOLA, Margaritha

POLOK, Joseph and GLINKA, Petronilla

PRUKOP, Anton and BUCZEK, Marianna

PRUSKI, Jacob and BLECH, Ewa

PRZYBYSZ, Phillip and JARZUMBEC, Josepha

PYKA, Anton and TKOCZ, Francisca

PYKA, Anton and POSMYK, Franzka

PYKA, Johann and JASZKOWITZ, Francisca

RABSTEIN, Johann and BARTHOSZEK, Josepha

RABSTEIN, Johann and HADRION, Josepha

RABSTEIN, Johann and PAWLIK, Johanna

REIMANN, Stanislaus and WOITZEK, Maria

RESPONDEK, Thomas and BEDNORZ, Catharina

RESPONDEK, Wilhelm and GUZY, Juliana

RICHTER, Johann and ANDERS, Barbara

RICHTER, Johann and KIEŁBASSA, Paulina

ROZWADOWSKI, Sebastian and KOTTYSCH-WITTEK, Maria

RZEPPA, Johann and DOSTRASCH / DOSTERCHIL, Tekla

SCHEFFLER, Jacob and UNKNOWN, Magdalena

SCHMIALEK, Joseph and HOLLEWA / CHOLEWA, Christina

SCHROBARCZYK, Joseph and GRABOŃ, Johanna

SCHWIERZ, Thomas and WIATREK, Maria

SCHYGUDA, Casimir and GAŚ, Rosalia

SCHYGUDA, Casimir and KOCZOREK, Francisca



Sam Sr. and Tina (Woytasczyk), 1943;
Donated by Mary Ann Kotara Schirmer



Edmond Respondek Family, 1914-15; Donated by
Bernard and Jeanelle Respondek



August and Paulina (Tudyk) Dylla,
1923; Donated by Laura Dylla



Frances (Bock) Burda,
1897; Donated by
Elizabeth Burda

SCHYGUDA, Casimir and NIESŁONY, Maria
 SCZODROK, Johann and KOWALTZYK, Josepha
 SCZYGIOL, Joseph and KOWOLLIK, Maria
 SEKULA, Wojciech and BURDA, Julia
 SKLORZ, Lorenz and MANKA, Susanna
 SKWORCZ, Joseph and HOFFMANN, Sophia
 SNOGA, Paul and KONIETZNY, Thecla
 SOBECZEK, Caspar and STRZELCZYK, Balbina
 SOWA, Johann and SCHEFZIK, Maria
 SOWA, Johann and ZOWORKA, Eufemia
 SOWIK, Thomas and RZILKA, Dorothea
 STANUŚ, Wojciech (Albert) and BURDA, Maria
 STANUŚ, Wojciech (Albert) and BADURA, Cecilia
 STYRA, August and RESPONDEK, Catharina
 SZCZEPANIK, Laurenz and MADLA, Marjanna
 TAM, Ignatz and JENDRYZIK, Josefa
 TITZMAN, Stephan and PAWLIK, Maria
 TUDYK, Felix and PANCHERZ, Anna
 URBANCZYK, Jacob and GARBELLA, Francisca
 WACŁAWCZYK, Jacob and ZIĘTEK, Maria Caecilia
 WACŁAWCZYK, Jacob and GORYL, Magdalena
 WACZŁAWCZYK, Maczek and KASPERCZYK, Francisca
 WARZECHA, Johann and KUCZKA, Margareth

WEISS, Theodor and KOTULLA, Leopoldine Maria
 WIATREK, Wawrzin (Lawrence) and KORZEKWA, Josefa
 WINKLER, Carl and WIATREK, Carolina
 WOITASCZYK, Franz and MORAWIETZ, Magdalene
 WOITASCZYK, Franz and MORAWIETZ, Catherine
 WOITYNA, Stanislaus
 WROBEL, Franz and UNKNOWN, Franciska
 WROBEL, John and OLEJNIK, Thekla
 WRZECIONO, Peter and WEISS, Marie Pauline
 WRZECIONO, Peter and GORYL, Lucia Otylya
 WYGLĄDACZ, Anton and POSMYK, Franzka
 YOSKI / JASCHKE, Vincent and UNKNOWN, Josepha
 ZAJĄC / ZAIONTZ, Ludwik and ANIOŁ, Franzka
 ZIELONKA, Leopold and RESPONDEK, Marianna
 ZIELONKA, Leopold and PIERDOLA, Margaritha
 ZIELONKA, Leopold and KUCZKA, Margareth
 ZIENĆ, Franz and LIPOK, Francisca
 ZOWADA, Vincent and LUBOIENSKIE, Franciska
 ZOWORKA, Peter and SCHMIGA, Catharina
 ZOWORKA, Peter and DLUGOS, Agnes
 ZYGMUNT, Carl and WALURA, Maria
 ZYZIK, Isidor and BRONDER, Lucia



**THE
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA**

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Panna Maria, Texas 78144



News from the Heritage Communities

Happy 125th, St. Ann's Church, Kosciuszko

Celebrating its 125th anniversary, St. Ann's Catholic Church and parish will host their annual picnic on August 6. Great BBQ (dine in and drive thru), raffle, and memorabilia featuring anniversary cookbooks and ornaments headline this event.

A bit of history: In search of land, about 65 Polish families moved north from Czestochowa along the Cibolo, settling in an area called Little Egypt near already-established farms and ranches. By 1880, the community would be called Kosciuszko, the first Polish colony in Wilson County.

Kosciuszko remained a mission of Czestochowa until the 1890s. In 1892, a Polish Catholic school, named St. Ann's, was built, joined in a few years by a second school a few miles away. By 1896, the village boasted a general store and post office. The first St. Ann's Church was built in 1898 for \$2000 and community labor. It was dedicated on October 27, 1898.

Photo and information courtesy of Judy Scheffler.

