

“Poland Ever Faithful” Jan de Rosen Mural

By: *Mary Flanagan*



L/R - Bill Reynolds, Robert Flanagan, Irena Mirecki, Deborah Majka, Bernadette Wiermański, Mary Flanagan, Ted Mirecki, Richard Wiermański, Teresa Wójcik, Peter Obst, Mr. Wójcik, Maciej Szczepanowski, and in front, Fr. Tadeusz Lizińczyk

On November 1, 2009 ceremonies dedicating the Jan de Rosen mural “Poland Ever Faithful” were held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Pennsylvania. Polonians had been informed earlier through various media that the mural might be forever lost. The Church of the Holy Family in Pittsburgh where the mural originally hung behind the altar, was closed in December, 2008. Through the efforts of several Polonia groups, the mural was turned over to the Pauline Fathers at the National Shrine in Doylestown, PA. The Pauline Fathers took on the responsibility of having the mural taken down, transported, renovated and re-hung in the Chapel of St. Anne. Funds are still needed to cover the project which turned out to be very costly.

Following the 11:00 Mass, the worshippers moved to the Chapel of St. Anne for the dedication ceremony. Provincial Fr. Tadeusz Lizińczyk, OSPPE, blessed the painting and gave a brief background of the project and then introduced the artist-renovator, Mr. Maciej Szczepanowski. If you haven’t attended Mass at the Shrine you’ve missed a wonderful experience. The magnificent, impressive setting and the singing of the choir are moving and very spiritual.

President Deborah Majka and members of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) attended the ceremony. Pres. Majka presented ACPC’s donation of \$2,000 to Fr. Lizińczyk as a result of income from a drawing for a beautiful Szopka created by Robert Flanagan and profits from an annual ACPC raffle chaired by Paul Bosse and another raffle chaired by Carolyn Meleski during the ACPC’s annual convention at Hartford this past summer. Two ACPC Affiliates of which de Rosen had been a member, i.e., the Polish Arts League of Pittsburg and the Polish American Arts Association of Washington DC, as well as attendees at the recent Polish American Congress Board meeting contributed to the costs of the project.

Among those attending the ceremony was Bill Reynold, conservator, who was de Rosen’s assistant at the time and worked on the mural and participated in its installation. He stated that he was pleased with the renovation and wholly approved Mr. Szczepanowski’s work. □

ACPC 2009 Scholarship Winner at Jagiellonian University

By: *Jo Louise Winters*, PR Chair

Christopher Wojdak of Rochester, who had been selected by the American Council for Polish Culture Scholarship Committee for the 2009 grant of \$2,000 for summer studies in Poland as reported by Chairlady Camille Kopielski, spent three weeks studying at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Christopher informed the Committee that “the city of Krakow was beauty in and of itself...and the old town is a sight to behold with an array of sightseeing and nightlife attractions and an impressive number of churches, cathedrals and monuments. The Mariacki church is a beautiful and famous landmark, where a trumpeter plays the hejnal hymn every hour as a historic tribute to one bugler’s brave call during the Tartar invasion of 1241. There is never a shortage of things to do in Krakow – pubs, cafes, dance clubs, restaurants, museums, and of course the Wawel Castle.” Christopher met people of all age groups and from many parts of the world. Students were “amiable and open-minded and he made many new friends.

The Polish Language Course was very helpful, he discovered, as both an educational and life experience and he would highly recommend it to anyone with a remote interest in learning about Polish language and culture. Students were placed in groups according to personal ability level and each group had two “phenomenal” teachers. Material was presented in an interesting and fun way, often involving group work. There were trips every weekend, which enriched the experience greatly – Zakopany with a great chance to go mountain hiking in a very scenic part of Poland and a trip to Wieliczka, Poland’s oldest functioning salt mine. There was something for everyone in those trips and it make the program that much more enjoyable. He concluded that “I will cherish this experience for the rest of my life.”

