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No. 1



# THE MISSION

Official Publication of The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools

Est. 1885



## Founder

Reverend Father Jozef Dabrowski (1885)

## Chancellor-Rector of the Orchard Lake Schools

Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr.

## Vice Chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools

Mr. Anthony Koterba

## Chairman of The Polish Mission Board

Dr. Stan Majewski

## Director

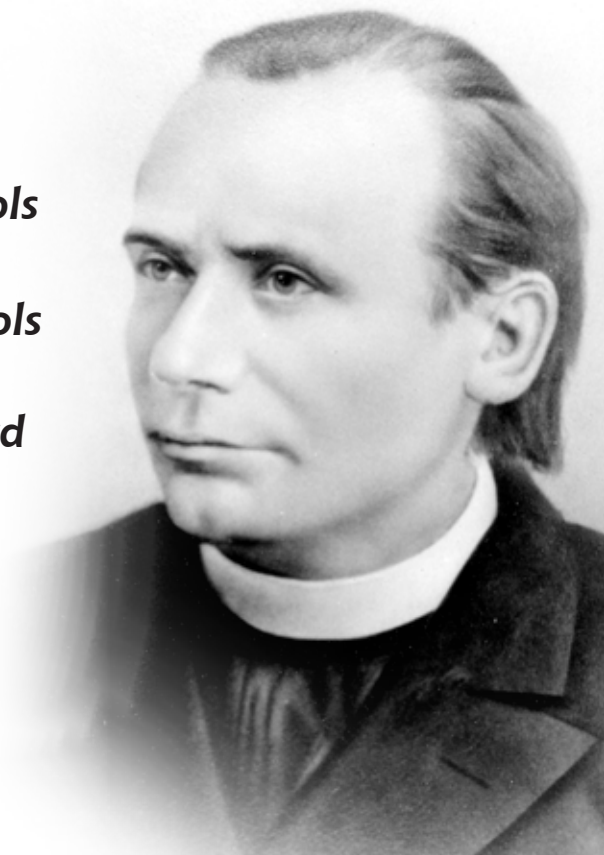
Mr. Marcin Chumiecki

## Staff

Mrs. Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA, CG

Dr. Hal Learman

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# Contributors



Mr. Karl Weissenbach  
Director of the Eisenhower  
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Hon. Mr. Radoslaw Sikorski  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
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Mr. Mike Smith  
*Detroit Jewish News*



Mr. Kenneth K. Koskodan  
Author, *No Greater Ally*



## FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Friends, I have just arrived back to the shores of Orchard Lake after the experience of a lifetime. Representing America's premier Polish educational and cultural institution, it was a special honor and privilege for

Vice Chancellor Anthony Koterba and I to be present at the canonization of St. John XXIII and our beloved St. John Paul II.

I have been asked by many people to recount those blessed days spent in the Eternal City and, in particular, to share my memories of the canonization. The word that keeps coming to mind as I recall those blessed days is AWESOME! First and foremost, to be present for a canonization is a great gift and grace. The canonization of these two holy men of our own time, both of whom were the Supreme Pastor of the Church, was an historical moment. Never before in the history of the Church were two Popes canonized at the same time! It was especially meaningful because we had the great grace of having personally met St. John Paul II. It is almost unfathomable to believe that we had the opportunity to talk with, shake hands with, and be blessed by a Saint while he was among us on earth.

Mr. Koterba and I also had the opportunity to be interviewed by Teresa Tomeo for both her local and national show broadcasts on Ave Maria radio. We spent three hours with her on the rooftop of the Augustianum (the college of the Augustinian Fathers in Rome) which is directly across from St. Peter's Square. It was certainly an exciting afternoon!

In the midst of the large crowd of people, I was able to connect with some of our alumni. It was also a pleasant surprise to cross paths with some people from the Detroit area as well as some friends from Brooklyn (including two of my former parishioners).

The one reoccurring picture that I have in my mind is that of the vast crowds and their sheer joy at being in the Eternal City. The faith these people exhibited was incredible. Do not believe anyone when they say the Church and faith are dying out! These men and women of every race and country prove that that is a false statement. The presence of hundreds of thousands of young people proves that the faith is not passé and that there is great hope for the future.

Yes, AWESOME is the best word that I can use to describe those blessed days. It is impossible to share every detail in writing for that would take much more than one issue of The Mission, so I hope you will take the time to visit the Orchard Lake Schools, where St. John Paul II walked, prayed, and celebrated Holy Mass, to experience our range of cultural exhibits, programs, and activities. I hope and pray that the faith that I saw there in Rome continues to grow and deepen in the hearts of all men and women throughout the world.

St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II intercede and pray for us!

Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. Machalski, Jr.  
Chancellor-Rector of the Orchard Lake Schools



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings everyone! Now is a truly exciting time here at The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools, and as chairman of the Polish Mission Board, I'm thrilled to share some of our top stories with you now.

The Polish Mission is the third department of the Orchard Lake Schools, which were established in 1885. Back in those days, we were located in Detroit, on St. Aubin street. After we relocated from downtown to Orchard Lake, we needed to expand, and today, I'm proud to say that The Polish Mission, SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, and St. Mary's Preparatory make up the most unique educational institution in the United States. SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary is the first and only Polish Seminary in North America, and St. Mary's Prep is a model of excellence for high schools across the country. The Polish Mission department was created to preserve, promote, and interpret the Polish cultural legacy of our unique European-American institution. As our seminary produces the next generation of American priests from Poland, and St. Mary's Prep enrollment gets bigger and bigger with every year, I couldn't be more proud that The Polish Mission's Art Gallery (Galeria), Genealogy Lab (PARI), Collections, and outreach programming are inspiring and educating people across the country, from UCLA in California, to Manhattan New York, to Abilene, Kansas. Our cooperation with the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home is a source of great pride for not only our institution, but to me personally as well, a St. Mary's grad from 1956.

Ever since I became chairman a few years ago, each season of activities has increasingly given me more and more reason to cherish my Polish heritage. It is my goal that everyone who reads these pages may experience exactly the same thing. It's easy to become involved! Becoming a supporter of the Polish Mission is as easy as 1-2-3, and in addition, most of our events are offered to the public free of charge, and volunteers are always welcome. One of our guiding principles has been that through our engagement of our signature Polish story, all people may be invited to be inspired by their own ancestral culture. I've said this to many people, that our roots here in Orchard Lake go deep, and that's what gives us the confidence to reach higher and higher.

