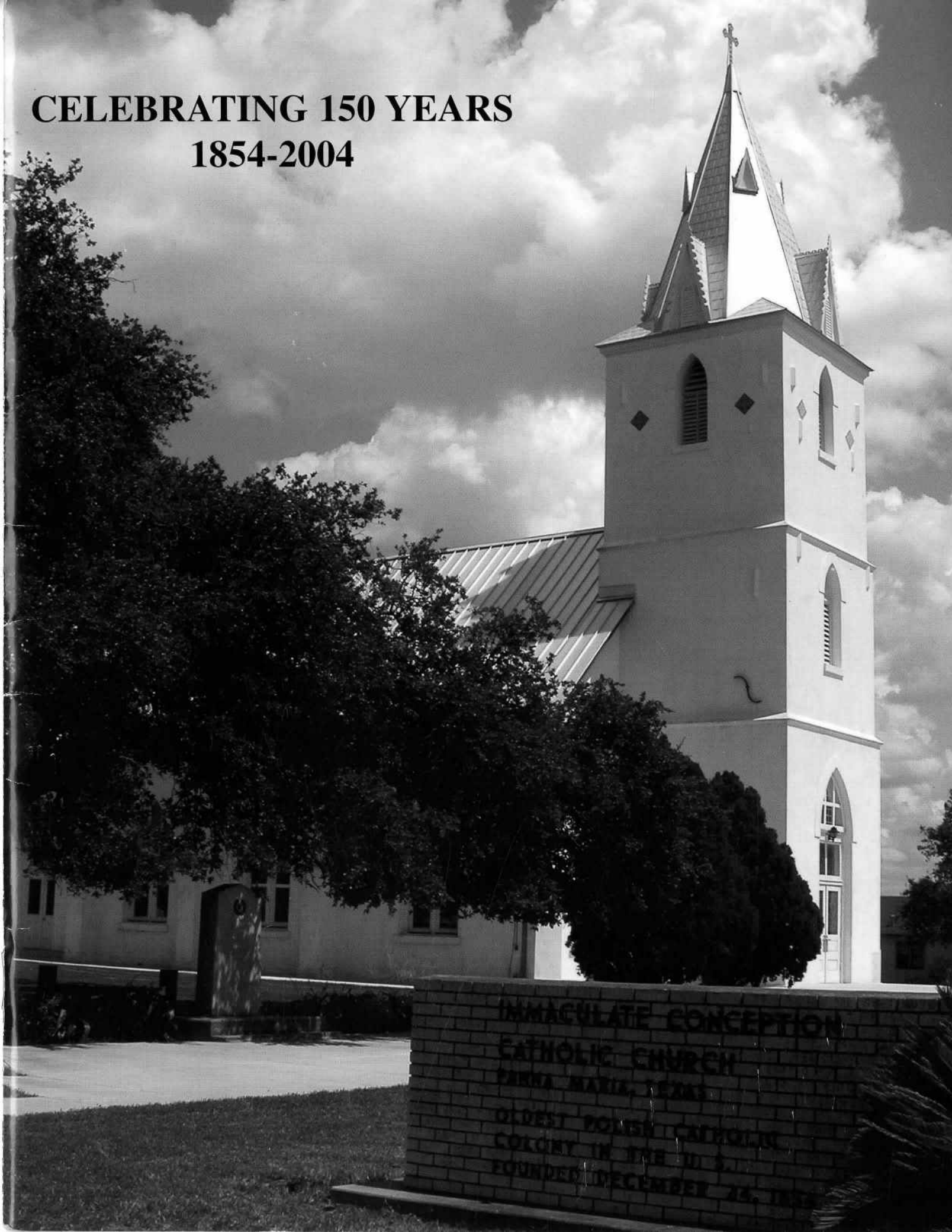
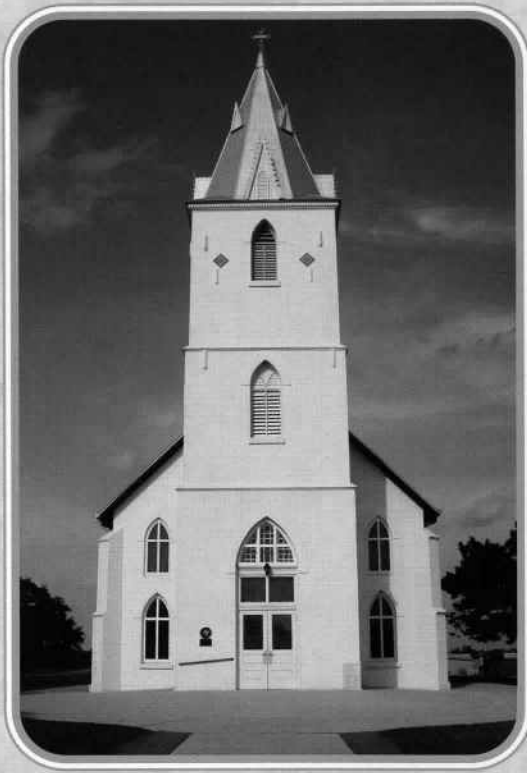


**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
1854-2004**



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CATHOLIC CHURCH
MARIA MARIA, TEXAS
OLDEST POLISH CATHOLIC
COLONY IN THE U.S.
FOUNDED DECEMBER 24, 1854



Panna Maria
Oldest Permanent Polish Settlement in the USA

Panna Maria, Texas was established on December 24, 1854 by Fr. Leopold Moczygemba and about 100 families from Upper Silesia, Poland. In 1855 the immigrants built their first church next to an oak tree, under which according to tradition, a Midnight Mass was celebrated upon their arrival. When lightning destroyed the original church, a new one was erected in the same place in 1878. This church was remodeled and enlarged in the years 1935/37.

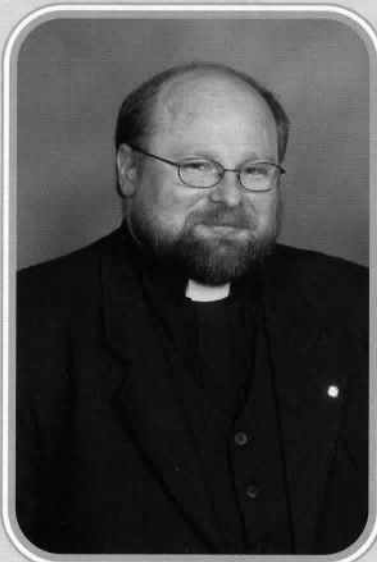
The church in Panna Maria is dedicated to Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose picture is exhibited in the main altar. There are two side altars in the church - one of them is dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa, the other to St. Ann. The image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Queen of Poland, often called the Black Madonna, is presented in the form of a mosaic. This piece of art, work of a renowned artist Jan Krantz, was given to Panna Maria by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 3, 1966, to commemorate the Millennium of Poland's Christianity. The altar dedicated to St. Ann holds a statue of St. Ann, whose original is enshrined on the Mount of St. Ann in Upper Silesia. Archbishop Alfons Nossol, Ordinary Bishop of Opole, Poland, presented this precious gift to the descendants of the first settlers in 2001.

The church of Panna Maria contains a number of very interesting objects. Among them one can find at the entrance a painting of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, brought from Poland in 1858. Another item of interest is a group of 3 hand carved chairs used by Pope John Paul II during his visit with the Polish people of Texas on September 13, 1987.

To educate the children, the settlers built a two-story structure in 1868 and named it St. Joseph's School. Buildings kept changing but elementary education was provided in Panna Maria until the year 1989, when Karnes City Independent School District decided to close the local school.

Panna Maria is the site of many community and church-related activities, such as: Corpus Christi procession, deeply rooted in Polish tradition, the annual Homecoming Turkey Dinner every second Sunday of October, which gathers many of the young people who moved from Panna Maria, and "Christmas along the Corridor" with the re-enactment of Pony Express, which takes place each year on the first Saturday of December.

To satisfy the needs of the many visitors, a Visitors' Center was opened. It is located in the old Pilarczyk Store built in 1875, and is operated by volunteers of the Panna Maria Historical Society. This Society also operates a building known as Snoga's Store. Local landowner John Twohig constructed this building in 1855. Originally a barn, it served as a school and a place of worship while the church was being built. Today this historic structure houses a Post Office and is used for small gatherings and parties.



FR. WOJCIECH REISCH,
PASTOR

One of the most beautiful biblical comparisons of the Church is the image of the Body of Christ. Today, I want to thank you all who recognized the Head - Jesus Christ, in your life, followed His example, and gave up your life to serve Him in so many levels in our parish.

