



# Polish Heritage Center

Visitor Experience,  
#30 in Series



Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation  
P.O. Box 28125, San Antonio, TX 78228  
Tax ID: 46-0561240. A 501(c) (3) organization.  
<http://www.polishheritagecentertexas.org/>

December 17, 2018

# *A New Beginning!*

*By Designer Steve Harding*

A large illustration of a sailing ship, center right, introduces the ocean voyage to Texas. Here an environment is created through light and sound. Water texture is projected on to the walls, floor, and visitors near the ship. This projection, accompanied by localized audio stories and sound effects, immerses visitors in the experience. One hears wind in the sails, sailors barking orders to one another, gulls crying, and the sound of waves and water on the hull of the ship.



A dramatic, internally illuminated illustration, center, provides a view of the settlers gathering under the Great Oak in Panna Maria and Father Moczygemba offering a Christmas Midnight Mass of Thanksgiving. Candles and torches held by the people in congregation illuminate the scene. Reflected lighting, like torchlight and candlelight filtering through the leaves of the trees, is projected onto the walls and floor in front of this display. As the lighting falls on the visitors, they become part of the scene and experience.

Additionally, localized audio is projected into the same area, and the sounds of Mass being sung in Latin, members of the congregation whispering to each other, and Christmas Carols being sung in Polish augment the sense of being part of the story.

To the far left of the historic Mass of Thanksgiving illustration, begins the story of the next milestones the settlers would face—the challenges of getting started in a new and often unforgiving land.

# A Year in Review!

## The Shell of our proud Polish Heritage Center

Let's take stock and give thanks for all your generous gifts that have brought us to this point in the building of our proud Polish Heritage Center.



Week 91, January 6<sup>th</sup>, saw the continued installation of the cast stone on our beautiful Polish Heritage Center.

Week 93, January 15<sup>th</sup>, often, if you are not around a lot, or have experience in the construction business, it is a challenge to appreciate all the details that go unnoticed, such as these cast stones, nearly all which were costumed made to fit into a particular location.



Week 95, February 5<sup>th</sup>, just when you think that you are getting ahead, there are still more pieces to install!



Week 96, February 14<sup>th</sup>, sometimes you just have to stop and appreciate the view! Just let that view soak in!

Week 97, February 18<sup>th</sup>, it is always a wonderful sight to see both our historic church and our beautiful Polish Heritage Center in the same shot!



Week 98, February 26<sup>th</sup>, doing a little work on one of the medallions which recognizes the region of Silesia where our immigrant ancestors originated.

Week 99, March 6<sup>th</sup>,

Ok! Not a construction photo but a group of Polish tourists vacationing on motorcycles. They took a chance and stopped by to see Panna Maria! Needless to say, they were very impressed with our Polish Heritage Center and want to come back once it is opened.



Week 100, March 12<sup>th</sup>, since the ground slopes down on the south side, side of the river, special attention is needed to take care of the soil.

Week 101, March 20<sup>th</sup>, all right! Pouring the concrete that will be the front entrance of our Polish Heritage Center.





Week 103, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and the paving is done and the parking spaces are stripped.

Week 106, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, all dressed up and wants you to come and visit when it opens.



October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Polish Heritage Center flying the United States, State of Texas, and the Republic of Poland flags!

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# CONSTRUCTION PHASE III-A

## WORK BEGINS ON THE INTERIOR

Week 1, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Keller-Martin's superintendent extraordinaire John Ebrom, a member of St. Cornelius Church in Karnes City, is in charge of this next phase, the build out of the inside.



Week 2, September 12<sup>th</sup>, It is amazing how the inside looks when you put up the metal studs and you can more easily visualize the interior spaces.

Week 3, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, it's a good thing that good insulation is going up, can you imagine the electric bill otherwise!





Week 4, September 29<sup>th</sup>, a panoramic shot of the genealogy, library, and research room.



Above: Week 5, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, another panoramic view, but of the rear entrance, going around where the elevator is located, and looking at the side entry into the genealogy, library, and research room.