Marcin and our dedicated staff are unveiling a top-notch lineup of programming for the rest of the year, and it's impossible to express my delight at how many people will be able to connect with their own heritage through our work. I hope that in the future, Msgr. Tom, Marcin, and I will see you soon in Orchard Lake, and that you'll become a part of this great experience.

Kindest Regards,  
Dr. Stan Majewski  
Chairman of The Polish Mission Board



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello and welcome to the first issue of *The Mission!* I'm writing this on the heels of our Canonization Celebration, honoring Saint John XXIII and our Polish hero, beloved Saint John Paul II. Now more than ever, it's easy to feel the powerful energy that emanates from our storied institution's legacy which, throughout our 129 years, has been a model for faith, heritage and tradition. Fueled by the generosity of The Josephine and Edward Wikiera Foundation, we continue blazing new trails.

In the recent cold winter months, we had plenty to keep us busy on the Orchard Lake campus. I'm very happy that the play, *Tajemnice Ordonki* (The Mysteries of Ordonka), was a great success in November, and that the exhibition from the Institute of National Remembrance of the Republic of Poland (IPN), *Operation AB–Katyń*, was seen by many at the Maida Library in December. I'd commit a faux pas if I didn't thank Mrs. Halina Malinski and her dedicated group of volunteers for their work in coordinating *Tajemnice Ordonki*, featuring renown actresses Maria Nowotarska and Agata Pilitowska. In a similar manner, the dedication and friendship of Pawel Pokitski, head of education and exhibits at IPN, have given us the opportunity to show the most cutting-edge educational programming of Poland to our community here in Michigan, and across the country. *Operation AB–Katyń* was a sobering and artful reminder of past tragedies, and I'd like to recognize Polish hero Captain Emil Kornacki (vm) (ret) for his heroism, and thank him most deeply for his inspiring leadership today, especially with this project.

Autumn saw us on the road again with the *Forbidden Art* exhibition from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (A-BSM). This time, it was off to the Big Apple–New York City! I'll leave it to JJ to fill you in more about that in the following pages, but I want to especially thank Mary Ann, Jim, and Timothy Harrington who came with us to be a part of the milestone experience. As the doomsday winter months barricaded us indoors, we went to work on our project with the National Archives of Poland. I'm extremely happy to announce that our cooperation with them has reached a new peak. While Fr. Flis' resignation from the archives to devote more time to his work at the seminary has everyone missing his dedication and expertise, I'm excited to say that upon completion of this biggest phase of cooperation with the National Archives, our own holdings will be modernized under international standards, and searchable in English. All of us owe our thanks to Professor Pawel Pietrzyk at the National Archives for supervising this grant process, and to National Archives Director Professor Władysław Stępiak for his most kind support. Now, our amazing collections are finally getting the attention and care they deserve. Don't forget to say hello to our visiting archivists when they visit us this summer!

I'd like to thank the staff and volunteers of The Polish Mission for giving us a model of sincerity and devotion to our cultural roots. They are the “boots on the ground,” so to speak, and without their passion, and the patronage of countless global leaders and diplomatic officials, the many successful partnerships and programs that have given us the international recognition we now hold would have been missed.

Finally, I'd like to draw everyone's attention to the last page in our section, and encourage you all to directly support us by becoming a “Friend of the Polish Mission.”

The kind donations received this way are applied to our everyday operations, and are the *most direct* way you can help us continue to make a difference. Under the leadership of Polish Mission Chairman Dr. Majewski, this season will be our best yet, and whether you're a long-time Orchard Lake Schools supporter, or you've just learned about our programming, we *need* your support to continue on our “Polish” Mission. We invite you to be a part of it all, just like our good friend in California.

# Portrait Studios of Polonia

*The Face of Polish Immigration*

*- October 2014 -*

Witness the zenith of Polish immigration to the United States through the camera lens. Dreams of a new life documented; hopes of weary souls captured; courage in the face of a new life preserved for history. Their story began generations ago, but it continues this autumn at The Polish Mission. Experience their lives, one image at a time.

Scanning sessions to begin this Summer at The Polish Mission. Contact Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA, CG, for more information at [cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com), and visit [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com) for news and updates.



# Landmark Partnership Continues with Auschwitz, first joint Liberation Day ceremony held in Orchard Lake



Few places in the world can command the same heartbreaking recognition as Auschwitz. The terrible history of that infamous place has obligated the people of Poland and their neighbors to take on the work of safeguarding the memory of humanity's greatest tragedy. We understand that obligation here at The Polish Mission, and we're happy to report that our exclusive partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (A-BSM) continues to grow and develop as new programs are launched. Following endorsement from the Offices of the President and Vice President last autumn, we had the extraordinary privilege of bringing the *Forbidden Art* exhibition to the Big Apple. New Yorkers like Msgr. Tom, immediately recognize Park East Synagogue as a landmark destination on the Upper East Side. Noted for the extraordinary leadership of Holocaust Survivor Rabbi Arthur Schneier, the synagogue and day school there on East 68th Street are a fixture across the globe—so much so, that Pope Benedict XVI selected it for a visit in 2008. That historic visit was the first time a pope had ever visited a synagogue in the U.S.

How appropriate then, that through our work we had the opportunity to take *Forbidden Art* there for a showing in early November. While Marcin and others were busy making arrangements for *Tajemnice Ordonki* on campus, JJ was in Manhattan making sure everything was ship-shape in time to welcome a truly international delegation on Wednesday, November 12. Among the guests were ambassadors, consuls and diplomats from eighteen countries, including the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland Ryszard Schnepf, Poland's Ambassador to the UN Ryszard Sarkowicz, Consul General of Israel in New York Ido Aharoni, and Consul General of Poland in New York Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka. Joined by Auschwitz Museum Director Dr. Piotr M.A. Cywiński as the keynote speaker, we were especially happy to welcome the Harringtons, who journeyed to New York to represent our Board of Regents at this very special event.