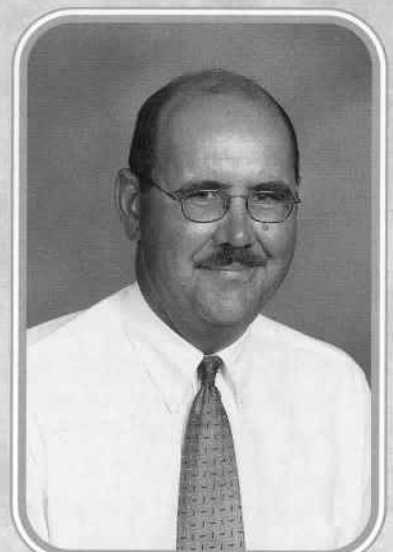
Fr. Wojciech



LORETTA NIESTROY,
SECRETARY



BERTHA KORZEKWA,
DRE



MARK PIEPRZYCA,
SAFETY COORDINATOR



A. FOEGELLE & V. SWIERC
PRESIDENTS OF PASTORAL & FINANCE

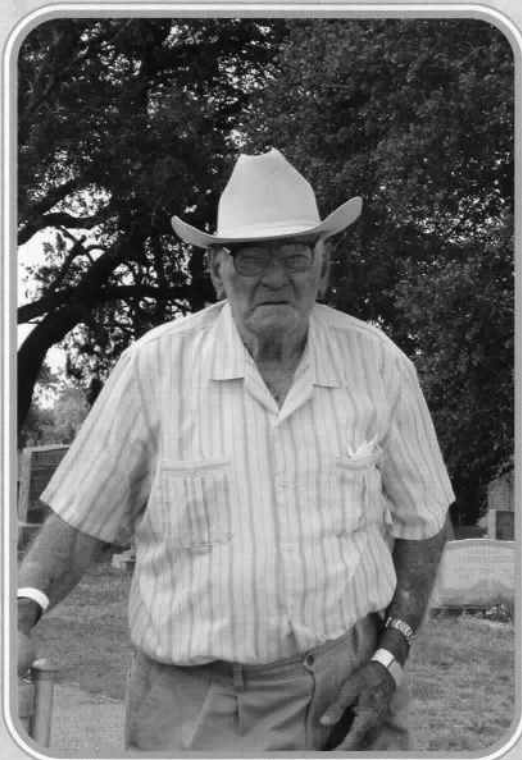
OUR LEADERS



PASTORAL COUNCIL

OUR LEADERS

FELLOWSHIP



CEMETERY MANAGER



FINANCE COMMITTEE



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

IN FAITH

OUR CHURCH



HISTORICAL CROSS



AT NIGHT



PATRIARCH OF POLONIA
FR. LEOPOLD MOCZYGEMBA



HISTORICAL OAK



ST. ISIDORE
PATRON OF FARMERS



THE RECTORY

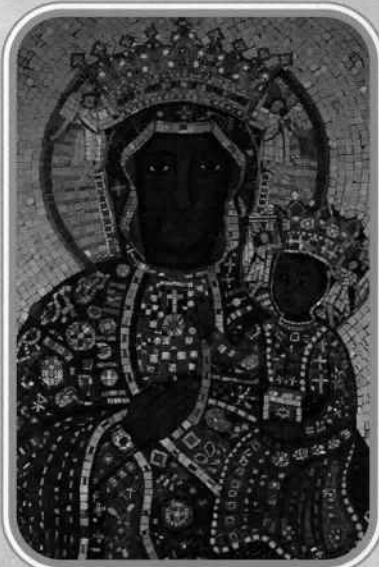
OUR PLACE OF WORSHIP



THE SANCTUARY



GIFT FROM
POPE JOHN PAUL II



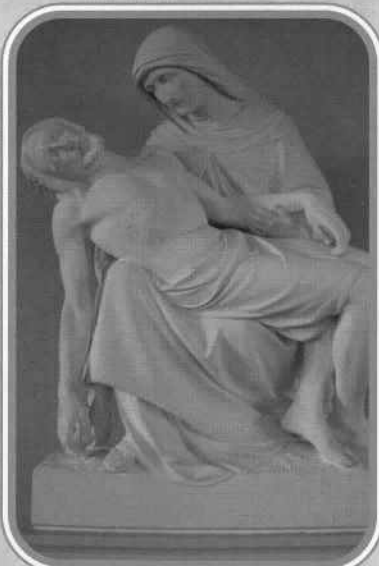
OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA
GIFT FROM PRES. L.B. JOHNSON



ST. ANN ONE OF THREE
GIFT FROM ABP. A. NOSSOL



ST. STANISLAUS
BROUGHT FROM POLAND - 1858



PIETA

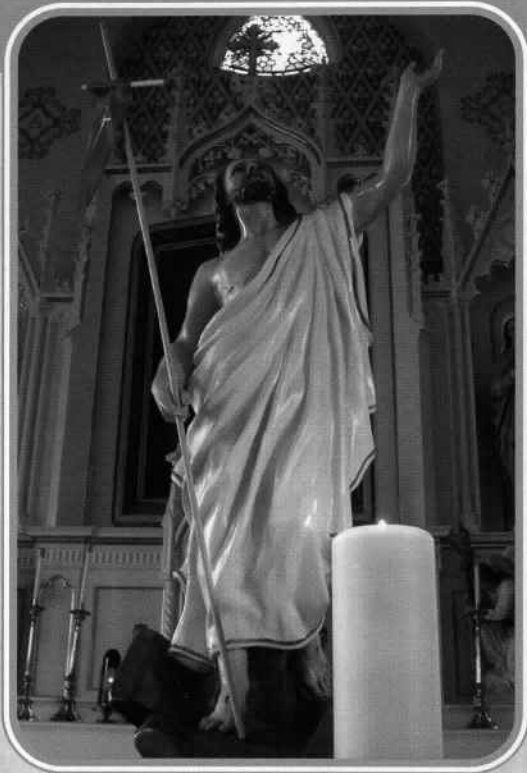


XII STATION
CRUCIFIXION



BELL - 1858
GIFT FROM RZEPPA OF TOSZEK

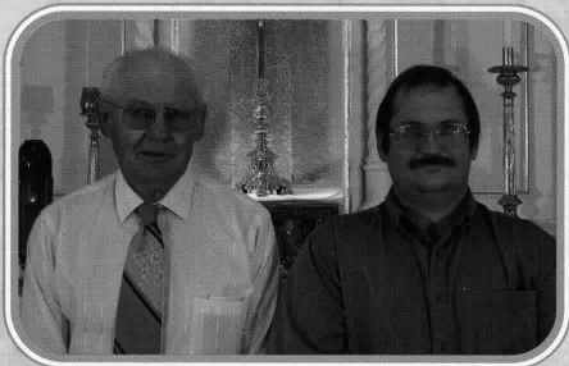
LITURGICAL YEAR



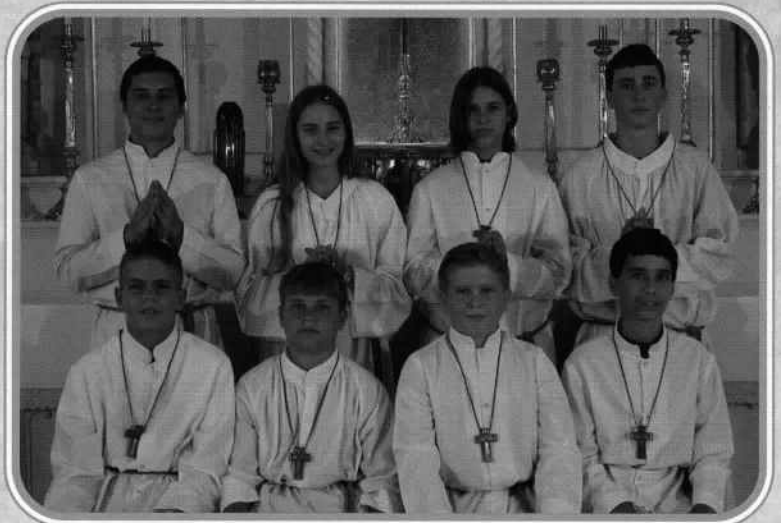
THE RISEN LORD



GOOD FRIDAY -
JESUS IN THE TOMB



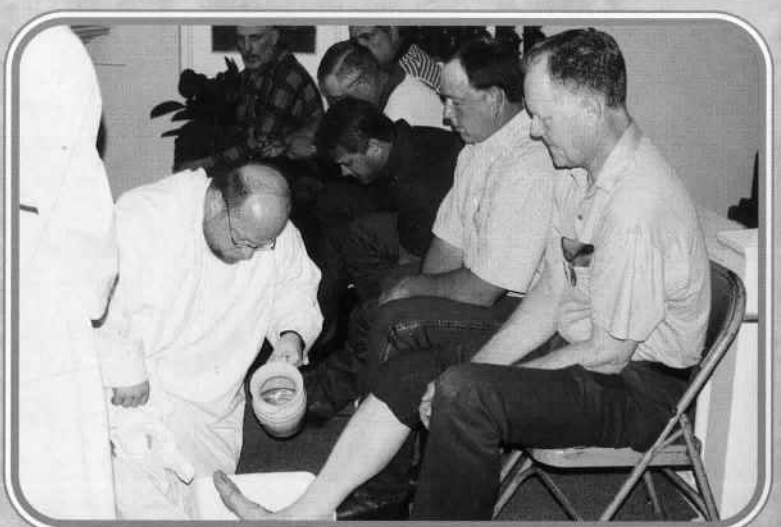
EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS



