



# Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon, PHC Chairman and President

Happy New Year to all our donors, visitors and supporters. The Polish Heritage Center had a record setting year in 2025 with increased attendance, support and programs. Our thanks to all of you who assisted in making this possible. I want to particularly thank our Executive Director Alice Poore and her staff, along with our donors, Board members and volunteers who always came through with outstanding results for their efforts.

The Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimages brought a dozen separate pilgrimages to Panna Maria, the Immaculate Conception Church, and the Center. Our Art program attracted over 150 entries. Our Scholarship program awarded two Bishop Yanta Scholarships and two Polish Heritage Center scholarships to qualified applicants this past year.

Polish Youth Day attracted 283 young people from Texas A&M, the University of Texas, and representatives from high schools and other educational institutions from as far away as Dallas and Houston. They all enjoyed a full day of activities geared to all ages. The Center also hosted the annual meeting of the Polish American Council of Texas (PACT) with over 80 attendees representing Polish organizations from throughout Texas.

At the request of the Polish Consulate in Houston, the Center hosted a tour and luncheon on December 4 for Mateusz Piotrowski, the head of the Americas Programme of The Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw. Joyce Rives of the Panna Maria Historical Society toured him through the Church and the Panna Maria Museum while George Kowalik

opened his ancestor's newly renovated 1850's Czerner house, explaining its history and unique features.

At this year's Dziękuję celebration, Polish Consul General Jarosław Łasiński presented PHC board member John Cebrowski and me with the Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland, which is Poland's highest civilian award recognizing foreigners and Poles abroad for outstanding contributions to international cooperation and Polish relations. You'll see more about this in the newsletter.

Our 2026 goals for the PHC will expand these successful programs. We invite all of you to come see the new and exciting additions to our Polish Heritage Center, including the Bishop Yanta exhibit. It's not to be missed. We look forward to seeing you.



*You are invited to attend*  
**THE POLISH HERITAGE CENTER'S**  
*White & Red*  
*Gala*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026**  
**5:30 PM TO 9:30 PM**

*Panna Maria Hall*  
 13912 N. FM 81  
 PANNA MARIA, TX 78144

*Cocktails, Dinner,  
 Auction, & Entertainment*

# The Gala is Coming!

By: Alice Poore, PHC Executive Director

The Polish Heritage Center will host its annual White and Red Gala on Saturday, March 7, 2026. It will be held at Panna Maria Hall, beginning with happy hour and appetizers starting at 5:30 p.m. and will continue throughout the evening with an open bar. A delicious steak dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Guests will then enjoy a brief live auction. We are also excited to announce that the Polish brass band, AllDęte, will return to Panna Maria and once again entertain guests with their fabulous music.

The White and Red Gala is the PHC's major fundraiser of the year. There are a limited number of tables and individual tickets, so please reserve yours now through any board member. For more information, or to purchase your table, contact Alice Poore, Executive Director, at 830-310-8612. Join us and enjoy a fabulous evening of Polish culture and music.

**AllDęte**  
**US TOUR 2026**  
 NAJWIĘKSZE POLSKIE PRZEBOJE

**MARZEC**

- NEW YORK, NY GREENPOINT
- CHICAGO, IL COPERNICUS CENTER
- NEW YORK, NY LONG ISLAND
- HOUSTON, TX
- PANNA MARIA, TX
- AUSTIN, TX

THE POLISH HERITAGE CENTER Copernicus center AT PANNA MARIA



Inn at Los Patios Seniors



Lyssy/Tieken bridal party

# Dziękuję!



The Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland is Poland's highest civilian award, recognizing foreigners and Poles abroad for outstanding contributions to Polish relations. It was presented to Aloys Notzon and John Cebrowski by Polish Consul General Jarosław Łasiński at the PHC on December 13.



The Gold Cross of Merit recognized my roles assisting Bishop Yanta in the creation of the Polish Heritage Center, then serving as Chairman and President of the Foundation. I gratefully accept this prestigious award on behalf of the Center's mission promoting our Polish ancestors' faith, family and culture.

Aloys Notzon



"I am filled with gratitude. Deep gratitude for the pride and passion of my heritage that my grandparents and parents instilled in me, for the fruit it has borne, for the Polish government's gracious acknowledgement of my contributions, and for the example set for my daughters and grandchildren."

John Cebrowski





**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](http://www.polishheritagecentertx.org)  
(830) 310-8612

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria  
Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization.

TAX ID: #46-0561240

*Wishing you a happy and blessed 2026!*

