

Congressman Clement J. Zablocki Civic Achievement Awards

On Sunday November 7 the Wisconsin PAC will host its annual Polish Independence Day/Veterans Day Luncheon at the beautiful Polish Center of Wisconsin in Franklin. Reception will start at 12:00 Noon, followed by a Luncheon at 1:00 PM.

This year Ms. Irena Fraczek of Madison and Mr. Frank Czarnecki of Green Bay will be the honor recipients of the Congressman Clement J. Zablocki Civic Achievement



ment Award for their valued contributions to our community. This recognition stems from the incredible efforts they have made on behalf of Wisconsin Polonia. They have different roles, but the one thing they have in common is that they are both creative and gifted and “Great Communicators in telling the story of Poland and its people”. Irena is the webmaster for the Polish Heritage Club of Wisconsin-Madison and the webmaster, lecturer, photo chronicler, and Vice-President of Public Relations for the Polish American Congress-Wisconsin Division. Frank volunteers throughout the Green Bay community and serves in many roles for the PHS of NEW, most visibly writing a column for the Polish Heritage Society Newsletter.

From Frank Czarnecki:

I was born in Hamtramck, Michigan, which was a Polish enclave surrounded by Detroit. That put me on track to appreciate and love my Polish heritage. I studied Polish from first grade through twelfth, and then took it for two years in college. Unfortunately, all those classes focused on vocabulary and grammar, not conversation. I have never been a fluent speaker of Polish.

I know many of the seasonal songs (Christmas and Easter), Marian songs, songs to St. Joseph and St. Francis, as well as *Gorzkie Żale*. My *Śpiewnik kościelny* is a treasured possession.

Growing up, my family celebrated *Wigilia* with the sharing of the *opłatek*. *Groch z kapustą* was served (much to my displeasure). It was SO dry. All the kids had some wine. The amount was determined by their age. My mom prepared the usual Easter basket for blessing at church on Holy Saturday.

With my children, we continue the sharing of the *opłatek* on Christmas Eve. We sing Christmas carols. I am permitted to sing two or three *kolędy*.

I have been a member and/or board member of the Polish Heritage Society of Northeast Wisconsin for many years. I enjoy our internal activities (mostly potlucks about which I am not complaining), and our external activities when we have a kiosk at Art Street, Pulaski Polka Days, and Arty Gras.

Besides activities related to my Polish heritage, I also volunteer at Literacy Green Bay (teaching English to immigrants) and drive for Curative Connections which pro-

vides inexpensive rides for the elderly and handicapped to appointments, shopping, and other activities.

I have to share one more activity and encourage you, if you are able, to give it serious consideration once the pandemic concerns are over. I went to Poland twice with Global Volunteers – once to Siedlce and the other time to Zakopane. Our purpose was to give Poles, who are studying English, an opportunity to practice and interact with native English speakers. It was a wonderful experience. We lived right with the students. On one trip I took a teenage nephew (whose heritage is Danish). He is still in touch with several of our students. He returned to the U.S. and took two years of Polish at UW – Milwaukee. He has been accepted at a Polish university (I want to say Wrocław) where he intends to get his master’s degree. You do not have to be a teacher to serve in this program. You just have to be a native speaker of English. It’s what you have been doing all your life!

About Irena Fraczek:

Irena Fraczek is a native of Poland and a graduate of the University of Warsaw, where she earned a Master’s degree. Winning a Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship enabled her to come to the United States and study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she later taught environmental science and participated in the UW’s very first steps in online instruction.

Irena is a member of the Polish Heritage Club Wisconsin-Madison where she runs the club website and participates in activities that expand the club’s reach and community connections (e.g. bringing the “Auschwitz Exhibit” to the UW-Madison campus or coordinating sponsorship of the “Flavor of Poland” PBS series). The PHC recognized Irena’s special contributions by granting her an honorary life membership in January 2021. Irena is also an active member and Vice President for Public Relations of the Polish American Congress-Wisconsin Division, where she manages the PAC website and creates the majority of its content.

Irena’s keen insight into Poland’s history and culture has been an important part of the message she delivers to the PHC’s and PAC’s members through the websites and shares at live talks and presentations throughout Wisconsin. Her feature stories and reports have been published in local Polish-themed publications and the national PAC newsletter. She also uses her amazing photographic skills to create the visual records of Wisconsin Polonia at work and play.