ALTAR SERVERS

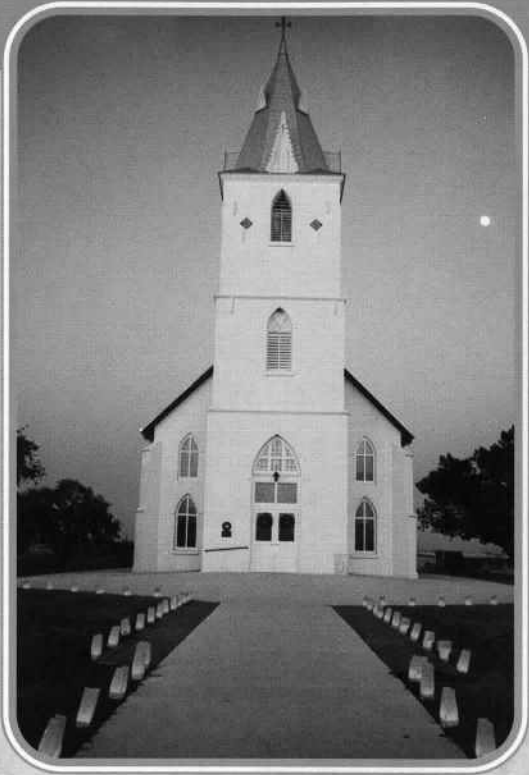


PROCESSION OF THE
RESURRECTION



HOLY THURSDAY -
WASHING OF THE FEET

IN PANNA MARIA



CHRISTMAS TIME



THE DECORATIONS ARE DONE



LIVE MANGER SCENE



CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION



BUILDING THE STABLE



ALTAR UNDER THE OAK

**WE
WORSHIP**



LECTORS

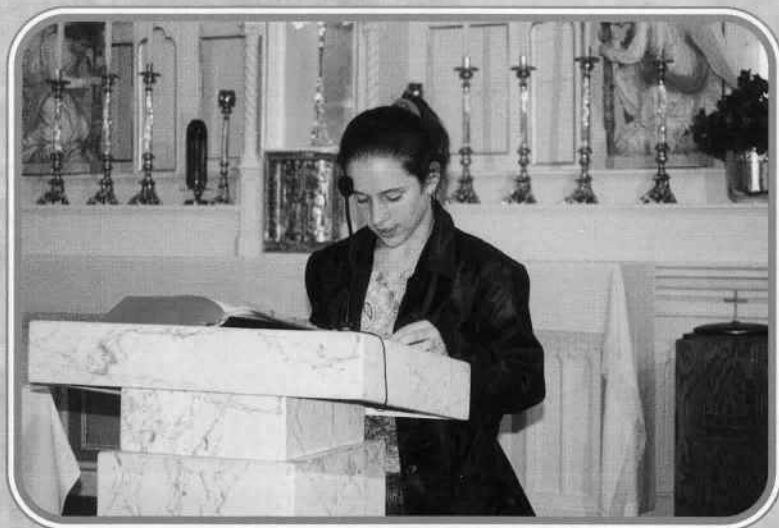


USHERS

TOGETHER



READING THE WORD OF GOD



READING THE WORD OF GOD

IN FAITH



CHOIR MEMBERS

SHARING
THE JOY

FELLOWSHIP



GRADUATION MASS



PRAISING THE LORD

TOGETHER



OUR ORGANISTS

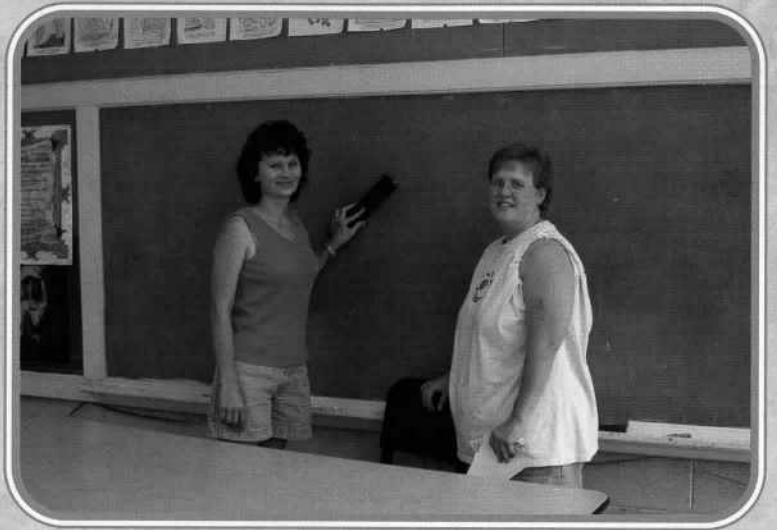
CHRIST THROUGH EDUCATION



FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS



CCD REGISTRATION



READY TO BEGIN



SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES



PARENTS HELP

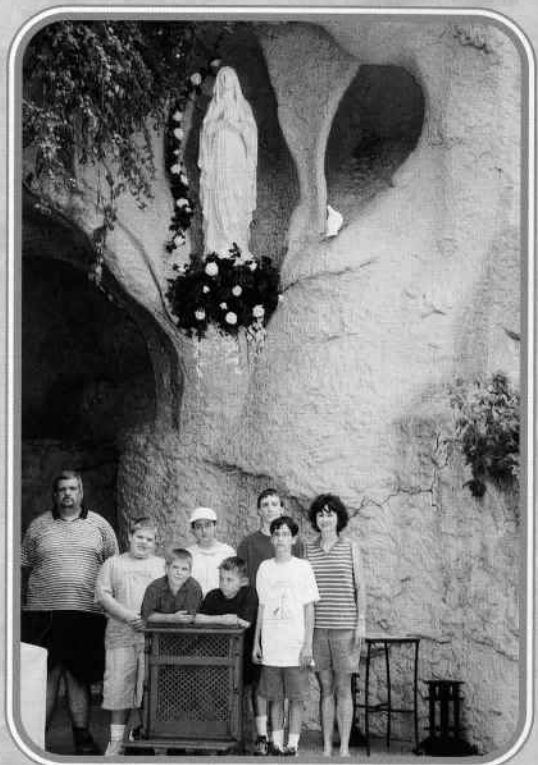


CHRISTMAS DECORATING

TOGETHER



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



PILGRIMAGE TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTA



FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



GRADUATE MASS



A TIME TO PRAY

The youth in our parish are very devoted to their Church.

They are altar servers and lectors, and an active part of every Mass.

They celebrate the liturgy by bringing it to life in the Passion Play and Christmas Pageant.

On the Feast of Three Kings they assist the priest in the blessing of homes and bring joy to the elderly by singing Christmas Carols, and visiting the homebound parishioners and those in the nursing homes.

We are proud of our children, they are a very important part of our parish and community.





A TIME TO PLAY

During the year our children faithfully attend weekly religion class.

They attend yearly retreats, which are combined with other parishes in our deanery.

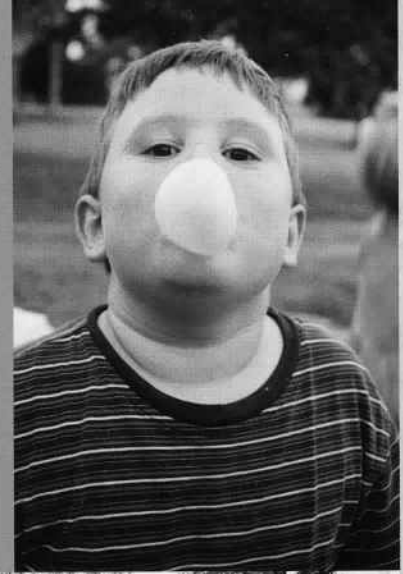
There are special outings and field trips for the younger children.

Not only do they pray and study, they also find time to play.

We have some fun events, such as a yearly bike-a-thon, and money collected sponsors our summer trips to Fiesta Texas, and other places.

At the end of the year school year we have a closing ceremony followed by a campfire and cookout. This is a fun time with many activities such as a bubble blowing contest, a sack race, and horseshoe throwing.