Christopher’s parents, Mirosława & Waldemar Wojdak, appeared at the Fall 2009 Board Meeting of the Council in Rochester, NY to express their personal gratitude for the opportunity afforded to their son by the American Council for Polish Culture. His mother stated that this learning experience not only richly improved their son’s Polish language skills, but also the food he ate, the people he met and the places he visited were learning experiences he would never forget. Chris’s father added that the 3 weeks in Poland deeply enriched their son’s personality. “It was a journey like no other trip he had ever experienced.” Council members were deeply touched by these sincere expressions of gratitude by Christopher and his parents.

Mrs. Camille Kopielski, announced the availability of applications for the 2010 Scholarship Awards. She advises interested students to initiate their applications now as all documents must be postmarked and in receipt of the Chair on or before April 1, 2010. The application and requirements may be obtained by visiting the American Council for Polish Culture website www.polishcultureacpc.org or by contacting Mrs. Kopielski, (847) 394-2520. □



Orange County News

By: *Lila Ciecek*

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The month of November brings on many reflections about the finalities of life... This is the month which is, according to the Christian tradition, dedicated to the memory of the members of our families and community who have preceded us to the eternal life. At the Polish Center in Yorba Linda, during the celebration of All Saints and All Souls Day Mass, with the votive lights lit up near the altar, we remembered their souls with prayers for their eternal rest and happiness. Two prominent members of the Center’s Community, who have died recently, were especially included in our remembrance: Aleksander Romański an organizer of the Orange County Polish Community, a founding member of the Polish Center and a contributor to Center’s life and activities, has died on October 23rd. Frank Stanek, also a founding member of the Center, long standing, tireless worker and faithful supporter, has died on November 9th. They will be missed. May they rest in peace!

A commemoration of the Anniversaries of Pope John Paul II Pontificate and Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko martyrdom, organized by Michael Dutkowski, took place at the Polish Center recently, soon followed by the observance of the Veterans Day, on Sunday November 8th. The Holy Mass was celebrated for all the veterans dead and living, followed by a “Soldiers Lunch” and a special patriotic commemoration of Poland’s Independence in 1918 – a Program put on by the students of the Helena Modrzejewska Polish School.

A very popular, annual “Andrzejki” Dinner Dance, sponsored by the PNA Lodge “Piastr” took place at the Center on November 21st. Everyone present enjoyed traditional surprises, dancing to the music of Zbigniew Gałazka, gourmet dinner and an evening of fun.

In November we also celebrate the beautiful, joyful Holiday: Thanksgiving Day! A special time to acknowledge and be grateful for the countless blessings in our lives. This is the time to thank God, who so generously showers us with His love and goodness; the time to thank our families and friends for their love, their kindness, their presence. Here in Orange County, we are grateful for our Polish Center - a special place where we worship God and cultivate our Polish culture and traditions. We are also thankful for our Director, Fr. Henryk Noga, for the Center’s Community, and special love and friendships which flourish here. Happy Thanksgiving! □

If you have a
Memorable
Christmas Story
(happy, funny, or serious)

that you would like to share with our readers, please let us print it in our December edition

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Polish American Congress

Southern California Division

Invites you to attend our monthly meeting

Sunday, - December 6 - 1:30

Our Lady of the Bright Mount Rectory

3424 W. Adams Blvd. - Los Angeles

Non-members are welcome to attend our meetings.

You can observe the projects we are working on for Polonia.

To get a PAC Mission Statement please call:

Information: (323) 240-8525 OR (626) 577-9797

Oplatek Luncheon and Awards Banquet
Sunday, January 3, 2010 - \$ 35.00 per person

Quiet Canon Restaurant

901 Via San Clemente - Montebello, 90640

South of the Pomona Freeway at Garfield exit

Polonia Awards will be presented to:

Jadwiga Narębska, Kazimierz Cybulski

Józef Ładowicz - Posthumously

Information and Reservations:

(626) 282-4686 (310) 245-3157 (626) 577-9797