



# Polish Heritage Center

Visitor Experience,  
#26 in Series

## Enter the Rotunda





## **From our Designer, Steve Harding**

# *THE ROTUNDA*

### **Saints Cyril and Methodius, Apostles to the Slavs**

**“Go Make Disciples of all Nations” Matthew 28:19**

Proceeding from the reception lobby, just beyond the beautifully lighted glass donor panels, visitors are drawn into the spiritual heart of the Center, the Saints Cyril and Methodius Rotunda. Two life-sized figures of Saints Cyril and Methodius stand on a low, lighted pedestal at the center of this space.

As the visitor enters the rotunda, their attention is drawn upwards to the soaring rotunda dome, a blue field punctuated by bright yellow stars. An inscription in English, Polish and Spanish, “Go Make Disciples of all Nations” Matthew 28:19 rings the base of the rotunda dome.

Four niches surround the space; each features an iconic painting of a different saint: St. Hedwig, the Patron Saint of Silesia, St. Stanislaus, St. Hyacinth, and St. John Paul II. A separate, specially designed and lighted niche anchors the rotunda and is dedicated to Our Lady of Częstochowa.

Stories about the lives of these saints and why they are important to Silesian and Polish Catholic culture will be told through audio stories, graphics, and text. Visitors will be able to hear the audio story in any one of three languages, English, Polish, or Spanish.

The rotunda is an important hub for visitors accessing the Center’s stories, themes, and research spaces. It has been designed to orient visitors and help guide them to destinations within the Center.

Visitors may choose to proceed first to either the main exhibit hall or the feature theater, both accessed directly from the rotunda. Or they may choose to proceed to the multi-purpose room for a temporary exhibit or special event, the library and genealogy area, or the Center’s archive.



## *From Behind the Scene Report*

**Report from Steve Harding:** The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria continues to make progress by leaps and bounds in some areas and small steps in others. The 300 plus page book containing exhibit copy has been issued for final review by Bishop Yanta and a group of knowledgeable editors. The book includes stanchion copy for all exhibit areas, scripts for more than one hundred adult and youth audio programs, and scripts for ten videos. Exhibit design intent documents and graphics are in the process of being finalized and readied for release to the fabricator and to the media/technical contractor. We recently completed recording comments from historians T. Lindsay Baker, PhD and Steve Wilson, PhD, and are currently in the process of scheduling and interviewing other individuals who will be contributing comments for specific story areas. Shortly, we will be scheduling a two or three day recording session, to be conducted in Panna Maria, that will include music, singing, and people from the various parishes speaking and reading short scripted phrases in Silesian, Polish, German, and Czech languages. We will be working with Father Wieslaw and Father Frank on the pronunciation of accented letters in Silesian and Polish and their impact on the sound and meaning of a word or phrase.

**Report from Mark Morkovsky:** We are entering into the next phase of construction for the Polish Heritage Center. Keller – Martin Construction Company has been selected to submit a bid to complete the interior finish out of approximately 3,235 sq. ft. of area. This new space includes a Conference/Presentation Room, Offices, Research Library and display galleries. This area is located on the south portion of the Center and will be utilized by staff and provide a space to welcome visitors.