Although the school year comes to an end, our youth are still very active in other ongoing events. They work joyfully with each other and among all the parishioners.



ALTAR SOCIETY



OUR MEMBERS



CLEANING THE CARPET

TOGETHER



L. JANYSEK, PRESIDENT



VISITING GEORGIA

IN FAITH

MINISTRY



CARE OF ALTAR CLOTHS



VISITING ETHEL, MARY AND ELLA



VISITING ETHEL



VISITING ANGELA



VISITING ANNIE



VISITING FLORENCE

**HOLY
NAME/MEN'S
CLUB**



OUR MEMBERS



TRIMMING THE TREES



READY TO WORK

FELLOWSHIP



J. SWIERC, PRESIDENT

TOGETHER

WORKING



JOY OF WORKING



WEEDEATING

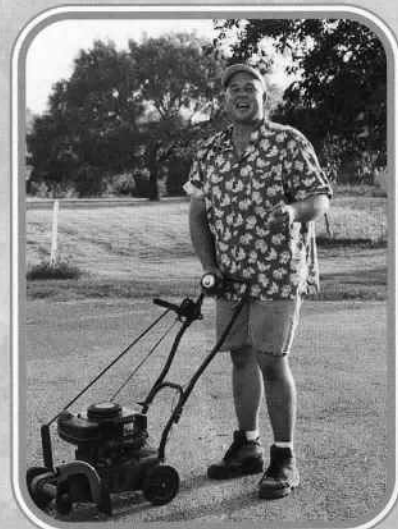


SWEEPING

TOGETHER



WEEDEATING



EDGING

PANNA
MARIA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



OUR VOLUNTEERS

WELCOME



CHRISTMAS ALONG THE CORRIDOR



E. MOCZYGEMBA, PRESIDENT

FELLOWSHIP



WAITING FOR VISITORS



WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS' CENTER



CLASSIC CAR CRUISE



SISTERS IN ACTION



REPAIRING SNOGA'S STORE



VISITORS' CENTER RENOVATIONS



AFTER THE RENOVATION



WEEDING THE FLOWER BED

JESUS CALLS US TO SERVE



LAWN MOWING



CHAPEL SACRISTAN



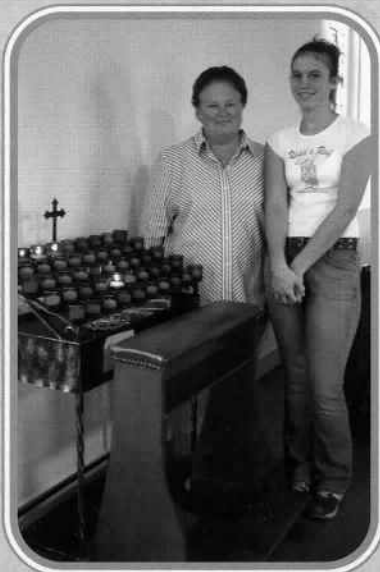
OUR HANDYMEN



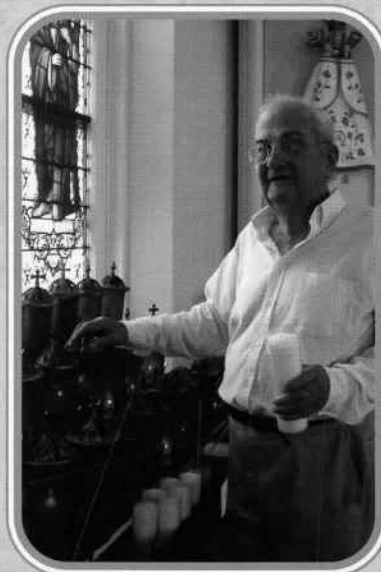
CUSTODIANS



DAILY ROUTINE



VOTIVE CANDLES

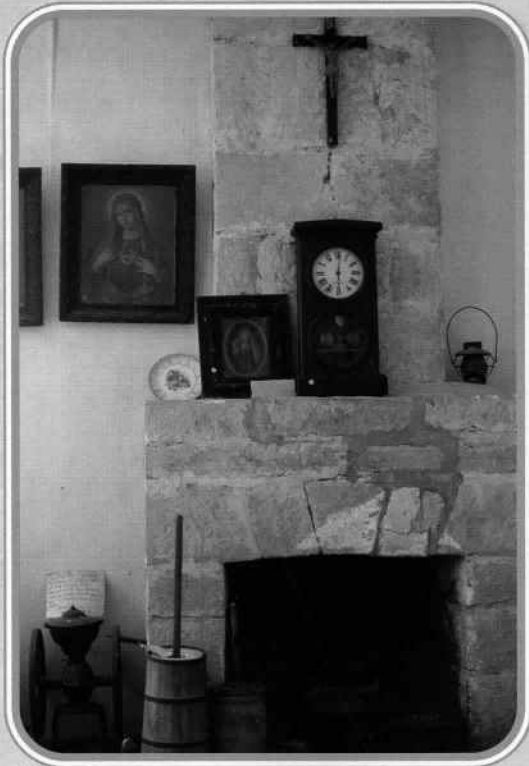


VOTIVE CANDLES



BEAUTIFYING

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL MUSEUM



IN OUR MUSEUM

CONVENT BED & BREAKFAST



SERVING THE GUESTS



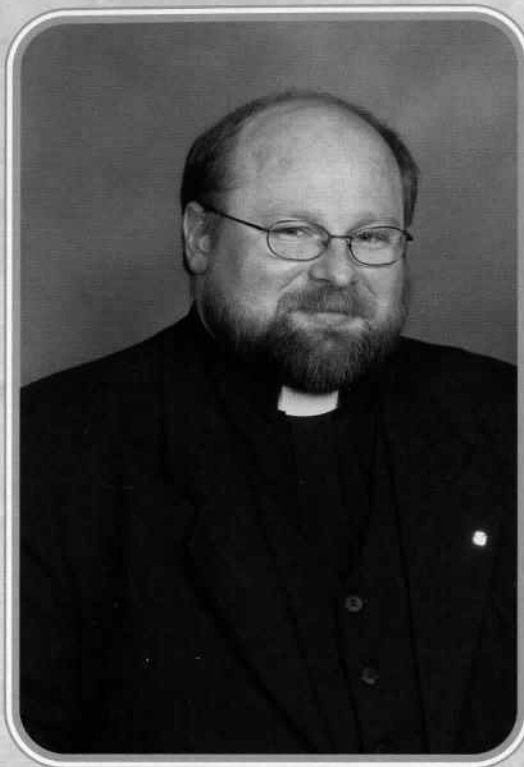
OUR PATRIARCH



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL ARTIFACTS



PREPARING FOR GUESTS



FR. WOJCIECH REISCH

Dear Friends,

The celebration of 150 years of Panna Maria, TX - Catholic parish and community founded by Silesian settlers and Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, is right around the corner. The history of our parish is the history of people of incredible faith, who celebrated the Holy Mass under the oak tree upon their arrival to the New World, even though they had not yet built their own homes. Throughout the years, the history of Panna Maria has always been connected to the community of faith and the parish church. We are thankful to them - the first Silesian settlers, and many other members of our parish, for the gift of faith that has been passed on to our present generation. Now, it is our responsibility to carry on the gift of faith and dedication.

Our anniversary is the opportunity to praise the past and look forward to the future of our community. This Parish Directory, the first directory since the beginning of Panna Maria, is published in recognition and appreciation of the people, who have just begun the preparation to the Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration of our parish, and are now responsible for our community of faith. This book is like a picture of our present day parish taken just a few days ago - thank you all for being a part of this picture.

It is impossible to name and thank everybody, who through his or her prayer, dedication, time, work, and generosity, offered himself or herself toward building up our parish. My personal experience as a priest, who has been serving in Panna Maria and Helena for barely two years, moves me to express the joy of working with incredibly dedicated people. Their example of life and dedication is the best support of my own faith. Encountering constantly praying people, dedicated to all activities that take place in our parish, voluntarily offering their time, work, and money for the sake of God's kingdom, makes our parish a place where faith keeps growing faster and doubts are easier solved. From those you can meet every day in church, to those who assembled in different societies improving our community life such as members of Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, Cemetery Committee, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, Choir, Ushers, Faith Formation Educators, Altar Society, Holy Name/Men's Club, Panna Maria Historical Society one can easily build a ladder that leads us to God.

One of the most beautiful biblical comparisons of the Church is the image of the Body of Christ. Today, I want to thank you all who recognized the Head - Jesus Christ, in your life, followed His example, and gave up your life to serve Him in so many levels in our parish.

