



Visitor Experience #42

Rev. Edward



Rev. Julius



Sr. Wenceslaus



Sr. Mary Margaret



Rev. Edmund



DWORACZYK

FAMILY

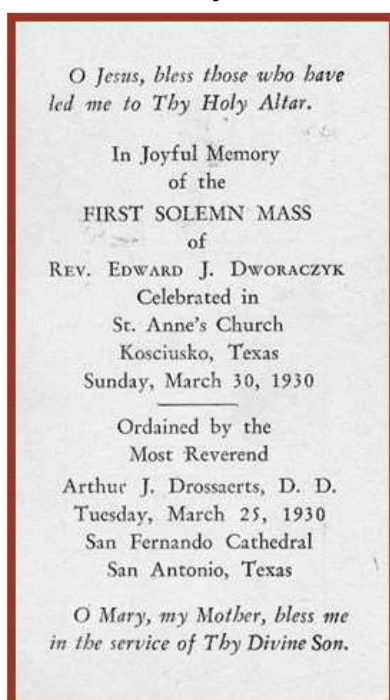
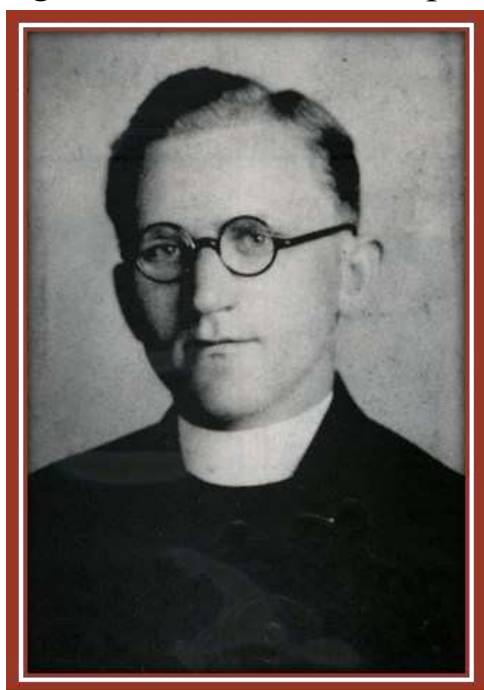
VOCATIONS

Religious Vocations of the Dworaczyk Family in Texas

“Happy are they, O Lord, whom you have chosen...”

By Janet Dawson Ebrom

When **Joseph** and **Hedwig Dworaczyk** arrived in New York with their two children on May 29, 1855, on the *Isaac Wright* (manifest, 11th page), they were uplifted by their incredibly strong Catholic faith after leaving Upper Silesia in present-day Poland. Soon settling in Texas with their two sons, **Franz and Joseph**, they devoutly followed their traditional religious practices which, in turn, were handed down to their descendants. Service to others through the Catholic Church seems to have been entrenched in the Dworaczyk DNA because there were two religious Sisters and three priests in the family who answered God’s call.

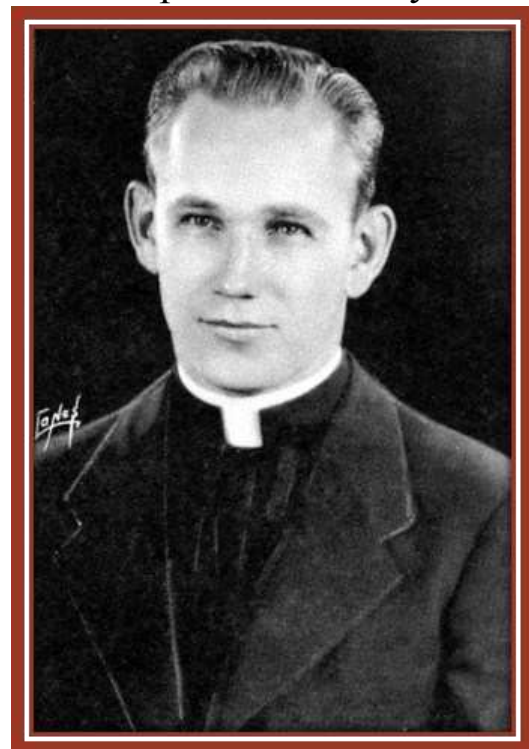
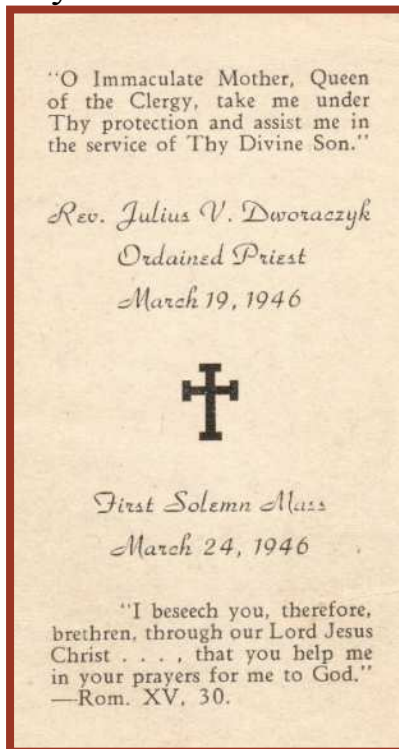