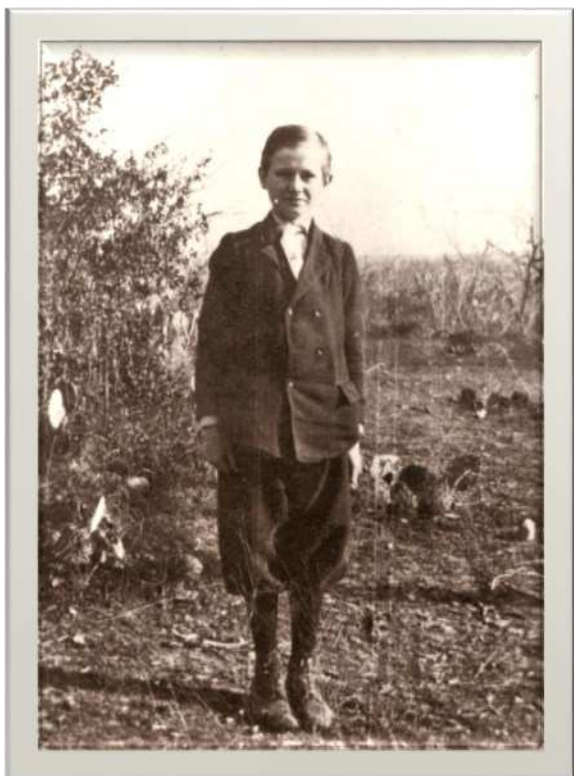
# *Reverend Monsignor Peter Leo Foegelle*

1901-1986

*"...the gentle spirit"*

By Janet Dawson Ebrom

January 12, 1901, was an eventful day in Panna Maria, Texas, when twins, **Peter** and **Agnes**, were born to **Michael Foegelle** and **Francisca Wróbel**. When they were only two days old, the twins were ceremoniously baptized in Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church by **Rev. Severin Niedbalski**. In the Baptism records, he documented the details: Peter's godparents were **Anton Pawlik** and **Julia Dupnik**. Agnes' godparents were **Vincent Hajduk** and **Francisca Hajduk** (p. 249, 4th entry and p. 250, 1st entry; the priest spelled the surname "Fogel").



The twins' father, **Michael Foegelle**, was an original immigrant to Texas from Radawie, Upper Silesia, in present-day Poland. A year after the twins were born, one last baby was welcomed into the Foegelle family which included nine children occupying an entire pew at Mass! The children were raised in an atmosphere of love and faith which made an indelible impression on their youngest son Peter pictured when he was 11 years old.

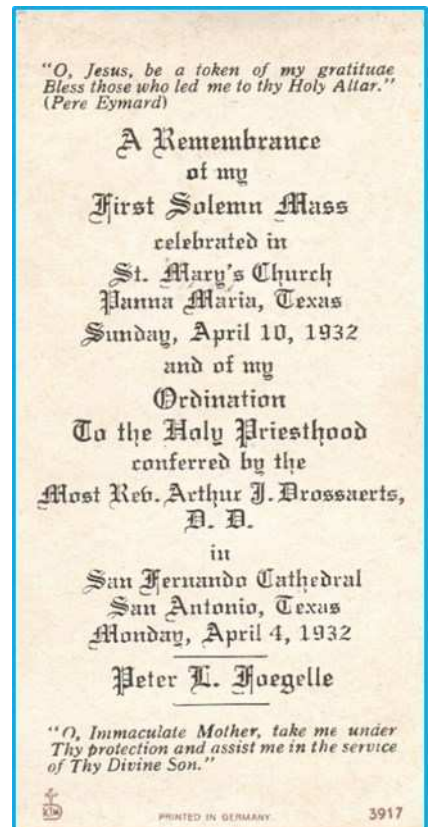
*Photograph courtesy of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Cestohowa, Texas*

After his early education in Panna Maria, Peter left the nurturing atmosphere of the Foegelle home to study for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary in San Antonio, Texas.

Finally, the glorious day arrived on Monday, April 4, 1932, when **Peter Leo Foegelle** was ordained in the San Fernando Cathedral by **Archbishop Arthur J. Drossaerts**. On the following Sunday, April 10, 1932, **Rev. Foegelle** returned to his home parish in Panna Maria to celebrate his First Solemn Mass.

Not only was his Ordination and First Solemn Mass card printed in English, but the sacramental event was also published in Polish as a “pamiątka” or “remembrance.”

As a newly ordained priest, **Rev. Foegelle** served at St. Peter’s - St. Joseph’s Children’s Home and St. Michael parish, both in San Antonio. Also, during the first five years of his ministry, he was assigned to assist in parishes in Flatonia, Poth, Nada, Hallettsville, and Yoakum (Gilbert, p. 81).