Fr. Wojciech Reisch, pastor



OUR FAMILIES



BANDUCH, Alice



**BANDUCH, David & Barbara
Amanda, Angela, Ann Marie**



‡BANDUCH, John & Helen



BEDNORZ, Clem & Stella



BEDNORZ, Theresa



**BRYSCH, Mark & Wendy
Carl, Steven**



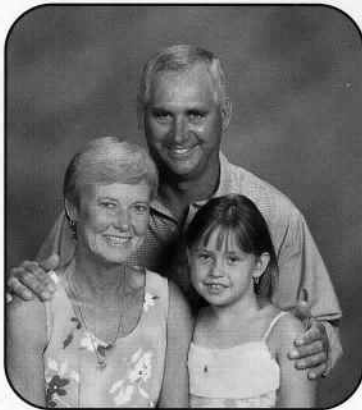
‡CLYNE, Everett & Susan



DRAGON, Ernest & Barbara



DRAGON, Frank & Annie



**DRAGON, Gene & Susan
Kali**



DRAGON, Joe & Mary Ann



DUGI, Sylvia



DUGOSH, Donald & Margaret



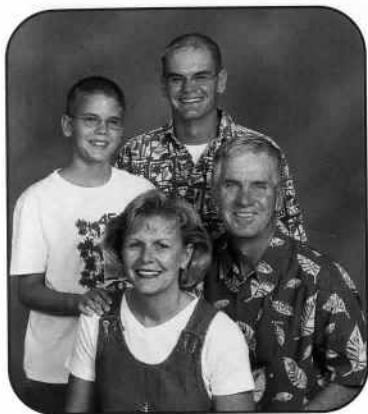
DUPNIK, Georgia



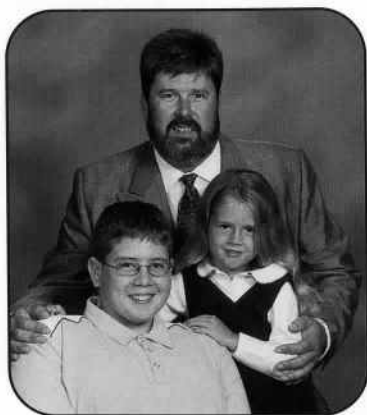
DWORACZYK, Theresa



‡DZIUK, Mary



EBROM, Johnny & GERALYN
Cory, Casey



FLUITT, Lawrence E. II
Trey, Samantha



FOGELLE, Adrian & Regina



FOGELLE, Benedict & Tillie



‡**FOGELLE, Severin**



‡**GRIFFITH, Walter & Sylvia**



‡**HILL, Samantha**



‡**HONIG, Weldon & Marilyn**
John, Daniel



JAMBERS, Tom & Sue



‡**JANECEK, Gary & Carolyn**



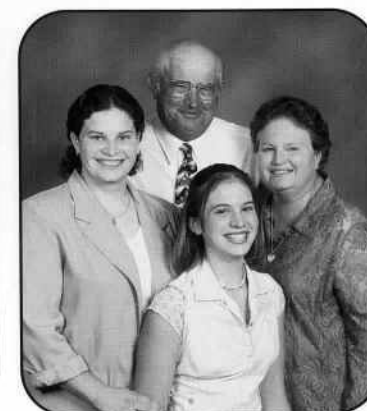
‡**JANECEK, Peter**



JANYSEK, Alvin & Vivian



‡**JANYSEK, Ben & Kristi**



JANYSEK, Clarence & Linda
Rebecca, Hilary



JANYSEK, Emma



JANYSEK, Leona



JANYSEK, Mark & Elaine
Scott, Amy, Kelsey



JANYSEK, Matthew & Emily
Sydney



JANYSEK, Vincent & Mary Jane
Ashley, Vincent III, Jacob, Blake



JANYSEK, William & Linda



JARZOMBEK, Mark & Tricia



JENDRZEJ, Lambert & Jan
Lisa, Andrew



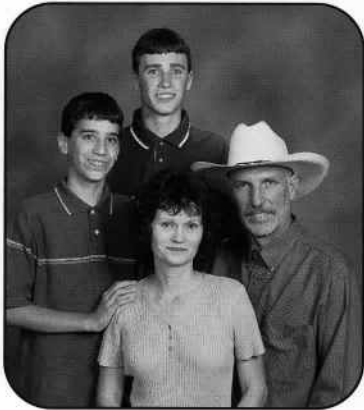
KELLER, Bernice



KELLER, Mary



KOPECKI, Elizabeth



KORZEKWA, Gabe & Bertha
Blaise, Kaine



KOTARA, Pete & Sheri
Matthew, Dylan



KOTARA, Sam & Susie



KOWALIK, George & Betty



KRUCIAK, Angela
Anthony



KYRISH, Christine



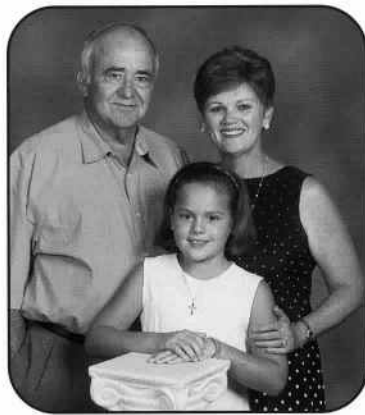
LABUS, Rosie



LABUS, Vincent & Bernadine



LINSENBIGLER, Ken



LYSSY, Adrian & Mary
Kayla



MANKA, Anthony & Theresa



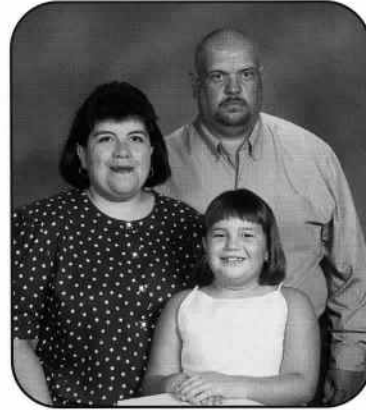
MANKA, Ella



MANKA, Florence
Dorcille



MANKA, Louis & Joyce



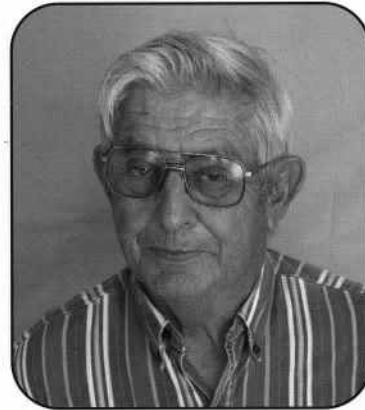
MANKA, Mark & Delma
Natalie



‡MCCRIGHT, Tom & Rose



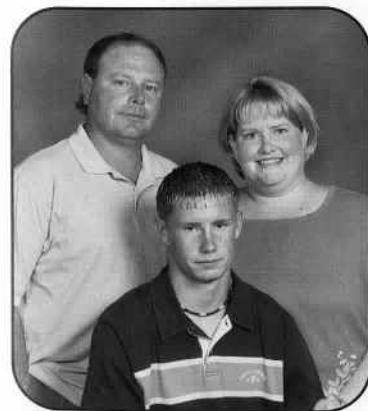
MCDONALD, Mary Ann
Mark



‡MIKA, Felix Jr.



MIKA, Gilbert & Vernell



MIKA, Philip & Stacey
Ryan



‡MIKA, Sixtus & Mary



MOCZYGEMBA, Alfred & Margaret



‡MOCZYGEMBA, Clara



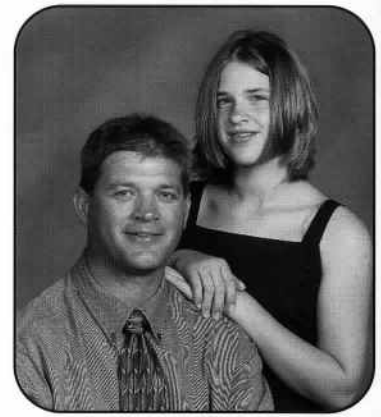
MOCZYGEMBA, Elaine



**MOCZYGEMBA, Gregory & Lisa
Kason, Madylin**



MOCZYGEMBA, John L. & Pella



**MOCZYGEMBA, Leo Jr.
Kelly Sue**



MOCZYGEMBA, Leo Sr. & Irene



**MOCZYGEMBA, Mark
Emily, Justin**



**MOCZYGEMBA, Michael & Karla
Garrison, Annalynn**



**MOCZYGEMBA, Rosalie
Robert**



**MOCZYGEMBA, Tommy & Brenda
Billy Bob, Cody**



NIESTROY, Adrian & Loretta



OPIELA, Adrian & Florence



OPIELA, Annie



PAWELEK, Conrad & Ethel



PAWELEK, Irene



**PAWELEK, Mary
Sr. Agnes**



**PAWELEK, Randy & Debbie
Ryan, Rebekah**



PAWELEK, Theresa



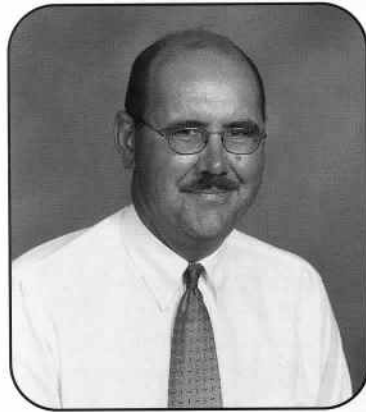
**PERKINS, Billy & Lynette
Kristen, Derek**