In keeping with this trajectory of memory, we're proud to report that as A-BSM held their 69th anniversary commemoration of the Liberation of Auschwitz in Poland, The Polish Mission has hosted the very first *joint* commemoration right here on the Orchard Lake campus. With letters of recognition from no less than the embassies of an astounding fifteen nations (including Vice President Joe Biden, and Papal Nuncio Apb. Carlo Maria Vigano), our intimate ceremony was highlighted even further by the presence of Polish Vice Consul Konrad Zieliński of Chicago, Consul General of Canada Roy Norton, Orchard Lake Mayor Jackie Beach, American Jewish Committee Detroit Regional president Howard Brown, and Mr. Mike Smith of the *Detroit Jewish News*. A special connection with our colleagues in Israel was felt as Msgr. Tom led the interfaith memorial ceremony with Rabbi Aaron Bergman from Adat Shalom Synagogue. All were struck our common bonds when prayers were chanted in Polish, English, and Hebrew.

# FORBIDDEN

# ART





ABOVE: HON. RYSZARD SCHNEPF, HON. RYSZARD SARKOWICZ, DR. CYWIŃSKI, JIM, TIMOTHY, AND MARY ANN HARRINGOTN, AND MARCIN CHUMIECKI POSE FOR A PHOTO ALONGSIDE FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN NEW YORK AT PARK EAST SYNAGOGUE WITH RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER, CENTER. BELOW: PHOTOS FROM THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ, HELD AT THE GALERIA ON JANUARY 27, 2014



# AN OPPORTUNITY SEIZED



Special Report: 10 Years of  
Poland in the EU  
by Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Radosław Sikorski

“When Poland’s prime minister and top diplomat signed the EU accession treaty, little could they have known that the benefits would be this immense, both for Poland and the Union,” writes Poland’s Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski in an article marking the 10th anniversary of Poland’s EU accession, which fell on May 1st of this year. Read the full report at [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com).

When Poland’s prime minister and top diplomat signed the EU accession treaty, little could they have known that the benefits would be this immense, both for Poland and the Union.

A decade ago, Poland and nine other countries joined the European Union. This was made possible thanks to our tremendous efforts to meet the membership criteria. We did not join the EU on a whim. We became part of the Union because we carried out comprehensive reforms, practically remodeling our country from the bottom up. In less than a decade, we built a democracy and a free market economy – two pillars of a united Europe.





Poland made this leap by embarking on the path of systemic transformation, which began in 1989. On the 4th of June we marked the 25th anniversary of the first pluralistic, partially free elections in our country – and the first polls in this part of Europe open to anti-communist candidates – after decades of totalitarianism.

Back then, reeling from 40 years of communist rule, Poland was economically and politically bankrupt – and a headache for the world’s leaders. Today, we are helping to fix problems, in Europe and beyond. We have proven that by staying the course, it is possible to turn the tide of history. And even while we celebrate our successes, we serve as a source of inspiration – be it in Ukraine, Tunisia or Myanmar – regardless of nationality, color, or creed.

This jubilee year, I hope you will be inspired by the story of Poland’s road to freedom and European integration. Suffice to say that during these ten years of EU membership, Poland’s GDP skyrocketed, increasing by 48.7%. Even in 2008–2013, during the depth of the global financial crisis, our economy grew by 20% – by far the best result in the EU. All this goes to show that Poles have made good use of this historic opportunity. In 2012, cumulative



foreign investments in Poland were worth an estimated 178 billion euros, almost quadrupling since 2003. During the ten years of EU membership, Poland created two million jobs. The numbers speak for themselves.

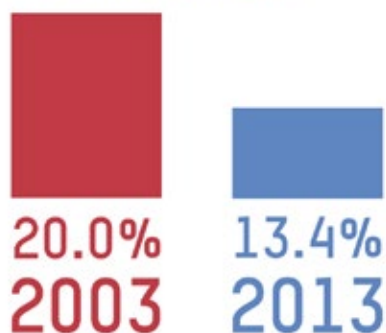
But integration also brought benefits to our partners. It is wrong to claim that EU expansion was behind Europe’s economic downturn. In fact, macroeconomic data shows that the “Big Bang” enlargement had a positive impact on most EU-15 economies. The biggest winners were those who boosted trade with our region or opened up their labour markets to the new members.

Indeed, all EU countries – both acceding states and those already present in the Union – gain most by tapping into the potential offered by the internal market, in particular the free movement of goods and people. A fact worth recalling, especially when faced with a torrent of cheap and mendacious Euro-scepticism.

Ten years is no more than an historical eye blink. A quarter of a century covers a single generation. And yet, in this short time, we have managed to transform our part of Europe. Looking back at our success, we hope it can be replicated by those currently implementing tough reforms in our neighborhood – and often paying for it in blood, like the heroes of the Maidan. Poland’s example proves that their struggle is worth every effort.

## IMPROVEMENT ON THE LABOUR MARKET

### UNEMPLOYMENT



#PolskaEU10



Looking for an in-depth genealogy experience this summer? Here is an opportunity to consider right here at St. Mary's. The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) will present a week-long course on August 3-8 on our historic campus. Some of these popular courses sell out within minutes of registration being opened. Clearly there is a demand for quality courses from nationally known instructors that will include: Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS; Joshua Taylor; Paula Stuart-Warren, CG; Ceil Wendt Jensen, MA, CG; and Dr. Hal Learman.

GRIP is proud to be invited to take "GRIP on the Road" and conduct an institute in conjunction with PARI (Polonica Americana Research Institute) located at the Wotta Building #11. This unique opportunity to provide four courses, including "Advancing Your Polish Genealogy: 300 Years of Records," will make this type of education available to a wider audience. Please join us as this exciting cooperative program takes flight. Please find the list of courses and noted faculty for both locations at <http://www.gripitt.org>.



