



# PAPA

## BULLETIN

2013 – 2014 A.D.

PAPA CONGRATULATES NEW POLISH BISHOPS IN MICHIGAN, MISSISSIPPI, NEW YORK:

## Pope Francis Appoints Three New Polish Bishops for U.S.

**C**ongratulations to Most Rev. David John Walkowiak, 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Most Rev. Joseph R. Kopacz, 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, and Most Rev. Andrzej Jerzy Zglejszewski, as the newest auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island, New York. PAPA extends wishes for years of happiness and good health as we pray for God's blessings upon each. *Bóg Zapłać!*

Pope Francis appointed Bishop David J. Walkowiak, J.C.D., as Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids on April 18, 2013. On June 18, 2013 in the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Grand Rapids, Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of the Archdiocese of Detroit presided at the Installation of Bishop Walkowiak as the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of



*Bishop David J. Walkowiak  
Diocese of Grand Rapids*

the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"I am grateful to serve as bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids," said Bishop Walkowiak. "In this first year as bishop I

have been welcomed and embraced by the West Michigan community, especially the large Polish American population. I continue to renew my trust in the Lord who guides me on this important mission."

Bishop Walkowiak was born on June 18, 1953 in East Cleveland, Ohio. He is the son of Dr. John Walkowiak of Rocky River, Ohio and the late Virginia Walkowiak. He has three sisters who reside in Ohio.

— Bishop Walkowiak, cont'd on p. 2

*This edition of the PAPA BULLETIN includes reports for both 2013-2014. NOTE: Some PAPA Correspondents have provided separate reports for these years. Thank you.*

On December 12, 2013, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz, Ph.D., as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi. On February 6, 2014, he was ordained to the episcopate by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Archbishop of Mobile, Alabama at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson. More than 25 bishops and abbots participated in the ordination liturgy before a standing room only crowd in the Cathedral.

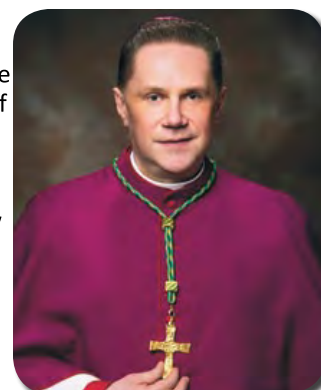


*Bishop Joseph R. Kopacz  
Diocese of Jackson*

The son of the late Stanley and Carmella Calormino Kopacz, Bishop Kopacz is a native of Dunmore, Pennsylvania where he attended St. Anthony's Elementary and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He attended St Pius X. Seminary, Dalton and received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Scranton and his Masters Degree in theology from Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, New York. He completed his Masters Degree in Counseling and Psychology and holds a Doctorate in Human Development from Marywood University.

— Bishop Kopacz, cont'd on p. 2

His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Bishop Andrzej Jerzy Zglejszewski as Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Rockville Centre on February 11, 2014. On the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 2014, Bishop William Murphy presided at a Mass of Episcopal Ordination for Bishop Zglejszewski at the Cathedral of St. Agnes for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York. At the celebration, Bishop Murphy addressed those present:



*Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski  
Diocese of Rockville Centre*

"Dear friends, with joy and gratitude to God, let us welcome our brother whom we, Bishops, now admit into our college by the laying on of hands. Revere him as a minister of Christ, a successor of the Apostles, a steward of the mysteries of God. The Lord himself entrusts him to bear witness to the truth of the Gospel and to carry out the ministry of the Spirit, a ministry of justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit!"

Bishop Zglejszewski, 52, was born in Czarna Białostocka, Poland. The son of Tadeusz and Anna Zglejszewski, he studied philosophy and theology in

— Bishop Zglejszewski, cont'd on p. 2

Bishop Walkowiak attended St. Bernadette School in Westlake, Ohio, and graduated from Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland. His college studies were at the University of Notre Dame, where in 1975, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in government and international studies. He studied at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland and received a Master of Divinity degree in 1979. Following ordination to the priesthood on June 9, 1979 by the late James Cardinal Hickey at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland, he was assigned as associate pastor to St. Mary Parish in Lorain, Ohio.

Bishop Walkowiak later studied canon law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he received the Licentiate degree in 1984 and the Doctorate degree in 1987. After completing his studies in 1986, Bishop Anthony Pilla assigned him to the faculty of St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland and also appointed him vice chancellor of the Diocese of Cleveland. In 1993 he began work as an adjutant judicial vicar for the appeals court of Cincinnati, Steubenville, and Washington, D.C. In 2006, Bishop Pilla appointed Bishop Walkowiak pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Chagrin Falls, where he served until becoming the Bishop of Grand Rapids in June 2013.