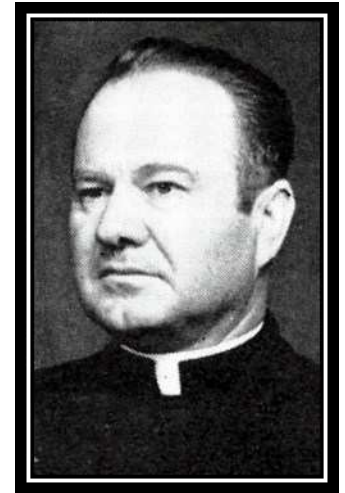


In September of 1937, he was named administrator of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Kosciusko. Over five years later, on February 1, 1943, **Rev. Foegelle** was appointed pastor in Kosciusko. During more than three decades as their beloved parish priest, his role expanded to civic leader, and he was also named a Monsignor.

Photograph from: *Priest Forever: History of St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Texas 1915-1965*, page 76

“Once in describing the parish, he wrote, ‘The people of Kosciusko were more or less isolated from the rest of the world. This was due mostly to lack of good roads.’ Upon his arrival he launched a program to improve life for the people of the area. When he arrived there was no electricity, no paved roads, no butane gas and no decent drinking water. Monsignor was responsible for correcting all of these problems. However, for twenty years he had to haul drinking water to the rectory daily” (*Today's Catholic*, October 10, 1986, front page).

Photograph from: *Diamond Jubilee book, Archdiocese of San Antonio 1874-1949*, page 81



While **Monsignor Foegelle** beneficially dealt with such worldly problems, he mainly focused on creating a vibrant parish life. One of his most noteworthy accomplishments during his thirty-four-year pastorate was the construction of the present modified Gothic church with the dedication taking place on August 26, 1951 (Wangler, p. 171).

In addition to his parish ministry, a number of broader delegations were woven throughout his life of pastoral service. He also had responsibility for rural life activities in the mid-forties as Archdiocesan Director of Rural Life, an appointment from **Archbishop Lucey** on October 4, 1944. On April 21, 1948, **Father Foegelle** was named Papal Chamberlain of **His Holiness, Pope Pius XII**, and on October 11, 1963, he was named a Domestic Prelate to **His Holiness Pope Paul VI**. Four years prior to his retirement, **Monsignor Foegelle** served as Vicar Forane of the

Floresville Deanery (Murray). Even though he officially retired in 1971, he continued to assist in the parish when subsequent pastors were ill or on vacation. “He spent the rest of his life living with his sister, in a small house directly across the street from St. Ann’s church” (*Centennial*, p. 163).



After serving the Archdiocese of San Antonio for over 50 years, **Monsignor Peter Leo Foegelle** passed away on Friday, September 26, 1986, at a Floresville hospital. His funeral Mass was on Sunday, September 28, 1986, at St. Ann Catholic Church in Kosciusko, Texas, with the **Rev. Monsignor Thomas Lyssy** as principal celebrant and **Monsignor Alois Goertz** as the homilist.

The Archdiocesan Chancellor, **Rev. Monsignor Patrick J. Murray, J.C.L.**, eloquently portrayed **Monsignor Peter Leo Foegelle**: “His very friends, priests and lay persons alike, will attest to the fact that **Monsignor Foegelle** was possessed of ‘the gentle spirit’ so valued by **St. Paul** (I Tim. 6:11). Through more than fifty-four years of priesthood – the latter portion of which was signed with the cross of suffering – as an ‘alter Christus’ he echoed through his life the invitation ‘learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart.’ May he rest in peace.”

Sources:

*Centennial: St. Ann’s Catholic Church, Kosciuszko, Texas 1898-1998*. N.p.: Privately printed, 1998.