Irena was a key contributor to the development and final form of the brochure “Do You Know Poland,” which won acclaim and a grant from the Polish Consulate in Chicago. Combining knowledge with a keen sense of design, she created the memorable booklet’s front cover that provided inspiration for the “Do You Know Poland?” competition by showing iconic elements of Poland’s history & culture.

Last but not least, her warm and gracious manner makes her a real people person, and this has helped develop connections between Polish organizations across Wisconsin.

Don Pienkos

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Treasurer, Wisconsin PAC

Pulaski Polka Days and Art Street 2021

On behalf of the Polish Heritage Society, thanks to all of you that stopped by our booth in Pulaski during Polka Days and at Art Street and supported our organization! It was great to talk to so many area residents and visitors about their Polish heritage and general interest in anything Polish.

Like every year, we had Iwona Downs selling a large variety of Polish hand painted pottery in our booth. She was dressed in an authentic Polish formal outfit which livened up the appearance and experience for visitors to our booth.

Overall, this was our most successful year for sales of Polish merchandise, which helps to fund the support of our Polish heritage in northeastern Wisconsin. This event would not have been possible without the assistance of our member volunteers – a special thanks to Mike Wichowski, Mike Brzezinski, Steve Karcz and his sister, John Laka, Frank Czarnecki, Scott LaLonde, Mark Reimer, Joanna Spice, Jayne Jackowski, Jan Sergott, Robert Palzewicz, Bob Kirschling, and Iwona Downs. Hope to see all of you again next year.

Thanks again to all for your support!

Malgosia Daugherty and John Laka



Polish Genealogy and Workshops

Polish Heritage Society and the Pulaski Area Community Education (PACE) office will be presenting two informative sessions this fall. Both of the presentations will be at no cost to members of PHS and both will be at Pulaski High School at 1040 S St Augustine St in the Large Group Instruction (LGI) room. This is located just inside the front doors of the school. There will be \$15 fee for non-members.

On October 12th will be Polish Genealogy. This will first cover basic genealogy and how to get started, and what your finished product may be. What tools are on-line and off-line that are available to use. Which ones cost money and which are free. What tools are at the library? There are specific Polish web sites to help track ancestors in Poland. Many records did survive the wars, and more records are being digitized and available to us every year.

If you have been thinking of getting started on the genealogy trail, this may be a good start for you.

Everyone will receive a printed copy of the presentation which contains numerous WEB links to help in your search.

Next, on November 1st will be a Polish Workshop. In the workshop, Poland native Malgosia Daugherty will help to create a deeper understanding of Poland today. She will talk about the country’s history, traditions and things you should know about Poland before traveling there. Also, get a recipe for a traditional polish dish. Daugherty came to the United States at the age of 23. She graduated from the Academy of Economics in Krakow, Poland and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. She is the President of Polish Heritage Society in Green Bay. In November of 2017 she was awarded the Zablocki Achievement Award by the Polish American Congress for promoting Polish Heritage through educational, cultural and social activities.

Complete the below registration form and mail to PACE to secure a seat.

Mike Brzezinski & Malgosia Daugherty

PACE REGISTRATION FORM

Presentation to Attend:

☐ **Polish Genealogy, Tuesday Oct 12th, 7 to 8 PM**

☐ **Polish Workshop, Monday Nov 1st from 6 to 8PM**

Participant’s Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Member of Polish Heritage Society of NE Wisconsin ☐ Yes ☐ No

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

No Fee to members of the Polish Heritage Society.

\$15 Fee to non-members.

Send completed form and the \$15 check payable to Polish Heritage Society to: **PACE Office, P.O. Box 36, Pulaski, WI 54162**

Waiver Statement: The participant / Parent /Guardian assumes all responsibility in the case of injury or harm to participant. The Pulaski Community School District, their employees or agents or any volunteers or organizations associated with this activity will not be held responsible for any personal injury or loss that may occur in conjunction with this activity.

Signature _____

A New Sculpture of Polish Heritage for the City of Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Central Wisconsin artist Boleslaw Kochanowski has created a Polish American themed sculpture titled, *For Your Freedom and Ours*, which will be dedicated at a 10 am public ceremony on September 18, 2021, at the Cultural Commons in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, at Pfiffner Pioneer Park.

