



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Spring 2017

Holy Week (Wielki Tydzień)

The material and spiritual preparations for Easter are intensified during the days of the Holy Week. Palm Sunday is marked by the traditional procession in which willow branches (or palms) are carried. Because the palms have been blessed it is believed to have curative value and are hung behind holy pictures during the year. In the country, peasants make crosses from the blessed willows and bury them in the fields to protect them, and over buildings to protect them as well. Also, they hung them above doorways.

On Good Friday (Wielki Piątek) young adolescents were required to stand guard at Jesus' grave inside the church, kneeling in front of it for approximately 2 hours reading the bible or church provided books. It was a meatless day and a day of fasting. The children colored eggs called pisanki. On Holy Saturday holy water would be distributed in churches as every Catholic home in Poland had a container with holy water in it. On Holy Saturday the Święconka was the highlight. The lady of the house would prepare a festive basket lined with a white linen napkin and in it was bread, butter, cheese, salt, kielbasa, ham, baked goods and pisanki. But in the center of the basket was a white lamb made of butter. The basket then was taken to the church at Noon for a blessing and each and every basket was blessed by the priest. Afterwards, everyone went home and had lunch and everyone had to have a bite of every item in the basket. The shells from blessed eggs were buried in the garden. Easter Sunday (Niedziela Wielkanocna) was a very festive and long church service. The family then went home to spend a quiet day with family and enjoy the Easter food.

Monday after Easter, always a second day of Easter and a holiday for all, is called Lany

Poniedziałek; To this day, Dyngus a Polish tradition remains very much alive. Early Monday, boys cleverly would do everything in their power to either spray girls or dunk them with cold water. Girls usually end up the victims in this game. But they were proud of the fact that they were the boys' focal point. At the end, neighbors and relatives invited each other for a big feast. This lasted all day until evening.

Polish Cultural Center Update

Pledges for the Polish Cultural Center continue to come in. Several Polish organizations in northwest Ohio are working to raise money to build a center that will preserve the rich history of the Polish community that has made such a tremendous mark in northwest Ohio.

The Polish American Community of Toledo (PACT), Toledo Polish Genealogical Society (TPGS), Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), Toledo Poznań Alliance (TPA), and Echoes of Poland are represented on an advisory board to make the Polish Cultural Center a reality. "We continue to seek long-term pledges from the Polish community," said Tom Waniewski, chairman of the advisory board. "A three-year pledge makes it affordable for a family to support the center while realizing the chance to be a part of history."

People also have been contributing their precious mementos that they don't want to see lost. The center is planning to have a large area for TPGS so members can research their genealogy and historical documents can be housed and catalogued in a safe and secure area.

Waniewski said a location for the center has not yet been identified. That will come after input from the Polish community. If you're interested

in making a three-year financial commitment or would like to bequeath a gift toward construction, please contact Tom at 419-754-3633. You can view more information, including proposed renderings online at PolishCulturalCenter.com.

Military News from Poland

A United States armored brigade of 3,500 troops from Fort Carson, Colorado arrived in Zagan in southwestern Poland on January 12 as a deterrence force on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern border. These troops were deployed in Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania.

President Andrzej Duda and Defense Minister Antoni Macierewicz welcomed former President Barack Obama's military support, but voiced concern over President Donald J. Trump's intentions to improve United States-Russia relations and his comments about NATO at the expense of Poland and other Eastern European countries.

Recently, the Polish military and the American troops in Poland held joint training exercises with tanks and other armored vehicles traveling 50 miles per hour across the Polish plains and hitting distant targets.

NATO plans to station one battalion in Poland and one in each of the Baltic States later this year. The Poles wonder if other American and NATO promises for an American missile shield and forward supply depots for storing NATO armaments to make rapid deployment possible in case of an invasion will be built.

Political News from Poland

On the same day as American troops arrived in Zagan, the occupation of the Polish Parliament (*Sejm*) chamber ended. On December 16, a Civic Platform (*Platforma Obywatelska*) lawmaker rushed the speaker's rostrum to protest Law and Justice Party's (*Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc*) plan to limit news media's access to Parliament. Civic Platform members occupied the room, and

thousands of Poles demonstrated in Warsaw streets. One day, a fight broke out, and lawmakers accused each other of assault and distributed opposite videos of the fight. Supporters brought in food, fresh clothing and a small Wigilia.

The media currently has access to the building, but the press center was moved to another building. Grzegorz Schetyna, Civic Platform's leader, said that after "succeeding at securing media's access to the parliament building, as well as their unrestricted right to cover the parliamentary proceedings, we are suspending our protest." Law and Justice Party leaders are discussing punishment for the occupation.

During the occupation, the Law and Justice Party moved to another room to pass the budget, but some Civic Platform members said they couldn't get into the room to vote. Civic Platform considers the budget to be illegal, and encouraged President Andrzej Duda not to sign the legislation.

This occupation and budget dilemma are the source of concern for European Union's leaders about the status of Polish democracy.

Book Review:

The Color of Courage - A Boy at War:

The World War II Diary of Julian Kulski

"What is the color of courage? Red, of course. Because courage in wartime means risking your lifeblood. Our flag is red and white. I think of this -red for courage, white for honor. After all, what does a man have in the end, except his honor. . . and the courage to live by it?"

Julian Kulski is a precocious ten-year-old boy living in Warsaw with his parents in the late 1930s. The son of the Deputy Mayor of Warsaw, he is a good student, active in the Boy Scouts, and surrounded by an extended family and friends. When the Germans invade Poland in 1939, his privileged life ends.

