

**Ask our Man in Warsaw fro 13**

4. Catholic orphanage operated by the Franciscan Sisters of the Family of Mary (for girls aged 3-18)  
Contact: Sister Alicja Bochonko, Director  
zteresa@friko2.onet.pl  
5. Dom Dziecka Siostr Rodziny Maryi  
ul. Paprociowa 2,  
04-751 Międzylesie k/Warszawy, Poland  
tel. (+48-22) 812 05 32

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**Q:** Do you know of a way that I can purchase some type of antique directly from Poland and have it shipped to me. I'm not particular on what the antique is. But I would like to buy something for my parents 50th wedding anniversary.  
MATTHEW STEMA, 8370 North Maple Court, Zeeland, MI; e-mail:

**A:** This can be rather problematic. There is a Polish law stating that nothing older than 45 years can be taken out of the country without special permission from the Ministry of Culture. The customer must apply, art experts evaluate the antique and if it is approved, you have to pay them a fee equivalent to one-fourth of its market value. The whole procedure can take weeks or even months, and in the end permission may be denied. It would probably make more sense to get a stylized antique -- contemporary production made to look old and venerable. A reputable Warsaw antique reputable Warsaw antique and art dealer plus auction house you may want to contact is the Rempex company at: [www.rempex.com.pl](http://www.rempex.com.pl)

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**Q:** I would like your advice as to the best way to have Cardinal Dziwisz sign three (3) copies of his recent book. I have already purchased the English version of the books which I would send to him with my cover letter. I thought I would send them with a check to cover the return postage and a shipping box for the return. Also I would send an appropriate donation in the name of John Paul II. I would need to know the following: Should I write him in English or would Polish be better? What type of check or international money should I send and what is the correct address  
JOHN T. MATREJEK, e-mail: [johnteddym@verizon.net](mailto:johnteddym@verizon.net)

**A:** I suggest writing to Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz in Polish, both as a sign of respect and for practical purposes. If they have to look for a translator your request may get shelved, sidetracked or delayed. The best way is to airmail a bank check (they used to call them cashier's checks) or international money order. The address is:  
Jego Ekscelencja,  
Stanisław kardynał Dziwisz,  
Krakowska Kuria Metropolitalna,  
ul. Franciszkańska 3,  
31-004 Kraków, POLAND;  
Tel.: (+48-12) 429 47 49;  
e-mail: [kuria@diecezja.krakow.pl](mailto:kuria@diecezja.krakow.pl);  
[www.diecezja.krakow.pl](http://www.diecezja.krakow.pl)

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**Q:** I have two Polish bonds purchased by my mother in 1920 with a nominal value of \$50. Can they be redeemed?

EDWARD NOWAK, 1 Birchwood Drive, Huntington, MA 01050

**A:** After world War II, Poland's communist regime refused to honor pre-war Polish bonds, but in the 1970s the government of "liberal communist" Edward Gierek did redeem a portion of them. At present, some say the remaining bonds are little more than family keepsakes. Two years ago, Jewish-American Holocaust-restitution lawyer Ed Fagan came to Poland hoping to force the government to redeem the remaining outstanding bonds, but failed. Up till recently Polish courts claimed that due to denomination a 100-zloty pre-war bond would now be worth only one-tenth of one grosz (half a US cent). But last year the Polish Constitutional Tribunal declared such devaluation to be unconstitutional and obliged parliament to pass new legislation regulating the matter. This has yet to occur. Some people speculate that when all the years of unpaid interest is added up, the value of those bonds may grow considerably. So hold onto those bonds and hope for the best. Meanwhile, you may want to check out these links:

[http://www.piby.com/stowarzyszenie/index\\_stow.html](http://www.piby.com/stowarzyszenie/index_stow.html) and  
[http://shop.piby.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=41](http://shop.piby.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=41)

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**Q:** I wish to thank you for writing the story about Irena Sendlerowa (who saved 2,500 Jewish youngsters during World War II). I can honestly say that I was unaware of her deeds until reading it in the Polish-American Journal. As a descendant of Polish Jews, I find it necessary to spread the word about these heroes whenever possible. Can you tell me where she was buried and whether she named a charity for donations to be made in her name.

BENNET SCHNEIDER,  
e-mail: [AsburyBen@aol.com](mailto:AsburyBen@aol.com)

**A:** Irena Sendlerowa was buried in Warsaw's Old Powązki Cemetery which includes the graves of heroes, public figures and other deserving individuals. I have not heard of Mrs. Sendlerowa making any deathbed wish regarding tributes, as this is not that widespread in Poland. Usually people pay their respects by bringing floral wreaths or bouquets to the funeral. Of course, it is a commendable gesture on your part to want to honor her memory. Perhaps a donation to the Warsaw primary school bearing her name or to some orphanage in Poland might be the way to go. I agree that the Sendler story should be more widely publicized world-wide.