Card courtesy of: Casper and Rosalie Moczygemba, Falls City, Texas

Photograph from: *Centennial: St. Ann's Catholic Church Kosciuszko, Texas 1898–1998*, page 182

Edward Joseph Dworaczyk, son of **Julius Dworaczyk** and **Mary Jarzombek**, was born on October 7, 1906, in Yorktown, Texas. He was ordained on March 25, 1930, at the San Fernando Cathedral. He was initially assistant pastor in Panna Maria and assumed pastoral duties from 1931 until 1949.

After much scholarly research, **Father Edward** authored *The First Polish Colonies of America in Texas* which was published in 1936. He was transferred in 1950 to St. Michael Catholic Church in downtown San Antonio where he succeeded **Msr. Thomas Moczygamba** as pastor. In 1955, **Father Edward** became the founding pastor of St. Margaret Mary parish, his final home, in San Antonio, Texas. When he was only 58 years old, **Father Edward** died of a heart attack in his rectory on September 2, 1965. **Archbishop Lucey** presided at the solemn funeral services held in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Cestohowa on September 6, 1965, followed by Father Edward's burial in the parish cemetery.



Card courtesy of: Rosie Reiman Yosko 1904–1981

Photograph from: *Golden Jubilee Souvenir: St. Ann's Parish, San Antonio, Texas, 1912-1962*, page 121

Father Edward's younger brother, **Julius Valerian Dworaczyk**, was born on November 28, 1919, in Kosciusko, Texas. He was ordained on March 19, 1946, at the San Fernando Cathedral. He ministered in several parishes in San Antonio: St. Agnes Church, St. Ann Church, St. Henry Church, and St. Michael Church. He was an administrator at Annunciation of the BVM Church in St. Hedwig and an assistant pastor in Hallettsville. He served for 21 years as pastor of Nativity of the BVM Church in Cestohowa from 1953–1974. During his pastorate in Cestohowa, he celebrated his Silver Sacerdotal Jubilee in 1971. He was also an assistant pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Falls City and pastor of St. Boniface Church in Hobson.

Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria Foundation

Page 3

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August 28, 2020

When interviewed before the 1986 *Polish Harvest Festival and Anniversary Celebration*, **Father Julius** said that his vocation came to him due to his brother – Father Edward’s good example and encouragement. He added that vocations come to us in mysterious ways (page 10). At the age of 73 years, **Father Julius** died on March 14, 1993, and was buried next to his beloved brother in Cestohowa, Texas.

Two religious Sisters were first cousins to **Father Edward** and **Father Julius** because their fathers, **Arcadeus Dworaczyk** [1882–1962], and **Julius Dworaczyk** [1884–1954], were brothers. These parents instilled the love of faithful service in their children and supported their religious vocations.