**Gilbert, Rev. M.J.**, compiler and editor. *Archdiocese of San Antonio, 1874-1949*. San Antonio, Texas: Schneider Printing Company, 1949.

**Murray, Rev. Msgr. Patrick J.**, letter to “Dear Brother Priest and Deacon,” Archdiocese of San Antonio, Chancery Office, San Antonio, Texas, October 2, 1986.

**Wangler, Rev. Msgr. Alexander C.**, editor. *Archdiocese of San Antonio 1874-1974*. San Antonio, Texas, 1974.

The legacy of **Monsignor Peter Leo Foegelle** has already been honored by having him memorialized in the Polish Heritage Center by **Linda C. Janysek** of Runge and her family. Each departed religious vocation from our immigrant families can be recognized. If you would like to memorialize a nun, priest, monk, or religious brother for a \$10,000 donation, please contact John Wojtasczyk at 210-387-7472 or 210-733-1979.

## *A Thoughtful Reader*



Sr. Mary Jane Gawlik, CSSF

Image from: <http://silesiantexans.com/nuns/>

Recently **Michael Davis** sent in a donation with the request that it be recorded as honoring **Sr. Mary Jane Gawlik, CSSF** (born in Cestohowa, daughter of **Adolph John Gawlik, Jr** and **Mary Julia Kotara**). She is the local minister at the Felician Sisters' Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Convent in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. She previously was *zealously* involved with the Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese of San Antonio for many years. As an example, she served in the office that helped prepare the six men ordained to the priesthood this past June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was important to **Michael** to remember **Sr. Mary Jane** and all her great work and contributions to the Archdiocese. This is a wonderful way to pay honor to those who mean so much to us and who are still with us. Why wait till someone is no longer with us? Thank you, **Michael Davis!**

## *Reflections on the Kiolbassa article*

*Excerpts from an email from **Barbara Kiolbassa Britton***

..., I think of how proud my parents would be. Like in the Gospel and the parable of the sower. I like that song, "Seed, Scattered and Sown." This parable pertains to us in every day life. We are the sowers. Our parents planted the seed that fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold (the sausage company). They are the ones who heard the word, embraced it and with a generous and good heart were able to bear fruit (in this case sausage) through perseverance and hard work. I was 10 years old when our parents started the business. We hardly ever saw our dad because he left for work before we went to school and got home at suppertime. Our family is known for our gifts to the community and being good examples. It is special having the **Kiolbassa** name and being **Polish** because a certain pride goes with it and especially since our name means sausage. My dad died young at the age of 45, but I know he and my mother looked down on us and the business to be successful. When planting your seeds, take time to thank God for your many blessings.



**Barbara Kiolbassa Britton**



# Kristin Greer

*Texas A&M exchange student from Floresville,  
Texas (pictured right)*



Starting from a very young age, I have always wanted to travel to Poland. I heard about how much they value being together as a family and about their hard work ethic. It seems as if families in America nowadays are forgetting about where their ancestors came from and the traditions their family brought from their homeland before coming to America. My family has always practiced Polish culture, and I was eager to go to Poland and see what their values were and how they compared to ours in America.

My family came to America from Poland in the mid 1850's and began building their new life. I grew up with strong family traditions and cultural values that my family has preserved over the years. It was interesting to me coming to Poland because I noticed that there are several cultural practices that my Polish decent family in the U.S. does, that the family I am staying with in Poland does also.

First is the similarity of our work ethic. We work from sun up to sun down. My grandparents always remind me that back in the day their grandparents, who were from Poland, never sat down. I noticed this with my Polish family in Poland. Another similarity is the preserving of history, especially buildings and such. We still have and use the same house and farmland that my family built when they came from Poland. The family in Poland still keep up and use the old buildings which were built many years ago by their families. Likewise is remembering our deceased family members and loved ones. We make trips to the cemetery in Panna Maria and Cestohowa to take our family members flowers and light a lantern. I was surprised to see that the family here in Poland also lights lanterns and visits the cemetery regularly. My grandma has always told me it was a Polish tradition.