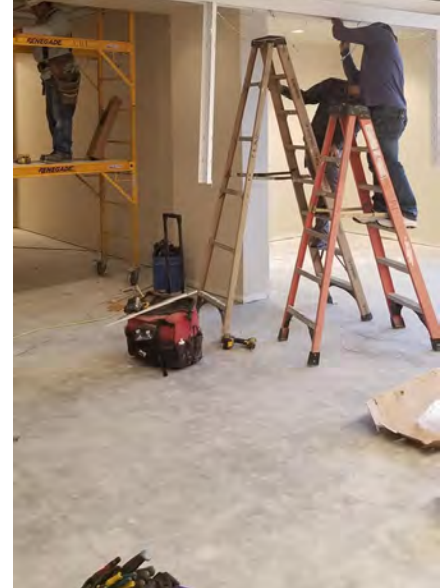
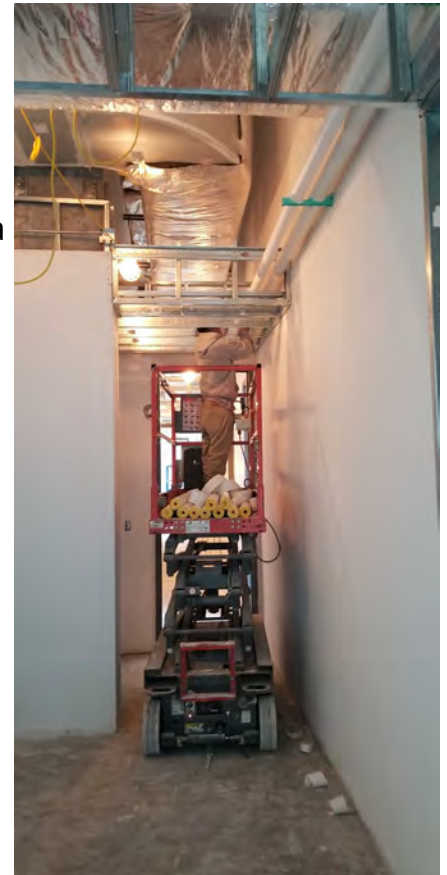


Week 6, October 10<sup>th</sup>, construction worker tending to the work around a fur down in the genealogy, library, and research room.



Week 7, October 17<sup>th</sup>, what a difference with the sheetrock up!

*Below:* Week 8, October 25<sup>th</sup>, what goes up must be painted! A painter painting four different color samples that where selected. Which will be the winner?



Week 12, November 21<sup>st</sup>, after the sheetrock comes the light fixtures and ceiling tiles.

# *More Questions & Answers!*

<p>How can we honor our grandparents who lived and worked their whole lives in the heritage area? They meant a lot to us.</p>	<p>You can easily memorialize your grandparents' names. Provisions for donor and memorialization will be provided in several locations in the center for those who donate \$1,000 or more. Also, numerous sponsorships, beginning at a \$25,000 level, are also available. Email John Cebrowski at <a href="mailto:jcebrowski39@gmail.com">jcebrowski39@gmail.com</a> for more info.</p>
<p>I am not Polish, why should I contribute?</p>	<p>We understand that other members of your immediate and extended family may be of Polish heritage. This is to honor them. It's also important to note that the story of the Polish immigration to Texas is a riveting chapter in Texas and American history that also involves the people already in the area who played a major role in the Polish immigrants' survival during those first difficult years. This is our collective story ...one of hardship, bravery and brotherhood.</p>
<p>Neither I nor my family are from Texas, why should I contribute to this?</p>	<p>This is a <u>national</u> heritage center. It celebrates the first-ever Polish settlement in the United States of America dating from 1854. It is listed on the United States Registry of Historic Places. Panna Maria has long held a spot in the hearts of millions of Polish-Americans coast-to-coast. Some Poles were here before 1854, but were integrated into existing communities. The Center also tells the history of Poland that helped determine the decisions made by those immigrant settlers in 1854.</p>
<p>What are the tax benefits?</p>	<p>The Polish Heritage Center Foundation is a 501c3 and qualifies for charitable giving. Tax benefits will vary from one family/individual to the next. We strongly encourage you to consult with your tax advisor.</p>
<p>We can't give much, but how else can we help? What help do you need?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need "Champions" throughout Texas who will advocate for the Heritage Center.</li> <li>• We need a Campaign Coordinator to work with our Director of Development, John Cebrowski.</li> <li>• We need additional writers, media-savvy communicators, who can create articles and press releases for numerous local and national outlets, many with Polonia roots. Please contact Marketing Director, Maureen Brown at 512-638-3483 to join the team.</li> <li>• We need folks to invite us to do presentations in communities across Texas! Please contact us at: <a href="mailto:polishheritagecentertx@yahoo.com">polishheritagecentertx@yahoo.com</a>.</li> </ul>

# Your Royalty Income Can Help Complete the Polish Heritage Center!

In the beginning, in ancient geological eras millions and millions of years ago, God's plan resulted in the vast oil and gas deposits that benefit humankind worldwide today. Truly, a gift from God. Many, in the Eagleford Shale Geological Area, a slumbering energy powerhouse that extends over 26 Texas counties, have benefitted from that gift.

The first depletion allowance in the United States, called the "discovery depletion", was enacted by Congress in 1918. This benefit from our government has been modified many times since. That gift and that benefit, combined, supply the treasure and reduce the taxes of the descendants of our early Polish settlers.

In the last issue of this newsletter we highlighted the taxation benefits of royalty income when the **depletion allowance deduction of 15%**, the tax savings attributable **to a donation**, and the tax savings attributed to the **investment tax of 3.8%** on income above \$250,000 **when they are considered together**. We cited several simplified examples in that newsletter to which we ask you to refer. Our examples were meant to illustrate the total tax saving.