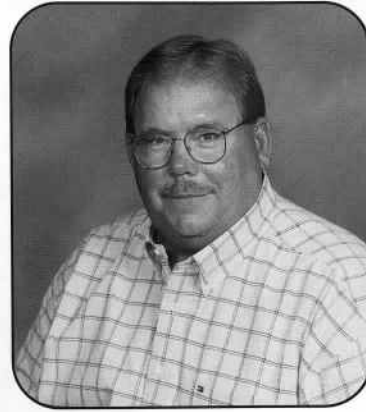
PIEPRZICA, Michael, Dave



‡PIEPRZYCA, Joe & Mary



PIEPRZYCA, Mark



PIEPRZYCA, Randy



POLLOK, Norman & Mary Ann



POLLOK, Proxie



POLLOK, Rick & Natalie



REISCH, Wojciech



**RESPONDEK, Mark & Audrey
Carrie, Matthew**



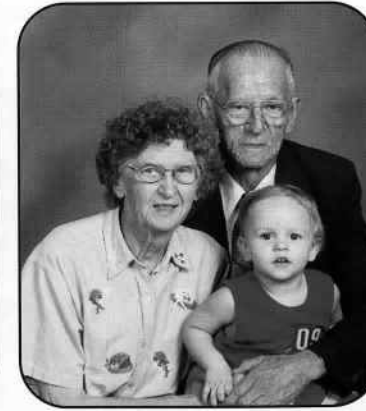
**‡RIVES, Andy & Joyce
Sarah, Stacey, Charles, Stephany**



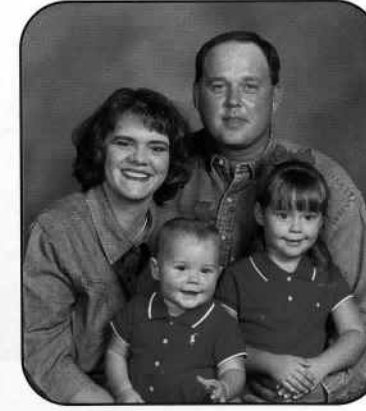
**STARNES, Donald & Evelyn
Steven**



**SWIERC, Vincent & Shirley
Jeremy**



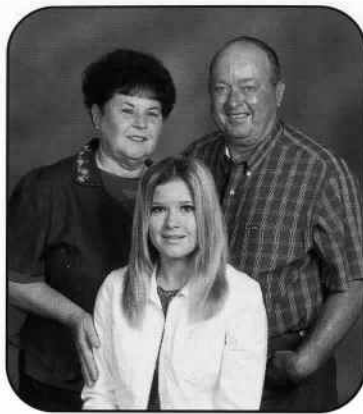
**WIATREK, Alex & Rosie
Samuel**



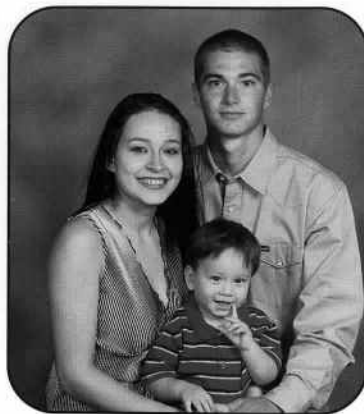
**WIATREK, Scottie & Robyn
Camryn, Madyson**



YANTA, Louise



**YANTA, Martin & Dorothy
Tracy**



**YANTA, Timothy & Amanda
Timothy II**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

PO Box 9, FM 81 East

Panna Maria, Texas 78144

Phone (830) 780-2650 Fax (830) 780-4564

Email: pannamaria@karnesec.net website: www.pannamariatx.com

-B-

Banduch, Alice
890 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Banduch, David & Barbara;
Amanda, Angela, Anne Marie
371 PR 5230
Hobson, TX 78117

Banduch, John & Helen
3959 N. Hwy. 123
Karnes City, TX 78118

Bednorz, Clem & Stella
327 PR 5240
Hobson, TX 78117

Bednorz, Theresa
14830 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Brysch, Mark & Wendy;
Carl, Steven
4075 CR 240
Hobson, TX 78117

-C-

Clyne, Everett & Susan
226 CR 300
Karnes City, TX 78118

-D-

Dragon, Ernest & Barbara
PO Box 17
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Dragon, Frank & Annie
15714 Hwy. 80
Karnes City, TX 78118

Dragon, Gene & Susan;
Kali
PO Box
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Dragon, Joe & Mary Ann
3385 FM 627
Gillett, TX 78116

Dugi, Sylvia
10718 N. State Hwy. 123
Falls City, TX 78113

Dugosh, Donald & Margaret
PO Box 10
Hobson, TX 78117

Dupnik, Georgia
327 PR 5240
Hobson, TX 78117

Dworaczyk, Theresa
PO Box 26
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Dziuk, Mary
513 PR 5290
Hobson, TX 78117

-E-

Ebrom, Johnny & GERALYN;
Cory, Casey
810 Muecke Dr.
Karnes City, TX 78118

-F-

Fluitt, Lawrence;
Trey
PO Box 31
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Foegelle, Adrian & Regina
4931 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Foegelle, Ben & Tillie
726 CR 250
Hobson, TX 78117

Foegelle, Severin
1170 CR 254
Hobson, TX 78117

-G-

Griffith, Walter & Sylvia
5138 Vance Jackson Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78230

-H-

Honig, Weldon & Marilyn;
Daniel, John
PO Box 15
Gillett, TX 78116

-J-

Jambers, Tom & Sue
498 Jambers Ranch Rd.
Whitsett, TX 78075

Janecek, Gary & Carolyn;
Peter
PO Box 10
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Janysek, Alvin & Vivian
5572 CR 627
Karnes City, TX 78118

Janysek, Ben & Kristi
335 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Janysek, Clarence & Linda;
Hilary
PO Box 11
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Janysek, Emma
PO Box 21
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Janysek, Leona
114 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Janysek, Mark & Elaine;
Scott, Amy, Kelsey
765 CR 294
Karnes City, TX 78118

Janysek, Matthew & Emily;
Sidney
16544 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Janysek, Vincent Jr. &
Mary Jane;
Ashley, Vincent III, Jacob, Blake
5260 Hwy. 80
Karnes City, TX 78118

Janysek, William & Linda
2178 CR 303
Runge, TX 78151

Jarzombek, Mark & Tricia
2932 CR 225
Floresville, TX 78114

Jendrzey, Lambert & Janet
PO Box
Panna Maria, TX 78144

-K-

Keller, Bernice
PO Box 6
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Keller, Mary Louise
PO Box 16
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Kopecki, Elizabeth
7068 N. Hwy. 123
Hobson, TX 78117

Korzekwa, Gabe & Bertha;
Blaise, Kaine
PO Box 7
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Kotara, Pete Jr. & Sheri;
Matthew, Dillon
4239 FM 1353
Karnes City, TX 78118

Kotara, Sam Jr. & Susie;
Amy
FM 1353
Karnes City, TX 78118

Kowalik, George & Betty
PO Box 39
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Kruciak, Angela;
Anthony
11522 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

Kyrish, Christine
14062 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

-L-

Labus, Rosie
Hill, Samantha
18376 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Labus, Vincent & Bernadine
18894 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Linsenbigler, Ken
4020 Gilbert Ave. #12
Dallas, TX 78219

Lyssy, Adrian & Mary;
Kayla
13675 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

-M-

Manka, Anthony & Theresa
158 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Manka, Ella
4795 N. Hwy. 123
Karnes City, TX 78118

Manka, Florence
Pieprzyca, Dorcille
5772 N. Hwy. 123
Hobson, TX 78117

Manka, Louis & Joyce
14542 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

Manka, Mark & Delma;
Natalie
5793 N. State Hwy. 123
Karnes City, TX 78118

Manka, Pat Lee
4795 N. Hwy. 123
Karnes City, TX 78118

McCright, Tom & Rose
518 S. 7th St.
Kenedy, TX 78119

McDonald, Mary Ann;
Mark
5475 Southcross Ranch Rd. #179
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Mika, Felix Jr.
PO Box 12
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Mika, Gilbert & Vernell
13780 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