His initial exposure to iron and its versatility happened at the railroad blacksmith shops in Milwaukee where his father worked. From the first, he has been in awe of the potential of this industrial metal. Initially working in structural steel, he found architectural ironwork to be a showcase for his artistic tal-

ents, but iron is his primary medium.

Kochanowski has a background in architectural blueprint drafting. He designs and sketches with precision, as well as imagination and an artistic eye. His hand-drawn designs are transformed from paper to reality by pounding, with hammer

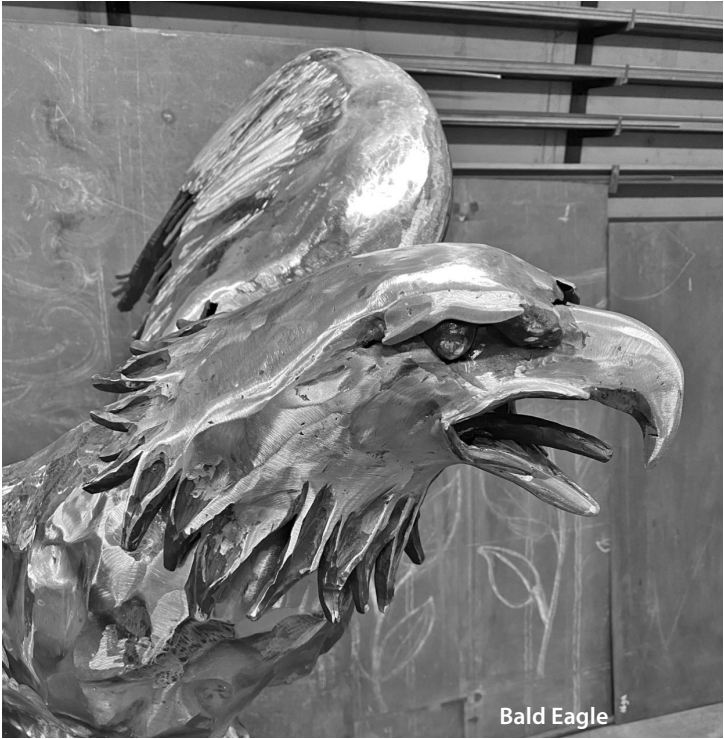
and anvil, yellow-hot iron

from the coked coal fires of the forge. With over thirty years at the forge, there are hundreds of private commissions and installations of Kochanowski's decorative ironwork throughout the United States. In time, Kochanowski started designing so certain pieces could be entered into art shows. As his success accumulated, he was asked to submit designs for public artwork, "Around 2012, someone suggested to me that Stevens Point should have another piece of artwork that had a Polish theme. A bust of Tadeusz Kosciuszko was suggested. It would complement the bust of Casimir Pulaski which the city already had. Although nothing came of it at that time, it did get me thinking about the Polish influence in America, and how I could design a sculpture to con-

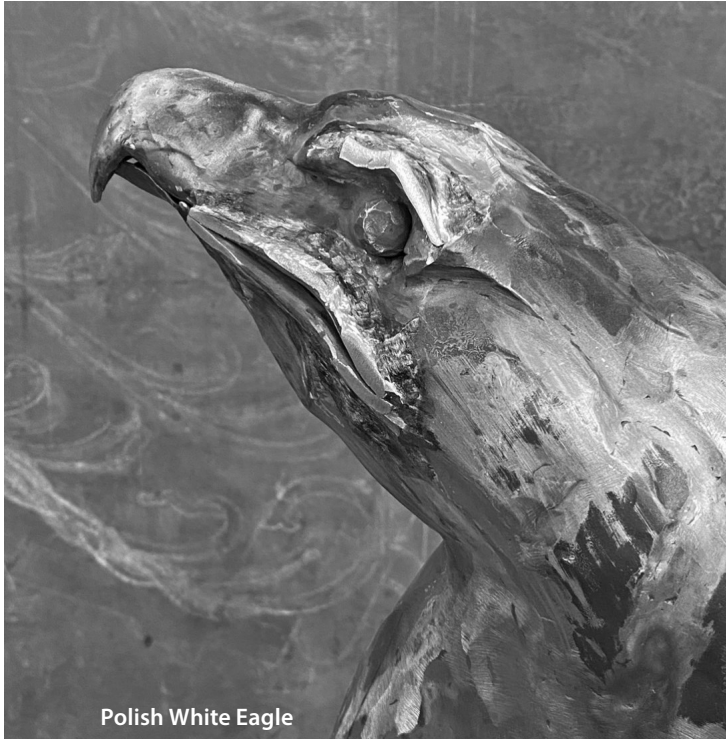
vey that history." Soon enough Kochanowski had an occasion to try. In 2014, plans were set in motion for a Sister City Park (which eventually became known as the Cultural Commons) in Stevens Point. Kochanowski was asked to design a sculpture for the Polish garden section. Kochanowski had his idea for the sculpture and started designing *For Your Freedom and Ours*. "I decided to incorporate the American bald eagle and the Polish white

