



# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

October 21<sup>st</sup>, MMXVIII

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Month of the Holy Rosary*

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

### Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Feast of Saint Pope John Paul II

Karol Józef Wojtyła (1920-2005) was born in Wadowice, Poland. His mother died when he was 9 and his older brother Edmund died when he was 12. He and his father moved to Kraków in 1938 where he attended the Jagiellonian University, showing interest in languages, sports, theatre and poetry. When the Nazis closed the university in 1939, he worked in a quarry (1940-1944) and then in a chemical factory. In 1942 he began secret studies for the priesthood and was ordained a priest on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1946 by Adam Cardinal Sapieha, the primate of Poland at that time. After further studies in Rome for a doctorate in theology (1948), he returned to parish work and student chaplaincy in Kraków until 1953 when he received a second doctoral degree and an appointment as professor. He gained notoriety for his many theological writings and also published his plays under various pseudonyms. Pope Pius XII named him Auxiliary Bishop of Kraków in 1958 and he actively participated in Vatican Council II (1962-1965). Pope Paul VI made him Archbishop of Kraków in 1964 and then a Cardinal in 1967.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1978 after the deaths of Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul I, Wojtyła was elected Pope on the eighth ballot, the first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years. A charismatic figure, he traveled the world, making 104 pastoral visits outside Italy and 146 within Italy to spread his message of faith and peace and to encourage political and social change. In 1981, he was shot twice in St. Peter's Square. He recovered and later forgave his assassin. In his later years, his health declined due to the effects of Parkinson's disease. He died on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, at the age of 84, after almost 27 years as a Pope. He was the second longest serving pope in the history of the church and the first non-Italian pope since 1523. In July of 2013 Pope Francis, after recognizing the evidence of a second miracle, confirmed Pope John Paul II's canonization as a saint for the Church. He was canonized a saint on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Divine Mercy Sunday, by Pope Francis.

The world loved Pope John Paul II dearly and was deeply saddened by his death. Here in our parish he will be remembered lovingly forever, especially by the monument erected to his memory on the corner of Tenth Street and the street that actually bears his name, Pope John Paul II Avenue! His feast day is not celebrated on the day of his death but on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day he became Pope.

*“Remember that nothing important ever happens until someone takes a chance.”*

## *October is Polish American Heritage Month! Be Proud to be Polish!*

2008 was the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first Polish settlers in America. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1608, the English ship *Mary & Margaret* arrived at Jamestown, Virginia. Aboard the ship were several persons of Polish descent: Michal Lowicki, an organizer of industry and businessman and the leader of the original five; Jan Bogdan, an expert in pitch tar, and ship building; Jan Mata, a prominent soap producer; Stanislaw Sadowski a lumber and clapboard production organizer; and Zbigniew Stefanski, a specialist in glass production. They had been hired by the Virginia Company of London, at the request of Captain John Smith. John Smith also became the leader of the Jamestown Colony. Smith learned of the fine work of Polish craftsmen while traveling in Eastern Europe.

The colonists viewed the Poles as hard-working and respectful. The Poles first impressions of Jamestown were not as positive. "Seldom has one seen such lack of resourcefulness as we found in Virginia. Not even a spoonful of drinking water...the people here marveled when we dug a well and presented it to them," remarked Stefanski. The water well provided a source of fresh drinking water, stopping the spread of dysentery and death due to drinking swamp water. Later Stefanski and Bogdan saved Captain John Smith when he was attacked by Indians.

The Poles also set up sawmills and built a glass furnace – making it the first factory in America and the beginning of industry. The glass items produced in these factories became the first exported goods to England.

The work done by the original group allowed them to repay the Virginia Company for their passage to America, and become free citizens of the colony. Within a few years, there were fifty Poles living in Jamestown.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement in the Jamestown colony by staging the first labor strike in America. After being denied participation in the first Virginia assembly, the Polish settlers conducted a labor walkout; not for wages or better working conditions, but for democratic rights. The newly-formed House of Burgesses quickly acknowledged the vital role of the Poles in the settlement's well-being and granted them the same voting privileges and equal rights as the English settlers by a document issued on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July in 1619. This honor was not bestowed upon the colonists of any other nation. The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant event in American history. And the saving of Jamestown after its first disastrous year was due in a large part to the efforts of those original Poles!

This summer, on July 20<sup>th</sup>, an historical marker was finally dedicated on the roadside near the entrance to the site of the historic Jamestown Settlement. The words: FIRST POLES ARRIVE, can be read from a distance! This important marker joined others in the vicinity devoted to German and African settlers of Jamestown and the Indian Princess Pocahontas. It is a significant and perhaps surprising recognition given to courageous and adventurous Poles who first set foot on the ground of this nation.

Over the years, people from Poland continued to immigrate to America. Today Poles are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. Poles comprise a significant portion of the tens of millions of immigrants who have come to America from all over the world and now proudly call this nation their home. The 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Poles in America provides an excellent opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors who continue to add shape and color to the American mosaic.

