



## Orange County News

By: **Lila Ciecek (714) 544-2458**  
**mciecek@aol.com**

The Easter is over but the memories of the beautiful celebrations of this most holy Christian Feast and season will stay with everyone for a long time. The spiritual enrichment during the Lenten Retreat, and the solemn Liturgies of the Holy Week's Triduum were a special gift from God, welcomed and appreciated by the community of the John Paul II Polish Center in Yorba Linda.

While preparing for Easter, the younger generation showed their skills and talents coloring eggs (pisanki) on the Palm Sunday, and then enjoyed romping around at the Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The Center welcomed hundreds of people from all over Orange County and vicinity, who brought their beautifully decorated baskets for the traditional Easter Food Blessing on Holy Saturday.

On the early Easter morning, the ringing of the Center's bells solemnly announced:

"Christ is Risen!" – "Chrystus Zmartwychwstał!" - as the procession led by Father Henry Noga with the Blessed Sacrament proceeded around the church before the 7:00am Resurrection Mass. Masses in Polish, English, Czech and Latin followed.

The celebration of the Divine Mercy Sunday has filled Center's church with people, who participated in venerating the Relic of St. Faustina and special prayers, singing and devotions of this beautiful Feast.

A lovely and very interesting papal exhibit done by Michael Dutkowski adorned the Polish Center just before Easter commemorating the third anniversary of the death of our beloved Pope John Paul II.

Polish Center's Helena Modrzejewska Polish School was celebrating its 20th year Jubilee on April 26th, at the same time honoring memory of the famous Polish actress on the 100th year anniversary of her death. A special Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated at 10:30 am, followed by a Banquet, a Program and Lottery. Congratulations! □

### Pope John Paul II Polish Center

3999 Rose Drive,  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

#### Mass Schedule:

**Saturday 4:00 PM ENG**  
**Sunday 7:00 AM Tridentine**  
**9:00 AM ENG 10:30 AM PL**  
**Tuesday - Friday 8:30AM ENG.**  
**First Friday of the month**  
**8:30 AM Eng 7:30 PM. PL**  
**First Saturday of month**  
**8:30 a.m. ENG**

Director: Rev. Henry Noga, SVD

714-996-8161 office

www.polishcenter.org  
 office@polishcenter.org

### Information about

## Poland Forever

Page 10

### Polka Deli

*The Best Polish Deli  
in Orange County California*

#### Polish Traditional Deli Products

Sausage, meat cuts, pierogi  
 Stuffed cabbage  
 Polish bread and cakes

#### Imported from Poland

Candies, cookies and chocolate  
 Great Polish beer, wine and spirits  
 Cosmetics, Newspapers and magazines

**1710 Tustin Ave - Orange, CA**  
**Tel/Fax (714) 974-8276**

**Mon to Fri - 10 - 6, Sat 10 - 4**

### Valerian Soltes

Attorney

*Living Trusts - Probate*

*Bankruptcy*

*Personal Injury*

*Collections*

30011 Ivy Glenn Drive - Suite 203  
 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

**949/363-0106**

E-mail: vsoltes@solteslaw.com

Slovak, Czech, Polish, English

### Notorious SS unit "traced"

*Polish authorities claim to have identified three survivors of an infamous SS unit that had a reputation for brutality that shocked even German wartime commanders.*

Reported in a April 17 article by Matthew Day in the *Telegraph.co.uk* website: Prosecutors attached to Poland's Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), the body charged with investigating crimes committed during the war, have announced that they intend to bring the men to justice for their apparent involvement in the suppression of the Warsaw Uprising while serving with the SS Dirlewanger Brigade.

The unit, named after its leader Oscar Dirlewanger, comprised of criminals, the criminally insane and volunteers from Nazi-occupied Europe, and developed a reputation for rape, torture and murder, vicious even by the Nazi's bloody standards.

The three, who live in Germany, were found after the Austrian Red Cross gave a Polish museum a card index containing the names and address of those who served in the unit.

Investigators claim to have tracked them down, but the ex-soldiers refused to speak on the phone about the war.

Boguslaw Czerwiński, a prosecutor with the IPN, said that they had now asked for German assistance in bringing the three men to justice and were awaiting a reply.

