



Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

Let me be the first to wish you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. The final weeks of 2025 have proven to be just as busy and exciting as the entire year has been.

What a unique experience to be part of a pilgrimage, an Archdiocesan Assembly, and a PHC event - all at the same time! This year's Archdiocese Assembly was held in the pilgrimage sites for this Jubilee year, and it was wonderful to see so many of the participants from the Floresville Deanery and beyond attend this event in the pilgrimage site of Panna Maria. There was a full morning of activities, with the Polish Heritage Center serving as the central location for rest and refreshments. Participants also heard a great talk in the PHC Theatre by Fr. Rafael Negroni from Sacred Heart in Floresville. Fr. Fidele Dikete from St. Anthony's in Elmendorf gave an equally fine talk in the Immaculate Conception Church. The Assembly finale was Mass concelebrated by the priests of the Deanery. The translations into Spanish and Polish were excellent and the singing was truly inspirational.

Fr. Jude Offor, administrator of St. Paul's Catholic Church in San Antonio, blessed the Bishop John W. Yanta Room at the St. Paul's Community Center. For many years, this room served as storage for much of Bishop's memorabilia. Now, having been wonderfully refreshed by Alice Poore and the PHC staff, it will be used as a boardroom for the parish council and for other meetings.

Many of Bishop Yanta's keepsakes are in the glass fronted cabinets and other memorabilia hung on the walls. We got many compliments on the excellent addition to the Community Center where Bishop remains a loving presence.

The PHC was honored to host the 150th anniversary celebration of the Felician Sisters, the religious order serving in South Texas for 93 years. We were also delighted to welcome home Sr. Danat Brysch and Sr. Jane Gawlik, who both grew up in Cestohowa, and Sr. Martha Janysek from Panna Maria.

The Polish American Council of Texas, which was founded by Bishop Yanta, held its annual meeting in Panna Maria at the Polish Heritage Center on Nov. 15. Representatives from throughout Texas gathered to hear reports on events and programs promoting Texas Polonia. PHC board member Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz is president of PACT and noted that Texas is considered a model in the nation because all of our diverse Polish organizations work together so well. Following a procession to the historic oak for pictures, the attendees were entertained by the Wawel Dancers from Houston who performed under the tents in front of the Polish Heritage Center. PACT also honored Sam Kotara, Betty Kowalik, Joe Yanta, Elaine Moczygamba and me with lifetime achievement awards. Following lunch and an afternoon of networking, the event concluded with a Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church.

We hope you enjoy reliving all of these wonderful events with the photos in this newsletter. Again, on behalf of the PHC Board and Staff, enjoy a wonderful holiday season.



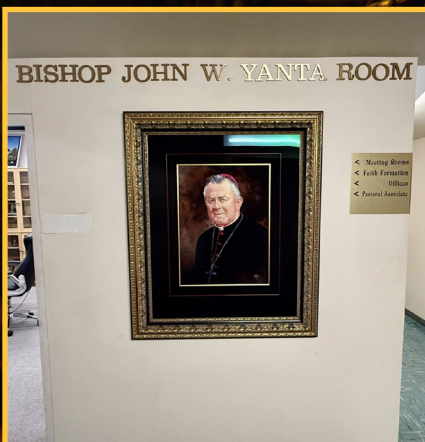
Assembly 2025 in Panna Maria



Yorktown 11th Graders Visit the PHC



Bishop John W. Yanta Room at St. Paul's Community Center in San Antonio



Felician Sisters Celebrate 150th Anniversary



Polish American Council of Texas 2025 Annual Meeting





**THE
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER
AT PANNA MARIA**

13909 N FM 81
PO Box 25
Panna Maria, Texas 78144



PHC Hours: Tues. – Sat. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
www.polishheritagecentertx.org
(830) 310-8612

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria
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*Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia
Merry Christmas!*