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**Q:** My husband is Polish and he talks Polish with his folks and I feel left out. I want to learn Polish on my own and surprise them. Know of a good way to do so. BTW please don't use my full name and address.

BETH from Cheektowaga, NY

**A:** Please visit this site: [http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Basic\\_Polish\\_language\\_course#Lesson\\_1](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Basic_Polish_language_course#Lesson_1)

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**Q:** What is the history of Polish knitted socks and are there any traditional patterns to be found? In one book I found the following passage: "A Polish law from 1616 declared: 'Peasants are prohibited from wearing knitted stockings (that are purchased) and permitted to wear only woolen ones which they themselves can make and dye'."

JOAN BITNNER, Hamtramck, MI, e-mail: [joabittner@yahoo.com](mailto:joabittner@yahoo.com)

**A:** Prof. Anna Sieradzka of Warsaw University's Art History Institute, who specializes in the history of stockings, socks and foot wrappings, informed me said the anti-excess ordinances of old Poland prohibited the peasantry from using store-bought stockings, furs, jewelry and other apparel regarded as too luxurious to be worn by peasants. But she added that, as with most everything in Poland, the laws were rarely enforced. According to the professor, there were no unique patterns or designs for Polish stockings which did not differ from those worn elsewhere in Central Europe at the time. Socks did not become common until the 18th century during the reign of King August III.

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**Q:** Whilst cleaning out the attic of my Mom and Dad's old home in Hamtramck, I came upon an old, severely large, extremely heavy wood-framed artwork piece of Our Lady of Częstochowa, set-in glass, and complete with what appears to be jewels, and gold finish. I remember seeing it as a child always stored back in the corner of the attic. Story has it that my grandmother or great-grandmother brought it over with her from Poland. Could you possibly suggest where or to whom I could take this piece to get it appraised?

BORKOWSKI (first name not given), Midland, MI; e-mail: [MidBORKOWSKI@aol.com](mailto:MidBORKOWSKI@aol.com)

**A:** Probably this popular Polish religious icon found in the attic is of only sentimental value -- a family keepsake with little or no market value. What may look like jewels most likely are only good imitations. But the ultimate judgment lies with a competent art appraiser. One such firm in your general area is Gallery Unique Appraisers, 3026 Bay Street, Unionville, MI 48767; phone: 1-989-674-2797. Good luck!

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**Q:** I want to visit Poland but was told it's very expensive. Would you have any advice for me?

FRED MAGDALEŃSKI,  
27 S. Chelmsford Road,  
Westford, MA 01886

**A:** The US dollar has been taking a beating world-wide, and that has made visiting Poland more costly for Polish Americans. I have heard of several groups canceling their planned tours of Poland this year. All we can do is sit things out and hope the situation improves. One alternative is to try to find a way to visit Poland on a budget. You can save a lot by avoiding fancy hotels and staying at youth and tourist hostels, pilgrims' homes and, of course, with relatives. Often Polish-American parishes organize pilgrimage trips which may be cheaper than those arranged by commercial travel agencies. (For more info on visiting Poland see the following entry.)

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**Q:** Three of my lady friends are planning a trip to Poland. After taking tours in Warsaw, we would like to take a train to Kraków, renting a car to explore southern Poland. Could you offer any travel advice, especially pertaining to Warsaw and/or recommend a particularly good travel book on Poland?

IRENE M. DIVENERE,  
9 south 305 Kearney Rd,  
Downers Grove, IL 60516

**A:** In Warsaw, important sights include the Old Town, Wilanów Palace, the National Museum, Old Powązki Cemetery and Chopin's birthplace at Żelazowa Wola (about 20 miles east of the city). There is also the Warsaw nightlife: with clubs, pubs, discos, restaurants and gambling casinos -- if that's your cup of tea. Sightseeing tours can be arranged at the reception desk of any hotel. Interesting travel books include John Radziłowski's "A Traveller's History of Poland", which provides a lot of historical background and "Why Poland?" published by Poland's Książka i Wiedza. The latter focuses on major tourist attractions as well as many minor ones of possible interest in between.

A good place to check on these (and other travel literature) is: Polish Art Center, 9539 Jos. Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212; toll-free: 1-888-619-9771; [raymond@polartcenter.com](mailto:raymond@polartcenter.com); [www.polishartcenter.com](http://www.polishartcenter.com) If neither you nor your travelmates are fluent in Polish, perhaps a Polish phrasebook and/or pocket dictionary might also be in order. If planning to rent a car in Kraków, a good car-hire firm is Express Sp. z o.o., ul. Rzemieślnicza 26, 30-403 Kraków; Tel. (+48 12) 254 00 00; fax (+48 12) 254 00 79; e-mail: [express@pgd.pl](mailto:express@pgd.pl); [www.express.pl](http://www.express.pl) Prices start at \$36 a day for a Fiat Panda (5-door hatchback). Before you leave the States, be sure to get an International Driving Permit at AAA.