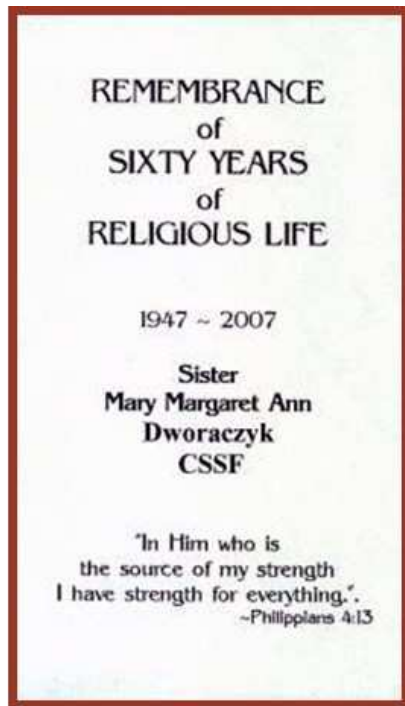
Euphemia Constance Alice Dworaczyk, daughter of **Arcadeus Dworaczyk** and **Veronika Muschalek**, was born on September 11, 1919, in Yorktown, Texas. She made her Perpetual vows on August 15, 1944, as a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Her religious name was **Sister Wenceslaus**. She served in the Incarnate Word Congregation’s educational facilities in Texas and Louisiana. At the age of 91, she passed away on August 11, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas. According to the *San Antonio Express-News*, her Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial were in St. Joseph’s Chapel at The Village at Incarnate Word followed by interment in

Incarnate Word Convent Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas (page 5B).

Photograph courtesy of: Incarnate Word Archives in San Antonio, Texas

Euphemia’s sister, **Mary Margaret Ann Dworaczyk**, was born on June 14, 1929, in Yorktown, Texas, as the youngest of 14 children. **Mary Margaret Ann** moved out of state to enter the Felician Sisters Convent in Chicago, Illinois, on August 22, 1947. Her religious name was **Sister Mary Fermine**, but she later returned to her baptismal name. In her responses for the 1987 *Polish Anniversary Celebration* publication, **Sister Mary Margaret Ann** commented that she was very happy with her choice of vocation and that she made a very wise choice. She expressed satisfaction from teaching children about their faith and said she especially enjoyed teaching the younger children (page 14). According to the *Albuquerque Journal*, she began her teaching ministry in Chicago and continued for 46 years in California, Texas, Kansas, and New Mexico. As a gifted writer,

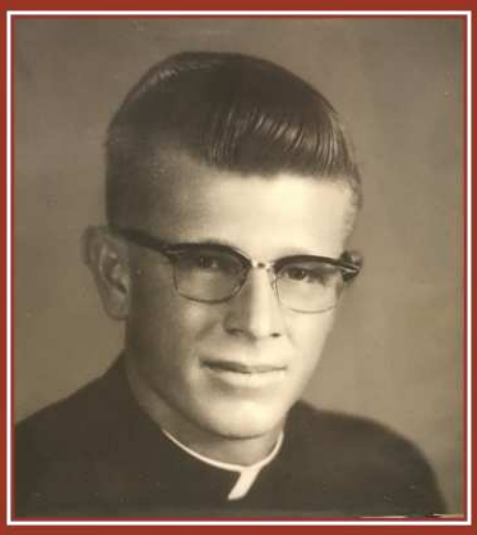
she composed original prayers and poetry which she joyfully shared with others. She departed this life on December 15, 2008, when she was 79 years old, and was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Photograph from: *In Loving Remembrance* brochure with jubilee card enclosed

The fifth vocation of the Dworaczyk family involved a younger generation than the preceding priests and Sisters; he was their first cousin, once removed. **Edmund Leon Dworaczyk**, son of **Conrad John Dworaczyk** and **Lucy Marie Bednorz**, was born on February 17, 1936, in George West, Texas. He was ordained on May 27, 1961, in the Corpus Christi Cathedral.

Father Edmund Dworaczyk was an assistant pastor at St. Elizabeth Church in Alice, St. Joseph Church in Beeville, and Blessed Sacrament Church in Laredo, Texas. He was Scouting Moderator for the Alice Deanery and Deanery Moderator of the Catholic Youth Organization in Alice, Refugio, and Laredo Deaneries. Furthermore, he was the director of the Laredo Deanery Catholic Family Life Bureau and Chaplain of the Laredo Junior College Newman Club. He also patriotically served as Chaplain of the 36th Infantry Division, First Brigade of the Texas National Guard. **Father Edmund** was a member of the Knights of Columbus and Elks Lodge in Laredo. He was selected as Diocesan Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and Diocesan Director of the Catholic Youth Organization.