The Nazis arrested Mayor Stefan Starszynski, his father assumes the precarious position of

**Rev. Paul Martin Kwiatkowski
(1939-2016)**

Fr. Paul Kwiatkowski was born in Toledo, Ohio to Ted and Evelyn (Kosmatka) on Oct. 7, 1939 and died on Dec. 3, 2016. He attended St. Stanislaus and Rosary Cathedral Schools and graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1957. He completed seminary studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary and the Pontifical North American College in Rome where he was ordained a priest at St. Peter's Basilica.

Over the years, he had many pastoral assignments that included a long term one at



St. Hedwig Parish. His last assignment was as the Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish until retirement. Fr. Paul also celebrated his Golden Jubilee there on Dec. 7, 2014.

He began teaching Latin at Central Catholic while serving as Pastor there. Being a gifted musician, he played violin in the Perrysburg Symphony and with the Echoes of Poland for many years.

Fr. Paul was a very dominant force in the Toledo Polish American community among these various groups: The Toledo-Poznan Alliance, Echoes of Poland, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA), the Toledo Polish Genealogical Society, and Toledo Sister Cities International.

Fr. Paul's belief that a priest must lead by example had kept him in the public eye for all the years he had served the religious and secular community. He continued to love and take pride in his Polish heritage and always welcomed the opportunity to share it with everyone. Fr. Paul, a founding member of the Toledo-Poznan Alliance, was usually present at our annual Dozynki (Harvest

Dinner) to bless the food and guests. *Requiescat in pace!*

Anthony Kujawa, Jr. (1929-2017)

Anthony Kujawa, Jr., the retired President and CEO of Toledo Tool & Die, Inc. died at home Jan. 30, 2017. He was a self-taught die designer who began working with his father in the small family business. It eventually grew into a midsize metal stamping company specializing in automotive stamping and progressive die building.

Tony and his wife, Dorothy, lived in Temperance, MI. They were long time TPA contributors to our annual Dozynki (Harvest Dinner). We could always count on their support. He will be missed and our sincere condolences from us to his wife and family.

Tour of Poland - 2018

Anyone interested in the next tour of Poland, please contact me by phone: 419-385-8516, or email: botat@bex.net. Also, start thinking where in Poland would you like to go. This way we can incorporate in the itinerary the places of interest to you. Your tour of Poland in 2018 should be where you want to go.

Kathy

Attention members

Please renew your membership now. If you had already done so, thank you. Renewal will guarantee your receiving the newsletter.

Walter Palicki, Membership

mayor from 1939-1944. Mayor Kulski tries to protect the people of Warsaw and appears to cooperate with the Nazis. Julian joins the Polish Underground Army (Home Army) at the age of 12 with the encouragement of his scoutmaster. He learns military tactics and how to handle weapons. He participates in missions in the Warsaw area. The following year, he is a part of a group on a secret mission into the Warsaw Ghetto whose purpose is to meet with leaders of the Jewish resistance. At 14, Julian is captured by the Gestapo, and interrogated and beaten in Pawiak Prison. He avoids Auschwitz due to his father's position.

With greater resolve to save his country, Julian joins the Ninth Commando Company of the Underground Army. He fights in the failed Warsaw Uprising of 1944 to liberate Warsaw from the Nazis and to establish Polish sovereignty before the Russian advance. The Germans put Julian in a POW camp. He daringly escapes and eventually comes to America.

This fast-paced military diary is a realistic and emotional account of a teen-aged boy's wartime life. Kulski is an outstanding example of Polish patriotism. He enlivens his memoir with life philosophies and reflections.

Annual Membership Meeting

The annual meeting will take place on Sunday, March 5th at 2:00 p.m. at the Board Room of the Franciscan Ctr.

All members are invited. You will learn what TPA is doing in terms of plans for this year, including tentative guests from Poland. All members are invited. Election of executive committee will take place. Get involved, come to the meeting. Light lunch will be served.

Milk Bar Blues

Milk Bars (Mleczny) are a hold over from the communist era in Poland. If you're not familiar with them – They are cheap cafes subsidized by the government serving inexpensive dairy-based meals that were served in lieu of meat during times of rationing.

They first appeared in the late nineteenth century and then became emblematic of Poland's communist past. But, now with Poland's new wealth and prosperity they are a dying breed.

More than 350 of the 500 milk bars across the country shut down and Poland's newly elected PiS Party leveled another challenge for proprietors of the bars, slashing their public funding by 25%.

For incredibly low prices, they offer quick, stick-to-your-rib staples like soups, stews, and cabbage and root vegetable salads. But these relics of a socialist economic landscape are now in danger of extinction in a more prosperous free market economy where disposable income is spent at trendier eateries like McDonald's or KFC for instance.

Milk bars are probably the most egalitarian places in Poland. There is a shared love of pierogi and kotlet schabowy that brings Poles together from all walks of life. You'll find corporate big-wigs who have a lot of money next to the guy who can hardly pay the rent.

A few protesters and activists are trying to preserve the remaining milk bars. Because everyone has to eat, they are one of the most inclusive places you can imagine. Just think if America lost every pizza joint across the land.

By Denny Kutylowski – PolishToledo.com

Please note: Denny Kutylowski's new email is: polishtoledo@polandmail.com
The website is unchanged: www.PolishToledo.com