We offer a summary example, below:

Royalty Income	\$1,000,000	\$800,000	\$600,000	\$400,000	\$300,000
Donation Amount	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Depletion Allowance Tax Sav-	(\$55,500)	(\$44,400)	(\$31,500)	(\$19,200)	(\$10,800)
Donation Tax Savings	(\$74,000)	(\$55,500)	(\$35,000)	(\$16,000)	(\$12,000)
Investment Tax Savings	(\$5,700)	(\$4,560)	(\$3,420)	(\$2,280)	(\$1,710)
<b>Total Tax Savings</b>	<b>(\$135,200)</b>	<b>(\$104,460)</b>	<b>(\$69,920)</b>	<b>(\$37,480)</b>	<b>(\$24,510)</b>

A donation to the PHC before the end of this calendar year may be very beneficial to you. What is evident is that the combination of depletion allowance, investment tax savings, and donation is to your financial benefit.

ALL donations are welcome and valued by the Polish Heritage Center, but MAJOR donations, as noted above, are essential to our success.

Understanding that the Polish Heritage Center goes to great lengths to celebrate our Faith, please consider returning God's gift via a gift to the PHC.

Thank you all for your generosity!

When considering a donation, and you would like to speak to a volunteer about recognition or sponsorships, please contact John Cebrowski @ 210-370-3953 or Susie & Sam Kotara @ 830-534-2189

**Taxes are quite complex, so be sure to consult your tax advisor.**

All that has been accomplished this year is due to your continued ongoing generous support. It is just that simple. Soon, we will begin preparing for our Annual Report that will be presented early next year. As a recap, here are the levels of giving as a way of acknowledging your ongoing support. These levels are cumulative and reflect the **TOTAL** amount given as of December 31, 2018.

## **Annual Report Giving Levels**

**\* Signifies Heritage Circle Membership**

***Saint John Paul II Society\****

\$1,000,000 and above

***Father Leopold Moczygemba Society\****

\$750,000 to \$999,999

***Families of Original Settlers Society\****

\$500,000 to \$749,999

***Saint Faustina Kowalska Society\****

\$250,000 to \$499,999

***King Jan III Sobieski Society\****

\$100,000 to \$249,999

***Saint Hedwig Society***

\$75,000 to \$99,999

***Marie Sklodowska Curie Society***

\$50,000 to \$74,999

***Nicholas Copernicus Society***

\$25,000 to \$49,999

***Tadeusz Kosciuszko Society***

\$10,000 to \$24,999

***Ferderic Chopen Society***

\$5,000 to \$9,999

***Peter Kielbassa Society***

\$1,000 to \$4,999

***American Polonia Donor Book Listing***

Up to \$999

# Donations & Memorials

Stephanie Ayala, via Facebook  
Ronnie & Laura Bitterly, San Antonio, Texas  
Gloria Bolick, San Antonio, Texas  
Roberta R. Coronado, Georgetown, Texas  
Eric & Germaine M Ewen, Plano, Texas  
Janice Flanigan, San Antonio, Texas  
Paul & Doris Heinlein, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania  
Ronald F Jendrusch, Falls City, Texas  
*(spelling correction of first name appearing in last newsletter)*  
Gordon J & Gertrude Jones, Falls City, Texas  
Leon & Aline Kundrotas, Helotes, Texas  
Norine Lerczak, via Facebook  
Margaret A. Little, Cornith, Texas  
Carlos & Gualdalupe Ontiveros, San Antonio, Texas  
Carolyn Osburg, Calliham, Texas  
John & Patricia Picacio, San Antonio, Texas  
Judy & Richard Scheffler, Falls City, Texas  
Seraphic Sisters, Kenedy, Texas  
Mark Shannan, via Facebook  
Carolyn I Skloss, San Antonio, Texas  
Jimmy & Susan Trial, Burnet, Texas  
John & Mary Pollok Yanta Memorial Trust, San Antonio, Texas  
Donald & Catherine Varella, San Antonio, Texas

## **From the Mailbag**

Many of you are familiar with the parable of the **Widow's Mite**. This letter Bishop Yanta received can rightly be called the **College Student's Mite!**

*"Bishop Yanta, I am a college student and live on a very tight budget. I know this isn't much but wanted to contribute my fair share. May God bless you and this project. Many blessing, Gordon J Jones."*

# Bishop's Thoughts



As the Church begins a new liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, I wish all of the families of the Polish Heritage Center, and everyone, a merry and joyful Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year. In the coming celebrations, I wish to extend to all these prayers as they remind us of fundamental truths and bless you with these prayers of the Church:

*From the prayer of Christmas Mass celebrated at Midnight:*

O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*From the prayer of Mass of the Holy Family, December 30<sup>th</sup>:*

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



*I would like to extend a gracious thank you to all of our donors who continue to make the Polish Heritage Center project a reality. Know that you are in my prayer intention in my daily Mass and will especially be praying for you and your family when I celebrate Mass on Christmas day. May God Bless You and Your family during this Christmas season,*

*†Bishop John W. Yanta*