eagle as they were preeminent iconic symbols of these two nations. Placed on tall spires, the eagles are together in mutual support, just as the two countries' histories have intertwined and overlapped even since the pilgrims of Jamestown, and that of the Revolutionary War, where Generals Pulaski and Kosciuszko gave their leadership support to George Washington. The tall spires reference the grandness of the countries' history. However, they are canted and skewed, signifying the difficulties of upholding justice and liberty, which is an ongoing process and is not easy to retain. The tips of the spires, rented and scarred, portray the bruising liberty had to endure."

While the local Polish heritage communities are enthusiastic about the Freedom sculpture, it is also getting attention nationally, as well as in Poland.



Bald Eagle



Polish White Eagle

Boleslaw Kochanowski designs and creates fanciful ironwork. He is a third-generation blacksmith, harking back a 100 years to Poland, and is proud to pass this training onto the fourth generation through his sons and into the second century.

ent. From building components to whimsical creations, much of his work is considered three-dimensional sculptural iron. Often, the depths are compressed because of the nature of the armatures – gates, balustrade, screens, etc. He works in vari-

ous metals, but iron is his primary medium.

Kochanowski has a background in architectural blueprint drafting. He designs and sketches with precision, as well as imagination and an artistic eye. His hand-drawn designs are transformed from paper to reality by pounding, with hammer

eagle as they were preeminent iconic symbols of these two nations. Placed on tall spires, the eagles are together in mutual support, just as the two countries' histories have intertwined and overlapped even since the pilgrims of Jamestown, and that of the Revolutionary War, where Generals Pulaski and Kosciuszko gave their leadership support to George Washington. The tall spires reference the grandness of the countries' history. However, they are canted and skewed, signifying the difficulties of upholding justice and liberty, which is an ongoing process and is not easy to retain. The tips of the spires, rented and scarred, portray the bruising liberty had to endure."

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Thank You New members, RENEWING MEMBERS, and Donors!

The Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin wishes to offer our appreciation and gratitude to **Pam & Rock Mannigel** of Pulaski and **Julie Stoeger** of Kaukauna for the very kind donations they included with their membership.

We are pleased to welcome new members: the **Elaine & Tim Grygiel** Household of Pulaski, **Tim Adamczyk** of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin, the **Joanna Spice** Household of Suamico, **Jane Dunn** of Madison, **Norbert Ryterski** of Pinckneyville, Illinois, the **Trent Torzewski & Jessica Meyer** Household of Sobieski, **Tracey Brewczynski** of Pulaski, and **Helen Miller** of Franklin. Congratulations and witamy!

Members renewing through this issue's publishing deadline include **Julie Stoeger** of Kaukauna, **Gwen Girard** of Green Bay, **James Queoff** of Green Bay, the **Chet & Judy Wolniakowski** Household of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the **William & Grace Zurovich** Household of Kaukauna, the **Pam & Rock Mannigel** Household of Pulaski, **Leszek Golimowski** of Marinette, **Dawn Sisel** of Muskego, **Gerald Brzezinski** of Green Bay, the **Malena & Piotr Dzwonkowski** Household of Oneida, **Ralph Pieper** of Oshkosh, the **Richard Behrendt** Household of Whitefish Bay, the **Jim Kruzitski** Household of Minneapolis, **Mark Wesolowski** of Luxemburg, the **Edmund & Lyn Carns** Household of Crivitz, and **Florence Ahasay** of Green Bay.

While one of many wonderful Polish heritage, arts, and history organizations in the region, your board is of the understanding that the Polish Heritage Society of Northeastern Wisconsin is now the largest Polish heritage organization by membership in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Thank you to new members, renewing members, and donors!