Armia Krajowa  
Foundation of Michigan

# September 1939 Commemoration

Saluting our Polish and American Veterans  
Mark your calendars: Sunday, September 7, 2014

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT ®

[1939@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:1939@orchardlakeschools.com)



THE EDWARD AND JOSEPHINE WIKIERA FOUNDATION PRESENTS

# A PLACE TO STAND

A MOTION PICTURE EVENT AT THE GALERIA

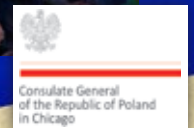
It's sadly ironic that as Poles everywhere celebrate the 25th anniversary of their freedom from Soviet rule, our friends in Ukraine wage a similar battle for their own freedom in 2014. In celebration of our freedom, and in solidarity with our neighbors in free Ukraine, The Polish Mission was pleased to host the Michigan premier of *A Place to Stand*, at our Galeria on March 18 in cooperation with the Polish Consulate of Chicago.

*A Place to Stand* is the documentary by renowned director Anna Ferens that offers viewers a look behind the scenes of the democratization of Europe that first began in Poland with the *Solidarność* (Solidarity) movement. It was our pleasure to welcome Director Anna Ferens as our honored guest alongside Consul Konrad Zieliński, as well as the President of Ukrainian American Archives & Museum of Detroit, Zwenyslava Hayda. Piast Institute Director Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski joined us for the evening, and later remarked: "The program I attended this week at Orchard Lake was excellent. It brought me to tears as the history of that era was rehearsed." All

enjoyed spirited discussion after the screening, and after Ferens blew out the candles on our 25th anniversary cake, guests and local dignitaries mingled about for the duration of a delightful evening at the Orchard Lake Campus.



Premiered at the  
European Parliament in honor  
of the 25th anniversary of  
democratic transformations  
in Central and  
Eastern Europe





# REMEMBERING JAN KARSKI

**Special feature  
by Mike Smith  
of the Detroit Jewish News**

The Polish Consulate in Chicago hosted a commemoration – “Jan Karski – the History, the Legacy and the Responsibility” – on Thursday, April 24, 2014 to honor the memory of Karski on the centennial of his birth. It was an informative and moving program, to say the least.

There were over two hundred attendees. It was a diverse audience including members of Polonia and Chicago’s Jewish communities, as well as Holocaust survivors, Righteous Among the Nations, participants in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943, the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, Home Army veterans, and Polish Siberian Exiles. The Consulate General of Poland in Chicago organized the event with the honorary partnership of the Jan Karski Educational Foundation Chicago, the American Jewish Committee of Chicago and the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Simply stated, Jan Karski is a legendary Polish hero. He was the first diplomat to bring eyewitness accounts of the brutality of Nazi regime in occupied Poland and Europe to the attention of Allied Leaders during World War II. For his efforts, Karski was captured and tortured by the Gestapo. But, he was tough, and was the first person to personally tell President Franklin Roosevelt and other leaders about the Warsaw Ghetto and the Nazi death camps in occupied Poland. His service to humanity and his bravery earned him the highest honors: President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Jan Karski the Presidential Medal of Freedom the State of Israel awarded him the Yad Vashem medal of Righteous Among the Nations, to name just two accolades. After the war, Karski immigrated to the United States and earned a Ph.D. at Georgetown University, becoming a professor there in the School of Foreign Service after his graduation. He also published ‘Story of a Secret State’, in which he related his personal experiences and efforts to attempt to stop the Holocaust. Jan Karski died in 2000 at the age of 86.

It would be an impossible task to summarize the life of Karski in one evening. A full account of his life and adventures could fill hundreds of pages and several books. However, the Polish Consulate did a fine job of assembling a panel of speakers that generated a meaningful, insightful retrospective on Jan Karski.

The evening began with a welcome and introductions from Vice Consul Konrad Zieliński, and brief remarks about Karski from Robert Rusiecki, Deputy Consul General. Then, there was a special guest: Governor of Illinois, Patrick Quinn. His remarks were personal and from the heart. “Jan Karski was a true war hero who risked his life to make a difference during one of the darkest times in our world’s history,” Governor Quinn said, “The belief that one person can make a difference is personified by Jan Karski.” It was a pleasant surprise for the audience to hear that the Governor had a personal connection to Karski: “I was honored to sit in his class and hear firsthand his remarkable accounts of the Holocaust, just as I am honored to celebrate his legacy today.” Moreover, Quinn also officially proclaimed Jan Karski Day in the State of Illinois.

Governor Quinn’s remarks were followed by the main program, a panel discussion that featured four speakers with varied themes about Karski’s legacy, moderated by Keely Stauter-Halsted,



Professor of History, Hejna Chair in Polish History, University of Illinois at Chicago. The panelists were: Michael H. Traison, who spoke about “Poland in the heart of Jews and Jews in the heart of Poland – a Civilization Jan Karski Hoped to Save”; Neal Pease, Professor of History, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, presented “Jan Karski, the Polish Government-in-Exile and the Polish Home Army during WWII”; Allan Reich, American Jewish Committee, discussed “Jan Karski’s broader legacy for humanity”; and Thaddeus Radzilowski, President of the Piast Institute, spoke about “Jan Karski – The Messenger.”

The attendees also viewed a short film with Jan Karski’s testimony, “The World Knew,” prepared by the Polish History Museum and Poland’s Foreign Ministry. Marcin Chumiecki, Director of the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools, brought an exhibit on Karski to the Consulate for the event.

While there is not enough space to recount every fact and perspective offered by the speakers, I can summarize a few main themes. Karski was an extraordinary person. His exploits were larger-than-life. However, despite his superhuman efforts, Karski was a humble, modest man, albeit a man with a keen mind and a photographic memory. He was a superb professor at Georgetown, and had a lasting, positive impact upon his students and anyone who met him. This was certainly in evidence by the remarks of the panelists as well as Governor Quinn. We also learned a small fact that was reinforced by each speaker: no one could smoke a cigarette with more dignity and class than Karski!! Most important to me was that, despite his accomplishments, his well-above-normal efforts and accomplishments, his heroism, Karski still felt that he had not done enough to stop the evil of the Nazis. This is the mark of a great man.

I was extremely pleased and honored be invited to this event, and to be able to attend with my good friends, Marcin Chumiecki and Alicja Karlic from Tygodnik Polski. We left the event with a deep understanding that, by any standards, Jan Karski was a world-class hero. I congratulate the Polish Consulate in Chicago for creating and hosting this most significant event. It was a wonderful evening.