Ordained a priest of the Diocese of Scranton by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, on May 7, 1977, Bishop Kopacz's first priestly assignment was assistant pastor at Our Lady of Peace, Brodheadsville, then as assistant pastor at the Church of the Epiphany, Sayre. From 1980 to 1985, he served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's, Swoyersville. In July 1986, he was appointed administrator of St. Patrick's Parish, Nicholson. In September 1989, he served his first pastorate at St. Michael's, Jessup, and was later named pastor of two additional churches in Jessup, St. James and St. Stanislaus Kostka, during restructuring. In 1995, Bishop Kopacz was appointed pastor at Nativity of Our Lord Parish and served in that capacity until July, 1998 when he was appointed by then Bishop James C. Timlin as Vicar for Priests and Formation Director at St. Pius X Seminary. In July 2002 Bishop Kopacz was appointed pastor of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Scranton, and served as both pastor and Vicar for Priests until January, 2005 when he was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Scranton. In July 2006, he became Pastor of St. Mary of the Mount, Mount Pocono, while continuing to serve as Vicar General, a position he held until August of 2009, when he was appointed Pastor of St. Ann, Tobyhanna, and in July 2010, he also assumed the pastoral duties of St. Bernadette, Canadensis. Following a process of parish pastoral planning, the three churches Bishop Kopacz pastored,

including St. Mary of the Mount, St. Ann and St. Bernadette, consolidated to form Most Holy Trinity Parish, where he served until his departure for Jackson. During his years of pastoral ministry, Bishop Kopacz served in a variety of Diocesan positions, including President of the Catholic Schools' Board of Education, Board of Trustees at St. Michael's, an advocate in the Tribunal, member of the Diocesan Finance Council, Director of Continuing Education for Priests, faculty member and Formation Director at St. Pius X Seminary, member of the College of Consultors and Presbyteral Council, Chaplain at Msgr. McHugh Elementary School, Cresco, and Coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for Monroe County.

In reaction to Pope Francis' appointment, His Excellency, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, commented, "This appointment by Pope Francis is cause for great joy in the Church of Scranton. In appointing him as bishop, the Holy Father has not only recognized Bishop Kopacz's many gifts and deep faith, but has also honored all of the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton by calling forth one of our own to episcopal leadership and service in the Church."

Bishop Kopacz is the second of three children with a brother, Robert, and a sister, Mary Ellen Negri.

Bialystok before coming to the United States in 1987. Bishop Zglejszewski speaks seven languages, and completed his studies for the priesthood at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre by Bishop John R. McGann on May 26, 1990. His priestly appointments included St. Christopher, Baldwin (1990-95), St. Thomas the Apostle, West Hempstead (1995-2003), and St. Rose of Lima, Massapequa (2003-07). In 2007, he was appointed director of the Diocesan Office of Worship and, in 2012, he was appointed co-chancellor, Diocese of Rockville Centre. Bishop Zglejszewski serves as Vicar of the Western Vicariate and as Vicar for Liturgy and Worship of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

About his ordination to the episcopate, Bishop Zglejszewski remarked, "I am humbled by the Holy Father's appointment and even though I always wanted to serve God and the Church in the best way I can, I am overwhelmed with the sense of my unworthiness. For that reason, I turn all my emotions and wonders into a song of gratitude. I want to thank, most of all, Pope Francis. This appointment not only shows his great concern for the Church on Long Island, but also is a concrete way of reaching out to all the faithful in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The Holy Father recognizes the depth and enthusiasm of spiritual life coming together with an amazing exchange of the diversities of our cultures. Even though we all have different accents and backgrounds, what really unites us is our faith and love for God and His Church. I am grateful to our Shepherd, His Excellency Bishop William Murphy. I would not be where I am in my life without his pastoral vision, giving me an opportunity to serve the people of God here on Long Island, first of all, as parish priest, and then as the diocesan Director of the Office of Worship and then as Co-Chancellor.

"I am grateful to the faithful on Long Island. I am touched by their faith and love. Being away from my home in Poland for more than half of my life, today, I can say that I am home — a home made of open hearts, which gently accepted me here not as a stranger, another emigrant with a hard accent to understand, but as a brother and friend. I have experienced a great atmosphere of enthusiasm of faith and love. In our common desire to belong more deeply, my heart and life became more sensitive and opened to the presence of God in the sacraments and people's lives, regardless of their social status, political orientation, skin color, or religious affiliation. I want to continue in humble service to all in the fight for freedom, justice and love. As such I humbly ask for your support and prayers. I know of at least two people in our Christian history, challenged and surprised by God's will, as I am now. I turn to Mary and Joseph and ask them for their assistance and help. I want, like Joseph, 'not to be afraid' and respond to the whispers of the Holy Spirit as Mary did, 'Fiat Voluntas Tua.' "





## *Pope Francis Elevates Polish Bishop Blair of Toledo, OH To Archbishop of Hartford, CT*

**C**ongratulations to His Excellency Leonard P. Blair, S.T.D., upon his elevation as 5<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. We pray for God's blessings upon you. *Bóg Zapłać!* On October 29, 2013, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Leonard Paul Blair, who had been serving as the 7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, since his installation on December 4, 2003, as the new Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Hartford. He was installed as the Archbishop of Hartford on December 16, 2013 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

During the installation homily he said, "As the 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop and 5<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Hartford, I think of all the clergy who have served God's people so generously over the years, and today, in particular, of Archbishop Henry Mansell, who, like Archbishop Cronin and my other predecessors, have given their all for the good of this local Church. I think, too, of the men and women religious, and the generations of laity in Connecticut, who have lived their Catholic faith devotedly, even heroically, and have gone before us to God. Today I become a fellow heir, with all of you, of this great, historic witness of faith, hope and love.

"By any standard, being named the Archbishop of Hartford represents a monumental change in my life. It's a summons to leave behind an established life and place, and many dear people, in order to embrace a new people and a new place, which I have no doubt will become equally dear to me.