I appreciate the special notes you include, and I appropriately share them with your Board of Directors. Thank you all for your support and interest in our Polish heritage. If you have any membership status or financial inquiries, please feel free to contact me. Also, your board officers' contact information is listed in this newspaper and on the phsofnew.org website.

Paul Zwicker, Treasurer
zwickerp@aol.com; phsofnew@gmail.com



**POLISH
HERITAGE
SOCIETY**

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Malgosia Daugherty
malgosiaaugherty@yahoo.com

1st VICE-PRESIDENT
John Laka
john.laka@cummings.com

SECRETARY
Asia Sprice

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Paul Zwicker
zwickerp@aol.com

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Tammy Brzezckowski, Mike Brzezinski,
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Gloria Kaminski

ART EDITOR
submit articles, photos,
and advertising to:

Monika Pawlak
PO BOX 286
Stevens Point, WI 54481-6452
Email: mdpawlak@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP FORM



POLISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

PAUL ZWICKER, 255 TERRAVIEW DRIVE, GREEN BAY, WI 54301

Name: _____ Phone No.: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email*: _____

MEMBERSHIP: ☐ Individual per year \$20 ☐ Couple/Family per year \$25 ☐ Lifetime Member \$300

PAYMENT: ☐ Cash ☐ Check No.: _____ New Exp. Date: _____ Donations to the organization: \$ _____

☐ Your date of birth ☐ Where in Poland are you from: City _____ Area _____ I don't know _____

What articles do you like to read the most: ☐ Polish News ☐ Events in WI ☐ Recipes ☐ Traditions/History
☐ Famous Poles ☐ Language info ☐ News from the Board ☐ Polish stories ☐ Other _____

How did you hear about us?: ☐ Website ☐ Social media site like Facebook
☐ Complimentary newspaper at _____ ☐ Friend or family ☐ Other _____

For any address changes
please contact:

PAUL ZWICKER
255 TERRAVIEW DRIVE
GREEN BAY, WI 54301

Please indicate the types of activities in which you might enjoy volunteering:

☐ Arti Gras (Feb)
☐ Paczki Day Party (Feb)
☐ Easter Party
☐ Public Relations
☐ Board Membership
☐ Polish Music event
☐ Website Design

☐ Art Street (Aug)
☐ Input to Newsletter
☐ Polish Mass (Oct)
☐ Christmas Party
☐ Other talents to share:

* for PHS use only to send event reminders

Saints among us (5)

HELEN A. SCIESZKA, PH.D.

As I mentioned in my fourth article (please see link on the Polish Heritage Society’s web <https://www.phsofnew.org/or> Facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/phsofnew>) about our Polish saints, during the months of October and November we have a few more modern-day Polish saints; a couple that are very well known to many of us.

First, on October 5th – St. Faustina Kowalska! Born August 25th, 1905 in Głogowiec,



Faustyna Kowalska

Poland. Her Baptismal name was Helena and she was the third child of ten. As she only had three years of a formal education she began working as a servant during her teen years while also applying to various religious orders. After several rejections she was eventually accepted on August 1st, 1925 into the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy where she took the name Sister Maria Faustina of the Most Blessed Sacrament. This order works with troubled young women not only caring for them, but also offering them an education. Sr. Faustina’s ministry within the order however was as a gardener, doorkeeper or greeter, and a cook for her community which she did until her death from tuberculosis in Krakow on October 5th, 1938.

But, this simple and very devout young woman began to have mystical revelations and visions. She shared these with no one but gratefully kept the experiences in a personal diary, despite her being almost totally illiterate. (It is now published under the title: “Divine Mercy in my Soul”).

One of her visions was of Jesus with white and red rays coming from His Heart with the words, “Jesus, I trust in You.” St. Faustina had the painting commissioned in 1935 as a way to follow Jesus’ instructions to her to share with the world God’s mercy. Thus, the image is now known as “Divine Mercy.”

St. Faustina is the patroness of the Sisters of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the World Youth Days held in Krakow, Poland in 2016.

On October 16th we have

St. Hedwig of Silesia who was born in Bavaria in 1174 at the Castle Andechs (now part of modern Germany) to the Duke of Merania, Berthold IV. She was also an aunt of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. At the age of 12 she was given in marriage to Prince Henry I the Bearded of Poland and Silesia. (He was in his early 20s at the time.) She founded hospitals and personally cared for the sick and was the mother of seven children. She and her husband also founded monasteries and abbeys including the first convent for women in Poland in 1202 – the Cistercian monastery at Trzebnica, Silesia (part of modern Poland) where their daughter Blessed Gertrude was the second prioress.

