



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznan Alliance quarterly newsletter
Summer 2008

Toledo International Youth Orchestra Poznan, Poland and Delmenhorst, Germany

As we reported in the spring issue of the Alliance News, the Toledo International Youth Orchestra of the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo was in Poznan, Poland and Delmenhorst, Germany March 19-30, 2008. This event was sponsored by the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo with assistance from Toledo Sister Cities International.

Thanks to the assistance of key sponsors in Poznan, including the City of Poznań, Mayor's Cabinet and the Poznań Music School No. 2, the Society of Christ Seminary, and the Franciscan Church, TIYO performed in four locations. The main concert took place on Monday, March 24 at the Franciscan Church in the City Center. Despite being a national holiday, as the Monday after Easter, the church was largely filled, including representatives of Poznań City Hall, Owens-Illinois, the Society of Christ, the Music School No. 2, as well as friends and family of the delegation. Some members of the audience traveled 2.5 hours each way to enjoy the performance.

In addition to the main concert performance, members of TIYO performed in a special event hosted by the Mayor of Poznań in charge of youth and cultural development, with performances by a student of both the Poznan Music School, No. 2 and TIYO. Under the gaze of a large Chopin bust looking down on the grand piano, Lee Ann Song performed Chopin Etudes: Fantasia, in the same room in City Hall where Chopin performed in 1829. Later that day, TIYO performed for an auditorium full of the youth of the Sisters of Mercy Orphanage,

sponsored by the Toledo-Poznań Alliance. In order to cover the cost of the visit, the TPA donated \$500 to TIYO. Since the Sisters declined our offer to buy food for the event, TIYO donated the \$500 from the Toledo-Poznań Alliance for the orphanage to purchase digital educational materials for improved computer skills for the children.

Gifts were presented to TPA as a thank you for our contribution: a poster of the students' signatures and pictures, who attended this trip. Also, Polish currency framed and a box of Polish chocolates were also presented.

Tour of Poland

Calling all interested in visiting their
motherland!

If you ever wished to see Poland and tour the region where your family roots are, next year is your opportunity. In May 2009 we will tour Poland from the shining **Baltic Sea**, to the majestic **Tatry Mountains**. It will be a 12 day tour in May 2009 that will start in **Szczecin**, touring the **Baltic Sea** coastline and historic **Gdynia** and **Gdansk**, all the way to **Zakopane** and everything in between including our sister city of **Poznan**. What you will get is out of this world Polish food, first class hotels and an English speaking guide. You will also tour one of the most important places of religious worship in the Christian world – **Jasna Gora**, and **Wadowice**, the Pope's home town. A spectacular ride in a cable car to the top of the mountain are just some of the highlights this tour includes.

Contact Kathy Grabel for an itinerary and any questions you might have, 419-385-8516.

Vatican Splendors Cleveland Museum

Ursula Cauffiel had mentioned a potential trip for Toledo Poznan members, if interested, to see the "Vatican Splendors", an exhibit of art, documents, and historically significant objects from the Vatican. This will be presented at the Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio, from May 31 through Sept. 7. One of the largest collections from the Vatican to tour North America, will tour only three U.S. cities. Highlights include Michelangelo's compass and tools used in the Sistine Chapel; works by Bernini, Giotto, Guercino, and others; the pastoral staff of Pope John Paul II, and venerated relics, or bone fragments of Saint Peter. Tickets for adults are \$20, seniors are 18, children age 6 to 12 are \$14. Groups of 15 can get tickets for \$17.00. Any interest, please call 726-0116 Pat Konwinski and we will try to arrange a date.

Transfer of Toledo's Poznan Trained Pastors

For the past 25 years already, Toledo has benefitted from the Poznan Seminary of the Polish Roman Catholic religious Order called the Society of Christ, which trains men with religious vocations for the priesthood with a special mission of serving parishes abroad.

Our very first local representative of the Society of Christ was an Ohio native of Polish ancestry from Cleveland, Father Richard Philoposki, who after his education at the seminary in Poznan and ministry at the Polish parish in nearby Wyandotte, Michigan, came to Toledo's parish of St. Adalbert as an associate pastor in 1983. Father Richard was the person who (re)-instituted two annual celebrations of our Polish heritage at our local parishes in the effort to bring together our geographically-scattering Toledo Polonia. One was the procession between the two churches in the Lagrange Street "Polish Village" neighborhood, St. Adalbert's and St. Hedwig's (Toledo's oldest Polish parish), for the solemn Feast of Corpus Christi (Boze Cialo in Polish, the Feast celebrating the Body and Blood of Christ, present as Christians believe in the

Blessed Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist or Communion), bearing the Sacred Host in the monstrance to four beautifully-decorated stations along the way, which he just participated in again this past Sunday May 25th despite jet-lag from his most recent visit to Poland. The other event is the concert of choirs from Toledo's several originally or predominantly Polish parishes to share a Wieczor Koled (literally an "Evening" of Koledy or Christmas Carols, even when it has been held in the afternoon, on the Sunday closest to the Feast of the Epiphany or, as Poles refer to it, "Three Kings"), typically including about half the repertoire in Polish and half in English, with the inevitable inclusion of some traditional Latin, as well as, an occasional Spanish carol in recognition of our increasing Hispanic members. After about three years assisting the pastor at St. Adalbert's, Father Rich left Toledo (except for occasional visits such as for the events he helped establish here) in 1986 for re-assignments to his own pastorates, including most recently at Baltimore, Maryland.