International. Local. Together.

## Polish Mission attends AJC’s Global Diplomatic Seder in March



It was our distinct honor to have been invited guests at the American Jewish Committee’s annual Diplomatic Seder. Led by Rabbi Joshua Bennett at Temple Israel in West

Bloomfield, the Seder dinner marks the beginning of Passover, and celebrates freedom from bondage-- a theme that resonates with all people. A Polish Mission delegation represented our community alongside a host of international guests. A truly diplomatic social event ensued, as members from the Japanese, Indian, Israeli, and many other communities built networks and made friendships to shape a peaceful and free future for our community. We salute the efforts of the American Jewish Committee, and offer the deepest of thanks for recognizing the continued work of The Polish Mission.





# Presidential Museum greet's Orchard Lake Community



SPECIAL FEATURE  
WITH EISENHOWER  
PRESIDENTIAL  
LIBRARY &  
MUSEUM

The Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home is pleased to present the temporary exhibit, *Be Ye Men of Valour: Allies of World War II*. The exhibit focuses on the many nations that contributed to the Allied war effort during World War II but remain relatively unknown to American audiences.

Thanks to the generosity of sixteen museums and individuals, the exhibit features a range of artifacts to introduce visitors to the cultures, people, and histories of the nineteen nations whose contributions to the Allies is seldom studied in the United States.

The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools has been an outstanding partner and supporter of this exhibit. Thanks to their expertise and generosity with their collection, the Eisenhower Museum was able to borrow a number of rare and remarkable artifacts to help educate visitors about Poland's experience in World War II. The Eisenhower curatorial team enjoyed collaborating with their counterparts in Orchard Lake, Michigan, and is delighted to showcase the achievements and sacrifices of one of the most significant members of the Allies.

"Our goal was to create the exhibit in such a way that the stories would come to life and create a personal connection with the viewer. We are always looking for a way to make history relevant for the younger audience to really connect and get involved. I believe our team was successful largely in part thanks to establishing these



critical relationships with other institutions including The Polish Mission. I couldn't be more pleased with their efforts," states Karl Weissenbach, Director.

The relationship with the Polish Mission is what afforded the Eisenhower Presidential Library the opportunity to include the prestigious *Forbidden Art* exhibit as part of its *D Day+70 Years* Commemoration. The Library is organizing the greatest international commemoration of D-Day in the United States, which will be held in Abilene, Kansas, on June 6 and 7. The weekend activities include a Remembrance Ceremony, C-47 flyover, and the *Symphony at Sunset* Annual D-Day Commemoration Concert featuring the Salina Symphony.

Also included is an opening reception for the *Be Ye Men of Valour* and *Forbidden Art* exhibits. The *Forbidden Art* exhibit is on loan courtesy of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum of Poland and the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools. It features art created by prisoners of the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. It was illegal for the prisoners to create art, yet many did so at great risk. These powerful images reflect the pain of the prisoners' predicament. "We are especially pleased Dr. Cywiński will be joining us from the Auschwitz Museum in Poland as we officially open the *Forbidden Art* exhibit," adds Weissenbach. ■



*The Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. Symphony at Sunset is sponsored by Marshall Motors, Salina, Kansas. Please visit [www.eisenhower.archives.gov](http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov) for all news, events, and media. Be Ye Men of Valor will be on display until 2016.*



# D-DAY+70 YEARS

## JUNE 6-7, 2014



DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Presidential Library,  
Museum, and  
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# PARI IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

## STEADY GROWTH FOR POLISH GENEALOGY

The Polonica American Research Institute (PARI), a department of The Polish Mission of Orchard Lake Schools, is a nonprofit research facility devoted to helping Polish-Americans trace their family history. Through the use of the rich

resources of the Central Archives of Orchard Lake and sources both in the United States and Poland, PARI has assisted many patrons in discovering more about their ancestral ties to Poland. This institute runs on the hard work of dedicated volunteers who have spent countless hours building the research facility's resources from the ground up.

PARI has been given the distinct privilege of digitizing and extracting burial records on loan from Jeanette Kulwicki, widow of a third generation funeral director of Kulwicki Funeral Parlor—the oldest Polish funeral home in the city of Detroit, which started its funeral business on St. Aubin Avenue in 1878. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Mrs. Kulwicki and her generous offering!

That being said, we cannot help but boast about the great team of volunteers helping at PARI each week—Dana Barrett, Sharon Deceuninck, Bernadette Drobot, Genia Gorecki, Marge Johnston, Joan Lamport, and Richard Luszczyk. They have been creating searchable databases and organizing the various resources on campus. Some of them are even putting to use their translation skills. Read the thoughts of just a few as to why they make time each week to come to campus.

**Dana:** “Volunteering gives me great satisfaction helping others with their family research; and I enjoy working on the projects assigned to me which will ultimately help many others in the future.”

**Sharon:** “My week is incomplete if I am not here doing my part.”

**Richard:** “My interest in my family history has greatly increased by volunteering here and learning all the different methods available and how to use those methods. Also, meeting other people with the same interests is invaluable and great fun!”

Previously only open to the public 10 AM to 4 PM on Fridays, PARI has responded to requests to expand its hours of operation to include Monday and Tuesday hours allowing more opportunities for visitors and volunteers. “We have short- and long-term projects underway,” says Ceil Jensen, Director of PARI. Whether someone donates an afternoon of work—or can commit to once a week—we have indexing, organizing, and research projects for them to complete.”

We hope researchers will make an appointment for a free consultation with genealogists Dr. Hal Learman or Ceil Wendt Jensen. Societies are welcome to schedule a lecture or a tour; and we have food service available on campus. So, not only do we welcome genealogists, but also students and scouts who wish to explore their cultural history or earn their genealogical badges.

For those of you who were able to tune in to the PBS airing of Our Polish Story on December 3, 2013, you may have seen 16 volunteers on the program, led by PARI Director, Ceil Wendt Jensen, and Co-Director, Dr. Hal Learman. During the breaks, PBS host, Fred Nahhat, interviewed Ceil about the history and programs of The Polish Mission. PARI's role in researching Genia's Story for Genealogy Roadshow was highlighted. Genealogy Roadshow



DR. HAL LEARMAN INSPECTS MORE THAN 100 YEARS WORTH OF BURIAL RECORDS ON LOAN FROM JEANETTE KULWICKI'S PRIVATE COLLECTION







participant, Genia Gorecki, was in the audience with her husband, Ted.