After her husband’s death St. Hedwig gave away all she owned and entered that same monastery where on October 15th, 1243 she died. Her remains are now at the Benedictine Abbey in her hometown of Andechs. She is the patroness of many locations in Poland, Bavaria and Germany as well as brides, difficult marriages, against jealousy, death of children, widows, and duchesses.

Next, on October 22nd, we have one of Poland’s (and much of the world’s) favorite sons – St. John Paul II. Born May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland, he was named after his father Karol Józef Wojtyła, Sr. He was the second son of Karol and his wife Emilia (Kaczorowska,). His mother died when he was 9 years old and his older brother Edmund was 14. His father although in the military



John Paul II

was also a man of a deep and strong faith which is something he gratefully passed on to his son as when Karol Jr. was 12, he lost his brother and at age 21 he also lost his father. And despite these losses and the German occupation of Poland at this time he still answered the call to the priesthood and was ordained on November 1, 1946.

He was a man of high intelligence who spoke about 12 languages, excelled in his studies, his writings, as a professor and showed great strength in dealing with Nazism, Communism, and other issues on a global scale. He was appointed

Auxiliary Bishop of Kraków on July 4, 1958 and Archbishop of the same city on December 30, 1963; was part of the commission that prepared documents for Vatican II and thus he attended all four sessions. He was then appointed Cardinal on June 26, 1967 and elected Pope October 16, 1978 – the first non-Italian pope in over 450 years. He traveled more than any other pope and was a leader not only for the Church but also for Poland and the world. He died of natural causes on April 2, 2005 – the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday (see St. Faustina at the beginning of this article) and is buried at St. Peter’s in Rome. He is the patron of Polish-Ukrainian Reconciliation; the 2015 World Meeting of Families, and World Youth Days.

Now, in November on the 12th we first have St. Josaphat Kuncevyč who was named John at his birth in 1580 in Volodymyr, Lithuania (part of modern-day Ukraine but remember that Poland and Lithuania were known as the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during this time (1569-1795). He was actually raised in the Orthodox Ruthenian Church which united with Roman Catholicism in 1595 when he was 15 years old. As a young man he trained as an apprentice for a merchant and was even offered the merchant’s daughter in marriage and to become a partner in the business. But God had other plans...at age 20 he became a member of the Ukrainian Order of St. Basil as a monk and took the name Josaphat. In 1609 he was ordained a priest in the Byzantine rite, which to this day is in communion with Rome.

Some members of his order did not approve of the union with Roman Catholicism and tried to create divisions. Josaphat, on the other hand, saw his ministry as bringing back those who had left as well as unity to the church. After being made a bishop and archbishop, he worked even more strenuously on this through reforming the priesthood, teaching and most especially by his own example. Even though he was quite successful in convincing Orthodox Christians that unity on this point was in everyone’s best interests there were still those who disagreed with him. Sadly, they spread false rumors and accusations about Josaphat and even though he tried not only to correct the misinformation but to also keep things calm he was not successful.

In 1623 a mob, led by a priest who was against the union with Rome, broke into Josaphat’s residence in Vitebsk, Belarus (also part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth at the time) and he was beaten and stabbed to death and his body was thrown into the Dvina River, but later recovered. At first, they kept his body hidden by burying it in Biala, Poland, and five years later when they dug it up it was found to be incorrupt. Then in 1963 Pope St. John XXIII had the saint’s body



UPCOMING EVENTS

October, every Wednesday, 4:00-8:00 PM – Café in Polish Center
Polish Center of Wisconsin, 6941 S 68th St, Franklin, WI.

October 3 (1st Sunday of the month), 3:00 PM – Polish Mass in Wisconsin Dells
Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 603 Oak St, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Fr. Mirosław Szyal.

October 12, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM – Polish Genealogy Class
Pulaski High School, 1040 S St Augustine St, Pulaski, WI. Free for members of PHS. \$15 Fee to non-members. For more information see PACE Registration Form.

October 14, 6:00 PM – PHS Board Meeting
Denny’s, 2884 S Oneida, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

October 16, Saturday, 10:00 PM-1:00 PM – Polish Workshop with Pierogi Dinner in Appleton, WI.
For more information visit <https://www.airbnb.com/experiences/2556518>.