Mika, Mary
13313 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

Mika, Phillip & Stacy;
Ryan
11610 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

Moczygemba, Alfred &
Margaret
304 PR 2115
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Clara
717 E. Mayfield
Karnes City, TX 78118

Moczygemba, Elaine Dolores
N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Gregory & Lisa;
Kason, Madylin
15873 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, John & Pella
N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Leo Jr.;
Kelly Sue
427 PR 5255
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Leo Sr. & Irene
701 PR 5255
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Mark;
Justin, Emily
15002 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Michael & Karla;
Garrison, Annalyn
2185 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Rosalie;
Robert
13949 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Moczygemba, Tommy &
Brenda;
Billy Bob, Cody
15889 CR 150
Kenedy, TX 78119

-N-

Niestroy, Adrian & Loretta
513 PR 5290
Hobson, TX 78117

-O-

Opiela, Adrian & Florence
14756 FM 887
Gillett, TX 78116

Opiela, Annie
C/O Carleen Janysek
24540 State Hwy. 80
Gillett, TX 78116

-P-

Pawelek, Conrad & Ethel
13568 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

Pawelek, Irene
1109 PR 5180
Hobson, TX 78117

Pawelek, Mary
Sr. Martha Pawelek
13195 N. FM 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

Pawelek, Randy & Debbie;
Ryan, Rebeka
1824 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Pawelek, Theresa
1661 CR 254
Hobson, TX 78117

Perkins, Billy & Lynette;
Kristen, Derek
916 Muecke Dr.
Karnes City, TX 78118

Pieprzyca, Mark
16965 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Pieprzyca, Mary
195 CR 248
Karnes City, TX 78118

Pieprzyca, Michael, David
PO Box
Gillett, TX 78116

Pieprzyca, Randy
406 S. Apperson St.
Karnes City, TX 78118

Pollok, Norman & Mary Ann
1127 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

Pollok, Proxie
19069 E. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

Pollok, Richard & Natalie
15016 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

-R-

Reisch, Fr. Wojciech
PO Box 9
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Respondek, Mark & Audrey;
Carrie, Matthew
1789 CR 230
Falls City, TX 78113

Rives, Andy & Joyce;
Sarah, Stacey, Charles, Stephany
2126 FM 2724
Hobson, TX 78117

-S-

Starnes, Donald & Evelyn;
Steven
PO Box 17
Panna Maria, TX 78144

Swierc, Vincent & Shirley;
Jeremy
PO Box 23
Panna Maria, TX 78144

-W-

Wiatrek, Alex & Rosie
179 PR 5180 - CR 228
Hobson, TX 78117

Wiatrek, Scottie & Robyn;
Camryn, Madyson
15825 N. FM 81
Hobson, TX 78117

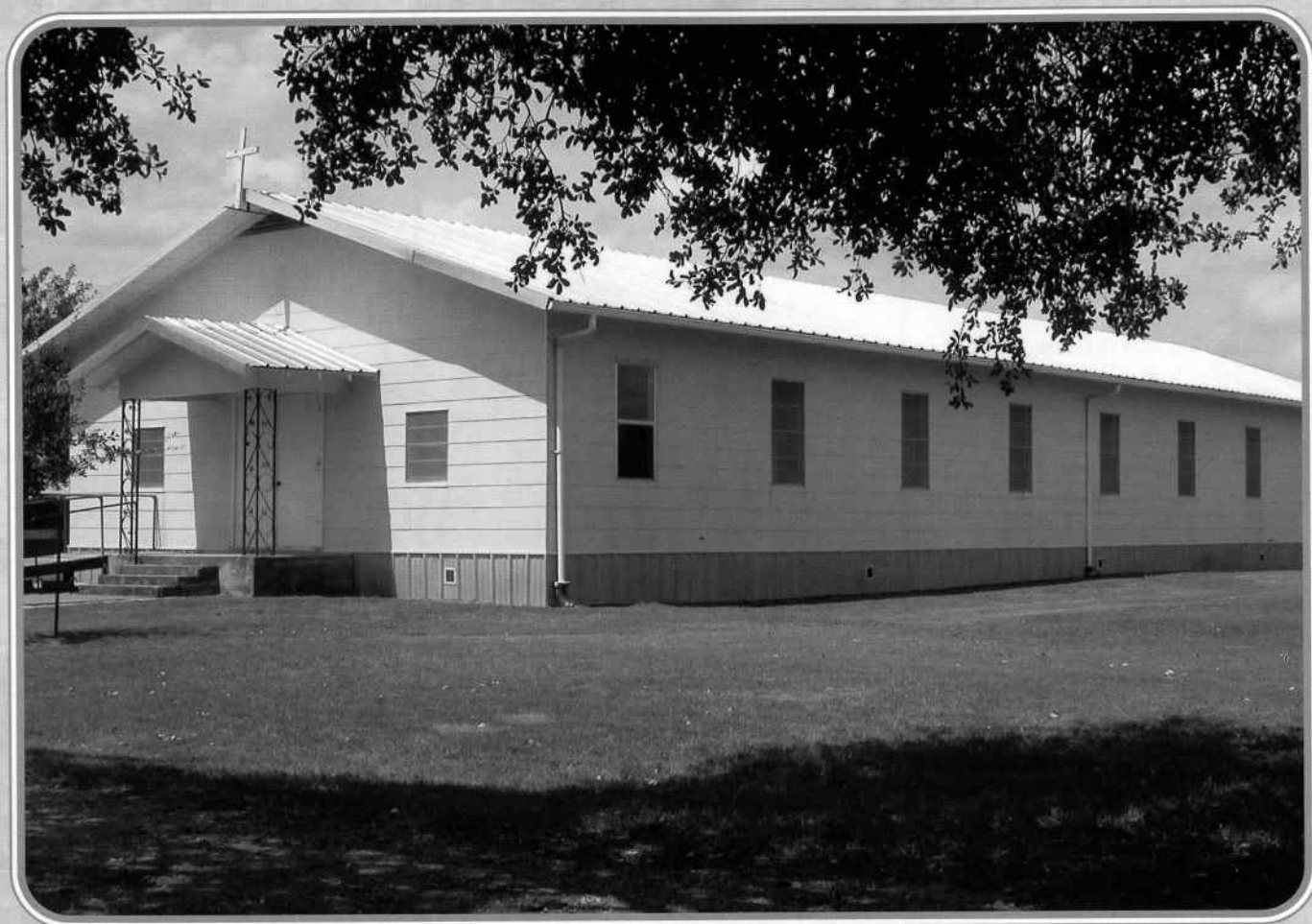
-Y-

Yanta, Louise
1880 CR 250
Hobson, TX 78117

Yanta, Martin & Dorothy;
Tracy
15324 Hwy. 80
Karnes City, TX 78118

Yanta, Timothy & Amanda;
Timothy II
1880 CR 250
Hobson, TX 78117

ST. HELENA CATHOLIC CHURCH



OUR MISSION CHURCH

The History of St. Helena Mission Church

In the small hamlet of Helena, Texas, about six miles northeast of Karnes City, stands a small wooden Catholic Church. This little Church is a living symbol of a simple people of faith and determination.

The history of the Helena faith community is as rich as the history of Helena itself, but not as violent. Thomas Ruckman founded Helena in 1852 and church services were held by various Christians of the area in the blacksmith shop, and later in the courthouse. In 1876, the Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians built the Union Church building, which stood on a small plot of land south of the present home of Cano family. It had been used as an inter-denominational church for years. Catholics traveled either to Panna Maria or Helena for Sunday Mass then.

In 1943, Rev. Edward Dworaczyk saw the need for reaching the Catholics of a small Mexican village of Almita, nestled near the San Antonio River, off the Ox Cart Road. Masses were then said in the Union Church building, which was also used for Catechism classes taught by the Felician Sisters from Panna Maria. Unpaved roads and a rickety wooden bridge spanning the Cibolo Creek made travel difficult during the rainy seasons. In time, the wisdom of allowing the Poles and others living in the same area attend Masses at the Union Building prompted Rev. Dworaczyk to have Mass in English in Helena. When Fr. Anthony Matula became Pastor, the need for a new church building to accommodate the growing congregation was becoming more obvious. In spring of 1960, Fr. Matula was directed by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey to build a new mission church for the parish in Helena. It is this church which is presently used for Sunday Masses.