The Polish Mission crew was unmatched in its ability to take viewer's pledges. People from as far away as Alberta, Canada called in to show their support of metro-Detroit's Polish culture; and to order their copies of *The History of the Polish Panorama*, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy*, and *Detroit's Polonia*. Thanks so much to all the volunteers!

As we review the completion of our cultural promotion through a six-month advertising campaign with PBS utilizing their Signal magazine and public television, we are proud that our Polish-American organization has reached over 65,000 people via our print ads and countless others who have been introduced to our story via their television screen. As a result, we've taken phone calls and email requests for genealogical assistance from Texas, Florida,

New York, California, and Saskatchewan—how wonderful it is to see our Polish message travel so far!

To arrange a genealogical consultation, please email Ceil at [cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com); or call (248) 683-0323. And visit our website at [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com).



## A Mission for the Children: Vice-Coordinator Marzena Owinski welcomes new students

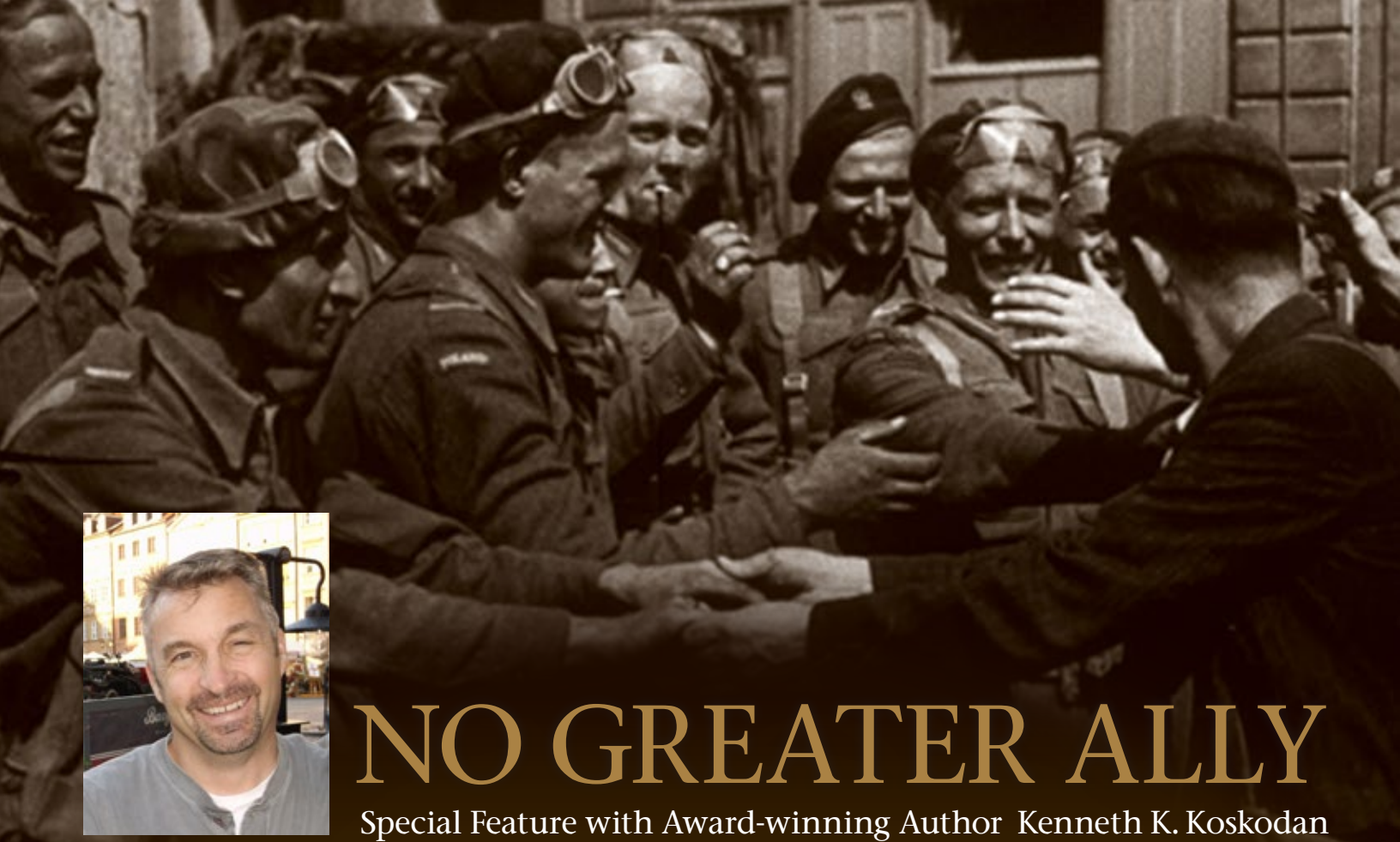
The Father Dąbrowski Polish Language School was established in Orchard Lake by Mrs. Alina Paszek in 1997. Initially, the purpose of the school was to support the learning of Polish language, culture and history by children of Polish immigrants, to help them identify on a cultural continuum with their parents. Since 1997, our school has gone through different phases in establishing its significant role, and to adjusting to demands of the modern Polish community. It is not merely an institution dedicated to children of Polish immigrants, rather, we welcome everyone who would like to learn Polish. Many children of Polish-American parents who speak mostly English at home become our students.

Today we have classes not only for Polish speaking children, but also for those who want to learn Polish as a second language. We have a total of ten classes, and in addition, we offer faith formation sessions for school age children. Lessons are led by seminarians and faculty of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in both languages., and all classes are held on Friday evenings in two shifts.

Besides the Polish language, students learn about Polish geography, history, and culture. We have the traditional *Wigilia* with *opłatek*, with authentic Polish food, Christmas carols, and even Saint Nicholas comes to visit the children! Students usually welcome their entire families to this event, including grandparents and cousins! We often hear very warm words of thanks from our American guests who have Polish ancestry too, for having the opportunity to participate in such a significant Polish event. To top it all off, our students participate in the annual Chancellor's Christmas Concert, where they perform Polish Christmas carols for a big audience at the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake. In the middle of the school year, we have a fun talent show, and the academic year wraps up with a school picnic in the late spring.

