



# | Chairman's Column

By: Aloys Notzon,  
PHC Chairman and President

The Fall season at the Polish Heritage Center is an especially busy time as it is for many of our local parishes. We look forward to the annual turkey dinners in Panna Maria, Cestohowa and St. Hedwig. Please support your local parish's fall festival and those throughout our area. Meanwhile, the PHC made sure that Poland was represented at the early Oktoberfest celebration in San Antonio at La Villita.

Bishop John W. Yanta's exhibit will be featured in the Center beginning on October 18th and gives visitors the opportunity to see some of the material that was acquired from Bishop's home, his office, his storage unit and from his friends and family. This exhibit was curated by Lauren Robinson and was a team effort. You'll have an opportunity to hear stories from some of Bishop's friends and see some of the remarkable achievements of a remarkable man - the first Bishop to be descended from the original immigrants who came from what is now the region of Upper Silesia in Poland in 1854.

We look forward to hearing from you as you share your stories. We all have great memories of our beloved Bishop John Yanta. Please spend time with the stories and pictures in this newsletter. We are so proud of our board member Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz who was one of only 8 Americans and the only Texan invited to the inauguration of the new President of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, PhD. We're also proud of Bishop Yanta's scholarship recipient Makayla Janysek for being a winner in the San Antonio River Authority's photo competition. You can see her great photo at the Witte Museum in San Antonio for the next three months. And you can't miss the new PHC sign on State Highway 81, across from the community hall.

We look forward to seeing you soon at the Polish Heritage Center.

You're Invited To The  
**GRAND  
OPENING**  
BISHOP JOHN W. YANTA EXHIBIT  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH  
POLISH HERITAGE CENTER  
13909 N FM 81 Panna Maria, TX 78144

Mass will be held at the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Panna Maria at 10:30, followed by the ribbon cutting and a reception at the Polish Heritage Center.

RSVP @ (830) 310-8612  
by Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>



PHC sign on Hwy 81 in Panna Maria. Thanks to John Dziuk for design and installation and to Ben Pruski with Burke & Pruski Metal Fabrication and Power Coating for cutting and coloring.

# New Tax Changes

By: Shelly Laskowski, PHC Treasurer

The One Big Beautiful Bill was signed into law July 4, 2025, creating significant changes to charitable contributions beginning in 2026.

## Key Changes Beginning January 1, 2026

### 1. Universal Charitable Deduction:

Taxpayers who typically do not itemize can now claim an above-the-line charitable deduction of \$1,000 for single filers and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

### 2. Impact on High Income Taxpayers:

Charitable donations made by taxpayers in the 37% tax bracket are limited to 35% of the contribution value.

### 3. Corporate Charitable Contributions:

Corporations are limited to a charitable contribution that exceeds 1% of their taxable income. Contributions below this threshold are not immediately deductible. However, they are allowed to be carried forward for up to five years, subject to specific restrictions.

To maximize tax benefits, taxpayers are encouraged to reach out to their tax professionals and reevaluate their charitable giving strategies. Consult your tax advisor today!



Bishop Yanta Scholarship Recipient Makayla Janysek's bee photo won the Judge's Choice award for Karnes County at the 2025 River Clicks Photo Contest sponsored by the San Antonio River Authority.



PHC board member John Cebrowski joined the students of the Texas A&M Polish Assn. at their first meeting of the new school year.



John Wojtasczyk's 65th Birthday Bash



Oktoberfest



# The Inauguration of the President of Poland

By: Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, PHC Board Member

It was my great honor to receive an invitation to attend the inauguration of the new President of the Republic of Poland, Karol Nawrocki, PhD. I arrived in Warsaw on Monday, August 4 and departed on Thursday, August 7. It was a whirlwind trip, but what a privilege for me to be able to attend this historic event, representing Texas and US Polonia.

The opportunity to witness Poland's peaceful transition of power, knowing Poland's history of fighting for freedom and independence since the 18th century, was a moving lifetime experience. Prior to the inauguration, I had the opportunity to meet with several Polish academics, government officials, and leaders. The evening before the inauguration, I gave a short speech at the CPAC meeting as the guest of former Minister Przemysław Czarnek who was in Panna Maria, Texas giving a speech back in early July.

On August 6, Inauguration Day, I was most grateful to be invited to attend all of the inaugural events. Each event was well orchestrated with class and professionalism representing Poland's traditions, culture, history and their love for a free and democratic society.

The inauguration began with the swearing-in ceremony before the National Assembly (Sejm), followed by an acceptance speech by President Nawrocki. Then we attended a Holy Mass for the Homeland and the President of the Republic of Poland at the Arch Cathedral Basilica of St. John the Baptist. Following that was the Investiture ceremony of the President of the Republic of Poland as Grand Master of the Order of the White Eagle and the Order of Polonia Restituta in the Royal Castle, and the ceremony of the President of the Republic of Poland assuming command of the Polish Armed Forces at the Marshal Józef Piłsudski Square 30.

Congratulations to President Karol Nawrocki PhD. and to the people of the Republic of Poland for a beautiful and historic event! Thank you for this opportunity and may God Bless Poland and God Bless the United States of America!





**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

**News from the Heritage Communities**

**Oktoberfest**

