

Vocations Stressed at annual PAPA meeting

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Delegates from throughout the United States met at the annual meeting of the Polish American Priests Associations (PAPA) hosted by the Polish American local priests' association headed by the president, Father Eric Orzech, at the Marriott hotel in downtown Cleveland from April 16-20.

Bishop Robert J. Carlson, Bishop of the Diocese of Saginaw, was the keynote speaker at the banquet on Monday sharing his success story on recruiting men to the priesthood and encouraging the priests to make this a priority in their ministry.

During the 5-day gathering the Polish American priests attending the annual meeting were treated to visits to the Cleveland diocese's many Polish churches where they concelebrated the Eucharist, prayed, and marveled at the accomplishments of past generation members of Cleveland's Polonia.

Among those making presentations were Rev. Ralph Bodziony of Cleveland; Rev. Czeslaw Krysa of Buffalo; Ben Stefański II, Eugene Bąk, David Krakowski, Dr. Mitchell Bienia of Cleveland; Rev. Leonard F. Chrobot, Ph.D., of Ft. Wayne/South Bend.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., spoke on the ecclesial dimensions of the Polish parishes' relations among other parishes, with the diocese, the larger Church community and the Church of Poland.

Cleveland's auxiliary bishops, A. Edward Pevec and Roger W. Gries, O.S.B., were principal celebrants at two of the Masses while the ordinary of the diocese of Cleveland, Richard G. Lennon, was principal celebrant of the Mass on Thursday at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida of Detroit presided at the Convention Banquet Liturgy. Bishops Thomas Wenski of Orlando, Thomas Paprocki of Chicago, John Yanta of Amarillo, and Francis Reiss of Detroit, were participants at the convention and concelebrants at the various Liturgies.

An icon representing the two great archbishops of Krakow, Poland: St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, and Pope John Paul II, previously blessed by His Eminence Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz, was ceremoniously installed during vesper services on Wednesday at St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland.

The delegates heard the reports from the presidents of the various Polish American Priests' organizations from throughout the United States and PAPA's executive officers during the business sessions of the annual meeting.

Bishop John Yanta, founder of PAPA, also addressed the delegates.

At the convention banquet held at St. Adalbert Church's Father Keller Center in Berea, Ohio, His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida presented Father Ralph Bodziony with the 2007 Father Leopold Moczygemba award, the highest award of PAPA, for his lifetime of service to the Polonia and the Church of Cleveland

Bishop Thomas Wenski invited PAPA for its 19th annual meeting to Orlando, Florida next March 31-April 4, while the Polish Priests Association of Brooklyn announced its invitation to host the 2009 convention there. □

Poland and Ukraine to host Euros

The aljazeera.net website wrote that the UEFA has awarded the 2012 European Championship to Poland and Ukraine who will co-host the tournament.

UEFA overlooked the favorite Italy and a joint bid from Croatia and Hungary on Wednesday to award the continental championships to the former eastern bloc for the first time since Yugoslavia in 1976.

"It will be a milestone in the common history of two Slavic nations," Poland soccer federation president Michael Listkiewicz said.

UEFA president Michel Platini announced the winner at Cardiff City Hall after a private meeting of 12 members of the executive committee.

"Eastern Europe has a great history in sport and in football and they still have great players, but what they have been missing has been good infrastructure, stadiums and training facilities," Poland national team coach Leo Beenhakker said.

"Now the governments and the football federations are obliged to realize all their promises within the next five years and make these improvements. This is fundamental for football in Poland and Ukraine."

Big win

There was little controversy with the final vote as Poland and Ukraine won the right to host the tournament in the first round of balloting, collecting eight votes to Italy's four. The Croatia-Hungary bid failed to win a single vote.

"Within five years we will build a new country and we won't have a better opportunity to do so," Ukraine soccer federation president Hrihoriy Surkis said.

The winning bid used stars from football as well as other areas to sell their countries.

Chelsea's Ukrainian striker, Andriy Shevchenko, and Liverpool's Polish goalkeeper, Jerzy Dudek, supported the bid at a presentation from the two former Communist countries.

While Ukraine's ex-world heavyweight boxing champion, Vitali Klitschko, and former Olympic pole vault champion, Sergei Bubka, were in Cardiff for the vote, along with Ukraine President Victor Yushchenko.

"I'm happy they trusted us," Bubka said. "I don't see any problems, everything will be done in time. We need this and this decision will accelerate the development of infrastructure in our countries."

Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kiev and Lviv in Ukraine and Gdansk, Krakow, Poznan, Warsaw, Wroclaw and Chorzow in Poland have been proposed as host cities for Euro 2012.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for Ukrainians and Poles to give soccer fans from around the world an extraordinary sporting event," said Yushchenko, who assisted with the final presentation Tuesday.

Some concerns

It wasn't all plain sailing for the successful bid though. Poland's national team just avoided suspension after FIFA said the federation had done little to stop corruption, and a match-fixing scandal in the domestic

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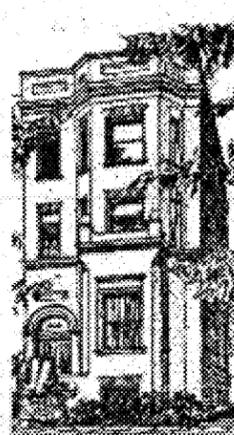
News of Polonia

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Making Your Will

Many people talk about leaving gifts to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it quite clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relatives, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relatives, it goes to the state.

More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it.



Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes.

Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collections or insurance to continue the Polish American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you are gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for.

For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that needs your help.

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