November 1, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM – Polish Workshop
Pulaski High School, 1040 S St Augustine St, Pulaski, WI. Free for members of PHS. \$15 Fee to non-members. For more information see PACE Registration Form.

November 7, 11:00 AM – Polish Independence 10K/5K Run/Walk
Join in person on Chicago’s lakefront or sign up for the virtual run at runsignup.com. All ages!

November 7, 12:00 PM – Polish Independence Day – Veterans Day Luncheon
Polish Center of Wisconsin, 6941 S 68th St, Franklin, WI. This year recipients of the Zablocki Civic Achievement Award are Frank Czarnecki from Polish Heritage Society Green Bay and Irena Frączek member of the Polish Heritage Club Wisconsin-Madison.

November 7 (1st Sunday of the month), 3:00 PM – Polish Mass in Wisconsin Dells
Saint Cecilia Catholic Church, 603 Oak St, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Fr. Mirosław Szyal.

November 11, 6:00 PM – PHS Board Meeting
Denny’s, 2884 S Oneida, Green Bay, WI. You are invited!

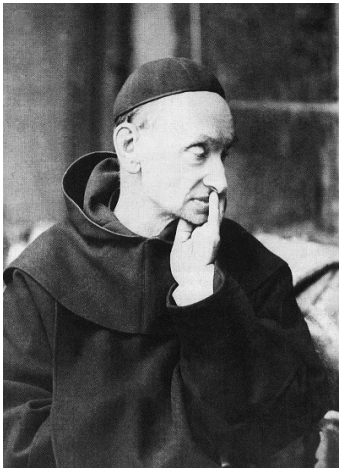
November 12 – Newspaper article deadline
Submit articles to Malgosia at malgosiadaugherty@yahoo.com.

November 18, Thursday, 6:00PM-9:00PM – Polish Workshop with Pierogi Dinner in Appleton, WI
For more information visit <https://www.airbnb.com/experiences/2556518>.

moved one more time to Rome where it is now buried under the altar of St. Basil in St. Peter’s Basilica.

He is one of the patron saints of the Ukraine and is the namesake for a beautiful basilica in Milwaukee. If you have never visited St. Josaphat’s it is well worth the trip.

Finally, on November 15th we have the feast of St. Raphael Kalinowski. He was born in Vilna, Russian Poland (today it



Raphael Kalinowski

is Vilnius, Lithuania) on September 1, 1835, to Andrew and Josepha (Poionska) Kalinowski and was named Joseph. His father was a professor of mathematics at the College of Nobility. Early on, Joseph felt a call to the priesthood but decided to pursue a college education first. His topics of study were agriculture, zoology, and chemistry. He attended the Institute of

Agronomy at Gorki Russia and also attended the Academy of Military Engineering in St. Petersburg and joined the Russian Military Engineering Corps. In 1857 he was made a Lieutenant and in 1862 was promoted to the rank of Captain. During this time he supervised the building of the railroad between Odessa and Kursk and he also started a Sunday school, teaching anyone who wanted to attend.

In 1863, he resigned from the Russian army and became the minister of war in his home region of Vilna for the Polish rebellion against Russia. Even in this position he made an oath that he would never execute and give a death sentence to any prisoner. On March 25th, 1864, he was arrested by the Russians and condemned to death in June of the same year. However, he was so popular among his people, the Russians feared that his death would create even more problems so he was instead sent to the Siberian salt mines for ten years of hard labor.

He was released in 1873 but, exiled from his country, he moved to Paris and became a tutor. Finally, in 1877 he answered the call to the priesthood and joined the Carmelite order in Graz, Austria, where he took the name Raphael. He then studied theology in Hungary and was finally ordained

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Religious Shrines in Central Wisconsin

Driving through the rolling farmland of central Wisconsin, the roadside monuments stand proudly. The structures remind people who live and farm nearby of their ancestors. At several crossroads, the roadside shrines are a tradition retained from their Polish immigrant ancestors – a custom from the old country. These monuments, called “Kapliczki” are brick enclosures protected on three sides by glass. Inside, there is either a religious statue of Jesus, Mary or a Saint surrounded by flowers.