"It's too early to say where the case will be prosecuted because none of the ex-soldiers questioned by the German authorities have yet to face charges," Mr Czerwiński added.

But Poland would be eager to bring to justice anybody linked to one of the saddest and bloodiest chapters of the nation's history.

At the start of the uprising in August 1944 the Dirlewanger Brigade joined German units engaged in bitter fighting against Polish forces seeking to regain control of their country's capital.

In the first few days of the month, and in an effort to break the will of the resistance, it played a key role in the indiscriminate slaughter of thousands of Polish civilians. British historian Norman Davies estimates that on just August 5 alone some 35,000 men, women and children were killed in cold blood.

Given a free rein by SS commander-in-chief Heinrich Himmler, Dirlewanger's men also participated in gang rape, torture and the practice of bayoneting babies as a way of striking terror into Poles.

Such was the level of violence that one SS man from another unit described the brigade as "more a group of pigs than soldiers" while General Heinz Guderian wrote in his memoirs that on hearing the "hair-raising news" from Warsaw he asked Hitler to post the Dirlewanger Brigade to the Eastern Front.

Himmler also ordered German police units to stand by in case the brigade, which was at times out of control, turned on regular forces.

Earlier in the war an SS judge and investigator had taken the remarkable step

### Life in a Jar (comment)

**Prof. Don Pienkos**

U. of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

*For a made-for-TV film it was very good.*

It obviously had flaws, most notably in not showing how brutally the Germans actually treated Sendler - they broke her arms and legs - and in not showing what Nazi-occupied Warsaw really looked like - the Germans bombed Warsaw in 1939 and they pictured it as if nothing much had happened. (I understand the film's makers used today's Riga instead of Warsaw.) The Poles were portrayed as living all too normal an existence.

The makers of the movie also failed to mention that after the War, Sendler and her family were very badly treated by the Polish communist regime - on charges that she had been with the Armia Krajowa.

But the good points were so many and they included:

- Sendler's extraordinary courage - not really explained in the movie but evident throughout,

- The extraordinarily complex and tragic situation facing everyone - namely:

(a) the plight of the Jews in the Ghetto who could not believe the Nazis were going to kill them all,

(b) the very real fears of the Polish gentiles who understood what would happen to them if they protected and helped Jews,

(c) the dilemma of the Jewish mothers in parting with their children,

(d) the near impossibility of saving kids who could not speak Polish and who for many reasons could easily be identified by the Germans with everybody getting killed as a result.

(e) the heroism of the Żegota people and those who worked with them - no John Wayne bravado but real people doing extraordinary things.

Sendler's appearance in the end was simply and incredibly uplifting. How in the world did Al Gore "merit" the prize for "peace" with Sendler in the same category? After seeing this movie, he ought to be ashamed and return the prize.

Thank God for those Kansas school kids! I have checked all my books on the tragedy of the Jewish people in Poland - Polish and non-Polish sources - and none mentions Sendler.

Schindler saved 1,200 people - Sendler and her friends saved 2,500 kids! I hope she is praying for us! There is a saint!

Finally, let's remember - the film was made by non-Poles as a commercial venture. Let us be grateful for about as good a presentation as we can expect on this subject! Only Polański's "Pianist" is in the same league. □

of attempting to prosecute Dirlewanger for war crimes owing to atrocities committed by his brigade while fighting Soviet partisans. □

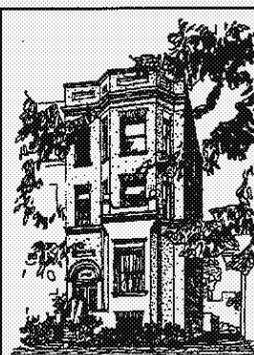
## MARTIN KRAWIEC

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ETHICAL - EXPERIENCED

Accidents  
 Business  
 Civil Litigation  
 Estate Planning  
 Personal Injury  
 Probate  
 Real Estate  
 Trusts  
 Wills

**(714) 871-7331**



## Whats Your Legacy

Many people talk about leaving their will to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relative, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relative, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used in contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collection or insurance to continue the Polish - American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you're gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help and legacy.**

**The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc.**

**2025 "O" Street, NW • Washington, DC 20036**

**Tel: 202-785-2320 • Fax: 202-785-2159 • www.polishcenterdc.org**