Stephen and Mary Moczygemba  
(my great-great grandparents)

There are several similarities that are still preserved from many years ago that my family brought from Poland. I always wondered why my family did certain things and wondered where these traditions came from. Now visiting Poland and observing the culture here, I understand why my family does certain things, and I am very thankful that my family has passed these habits and culture down to each generation. I am excited to go home and appreciate the cultural traditions that my family had preserved over the years and also implement some new ones I have learned in Poland that I can pass down to the next generation.

# FUNERAL MEMORIALS

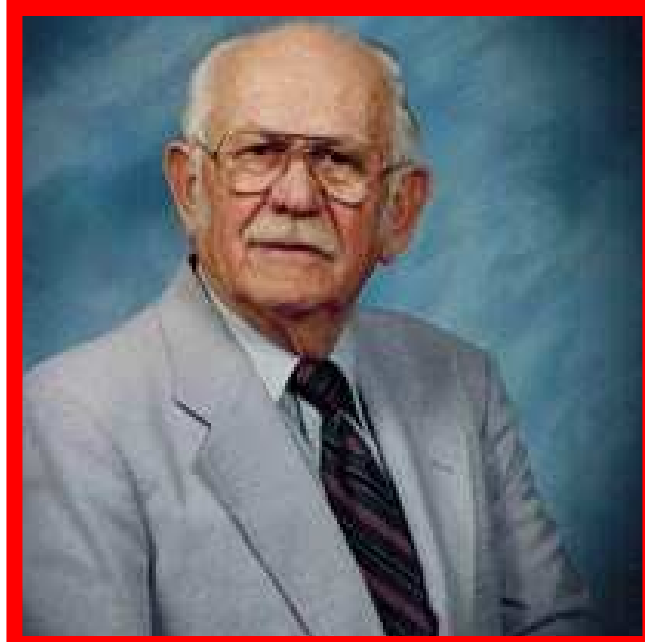


1944—2018

Funeral Memorials made by family & friends to the Polish Heritage Center in memory of *Martin Yanta*

**Everett & Susan Clyne, Barbara Dragon, John Ebrom and sons, Vincent & Mary Jane Janysek, Vivian Janysek and family, Fabian & Kim Jarzombek, Steve & Mindy Jendrusch, George & Betty Kowalik, Anthony Kruciak, Vincent & Bernadine Labus, Agnes Laskowski, Ben & Lillian Laskowski, Mark Laskowski and family, Thomas & Mary Maurice, Michael & Karla Moczygemba, Adrian Niestroy, Clinton & Stephanie Noll and family, James & Helen Noll and family, Ethel Pawelek, Glen & Sharon Robbins, Olivia Scaramozi, Ernest L & Terri A Schirmer, Kristen Seidel and family, Donald Evelyn Starnes, Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, Richard, & Patricia Verstraeten, Adrian & Rose Mary Wiatrek, Louise Wiatrek, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Wiatrek, Scotty & Robyn Wiatrek and girls, Jim & Debi Zimmermann**