Fr. Matula and his housekeeper, Miss Annie Hahn, purchased 2.9 acres of land adjacent to Texas Hwy. 81 for a sum of \$600. This is the site of the present church, a small wooded structure built for the unbelievable sum of \$7000 and erected by hardworking and living hands. Everyone in the area was involved in some way in the building of this church. Perhaps that is why those still in the area have such a deep love for their church. All the appurtenances and interior décor were donated. Many who still worship there were small children and watched their parents and grandparents doing everything possible to create a structure worthy of the God whom they loved and served. Many of these children, now adults, care so lovingly for St. Helena.

Named in honor of Empress, St. Helena, the church was dedicated on March 5, 1961 with John J. Gerbermann, representing Archbishop officiating. Officiating with him were Rev. Theo Janysek (native son), Rev. Anthony Matula (pastor), and Father Shield.

St. Helena boasts three vocations to the priesthood and religious life. They are Rev. Theo Janysek, son of the late Joseph and Carolina Janysek; Sister Mary Angelee Kowalik, CSSF, daughter of the late Anton and Martha Kowalik, and Sister Mary Martha Janysek, CSSF, daughter of the late Conrad and Rosie Janysek. Both nuns are members of the Congregations of the Sisters of St. Felix, more commonly known as the Felician Sisters.

The small congregation of St. Helena is very dedicated to its little church. This is evidenced by the meticulous care that is given to the church structure and site where it is located. These are a people of deep and simple faith, loving God and the structure that is used in worshipping God. May they continue to be blessed.

OUR CHURCH

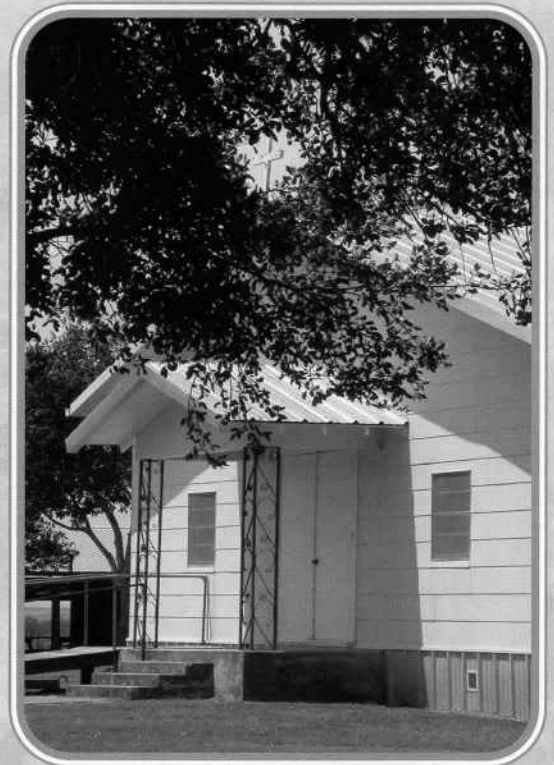


OUR PLACE OF WORSHIP

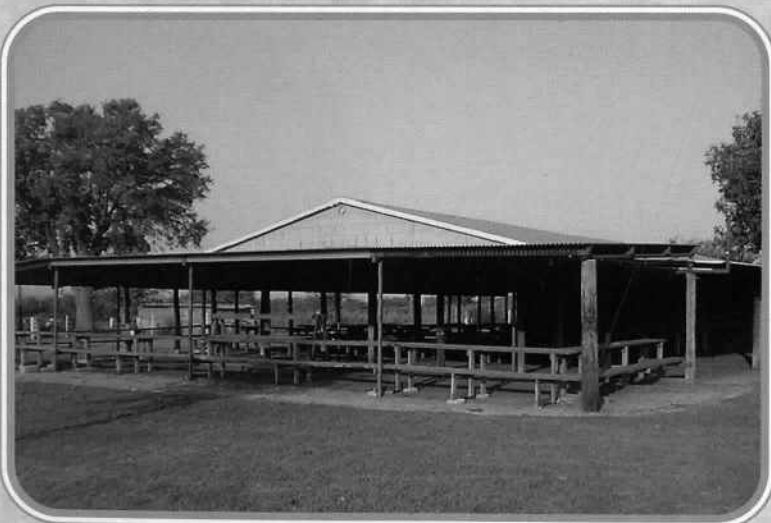


EVERYONE IS WELCOME

WELCOME



CHURCH ENTRANCE



OUR DINER

TOGETHER

TOGETHER WE SERVE



OUR ALTAR SERVERS



CARING FOR CANDLES



LECTORS



USHERS



SACRISTAN

MEN'S CLUB



OUR MEMBERS



IN MEMORY OF FR. GOEBEL



CARING FOR THE LAWN

Live oak trees in memory of:

- Fr. Edward Dworaczyk
- Fr. Julius Dworaczyk
- Msgr. Theo Janysek
- Fr. Anthony Matula
- Rev. Canon Bernard Goebel



IN MEMORY...



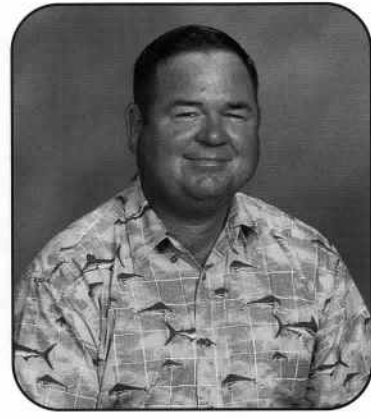
JANYSEK, Bennie & Valeria



JANYSEK, Johnny & Mary Katherine



JANYSEK, Leo



JANYSEK, Michael



JANYSEK, Patrick & Dana
Lucas, Nolan



JANYSEK, Sister Mary Martha



KOWALIK, Fabian & Florence



‡KOWALIK, Sr. Mary Angelee



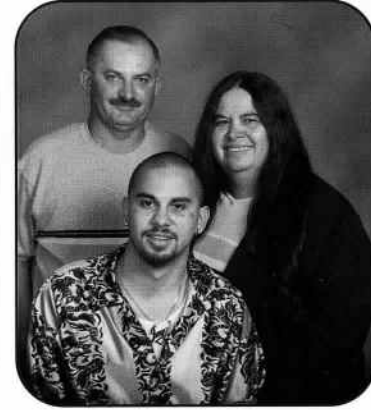
MARTINEZ, Julian & Delia



MENDOZA, Catarino & Sally



MENDOZA, Manuel & Juanita



NOONE, John & Ramona
Steven



PAWELEK, Fabian & Barbara



PAWELEK, Francis



PAWELEK, Gary & Belinda
Benjamin, Zackary



PIEPRZICA, Ethel



RAU, Steven & Christie



URRUTIA, Manuela



VAJDOS, Frankie & Clare

ST. HELENA CATHOLIC CHURCH

PO Box 9, FM 81 East

Panna Maria, Texas 78144

Phone (830) 780-2650 Fax (830) 780-4564

Email: pannamaria@karnesec.net website: www. pannamariatx.com

-F-

Franco, Lupe
N. Hwy. 81
Karnes City, TX 78118

-J-

Janysek, Bennie & Valeria
375 CR 294
Karnes City, TX 78117

Janysek, Johnny Jr. & Mary K.
1547 CR 274
Karnes City, TX 78118

Janysek, Leo
1533 FM 1354
Karnes City, TX 78118

Janysek, Michael
1547 CR 274
Karnes City, TX 78118

Janysek, Patrick & Dana;
Lucas, Nolan
1008 PR 2112
Hobson, TX 78117

Janysek, Sr. Martha
3910 Meadow Dr
San Antonio, TX 78210

-K-

Kowalik, Fabian & Florence
762 FM 1354
Karnes City, TX 781

Kowalik, Sr. Mary Angelee
6015 Windhaven Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78239-2134

-M-

Martinez, Julian & Adelia
273 CR 302
Karnes City, TX 78118

Mendoza, Catarino & Sally
180 CR 302
Karnes City, TX 78118

Mendoza, Manuel & Juanita
288 CR 302
Karnes City, TX 78118

Mendoza, Tony & Gwendolyn

-N-

Noone, John & Ramona;
Steven
136 CR 299
Karnes City, TX 78118

-P-

Pawelek, Fabian & Barbara
1006 Schallert
Alice, TX 78332

Pawelek, Francis
1006 Schallert
Alice, TX 78332

Pawelek, Gary & Belinda;
Benjamin, Zackary
3088 FM 1354
Karnes City, TX 78118

Pieprzica, David
PO Box 96
Gillett, TX 78116

Pieprzica, Ethel
C/O Mary K. Janysek
1547 CR 274
Karnes City, TX 78118

-R-

Rau, Steven & Christie
PO Box 591
Yorktown, TX 78164

-U-

Urrutia, Manuela
316 W. Buchel
Karnes City, TX 78118

-V-

Vajdos, Frankie & Clare
320 CR 300
Karnes City, TX 78118

NEW MEMBERS/UPDATES

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Name _____

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Address _____

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