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**Q:** I would like to teach my preschool granddaughter some basic Polish, and she is eager about learning. Would you know of any good online Polish lessons for small children?

MARY KAMIŃSKI,  
Downers Grove, IL  
(address withheld on request)

**A:** Check out: <http://www.digitaldialects.com/Polish.htm> I'm sure your granddaughter will enjoy it.

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**Q:** I am looking for some Polish WWII recruitment posters. Do you have any or know of any places that may? I live in Kentucky and there's not much Polish heritage places around here!

DOUG YOZWIAK,  
e-mail: [socceryoz@hotmail.com](mailto:socceryoz@hotmail.com)

**A:** World War II recruitment posters occasionally turn up in antique shops and galleries in Poland, but cannot be taken out of the country without special permission. They have never been reprinted for resale to collectors and tourists, nor or they likely to be any time soon due to some copyright problems. But Chicago's Polish Museum of America ([pma@prcu.org](mailto:pma@prcu.org)) has a glossy reproduction of the "Poland, First to Fight" poster, originally printed in England. The phone number of the Polish Museum is: (773) 384-3352. □

**Polish News Bytes**

By: **Robert Strybel**,

Our Warsaw Correspondent

**John Paul II's beatification** may take several years contrary to many popular expectations. Italian youths began enthusiastically chanting "Santo subito" (a saint at once) at the Polish Ponitff's funeral in 2005, and many in Poland had hoped the ceremony might be held this October which marks the 30th anniversary of his election. But the present pope, Benedict XVI, has instructed the Vatican staff to avoid haste and scrupulously apply accepted beatification and canonization procedures, regardless of how well known or popular a candidate may appear.

**Following stalled negotiations with Poland**, the US is holding talks with Lithuania on possibly installing part of an American anti-missile defense system there. According to US negotiators, the Poles have tentatively agreed to hosting the missile-intercepting base on their soil but are demanding excessive military hardware to modernize the Polish armed forces in return. Washington still hopes to reach agreement with Poland but is keeping its options open. The anti-missile shield is meant to protect the US and Europe against a surprise attack by such "rogue states" as Iran and North Korea, but Russia opposes it as an alleged threat to its own security.

**French President Nicolas Sarkozy** announced a strategic partnership with Poland during his first visit to that country with which France shares common interests in such fields as agriculture and defense. Sarkozy, who was greeted in Poland with the highest honors, said in an address to combined houses of parliament: "It is time for France to lift the last restrictions on the freedom of movement of Polish workers and workers from the other countries that joined the EU in 2004." The pro-Polish stance of the French head of state, who is of Hungarian ancestry, contrasted with that of his predecessor, Jacques Chirac, who once told Poles to sit down and remain silent. (See next item.)

**France has opened its labor market to Poles** and citizens of other European Union newcomers without any restrictions. Up till now, Polish guest workers could be legally hired only in certain agricultural areas. Depending on the French wage scale and job availability, the move may attract both Poles in Poland and Polish migrants now working in the British Isles. Poles still face work restrictions in Germany, Austria, Denmark and Belgium.

**Polish troops in Afghanistan** will soon take over responsibility for security in centrally located Ghazni province, Polish Defense Ministry spokesman Robert Rochowicz said recently. Poland plans to contribute another 400 soldiers to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) fighting the radical Muslim Taliban, increasing its troop strength to 1,600 by October. Up until recently, Polish troops were scattered across the country and attached to other NATO contingents. In 1999, Poland became the largest ex-communist country to join NATO and first sent troops to Afghanistan in 2002. (see next item.)

**Second Lieutenant Robert Marczewski was killed** and four other Polish soldiers were injured when their Humvee was blown up by an improvised explosive device during a combat mission in Afghanistan. Four American soldiers died in an ambush there the same day. Marczewski's death brings to four the number of Poles who have lost their lives in that country since last August. Many more have suffered injuries.

**Seven Polish soldiers, charged with killing Afghan civilians** last August, could face penalties from 25 years to life in prison if convicted, the Polish Military Prosecutor's Office announced recently. The soldiers opened fire on what they believed to be a terrorist hide-out in the village of Nangar Khel but killed a number of civilians, including women and children, instead. They were serving in an international NATO-led operation against the radical Muslim Taliban who are attempting to destabilize Afghanistan.

*Polish News Bytes to page 15*