"It's also a time for me to remember with thanksgiving all that God has done to bring me to this day. I remember first of all my deceased parents, grandparents and other family members, the neighborhood in Detroit where I grew up, the priests and sisters of my home parish, and the many people – clergy, religious and laity – who in the providence of God have graced my life. I want to acknowledge in particular my sister, Patricia, who is here today, as well as to thank the clergy, family and friends who have travelled some distance to be here.

"When I think of the many wonderful blessings, opportunities and experiences that the Church has given to me in life, I recognize something of myself in the words from the Old Testament Book of Sirach, 'I have seen much in my travels, learned more than I could ever say. He who fears the Lord is never alarmed, never afraid; for the Lord is his hope, a shelter from the heat, a shade from the noonday sun, a guard against stumbling, a help against falling. He buoys up the spirits, brings a sparkle to the eyes, gives health and life and blessing.' "

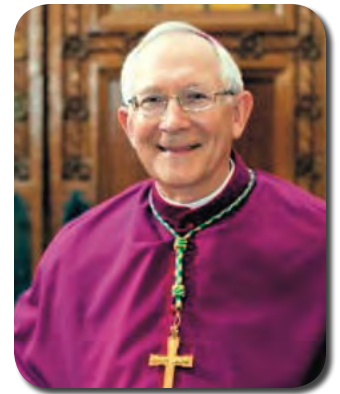
Born in Detroit on April 12, 1949, he attended Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parochial School in an area known as the *Polish Grosse Pointe*. He attended high school at Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit before continuing his studies for the priesthood.



Archbishop Blair was ordained to the priesthood on June 26, 1976 by John Cardinal Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit, following studies at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit; the North American College, Rome; and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. Archbishop Blair holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History from Sacred Heart Major Seminary; a Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) from the Pontifical Gregorian University, and a Licentiate in Theology (S.T.L.) with a specialization in Patristics and the History of Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University. He went on to complete a Doctorate in Theology (S.T.D.) from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome. Archbishop Blair had served as Pastor of St. Paul Parish, Grosse Pointe Farms, since July of 1997. Prior to that, he served for three years as Secretary to Edmund Cardinal Szoka and as a staff member of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See, Vatican City State.

Archbishop Blair's previous assignments include: Ecumenical Officer for the Archdiocese of Detroit; Dean of Studies and Assistant Professor of Theology, Sacred Heart Major Seminary; service in the Papal Secretariat of State Office, Vatican City; Administrative Secretary to the Archbishop of Detroit; Vicar General and Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Detroit; Consultor, Archdiocese of Detroit; Instructor in Church History and Patristics, St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth; and Archivist for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Archbishop Blair also served as Pastoral Administrator at St. Christine Parish, Detroit; Associate Pastor at St. Christopher Parish, Detroit; Associate Pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Harper Woods; and as a Deacon at St. Martin de Porres Parish, Warren.



*Archbishop Leonard P. Blair  
Archdiocese of Hartford*

*Father, in Your great mercy and love,  
You have called us to be Members of the Body of Your Son,  
Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Send forth Your Spirit upon Your new Bishops and Archbishop,  
upon our clergy, our religious, and upon all Your people.  
We pray, that through Your grace, we might know and love Jesus more deeply,  
that we might use the gifts You have given us to share the Good News of Salvation,  
and to build a Kingdom of truth and peace, justice and love.  
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!  
Holy Angels of God, pray for us!*





Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, P.A.  
PAPA Bulletin Editor

## From the PAPA Bulletin Editor –

God always has His Ways. Blessed be the Lord!  
On St. Patrick's Day, 2012, without any hint whatsoever that something might be wrong, the EMS unit whisked yours truly to Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield, Michigan after I was discovered unconscious on the floor of my bedroom.

The Good Lord scared me but didn't take me then. What He did was bring to a screeching halt my ability to get this publication to you. Two years older and reasonably healthy again, I'm putting together this *Double Issue* which I hope you will find both informative and interesting.

We welcome warmly the three new Bishops and one Archbishop of Polish ancestry. We congratulate them upon their appointments by His Holiness Pope Francis.

Never have so many of us during the years of our Priesthood personally met someone whom we consider a personal friend who will be declared a Saint of the Church, our beloved Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who knew many of us and called us by name. Many of you were personally present at the Vatican on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27, 2014, when he and Pope John XXIII became canonized saints. This travel of many of you to the Vatican has resulted in the cancellation of the 2014 National Convention of PAPA. The next national gathering, PAPA's 25<sup>th</sup>, will be in Hartford, Connecticut, April 13-17, 2015. San Antonio, Texas, awaits us for 2016. Please mark your calendars.

We congratulate our PAPA founder, Bishop John Yanta, on receiving the Orchard Lake Schools' highest award, the Fidelitas Medal, on March 15, 2014.

I urge you to read all the articles in this issue. Their length is necessary to acquaint you with the whole of their important content. The 2,110 of us each play an important role in contributing to the solutions for many of the challenges we face.

Recently we received a reminder from our Treasurer to urge you to please consider paying our modest annual dues. It was God's idea to give us a Polish Mom and/or Dad, making us of Polish ancestry. We have an opportunity to express gratitude for this blessing by our support of this organization and the many fraternal, social, cultural entities which keep the citizens of our beloved United States of America aware of the extensive contributions beyond Kościuszko and Pulaski by our generations.