In February of 1970, **Father Edmund** was appointed pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. When he was merely 34 years old, he died of cardiac arrest in the rectory on November 6, 1970. According to the *Texas Gulf Coast Catholic*, a Rosary was recited at Our Lady Star of the Sea, and the Mass of the Resurrection, with **Bishop Thomas J. Drury** officiating, was celebrated in St. George Church in George West followed by burial in the Three Rivers Catholic Cemetery (page 1).

Photograph courtesy of: Archives of the Diocese of Corpus Christi

A poignant accolade was published in the *Texas Gulf Coast Catholic* newspaper at the end of Father Edmund's obituary notice: "**Father Ed** was a good and holy priest. He was never one to shirk duty. He accepted from his Bishop all appointments with a ready willingness and a solid determination to do his best. His gentle manner and his innate conviction of fair play made him a friend of all with whom he came in contact. Truly, he was an ideal priest and a grand gentleman. May he rest in peace" (page 1).

These five Dworaczyk cousins, **Reverend Edward**, **Reverend Julius**, **Sister Wenceslaus**, **Sister Mary Margaret Ann**, and **Reverend Edmund**, infused with gifts of the Holy Spirit, embraced their religious vows and devoted themselves to the spiritual welfare of their students and parishioners. They all reflect their parents' strong faith and their ancestors' Catholic heritage from the Old Country—links of loving commitment through the generations.

Sources:

- Albuquerque Journal* [Albuquerque, New Mexico], December 17, 2008.
Centennial: St. Ann's Catholic Church, Kosciuszko, Texas 1898-1998. Privately printed, 1998.
Corpus Christi Caller-Times [Corpus Christi, Texas], November 8, 1970.
Golden Jubilee Committee. *Golden Jubilee Souvenir: St. Ann's Parish, San Antonio, Texas, 1912-1962*. Privately printed, 1962.
San Antonio Express-News [San Antonio, Texas], August 14, 2011.
Second Annual Polish Harvest Festival and Anniversary Celebration [St. Hedwig, Texas], September 14, 1986.
Texas Gulf Coast Catholic [Corpus Christi, Texas], November 13, 1970.
Third Annual Polish Anniversary Celebration [St. Hedwig, Texas], December 13, 1987.

The Dworaczyk cousins were some of the many special vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It would honor their legacy to have any of them memorialized in the Polish Heritage Center. Each departed religious vocation from our immigrant families can be recognized. If you would like to memorialize a nun, priest, monk, or religious brother for a \$10,000 donation, please contact **John Wojtasczyk** at **210-387-7472**.

Announcing our *revamped* website!



As the Polish Heritage Center nears completion, you may be wondering what you'll see as you enter. Though interior work is still going on, we decided to give you a sneak preview with a short "movie teaser" that gives you a few glimpses of what will be behind those front doors. Just enough to get you wanting more, we hope. Look for the teaser on the newly spruced up website, polishheritagecentertx.org, and also on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Please share this info with friends, family and neighbors and "like us" to help spread the word.



Polish-American Veterans: Honoring those who Served

Photographs of soldiers with the following last names have already been sent in by readers of this newsletter for the military exhibit in the Polish Heritage Center USA:

- Dzuik
- Ebrom
- Korus
- Kruciak
- Respondek
- Swierc
- Yosko

Just imagine when you, your children, and your grandchildren view the interactive Veterans display and see with patriotic pride the names and photos of soldiers in your family!

Please make this happen by sending in a photo from your ancestral family of a veteran in uniform. Include as many of the following details as possible: *Last Name & First Name; Branch of Service; Hometown; Parish; War or Conflict in which the veteran was engaged; Note if Missing-in-Action, Killed-in-Action, or Prisoner-of-War; Date Deceased; Rank; Commendations Received; Unit Name; Interment Information; Any additional information, personal story or documents.* If you don't have a photo, don't worry, send as much of the other information as you can. Please copy photo and any documents at the highest resolution you can, then email to: John Cebrowski at jcebrowski39@gmail.com

If you have an ancestor or family member who served in any wars or conflicts from the Civil War on through Iraq and Afghanistan, whether they came home safely or not, please honor them.

Unknown Soldier

The photograph above was brought to a Polish Heritage Center scanning session in 2014 by Loretta Niestroy who, as president of the Panna Maria Historical Society for many years, knew the value of this historic image of an unknown soldier. Do you recognize him? Can you provide his name, or any information about him?