Our students are exposed to the Polish art, history, and culture thanks to their participation in art exhibitions, concerts, and other events hosted by The Polish Mission. This year's Constitution Day celebration saw a display of children's art for public viewing at the Galeria. In addition to our educational mission, we are also a social place where Polish immigrants and Polish Americans can meet and share their experiences, knowledge, and memories with others who seek to find their place in the new homeland.

If you are interested to learn more about the school activities, please visit our website at [www.polishschoolorchardlake.wordpress.com](http://www.polishschoolorchardlake.wordpress.com) or call us at (248) 366-8728. This is your invitation to support us financially or become our student. *Dziękuję bardzo!*



# NO GREATER ALLY

Special Feature with Award-winning Author Kenneth K. Koskodan

September 1, 2014 will mark the 75th anniversary of Germany's invasion of Poland which would thrust the world into a global conflict that was the Second World War. In cooperation with the Polish Mission, my first book, *No Greater Ally: The Untold Story of Poland's Forces in World War II*, has endeavored to insure Poland's role in the epic fight for freedom is recognized and remembered.

*No Greater Ally* chronicles the role Poland's armed forces played in the various battles and campaigns of World War II through historical sources, as well as the personal experiences of numerous firsthand accounts of veterans who fought in every branch of the Polish military, including the resistance forces in occupied Poland.

Originally released in 2009, the hard cover edition of *No Greater Ally* received international acclaim and sold out in less than a year. Since then, it has been published in paperback, ebook format for Kindle, and in 2013, a Polish language version was released in Europe.

The book really would not have been possible without the help of The Polish Mission. I had contacted Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki, who then granted me access to Polish Mission archives and museums. In addition, he was instrumental in coordinating meetings and interviews with surviving Polish World War II veterans.

Since then, I've worked closely with the Polish Mission, including volunteering to help renovate the Polish Second Corps Museum. Ensuring that the heroics of Poland and the Polish veterans of World War II are recognized and remembered by the world, is a calling I share with The Polish Mission.

In 2001, I was awarded the *Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit*

*of the Republic of Poland* at the Polish Consulate in Chicago for my efforts in promoting Polish history. Today, I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to lecture and speak on the topic of Poland's role in the Second World War throughout the country, most recently at Mott Community College as part of the *Jan Karski: Humanity's Hero* exhibit.



The dedication and hard work of The Polish Mission is truly inspiring. They continue to bring treasures of Polish history, art, and culture to the campus of Orchard Lake Schools and across America. Their work to present important exhibits as *Forbidden Art* and *Jan Karski: Humanity's Hero*, and to coordinate them nationally is truly remarkable. It's humbling and exciting to be even a small part of The Polish Mission. ■

*Copies of No Greater Ally are available at the St. Mary's Campus Bookstore, and on Amazon.com.*

# Mail Call from Washington: Greetings from the Holy Father



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

No. 7183

May 9, 2014

Mr. Marcin Chumiecki  
Director  
**The Polish Mission**  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Dear Mr. Chumiecki,

At the request of the Secretariat of State of the Holy See and pursuant to your kind letter of February 12, 2014, with enclosures, I write to inform you that your correspondence and folder of material, destined for His Holiness Pope Francis, has been received.

As the personal and official representative of the Holy Father in the United States of America, it is my special privilege to convey to **The Polish Mission** in Orchard Lake, Michigan, as requested, his Apostolic Blessing.

With cordial regards and prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Carlo Maria Viganò*

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio

# Corner with Collections Curator JJ Przewozniak

## Museum

Historical objects carry special value that can only partially be quantified by money. Earlier this year, the Colt .45 that Wyatt Earp used at the famous gunfight at the O.K. Corral sold at auction for \$225,000. In 2008, the Fender Stratocaster that Jimi Hendrix allegedly burned on stage went for a whopping \$497,500. In contrast, a typical *Virtuti Militari* medal identical to the ones in our cherished collection can be found at auction houses for less than \$1,000. The award is the highest military decoration in Poland, awarded only in wartime for the most gallant acts of bravery. This shows us that the prestige of a museum collection, or, even your own collection, is measured chiefly by the personal meaning behind the items, and the memories they represent. At The Polish Mission, we've been able to promote our heritage and develop our collections through the most professional



channels, thanks to our and your reverence for the history we safeguard.

In February, a very special (yet unassuming) item was shipped to our colleagues at the Museum of Polish History in Warsaw. It was the *Polish War Effort* exhibition, displayed at our *1939 Commemoration* last year, originally created by the Polish Government in-exile during the Second World War, and used to encourage aid and support of Poles, as it traveled around the United States. Each of the large wooden panels, and even the original turquoise shipping crate, are currently undergoing conservation, and we're proud that it will soon be on display at the University of Warsaw.

Artifacts and documents are precious to the historian, but they're always second-best when a personal connection to the past is nearby. Captain Emil Kornacki (VM) (Ret.) is a person who can move mountains with his heroic experience. As a recipient of the *Virtuti Militari*, and North America's last living survivor of the Katyń Massacre of 1940, he inspired us to negotiate the showing of *The Destruction of the Polish Elite: Operation AB-Katyń* at the Maida Library in December of last year. We displayed



CAPTAIN EMIL KORNAKCI POINTS OUT THE LOCATION OF OSTASZKÓW IN MODERN-DAY RUSSIA, AND RECOUNTS HIS SURVIVAL



items exhumed from the Katyń mass graves alongside the exhibit, on a bed of exactly 6,311 spent bullet casings, representing the exact recorded number of Poles who were interned with Cpt. Kornacki at the Ostaszków prison camp, and later executed. OLSM teacher Shannon Harris shared this powerful story and experience with her class, giving our St. Mary's men the opportunity to be formed by this powerful history.