Our PAPA President, Fr. Walter J. Ptak, assures me that our web page will soon be updated. We have a new website address: [WWW.POLAMPRIESTS.ORG](http://WWW.POLAMPRIESTS.ORG)

And finally...some of you may be disappointed that there's nothing in this *Double Issue* about the happenings in your diocese. On February 1, 2014, I mailed a letter to 32 of you requesting an article about the happenings in your area. To refresh our Latin: "*nemo dat quod non habet.*" If there is no organized group of Polish-American and/or Polish clergy in your area, PAPA welcomes a letter or article directly from you, about yourself, or on any topic that you deem to be of interest to our PAPA BULLETIN readers. I would welcome some Letters to the Editor! How about it?

Wesołego Alleluja!



Bishop John Yanta with the  
Editor at Orchard Lake

– Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski, P.A., Editor, PAPA Bulletin

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Whom have  
you asked  
to consider  
becoming a  
Priest lately?

THE PAPA BULLETIN is a publication of the Polish American Priests Association (PAPA). Editor reserves the right to edit for style, space considerations, and usage. The PAPA Bulletin thanks the CORRESPONDENTS, who represent the local PAPA conferences, for their dedication in gathering and submitting news reports on activities and members. The PAPA Bulletin welcomes any available accompanying photos, images, comments, and/or Letters to the Editor. Please send all items to:

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FROM FR. ERIC ORZECZ –

## Outgoing PAPA President Reports on 2012 PAPA Convention

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Convention of the Polish American Priests' Association (PAPA) was held from April 16-20, 2012 in Michigan City, Indiana, hosted for the first time by our Indiana Chapter. The Convention venue was the Blue Chip Casino and Spa Hotel, which provided a warm and hospitable home base for the delegates who attended from throughout the U.S.A. and Canada.

PAPA is a national organization through which Polish priests from around the country unite to deepen their priestly fraternity, promote the cultural, traditional, and spiritual values of Polonia, and deal with the pastoral and ecclesiastical concerns affecting Polish Americans. It is invaluable for the members of PAPA to gather annually, where the insights and perspectives of members enrich everyone, and bring forth concrete proposals to practically and effectively address the matters of the priestly members and their parishioners. PAPA is a true blessing to its priests and to the Church!

The Convention began with the National Officers and Board of Directors meeting on the afternoon of Monday, April 16. This helped to formulate the outline for the business portion of the proceedings and led into the Opening Banquet and first session where national officers President Fr. Eric Orzech of Cleveland, Vice-President Msgr. Peter Zendzian of Brooklyn, Secretary Fr. James Miara of New York, and Treasurer Rev. Canon Walter Ptak of Detroit, inaugurated the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention.

On Tuesday, April 17, following prayers, the business session was greeted and addressed by the Most Rev. Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, who also serves as Executive Director of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland. The delegates then visited St. Hedwig Church in Gary, where they were met with great hospitality and enthusiasm. The Most Rev. Dale Melczek, Bishop of Gary, celebrated Holy Mass and also delivered the homily. Afterward, the group stopped to see St. Adalbert Church in Whiting, before journeying to the Cavalier Inn in Hammond, for a festive lunch. While there, delegates were treated to a brief presentation by Robert Fattore, PRCUA Director of Sales. Then the priests went around the corner to beautiful St. Casimir Church in Hammond, then St. Stanislaus Church in East Chicago, before visiting the Polish Carmelite Monastery and Shrines in Munster. Following a tour of the Shrine grounds, delegates enjoyed a wonderful dinner before returning to the hotel for the evening.

Wednesday, April 18, began with prayers and another business session before the delegates left for Mass at the monumental St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Michigan City. Fr. Eric Orzech, National President, celebrated Mass there and also preached the homily. Afterward, the parish provided lunch for everyone during which the priests were serenaded with a beautiful program by the school children. The rest of the day's schedule was open, offering everyone the opportunity to enjoy the many points of interest in the area as they wished. As with each evening of the Convention, a delightful hospitality room was available to everyone upon their return.

Thursday, April 19, was a day-on-the-road as the delegates journeyed to South Bend. After visiting that bastion of French Catholicism, The University of Notre Dame du lac, Mass was celebrated at St. Hedwig Church, offered by the Most Rev. Kevin Rhoades, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who also preached the homily and then joined the group for a delicious lunch in the parish hall. From there, the priests went on a whirlwind tour of South Bend's Polish churches: St. Stanislaus, St. Casimir, St. Adalbert, and St. Stanislaus Kostka. Afterward, they stopped by the oldest Polish parish, St. Mary of Częstochowa in Otis, before returning mid-afternoon to the hotel.

Following a brief respite, a business session was held where the election of new PAPA National Officers and various Directors was conducted. PAPA's new officers are: Fr. Walter Ptak of Detroit, President; Fr. Eric Orzech of Cleveland, Vice-President; Fr. Nicholas Coffaro of Saginaw, Secretary; and Fr. Ronald Osinski of Altoona-Johnstown, Treasurer. Replacing the Rev. Canon Thomas Machalski of Brooklyn, Msgr. Daniel Plocharczyk of Hartford, Fr. Walter Rakoczy of Gary, and Fr. Maciej Melaniuk of Metuchen as Directors on the National Board are the Rev. Canon Gerald Borawski of Lafayette, Rev. Canon Philip Majka of Arlington, Rev. Canon Witold Mroziowski of Brooklyn, and Fr. Sigmund Peplowski, Paterson.