Your gifts are making this vision a reality!

Beginning July 29, 2020 to August 28, 2020

Due to limitations of a new donor computer program that we are using to tabulate gifts, until further notice, we will be listing only the donor names and places of residence.

Teresa A Augustyniak, San Antonio, Texas	Msgr Thomas C Machalski, Jr, Bayside, New York
John S & Shirley Bordovsky, San Antonio, Texas	Mike & Adelene R Moy Manka, Schertz, Texas
Dylan Busselman, Karnes City, Texas	Lucian & Josephine Lyssy Moczygamba, San Antonio, Texas
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Brother Edward Loch, SM, San Antonio, Texas	

Construction Photos



Above: continuing work on the “floating” ceiling of the Lobby.

Right: worker on a scissor lift on the side entrance of the “chapel.”

Bottom: a view of the floor of the Lobby. The ‘circle’ is the location of a large 9-foot terrazzo inlay design in which will be the seals of Texas, Poland, and the United States!



Construction Photos!



Above left: front view of the niche which will showcase the image of the icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa.

Above right: chandelier in the Temporary/Rotating Exhibit Room fashioned after the type found in the famous salt mines of Wieliczka.

Bottom left: sections of the faux columns which will be located in the Rotunda.

Bottom right: a view of the mostly sheetrocked work within the “chapel.”

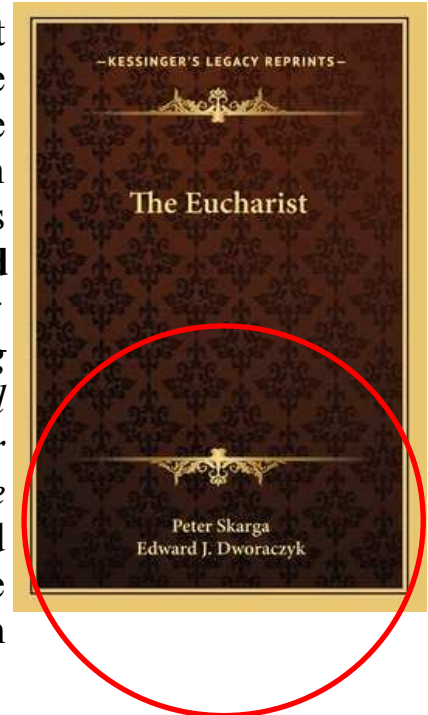
Keep following our progress as we near completion!



Fr. Piotr Skarga Keeps Poland Catholic

Fourth in a Series by Bishop John W. Yanta

Piotr Skarga was born in 1536 near Grójec and later was educated in Kraków. In 1564, he received Holy Orders. As a gifted orator, he began to preach his renowned sermons. In 1568, he entered the Society of Jesus and went to Rome. Upon returning to Poland, he worked in the Jesuit colleges where he converted many Protestants to Roman Catholicism. He was an accomplished author, and his *The Lives of the Saints* [Żywoty świętych] published in 1579 was likely the most widely read book in Poland for centuries. In 1588, Rev. Skarga, a Jesuit priest, was appointed court preacher by King Sigismund III. As the young king's valued advisor, Rev. Skarga held his position in the court for 24 years to the great advantage of the Church and the nation. During this time, Rev. Skarga published *Sejm Sermons* [Kazania sejmowe] in 1597 which is considered one of his two most important works. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "Nowhere are there found such style, eloquence, and patriotism, with the deepest religious conviction. Skarga occupies a high place in the literature and the history of Poland." One of Rev. Skarga's works [as shown] was translated into English by **Rev. Edward J. Dworaczyk** in 1939. In the preface, the General Editor stated, "... little is popularly known, in English-speaking countries, of the brilliant genius and apostolic man of God who in large measure was responsible for saving Poland for the Faith in the turbulent days that followed on the Reformation." **Rev. Piotr Skarga** died in 1612 and was buried in the Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Kraków. On the 400th anniversary of his death, in 2012, the Polish Sejm declared the "Year of the Reverend Piotr Skarga."



Thanks to Janet Ebram for the article above which links **Rev. Edward Dworaczyk** to **Rev. Piotr Skarga**
May God bless you and yours, Bishop John W. Yanta

John W. Yanta