# FUNERAL MEMORIALS



1926—2018

## Funeral Memorials made by family & friends to the Polish Heritage Center in memory of *Alvin Snoga*

James E & Carole Ann Aktines, Leroy & Brenda Albecht, Roy J & Mary Baring, Adeline Ciomperlik, Leon E & Yvonne Cione, Cotton Bean, Benjamin & Grace Dugi, Curtis L & Mary Ann Eiserer, Billy G & Brenda Feuge, James L & Cynthia A Fischer, Perry W & Michelle (Shelley) Fulmer, Glenis Grams, Donna Holzapfel Hester, Oliver O & Pauline H Kee, James E & Denise J Kellner, Rick & Shirley Kellner, O.L. & Joyce Kneupper, Scott Kneupper, Sam & Nancy Kolodziej, Al & Emily Kolodziejczyk, Ted & Patsy Kopecki, Mark & Helen Lyssy, Maxine Lyssy, Thelma Lyssy, Vincent & Jo Ann Lyssy, Mary McDonald, David & Lynn McKeown, Fabian, Margie, & Jacque Moczygamba, Jason E & Deborah Sue Moy, Johnnie J & Dorothy M Moy, Louise Mulhern, Elmer & Lillian Mzyk, Chester Opiela, Evelyn A Page, Arlene Pawelek, Mike Pawelek, Paul & Terry Pfeil, Roger & Carol Pollok, Lorraine M Pruski, Jim & Barbara Ramzenski, Bruce & Beverly Schwall, Bennie C & Patricia D Snoga, Glenn B & Phyllis Snoga, Snoga Bar-B-Que, Peter P & Kathryn A Snoga, Jr., Alva Stanush, Virginia Wagner, Walter & Karen Welch, Al & Virginia Wiatrek, Allan & Vernell Wiatrek, Virgil & Lorene Wiatrek

# July 8, 2018

## Institute of Texan Cultures

On this Sunday afternoon, the Institute of Texan Cultures sponsored a free event featuring *Polish Heritage Day!* To say that it was a success is to understate the day. During an average event, these event days draw about 300. But on *Polish Heritage Day*, it drew almost double, or 570! Thank you and congratulations to **Maureen Brown** and her crew: **Robin Raquet**, **Susan Moczygamba McKinsey**, **Laura Dylla**, etc. Even **Bishop Yanta** attended the event. A special dance performance was conducted by **Genny Kraus** and the **Mazurka Dancers**. In



addition, there was a craft table where all could make Polish Poppy flowers. People asked questions, had fun, learned a lot, and left with a much fuller understanding of the Polish influence upon San Antonio as the city celebrates its 300<sup>th</sup> birthday this year!



# Ways of supporting the Polish Heritage Center

The significant goals of the campaign for the Polish Heritage Center Foundation are based on the concept of “asset-based giving” or giving from accumulated wealth. The most common and simplest method of funding a gift is to give from your income stream. While cash gifts are quick and easy, they can be limiting. There are other methods of giving that allow donors to contribute larger gifts at lower costs. Structured and well-planned giving from total wealth can dramatically elevate the ability to make a more generous gift.

## Methods of Giving:

- Repeated giving monthly, quarterly, annually
- Pledge of gift over time
- Transfer of Stock
- Real Estate Gift
- Retained Life Estate
- Life Insurance Gift
- Retirement Plan Gift
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Bequest Through a Will



While considering how to fund your pledge, we do hope that you will study the following examples of creative asset-based giving. If you need assistance in evaluating your personal circumstances, please contact retired Bishop John W. Yanta at 210-733-1979.

As with all legal and financial matters, we recommend that you consult with your personal legal, tax, and/or financial advisors before funding your gift.

***Please note that this document is subject to tax law changes.***

**In heart-felt gratitude, we thank those who have recently contributed to the ongoing success of the Polish Heritage Center.**