I offer my very sincere thanks to the Past PAPA Officers and Directors who served so generously and well over these past years. Your prayers are requested for the newly-elected PAPA Officers and those assuming new positions for this term. Know that PAPA relies upon your help, cooperation, and support for continued success.

We capped-off Thursday evening with a magnificent Banquet at the Blue Chip and were joined by Bishop Melczek of Gary, Bishop John Yanta, Emeritus of Amarillo, Texas, who was present throughout the convention and is a Founding Father of PAPA, and Fr. Czesław Krysa of Buffalo, who delivered a stirring keynote address on *The Challenges Facing Polonia in America*. PAPA's highest honor, the *Fr. Leopold Moczygemba Award* was bestowed posthumously to the legendary survivor of Katyń, Msgr. Zdzisław Peszkowski, a man who should need no further introduction to anyone familiar with Polonia. Joined by more than 200 representatives of Indiana Polonia, good food, good entertainment, and a good time were shared by all.

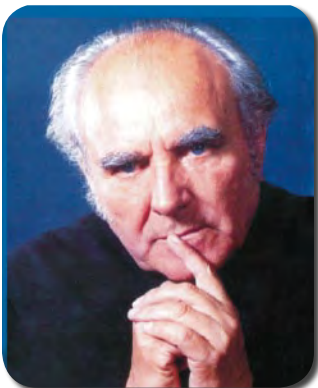
On Friday, April 20, Fr. Eric Orzech celebrated Mass and delivered the homily at the Blue Chip, before bringing the 23<sup>rd</sup> PAPA Convention to a close.

Thanks to the Indiana Chapter for hosting the 2012 PAPA Convention and to the planning team of Fr. Steve Kosinski and Fr. Walter Rakoczy of Gary, Fr. Leonard Chrobot of Ft. Wayne-South Bend, and Rev. Canon Gerald Borawski of Lafayette for tending to all of the PAPA Convention details and making everything run smoothly. These Polish priests, and their right-hand man, Ken Kaminski, made the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual PAPA gathering a huge success. Dziękuję!

- Fr. Eric Orzech, Outgoing PAPA President



Fr. Eric Orzech  
PAPA Past President



† Msgr. Zdzisław Peszkowski  
Moczygemba Award Recipient

# *A Message from the PAPA President*

Niech Będzie Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Nearly two years have passed since the current Officers and Board of Directors were elected during the 2012 PAPA Convention in Indiana. My how time flies! I am so glad that we are once again able to publish this edition of the PAPA BULLETIN.

I would like to thank Msgr. Stanley Milewski publicly, for his efforts in persevering to make this *Double Edition* a reality. I also thank those who have submitted articles for this publication. It is through the PAPA BULLETIN that we are held together in our common ancestry, experiences, and ministry and remain informed of the many events taking place in our local chapters. I invite you to consider sending an article to Msgr. Milewski for the next issue as your news is always welcome and appreciated, whenever it arrives.

I am sure that like me, all of you are excited and offering thanks to our Lord God that our beloved Pope John Paul II is being canonized this Easter Season and is numbered among the Saints in glory. His Holiness brought much joy and peace into the world and was a shining light to so many living in darkness. Our Annual PAPA Convention would have conflicted with this historic event, and so, in consultation with the Officers and Board Members, as well as the Host Committee, we decided to forgo this year's Annual PAPA gathering. This enabled us to be at home with our people or be in attendance in Rome as Pope Francis proclaims our "Lolek," St. John Paul the Great!

Next year, we will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PAPA. The Annual Convention will take place in New Britain, CT and our host will be PAPA Past President Msgr. Daniel Plocharczyk and his Host Committee. Please mark April 13-17, 2015 on your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

At our last convention, we discussed the need to update our website and keep it current as a way to keep our members and others informed about our organization. I am happy to report that this has been accomplished and invite you to visit our new site on the internet at: [WWW.POLAMPRIESTS.ORG](http://WWW.POLAMPRIESTS.ORG). You will see the progress that has been made thus far. As in most other things, it is a work in progress. I invite your comments and suggestions so that it may be even better!

Many thanks for all that you do for Polonia in your area of the country. Together we can and do make a difference. May God reward your efforts and may Our Lady, the Queen of Poland, be at your side as you minister so faithfully to her Son's people.

Looking forward to seeing you next year, April 2015, at our Annual PAPA Convention in Connecticut!

— Rev. Canon Walter J. Ptak, PAPA President



Fr. Walter J. Ptak  
PAPA President

## *Archbishop Stanisław Gadecki Named New President of Conference of Bishops of Poland*

The Conference of Polish Bishops at their quarterly meeting in March, 2014, elected Archbishop Stanisław Gądecki, Archbishop of Gdańsk, as the new president of their Conference. He succeeds Archbishop Józef Michalik, who held this position for the past ten years.

PAPA sends its best wishes, congratulations, and gratitude to both archbishops.

## *The Cosmic Countdown Published As E-Book*

— From Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski, New York, NY 10016

THE COSMIC COUNTDOWN: GOD, HUMANITY, AND THE EVOLVING WORLD has been published in eBook format.