From the 1860s through the early 1900s, Portage County was settled by many people of Polish descent. Dubbed Polonia, (Little Poland) the Kapliczki served several purposes. One was directional. These shrines helped guide wayward farmers trying to navigate across the land, when roads were dirt paths.

Another purpose was religious. For those who could not attend church, the shrines were a place one could pray by the side of the road. It reminded them to pause and take a moment to pray for a successful harvest, or protect them safely in their travels. It was a way to thank God for their blessings. When horse and buggy evolved in to automobiles, families would lift their hands to make the sign of the cross, or tip their hats, as they passed the markers.

Thirdly, the shrines were a source of comfort. These shrines, which are still a common sight in Eastern Europe, provided new immigrants with a sense of familiarity – easing homesickness.

Today, the Kapliczki¹ continue to be lovingly tended by generations of the descendants of Polish immigrants and in more recent times, Hispanic people.

As I drive past these shrines, I am reminded that I am born from immigrants, who were strong in their faith, and needed reminders of their motherland as they built a new life in a foreign land.

June Groshek Czarnecki

1 Several of the shrines are located just over the border in Marathon County.



fol. jstor.org



fol. jstor.org

Saints among us

continued from p. 3

a priest on January 15, 1882, in Czama, Poland. He was a wonderful parish priest who spent much time with his parishioners and hearing confessions. He too worked for unity between Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians and to bring back the Discalced Carmelites to Poland. He was one of the founders and the first prior of their new monastery in Wadowice founded about 1892. It was here that he died on November 15th, 1907, of natural causes. He was buried in the Carmelite monastery cemetery, at Czerna, which is near Krakow. However, some of his relics have also been

sent to the Immaculate Heart of Mary cathedral in Irkutsk, Russia where St. Raphael had spent part of his Russian prison sentence.

What an incredible group of Polish saints we have these months! And for me personally there seems to be a connection with each and every one of them. St. Faustina’s baptismal name was Helena; St. Hedwig lived in the area of Poland that my family is from; with St. John Paul II, I have had a personal spiritual connection that began before he was elected pope; I have visited and toured the Basilica in Milwaukee named for St. Josaphat; and the last name

of one of the pastors at my parish when I was a child was Kalinowski.

Sts. Faustina, Hedwig, John Paul II, Josaphat, and Raphael, please pray for us.

Helen A. Scieszka, Ph.D. is a former ad executive, psychologist, college professor, Catholic church pastoral associate, Diocesan marriage & family life director; published author of four novels and stories in “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books. She loves reading, travel, music, photography, art, sports, & family genealogy. Please visit her website drhelenscieszka.com to keep up with news on talks, book sale/signings and new releases!



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DID YOU KNOW? BY FRANK CZARNECKI



(We continue with Kosciuszko’s contributions to the American Revolutionary War)

During the final three years of the war, Kosciuszko served in the South. He was kept busy exploring rivers, finding new campsites, supervising the construction of small boats. During a month-long siege in North Carolina Kosciuszko directed the construction of a geometric pattern of trenches which enabled the attackers to approach the fortress without exposure to gunfire. However, the siege was not successful.

After Cornwallis surrendered in 1781, some places remained in enemy hands. General Greene put Kosciuszko in charge of a detachment of infantry which figured in the raid on James Island which has been called the last gunfight of the war. When the British evacuated Charleston, Kosciuszko led a parade of his men into the city.

Released from army service in June, 1783, Kosciuszko went to Philadelphia to wind up his affairs in America. He was promoted to Brigadier General and voted a special resolution of thanks by Congress. He received two gifts from Wash-

ington: an engraved ceremonial sword and a handsome pair of pistols inscribed “G. Washington – Th. Kosciuszko – 17 E Pluribus Unum 83.” These are still exhibited in Polish museums.



fol. Wikimedia Commons

When Kosciuszko sailed for home from New York, a passenger wrote this about him: “Him first, known in war full well, Our Polish friend whose name still sounds so hard. To make it rhyme would puzzle any bard; That youth, whose bays and laurels early crown’d, For virtue, science, art, and arms renown’d.”

(to be continued)

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The Prawdzic coat

of arms was shared by the szlachta (gentry) lines of over 500 variously surnamed Polish families including: Baranowski, Ząb, Dąbski Sowiński, Bielski, Lang, Cybulski, Szuba, Trębski Rudzki, Dobrowolski and Gołębiowski.