*The first one to apologize is the bravest.  
The first one to forgive is the strongest!  
The first one to forget is the happiest!*

# Father Leon Jarecki

Last Friday and Saturday evening, together with a good number of our parishioners, I participated in the annual Wyandotte Historical Society Cemetery Walk at Mount Carmel Cemetery. If you are not familiar with this fine event, it takes place each year in the month of October. For two nights, beginning just after sundown, six groups are brought to the cemetery one by one. The cemetery is dark, lit only by lanterns, jack-o-lanterns and bonfires. Each group is given a guide to lead them on the tour. As they proceed through the cemetery they stop at various graves. At each stop a volunteer dressed as a deceased historical resident presents the story of his or her life. It is truly a fascinating experience. There were eight stops, beginning at the cemetery entrance where a fellow dressed as Mr. Henry Thon, first undertaker in the city of Wyandotte was portrayed. The final stop was at the spot where seventeen Felician sisters were buried after dying of tuberculosis during an epic that started just at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Those sisters were all teachers in our school. But the stop at this spot was not for the nuns. Rather at this spot those on the tour encountered Fr. Leon Jarecki, the seventh pastor of our parish who had been murdered on the night of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1921 when he answered the rectory door. No one knows why he was shot and no one knows who did it. But he is buried there in Mount Carmel Cemetery. I was asked by the Historical Society to portray this Polish priest, my predecessor. I agreed. Here are the facts on the man:

Fr. Leon Jarecki was born on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1876 in Nakło, Poland. This city is located in northern Poland on the Noteć River, in an area known as Pomerania. Although there is a very limited amount of information about Fr. Jarecki, it would seem that together with his parents he left Poland in the late 1800's to come to the United States. He had his elementary education in the Polish Parish of Saints Cyril & Methodius in Lemont, Illinois, where his family settled. In 1880 Lemont was a village with 2100 people. Today it is a suburb of Chicago with a population of 16,000, 33% of which are of Polish descent.

From Illinois he made his way to Detroit and St. Cyril & Methodius Seminary where he pursued priestly studies. He finished his studies in Rome and was ordained a priest on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1900 in Rome at the age of 24. When he returned to Detroit he was assigned as a professor of Greek and Philosophy and eventually Theology at the Polish Seminary. He was a member of the faculty when the seminary moved from Detroit to Orchard Lake in 1909. Fr. Jarecki spent seventeen years on the faculty of the Seminary at Orchard Lake and eventually achieved the position of vice-rector. In August of 1916 he was assigned as an assistant at St. Casimir Parish on the west side of Detroit. In April of 1918 he was made pastor of St. Mary Parish in Bronson, Michigan, near Kalamazoo.

In October of 1920 he was made pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in Wyandotte. Tragically on the evening of Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1921 he was shot dead as he opened the door of the rectory. His killer was never found. His funeral took place on the following Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. It is estimated that 5000 persons took part in the funeral service at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and at the burial in Wyandotte Mt. Carmel Cemetery. 250 were clergy, and 100 seminarians as well as members of many Polish Societies, local police and children from the parish school. Bishop Michael Gallagher presided at the funeral. The homily was preached by Rev. Stephen Woznicki who would later be consecrated a bishop. The dead priest's parents from Chicago and his brother from Detroit were also present.

During Fr. Jarecki's short six month pastorate the three bells in the church tower were blessed and dedicated to St. Stanislaus Kostka, the Holy Angels, and Our Lady, Queen of Poland. Fr. Jarecki died at age 44 after 20 years of priesthood.

The reason I did not stand at Fr. Jarecki's grave is that he has no headstone. In fact they were not 100% sure just exactly where his grave was. It has since been located, but the problem of no headstone persisted. I am happy to announce that a fine headstone has been ordered. It is a large very dignified one with the young priest's picture on it. It should be ready for a solemn dedication ceremony in spring. The cost of the stone was \$2900.00 but my feeling is that he deserves it and we owe it to him. This expense will be paid from the restoration account, as it is a kind of restoration of something that was not done right and needs to be done. If you wish to donate towards father's headstone use the green restoration envelope and mark headstone on it.

## Parish Policy on Weddings in Our Church

In order to be married in the parish Church of Our Lady of the Scapular, one of the spouses must be a registered member of the parish. With permission, it is possible that a son or daughter of registered parishioners can be married in the church here. It is also possible that persons who are registered members of other parishes can be married in the church here, if they can provide a letter from the pastor of the parish where they are registered, stating that they are indeed members of his parish and that he gives permission for one of his parishioners to be married in church outside of that person's parish church. Everyone married in our church is expected to be a registered member of a Catholic parish somewhere and to be a practicing Catholic. A practicing Catholic is a person who goes to church on Sunday and receives the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confession regularly. Obstacles to being married in any Catholic Church anywhere are; a previous marriage in the Catholic Church which has not been declared annulled by the Catholic Church, or a civil marriage that has not been declared null by the Catholic Church. Please note that the Catholic Church considers marriages by non-catholics in other religious denominations as being valid until declared annulled by the Catholic Church. At least one of the spouses to be married must be a validly baptized Catholic. Catholics may marry members of other religious denominations or un-baptized persons with the permission of the archbishop. If neither of the parties being married are registered members of a Catholic Parish it will be necessary to register in a Catholic Parish before the wedding can take place in the parish Church of Our Lady of the Scapular. Registration in the parish here should ONLY take place if the couple intends on being active members of this parish and attending Mass here. It is recommended in most cases that couples register in the parish closest to where they will reside after being married. If a couple registers here in this parish where they are planning to be married their regular attendance at Mass will be monitored during the six months of preparation, and if necessary the wedding ceremony will be delayed. Weddings can only be scheduled in our church by the pastor. Normally the pastor of the parish conducts all weddings here. Marriage is a Sacrament of the Catholic Church. It requires serious preparation that requires at the very least six months to complete. Your marriage will affect every day of your life from the day of your wedding ceremony on. Your marriage and your wedding ceremony MUST be a part of your faith life. And your faith life needs to be lived out in the Catholic Church.