Fifty years ago Pope John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) of the Roman Catholic Church. One of the most heralded documents issued by the council was the *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)*. The theme of this book takes its inspiration from the following words of that document: "And so mankind substitutes a dynamic and more evolutionary concept of nature for a static one and the result is an immense series of new problems calling for a new endeavor of analysis and synthesis."

This book is a popular, non-academic theological "endeavor of analysis and synthesis" of many of the teachings of the Church from the perspective of the scientific theory of evolution. It relies heavily on the achievement of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.

The e-Book format takes advantage of the Internet to reach a global audience. The Cosmic Countdown, together with his *Versus Verses* is available through all the major eBook retailers: Apple's iPad, Sony's eReader, Amazon's Kindle, Barnes & Noble's Nook, Baker & Taylor, Gardner's, eBookPie, Kobo, and Copia.

Msgr. Niebrzydowski retired from administrative duties as pastor of Epiphany Parish, NYC, to devote himself fulltime to electronic ministry. His weekly TV show has been cablecast since 1995 on Tuesdays at 10:30 AM on Manhattan Neighborhood Network. Two years ago he launched his website, where one can listen to his award winning Rock Pulpit radio show of the 1980s. Visit: [WWW.FATHERWALTERSPARISH.ORG](http://WWW.FATHERWALTERSPARISH.ORG).

He has also created a YouTube channel, [FRWALTERL](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFRWALTERL), featuring excerpts from the DVDs listed on his website. Email him at: [FR-WALTER@NYC.A.COM](mailto:FR-WALTER@NYC.A.COM)



# Cardinal Dziwisz to visit Cleveland: May 15, 2014

Stanisław Cardinal Dziwisz, successor of St. Stanisław as Metropolitan Archbishop of Kraków, Poland, and for 40 years personal secretary to St. Pope John Paul II, will be making a pastoral visit to Cleveland Polonia on May 15, 2014. While details are still being arranged, plans call for him to celebrate Mass at the Shrine Church of St. Stanisław at 6 PM, that day followed by a banquet in his honor where he will receive THE FOUR EAGLES AWARD, the parish's highest honor given to those who have provided outstanding service.

Born on April 27, 1939, in Raba Wyzna, Poland, Cardinal Dziwisz attended local schools in Nowy Targ before entering the seminary in Kraków, being ordained to the priesthood by then Auxiliary Bishop Karol Wojtyła on June 23, 1963. Following a brief assignment to the parish in Makow Podhalanski, he was appointed by then Archbishop Wojtyła as his personal secretary in October of 1966. It was in this capacity that in 1969 he accompanied the recently elevated Cardinal Wojtyła on his historic visit to Cleveland, which makes this trip in May his second visit.

Ordained a Bishop by Pope John Paul II in 1998 and later elevated to Archbishop in 2003, he remained the Holy Father's secretary until the Saint's death in April 2005. Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Archbishop of Kraków, in June 2005, raising him to the rank of Cardinal in March 2006. In addition to his duties as Kraków's Chief Shepherd, the promotion of the cause of canonization of his former mentor, St. John Paul II, had been his main priority. How appropriate it was, then, that St. John Paul II was canonized on April 27, the Feast of Divine Mercy, and the Cardinal's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday!



*His Eminence Stanisław Cardinal Dziwisz  
Archbishop of Kraków*

While in the United States, Cardinal Dziwisz will be fundraising for a special, monumental project undertaken in Kraków: THE 'BE NOT AFRAID' ST. JOHN PAUL II CENTER. Located near the Divine Mercy Sanctuary in Lagiewniki, the Center will consist of an Upper and Lower Church, Volunteer Center, St. John Paul II Institute, Museum, Retreat House, Conference Center, Pilgrim House, and Rehabilitation Center, Hotel, as well as Meditation and Recreational Parks. Literally a *living city* of St. John Paul II is being created in the earthly place nearest and dearest to his heart. All of us will be invited to contribute to this worthy cause in honor of our Great Pope with further details forthcoming.

We invite all of Polonia, especially PAPA members to please save the date, Thursday, May 15, 2014, and join Cardinal Dziwisz during his visit.

## *Polish American Priests Association Recipients of the National Father Leopold Moczygemba Award*

1990	San Antonio, TX	† Rev. Henry Moczygemba
1991	Chicago, IL	Msgr. Stanley E. Milewski
1992	Newark, NJ	† Msgr. Martin Piasecki
1993	Detroit, MI	† Msgr. Vincent Borkowicz
1994	Hartford, CT	† Msgr. John Wodarski
1995	Brooklyn, NY	† Msgr. Edward Fus
1996	Miami, FL	Rev. Thomas Wenski
1997	Redondo Beach, CA	† Rev. Wladyslaw S. Gowin, S.Ch.
1998	Buffalo, NY	† Msgr. John R. Gabalski
1999	Washington, D.C.	His Excellency Bishop John Yanta
2000	San Antonio, TX	† Rev. Canon Bernard Goebel
2001	Albany, NY	Rev. Boleslaus Watroba
2002	Milwaukee, WI	Rev. Lawrence Bukaty
2003	Detroit, MI	† Msgr. Walter J. Ziemba
2004	Syracuse, NY	† Msgr. Casimir Krzysiak
2005	Chicago, IL	† Rev. Edward Siedlecki
2006	Newark, NJ	† Msgr. Joseph Marjanczyk
2007	Cleveland, OH	† Rev. Ralph Bodziany
2008	Orlando, FL	Rev. Joseph Zawada, OCD
2009	Brooklyn, NY	† Rev. Marion A. Gural
2010	Orchard Lake, MI	Rev. Stanislaw Flis
2011	Doylestown, PA	Rev. Lucious Tyrasinski, OSPPE
2012	Gary, IN	† Msgr. Zdzisław J. Peszkowski (posthumously)
2013	Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. Joseph Swierczynski