Time takes its toll on treasured memories of the past, and too often we're left with only the places on the map that witnessed them. Our partners at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum (A-BSM) use the most precise and advanced museum science to ensure that every trace of memory is recorded. Thanks to the leadership of the Orchard Lake Schools, the generosity of A-BSM Director Dr. Piotr M.A. Cywiński, the guidance of Polish Mission Chairman Dr. Stan Majewski, and the tireless work of Marcin Chumiecki, I was able to visit the former KL Auschwitz in February, to be formally trained as a liaison, in response to the unprecedented national attention received by the *Forbidden Art* exhibit. I had spent time in nearly every department of the museum, including Collections, Conservation, Archives, and Education, learning about key issues that face the world's most recognizable symbol of the Holocaust. I'd like to offer my thanks to everyone at the museum for their investment in our cooperation through my stay there, which has reinforced our special and good partnership. The authenticity of the Auschwitz site, though laden with tragedy, gives a unique and powerful sense of vocation to those who work to preserve it. Contributing to the work there was an unforgettable experience, and one that can be similarly experienced here at our own storied campus. We too work not only *with* our precious collections, but *amidst* the place where their stories found veneration.

Please check [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com), for stories, photos, and blog posts about the topics in my article, or, feel free to email me at [jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:jjprzewozniak@orchardlakeschools.com)



AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU STATE MUSEUM DEPUTY DIRECTOR ANDRZEJ KACORZYK, AND HEAD OF E-LEARNING PROGRAMS ANGIESZKA JUSKOWIAK-SAWICKA POSE FOR A PHOTO WITH ME FOLLOWING A MEETING, OUTSIDE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AT THE FORMER AUSCHWITZ I CAMP.



CZESŁAWA KRAJEWSKA, CAMP NO. 34426. HER TWIN SISTER, MARIA KRAJEWSKA, NO. 34425, WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 4, 1927 IN KOMARÓW, POLAND. BOTH WERE BROUGHT TO AUSCHWITZ ON MAY 2, 1943, AND BOTH DIED AT THE AGE OF 15. MARIA DIED ON MAY 23, 1943, AND CZESŁAWA DIED TWO MONTHS LATER. PHOTO: MARCIN CHUMIECKI.



[www.auschwitz.org.pl](http://www.auschwitz.org.pl)  
<http://ipn.gov.pl/en>  
[www.muzhp.pl](http://www.muzhp.pl)



# Breaking News!

## The Polish Mission

Of The Orchard Lake Schools

Uwaga! There's more news at The Polish Mission than we can fit on these pages! Here's a list of some late-breaking headlines-- watch for full coverage of these stories and more in the next issue of *The Orchard Lake Good News*, and also at [www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com)

- World-renown pianist Claire Huangci will return to Orchard Lake for a concert to benefit the Friends of Polish Mission this fall.
- Polish Mission Director Marcin Chumiecki to receive the Distinguished Service award from the American Council for Polish Culture in August. Congratulations Marcin!
- The Polish Mission has been awarded several grants totaling \$6,000 from the Polish Consulate of Chicago. These funds will support specific projects, including the main exhibit at our *1939 Commemoration*, archival storage for our collections, and educational projects in honor of the 25th anniversary of the first democratic elections in Poland, and the 15th anniversary of Poland joining NATO.
- The Polish Consulate in Los Angeles awards The Polish Mission a \$600 grant in support of our presence at the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in San Antonio Texas, to be held August 27-30.
- Ceil Wendt Jensen receives the Wigilia Medal from the Polish Genealogical Society of America. Congratulations Ceil!
- The Wyczółkowski District Museum of Bydgoszcz publishes *W kręgu Wyczółta* in honor of their 90th anniversary, featuring a chapter detailing the Leon Wyczółkowski holdings in the Galeria. A corresponding exhibition is in the final stages of completion, and will soon travel to Orchard Lake.
- The Polish Mission sponsors youth VEX IQ robotics program as part of the Dąbrowski Polish Language School and prepares for program launch in September! Contact Mirek Owinski for more information (248) 821-6512.

# Friends of the Polish Mission Appeal

As *Friends of the Polish Mission*, you will be supporting a mission whose purpose is to bring Polonia closer to its heritage and develop a greater appreciation of Polish culture worldwide. Your membership will help our leading multi-faceted mission preserve Polish-American legacy and provide a forum for contemporary issues.

### Annual Membership Levels:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator - \$500            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companion - \$60  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining - \$1,000           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$120    | <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Circle - \$5,000    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron - \$250    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1885 Founder's Club - \$10,000 |

### Friends of the Polish Mission

Email: [pmission@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:pmission@orchardlakeschools.com) | 248-683-0323

Make checks payable to:

*Polish-American Art and Cultural Research Foundation*, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All or a portion of your annual membership dues may be tax-deductable. Membership cards will be mailed promptly. Mail your completed form to:

Friends of the Polish Mission  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, MI 48324-9907

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Signature

Check here to receive additional mailings from Orchard Lake Schools

# Upcoming Events

- August 3-8 - GRIP Genealogy Conference  
August 14 - St. Mary's Prep New Parent & Student Orientation  
August 18 - New Seminarians arrive from Poland  
September 2 - Seminary Classes Begin  
September 6 - Wine Tasting Party for the Prep Auction  
September 7 - *September 1939 Commemoration*  
September 19 - Homecoming  
October 3 - *Portrait Studios of Polonia* exhibit opening  
October 19 - St. Mary's Prep Ring Day  
October 25 - Prep Bowl  
November 1 - Annual Prep Auction benefiting St. Mary's Prep  
November 10 - *Master of Impressionism: Leon Wyczółkowski* exhibit opening  
December 7 - Chancellor's Christmas Concert  
May 8, 2015 - Honors Convocation  
May 22-25, 2015 - St. Mary's Polish Country Fair



The  
Polish  
Mission  
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[www.polishmission.com](http://www.polishmission.com)



Twitter: @polishmission  
Instagram: polishmission  
Facebook: The Polish Mission

### ***Our Mission:***

*The purpose of the Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools, which were founded in 1885 by Polish immigrants, is to preserve and promote Polish and Polish-American culture, tradition, and history for present and future generations. The Polish Mission organizes programs, courses and events that highlight Polish and Polish -American culture and accomplishments, and ensures a repository for artifacts, archival materials, works of art, and publications.*