Other priests from the Society of Christ who have served as pastor or assistants at Toledo's St. Adalbert's or St. Hedwig's parishes have included Reverends Gerald Grupczynski, Slawek Murawka, Mirek Frankowski, Jozef Furman, Stanislaw Poszwa, Marian Ogorek, Ted Rusnak and Adam Bobola.

In 1996, Father Marek Ciesla came to Toledo to serve at St. Adalbert's, and his twelve-year ministry has seen the merging or twinning of St. Adalbert's and St. Hedwig's under a single pastor. Among the many accomplishments of his long pastorate was the re-dedication of St. Adalbert Elementary School under the name of Pope John Paul the Second, with the dedication of the larger-than-life statue of our historic Polish-born Pontiff in front of St. Adalbert's current church, as well as the celebration of that parish's Centennial this past year (2007). We sincerely thank Father Marek for his services, as he has been transferred back to his native Szczecin in northern Poland, but we hope that he too will occasionally have the opportunity to visit us, if only for our special Polish events, such as Wieczor Koled, Boze Cialo, or the Toledo-Poznan Alliance's Harvest dinner celebration of Dozynki!

Meanwhile, we welcome back Father Rich Philiposki, who succeeds Father Marek in the pastorate of the joint parishes of St. Hedwig's and St. Adalbert's, wishing him at least as long and successful a term in helping us promote our rich ancestral heritage as well as the Faith which was so important to our ancestors, who despite all their hardships built such magnificent churches and schools for that very purpose. (As previously reported in Alliance News, Father Philiposki is already working on a book about Toledo Polonia.)

I am First a Human Being

TPA member Peggy Grant, her son Tom and member Walter Palicki traveled to the Cleveland Polish Cultural Center on May 25th to see the monodrama about Krystyna Wituska. She was a 23-year-old girl from Poznan who was arrested by the Gestapo for her activity with the Polish resistance during WWII. This deeply moving play is based on her uncensored prison letters. She carried on correspondence while in prison with her family and a German girl she befriended. Marissa Thorndyke portrayed Krystyna in acting out her moods as she recited portions of the letters, sometimes weary, joyful, hopeful or in tears. Krystyna was sentenced to death and was beheaded. *"I am first a human being"* was sponsored by the Piast Institute and the CPCC. It would be a positive educational and cultural event if we could have this drama presented in Toledo. Are there members out there willing to work on it?

Echoes of Poland

Sunday, June 1st, the Echoes of Poland presented their 40th Anniversary Spring Concert at the Ohio Theatre. A large crowd enjoyed the many athletic dances and very colorful, authentic folk costumes of the adult ensemble. The children's ensemble was also very popular with the audience especially the youngest dancers. In addition to the many dance numbers, Polish melodies were sung and there were instrumental selections from the Polska Kapeia. TPA member Janet Gawle co-hosted the introduction of the acts. Paulina Tul-Ortyl, the directress, was also

honored throughout the program for her forty years of dedication to this group. Proclamations and thanks were given to Paulina by Marcy Kaptur, the Mayor's Office, and the Toledo City Council. Congratulations from Toledo Sister Cities International were presented to her by a member of the Toledo Poznan Alliance.

The enthusiastic crowd enjoyed every dance, song, and instrumental piece. If you were not there, you missed a show to remember. We thank the Echoes of Poland and Paulina for their outstanding contribution and promotion of Polish culture in the Toledo area.

Voting – Board of Trustees

Please vote for members of the Board of Trustees 2008-2009.

Present members are:

- Ursula Zulka Cauffiel
- David Chelminski
- Carolyn Eyre
- Ann Galloway
- Janet Gawle
- Rosalie Hinde
- Sr. Ann Francis Klimkowski
- Pat Konwinski
- John Michalak
- Walter Palicki
- Irene Szydowski

We encourage you to nominate yourself or others (in the lines provided) for this position of trust and community service. You do not have to have Polish ancestry to belong to TPA, or to serve on the Board!

Please cut out the ballot and send it back to the Toledo Poznan Alliance, P.O. Box 2555, Toledo, OH 43606.