### THIS JUST IN —

#### *Cardinal Dziwisz To Visit Webster, Massachusetts*

His Eminence Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Archbishop of Kraków, will be making a whirlwind visit to St. Joseph's Basilica in Webster, Massachusetts. on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Obtain details of the visit from Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki at 508-943-0467.



*Father Leopold Moczygemba*

FROM HIS EXCELLENCY ANDREW P WYPYCH, D.D. –

## *Chicago Bishop Reports on Catholic League For Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia*

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus.

My brothers,

I appreciate this opportunity to convey to you my thoughts pertaining to the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia. It also raises my hopes that the LIGA is indeed dear to you.

To put my comments in perspective, I refer to the Pastoral Plan for Polonia which was brilliantly written as a result of a resolution of the 1993 Convention of PAPA. I am very impressed with the time and talent spent on this plan which could be, in my opinion, further implemented with the LIGA serving as the conduit reaching out to Polonia. This is a plan of evangelization based on documents of the Roman Catholic Church and dozens of research sources. They echo the documents of the Holy See including *Nove Milenio Inuento*, *Evangelio Nunciate*, and *Porta Fidel*. This plan of PAPA leads me, and I hope you too, to a sense of urgency for action. The LIGA, as a tool, is available to be employed for the care of Polonia and not only can't be ignored but furthermore impels us to action. In addition, the current Constitution and By-Laws of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland provide for expansion of its mission to serve Polonia and well as Poland. Thus we already have the instrument of ministry desired by so many of our good brother priests and the people of our Polonia. However, it needs to be updated to reflect today's realities.

It is in my role as Executive Director of the LIGA that I now appeal to you. As you may know, the Catholic League began 71 years ago. We thank our brothers and sisters of Polonia who created the LIGA to answer the needs of the Catholic faithful in Poland during the ravages of World War II and its aftermath of Communist rule. Brother priests, bishops, and the good people of your parishes worked diligently so that the common good of Poland could be addressed with the spirit of Christian love and solidarity. "For on the shoulders of the giants of the past we stand to build the present and influence the future" is a phrase I have heard that well describes that spirit.

In recent years the dynamics of the LIGA slowed, prompting Bishop Thomas Paprocki to call a meeting in October of 2011, which prompted the question of the continued existence of the LIGA. With that issue in mind, I visited Bishops and priests in Poland in October of 2012. I asked the Bishops and seminary rectors if they could sustain their current support for priests furthering their education and formation at the college and institute in Rome and support of seminarian formation in Paris without the help of the \$300,000 sent annually to these institutions from the LIGA. The response I received was mixed. Some dioceses would be able to support their own priests studying in Rome and some would not be able to fully subsidize them. The newest dioceses organized in the last 20 years would be the least able to do so and the loss of financial assistance would be detrimental to their ability to educate the new generation of priest professors and teachers of the seminarians studying at their seminaries. The priests they educate are called to serve across the globe and they have asked for the continuation of the support so generously given by the LIGA.

In November 2012 at the annual USCCB meeting, I met with bishops of Polish heritage and presented to them my assessment of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland. I have also continued to dialogue with Polonia priests asking for their input on the future of the LIGA. The consensus was that there is still a willingness to help the institute and college in Rome with up to 20 scholarships or up to \$200,000 annually. The parameters of the scholarship support though, need to change in some way. Scholarships would be awarded to individually selected priests for two years of Licentiate studies or no more than three years of support for the doctorate program. The local bishop in Poland would be the one nominating priests for the scholarships. The rectors of the programs would award the support to a priest already part of the advanced studies program and the scholarships awarded would be evaluated on an annual basis.

The formation house in Paris has not had a seminary program for more than 20 years and would no longer receive our financial support. One need that was highlighted in each conversation with the American bishops and priests was that we need to start paying more attention to Polonia, which echoes a statement of the late Bishop Alfred Abramowicz back in the 1970s.

Thus a new dimension has been added to the work of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland - Polonia. The vintage, settled generations of Polonia, now good Americans, still want to follow the traditions and faith of their fathers, mothers, and grandparents. They search for meaning in the customs and traditions they inherited from their ancestors. They express love of the country of their ancestors even though sometimes they no longer speak the language. To them we owe profound gratitude and respect for their devotion and offer our assistance in their quest for meaning and roots. In my many engagements with them I am often asked, "Bishop please challenge us, we need to know more and engage ourselves more."

The émigrés, who joined Polonia in the last few decades, need continued formation in faith and training in taking leadership roles in the American Church and society, discerning new vocations so they could take care of their own needs now and guide their children to a promising future. They need to learn how to be leaders for the good of the Church and society, to promote vocations from their own families to married life, or to life of priesthood or religious.