Bobby G & Barbara W Baca, Victoria, Texas  
Robert A III & Larue Newton Bashaw, Bandera, Texas  
LTC Marvin R & Janet M Boroski, San Antonio, Texas  
Charles & Marilyn Conger, Pinehurst, Texas  
Linette L Conner, San Antonio, Texas  
Charlie & Mary Copeland, Lockhart, Texas  
Michael Davis, San Antonio, Texas  
Mr. & Mrs. Claude A Dugie, San Antonio, Texas  
Jerry Dworaczyk, Richmond, Texas  
Mary Dworaczyk, Richmond, Texas  
Paul & Laura Dylla, Adkins, Texas  
Jesse, Susie, Annette, & Jeannette Estrada, San Antonio, Texas  
Brian Lee & Cherry Hogman, McKinney, Texas  
Dorothy A Humphrey, San Antonio, Texas  
Michael & Velma Janysek, Karnes City, Texas  
David C & Sally L Jenkins, Floresville, Texas  
Rita Johnson, Katy, Texas  
Sandra Kiolbassa, San Antonio, Texas  
Rev. Andrzej Knapik, Cleveland, Ohio  
Gabe & Bertha Korzekwa, Gillett, Texas  
Joshua M & Doris A Kosub, Poteet, Texas  
Timm & Dolores Mika LaVelle, Turlock, California  
Margaret A Little, Corinth, Texas  
Ronald & Barbara J Miller, San Antonio, Texas  
Carol Moczygemba, Austin, Texas  
Richard & Denise Moczygemba, Killeen, Texas  
Tawfiq H & Patsy Nimri, Knoxville, Tennessee  
Guadalupe & Carlos Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas  
John H & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas  
Rev. Msgr. Bernard a Przybocki, Altoona, Pennsylvania  
Ed Rachal Foundation, Corpus Christi, Texas  
Leon & Vivian Respondek, Yorktown, Texas  
LTC (R) Kerry A & J.F. Reyna, San Antonio, Texas  
Fernando A & Adeline M Rodriguez, San Antonio, Texas  
David & Charlotte B Shodrock, Adkins, Texas  
Jeffry & Kathleen Sproles, Victoria, Texas  
Gladys Ibrom Stanush, Adkins, Texas  
LTG (R) Richard J & Sylvia L Trzaskoma, San Antonio, Texas  
Donald D & Catherine Varella, San Antonio, Texas  
Charles V Warzecha, San Antonio, Texas  
Pat Woollett, Frisco, Texas  
John A & Mary Pollok Yanta Memorial Trust, San Antonio, Texas  
Chris & Beverly A Zaiontz, Marion, Texas



Perhaps what is generally not known is that both volumes of *Silesian Profiles* were translated into Polish by **Rev. Wojciech Reisch** when he was the pastor in Panna Maria, Texas. After the 2004 publication of the first Polish-version book, *Śląscy Teksańczycy: Emigracja ze Śląska do Teksasu w latach 1852-1859*, **Bishop Yanta** personally presented a copy to His Holiness, **Pope John Paul II** as shown in the above photo. Both *Silesian Profiles* books which were translated into Polish for European distribution will be displayed in the new Polish Heritage Center.

### Correction!

In Newsletter #25, we proudly announced the memorialization of Fathers Peter Foegelle and Theodore Janysek. This memorialization is made possible by the generous *donation of Linda C. Janysek of Runge and her family!* I apologize for the error.

# Bishop's Corner



*From left to right: Bishop Yanta, Al Notzon, Mickey Schott, Joe Yanta, Robert Morkovsky, Mark Morkovsky, Laura Dylla, Paul Dylla, and Mike Boyle discussing the completion of the shell of the Polish Heritage Center at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Kitchen Cabinet Meeting.*

As all of you probably know, I have been slowed down by my six month hospitalization which ended June 1<sup>st</sup> last year. I still visit with you principally through our newsletters. Everyone says they are enjoyable and very easy to read — thanks to my assistant, **John Wojtasczyk**, and **Janet Dawson Ebrom**. This newsletter gives you a pictorial preview of our beautiful building. Those who make it happen are our generous donors, our creative designer, and faithful architects. I like the inspirational letters from **Kristin Greer** and **Barbara Kiolbassa Britton**. More and more are including our Polish Heritage Center for gifts in lieu of flowers at funerals. This is a creative way of including spiritually uplifting gifts which are both legal and good business. Because my family has been blessed materially, as many of your families, I created a charitable trust 501(C)(3) with the help of a good lawyer. The building of the Polish Heritage Center aims to be around for the next few centuries. In the mean time, you are in my daily Masses. Also, you and yours are in my prayers and sacrifices.

†Bishop John W. Yanta