As in any immigrant community, Polonia is not a monolithic group with the same experience or the same view of their role in their society or church. Some turn to the Church for guidance and are loyal to its precepts. Others, in this secularized era, look elsewhere for answers as they face life's



*Most Rev. Andrew P. Wypych  
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago*





challenges. We must seek and love each of them. For Polonia, faith and heritage are intertwined. Foster love of the Church and you foster love of the homeland. The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia is working to do just that. Priests, deacons, and religious in the parishes are tirelessly praying and working to serve the faithful. They all need our help. The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia is increasing its efforts to fund scholarships and formation programs within the United States to instruct both clergy and laity. A well-formed laity is crucial to the vitality of our beloved Church.

The influx of people from Poland to the US was especially great in the 1980s and 1990s and they often look for more spiritual and formational attention. Their children, our future leaders of the Church and Polonia, are pursuing higher education which is expensive. Scholarship funds should be established for the purpose of supporting their education with emphasis on Catholic formation and tune them in to the American Church and reality of our society. We have to work even more diligently to foster vocations from Polish-American families who may be called by Christ to the priesthood or religious life. Additional scholarships should be established for Polish-American students who have answered God's call and are pursuing their vocation studies in American seminaries. Each of these needs is great and we will be able to achieve them if we give our full energy and invite good, talented and devoted people to join in these efforts.

We can't forget the generations of Americans of Polish decent who want to follow the words of St. John Paul the Great who challenged Polonia in Gniezno, Poland saying *"And I implore you: Remain faithful to this heritage! Make it the foundation of your formation! Make it the object of the greatness of your soul! Keep alive this heritage! Intensify this heritage! Impart it to the next generations!"*

So, my brothers, you see that the need is great, and I invite you to join me in this new spring of working with the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia to bring the LIGA forward to our present times to develop and promote it, and thus influence the future of the Church and Polonia. I am confident that we could achieve all these worthy goals. We have God-given talents, love of Our Lord, and our precious Polish heritage. As priests, we are sustained by the generosity of many, many people of faith.

There are structures already in place that allow us to move immediately towards our goals. The Bishops and Dioceses of the United States are already organized into 14 regions. The LIGA can also divide its territory to match this regional structure, seeking priests and lay people to sustain the needed structure so that the work of the LIGA could be well organized and fruitful. In addition to the Episcopal Committee, I propose to form a Board of Directors consisting of two representatives from each regional board - one being a priest or religious, and the other a lay person. The National Office in Chicago would communicate with the regions and members.

The LIGA would continue supporting the two educational institutes in Rome and would seek to add the above mentioned scholarships for Polish-American lay students and seminarians studying in the U.S. Each region would be responsible for nominating worthy recipients for the lay scholarships which could be used at Catholic universities or colleges as qualified by the Board. As funds would allow, scholarships may be offered to seminary students responding to God's call from families of Polonia studying for the priesthood in the United States. Local lay leaders could be aided when pursuing education for the good of parish or Polonia. For that purpose, a portion of the annual collection could remain in the region and be awarded to the lay as well clerical students. Details could be worked out by the National Board.

Other needs could be provided for, if funds allow, for specific projects of the Catholic Church in Poland and for support of Polish missionaries. I ask you my brothers to *"go to the fringes"* as Pope Francis has told us, taking the lead from the past to energize the priests and laity of Polonia to build the common good with our brothers and sisters. I am confident in the love we have for God's people and I know that working together, we could build a great future. When each one of us does something, one does not have to do everything.

A crucial part of the plans is building strong transparency and accountability of the finances, operations, and communication of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia. From the Central Office to the local boards, transparency and accountability are crucial. We are stewards of the generous donations of our benefactors who have the right to know how their gifts are being used within the LIGA. I know that my ministry as a bishop and National Director of LIGA has only begun. I pledge to you that I will offer the fullness of my talents and time in pursuing these goals.

Aside from the organizational activities, we are working to enhance the evangelization of Polonia and further assist in their intercultural competency in the Catholic Church in the United States. The centerpiece of this evangelization is the family. The LIGA, through its website, [WWW.CATHOLICLEAGUEPOLONIA.ORG](http://WWW.CATHOLICLEAGUEPOLONIA.ORG) can be invaluable as a tool of sharing the Good News in building strong Catholic families. Again, sharing what is happening in your parishes and providing materials you find helpful facilitates this noble mission.

What we do to influence the present will change the future. I ask for your steadfast trust in the mission of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia. I ask for your prayerful meditation and also your active participation. Invite others to work with us, building the network of Polonia, creating relationships so they could become strong in faith, visible as leaders in our society, and loyal ambassadors of the Catholic Church and our beloved Poland.

Current economic situations are indeed difficult but it was in the worst of times in 1943 that the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland was formed. The need for the LIGA did not end with the end of World War II, nor later, with the fall of Communism. Evidence of the support of the Catholic League is visible across Poland from a plaque in the Cathedral of Kraków to the daily ministry to the people by priests educated through the support of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland. Let this be our time to continue that legacy for decades to come. In my next writing, I hope to share more about the rich history of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia.

Thank you for your kind attention and the gift of your vocation.

*- Most Rev. Andrew P Wypych, D.D.*