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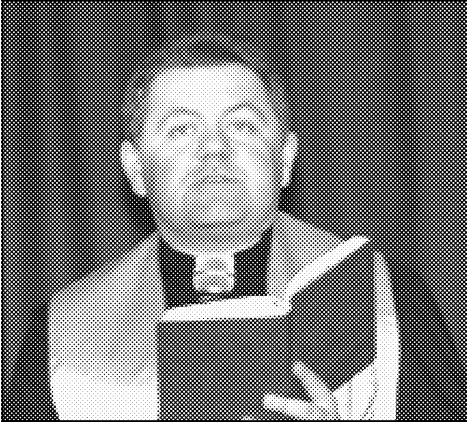
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Our Lady of the Bright Mount Polish Parish in Los Angeles Says Goodbye to Fr. Marek Ciesielski

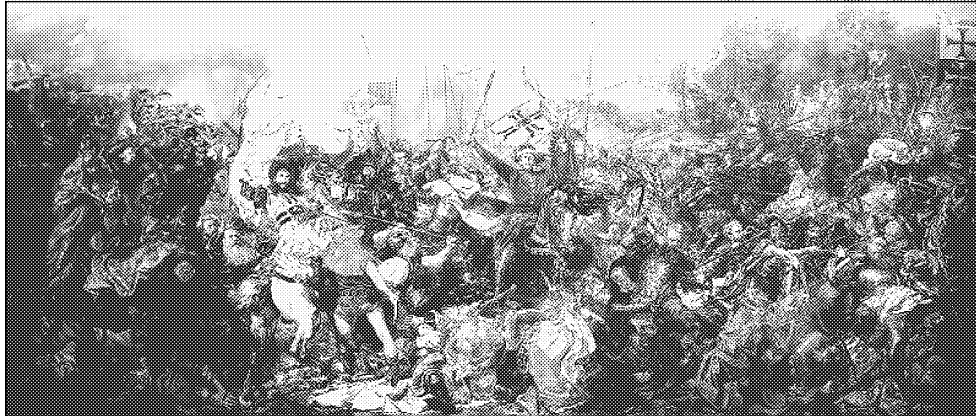
By: Theresa Dudzick



The parishioners of Our Lady of the Bright Mount Polish Parish in Los Angeles said goodbye on Sunday, July 18, 2010 to their pastor of the last three years, Father Marek Ciesielski, who is moving on to a new assignment in Germany.

A goodbye banquet held after the noon Mass was attended by over 150 parishioners who thanked Father Marek for his service to the parish and wished him the very best as he moves on to his new assignment. After a delicious meal generously donated by and catered by J & T European Deli in Santa Monica, representatives from various Polish-American organizations in Southern California, including the Polish American Congress, Polish Radio, Polish Scouting Organization, Krakusy Polish Folk Dance Ensemble, and various church-affiliated groups, thanked Father Marek for his years of work and cooperation with each of the organizations. A short musical program prepared by several parishioners added some entertainment to the pleasant afternoon. □

Battle of Grunwald - 600th Anniversary



Fans relive 1410 Battle of Grunwald

GRUNWALD, Poland (AFP) – An article by Jonathan Fowler on the YahooNews website reported... Thousands of fans of the Middle Ages on Saturday, July 17 donned their tabards and lowered their visors to relive the heady days of 1410, when a Polish-Lithuanian army smashed the Teutonic Knights.

On the real site of the Battle of Grunwald, some 2,200 re-enactors clashed head on as they marked the 600th anniversary of what is seen as a tide-turning moment in the region's history.

Battling in stifling heat, the knights, archers, cavalry and halberd-wielding footmen were watched by what police said was a crowd of up to 200,000.

Grunwald, in northern Poland, is a magnet for fans of all things medieval, who flock here every July to don itchy flax clothes, codpieces and chainmail, quaff mead, and enjoy a good ruck.

The battle is serious stuff.

Although the knights' swords are blunted, they barely pull their blows in a full-throttle skirmish.

"I got this in training yesterday," a knight named Janek told AFP, pointing to a plaster cast on his left arm which was just visible under his armour.

"But it didn't stop me getting stuck right in again today," he added, grinning as he lurched to his feet with a clunk of metal.

Serious injuries are relatively rare, with dehydration and heat-stroke a greater worry, participants said.

The battlefield rang out to the sound of bombards -- early cannons -- whose blast and acrid black-powder smoke failed to faze the horses of a charging unit of lancers.

Nearby, Monika Iwańska, 17, carried a wooden bucket of water to a group of slumped knights.

The only concession to modernity was a clutch of drinking straws -- sipping water through a visor is not exactly simple.

"It's my first time here," Iwańska said. "I got into this because my boyfriend's a knight."

"The atmosphere's really great. But it's about more than that, because I really like the Middle Ages and you learn of lot about the past by living it for real," she added.

Tomasz Konopka, commander of a "banner", or medieval military unit, kept staunchly in character, haranguing his troops.

"Form up! You call that a line?" he

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Battle of Grunwald Commemorated at the Jagiello Monument in NYC

By: John Czop

Approximately 400, most of them Polish or Americans of Polish heritage, participated in the 90 minutes' commemoration of the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald at the King Władysław II Jagiełło Monument in New York City's Central Park. Several thousand passersby from all over the world saw portions of the event as they strolled through Central Park. The event began at 5 pm. on Saturday, 17 July, and was the first in a series of multi-media commemorations of key moments in Polish history which have relevance for our civilization.

The commemoration was organized by an ad hoc and non-governmental committee, Project Grunwald: Victory for Humanity. Those who serve on the committee do so as individuals and not as representatives of organizations of which they are members.

The event's purpose was educational: to show how the military victory over the Teutonic Knights by the Alliance Army of Poland-Lithuania on 15 July 1410, at a field near the village of Grunwald (Tannenberg in German; Zalgiris in Lithuanian), led to a moral and juridical victory for human rights by Poland's Pawel Włodkowić (better known by the Latinized version of his name Paulus Vladimiri, then the top canon lawyer in Christendom and Rector of the University of Krakow) at the Roman Catholic Church's Council of Constanz (1414-1417).

The moving spirit of the committee is Mr. Mark Wysocki whose action on behalf of Poland and the Poles is informed by his profound devotion to the values of freedom, democracy, and Christianity.

After he learned to his dismay, at the end of last May, that NO commemoration of the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Grunwald was planned either by Polish Government authorities, or by Polish American organizations at the magnificent Jagiello Monument, Wysocki took the initiative and went to Poland in late June where he consulted with officials and experts on how to prepare a contemporary style multi-media commemoration.

Though the 17 July event was prepared at the last minute by the ad hoc committee, because the organizations one would expect to hold a commemoration of

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Komorowski is Poland's new president

By: Robert Strybel, Our Warsaw Correspondent

WARSAW—Bronisław Komorowski, the candidate of the ruling pro-business Civic Platform (Platforma Obywatelska = PO) party narrowly won Poland's presidential runoff, defeating the head of the conservative Law and Justice (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość = PiS) Jarosław Kaczyński. But the second round of the presidential election, held two weeks after no candidate managed to win 50 percent of the vote in the first round, turned out to be a true cliff-hanger to the very end and beyond.

But late into the night, the outcome suddenly appeared to once again hang in the balance as fresh incoming results at one stage showed Kaczyński leading by a fraction of a percentage point. Hours after Komorowski had delivered his victory speech and Kaczyński had conceded defeat, both candidates' campaign headquarters became centers of renewed expectation. Ultimately, the final count showed that Komorowski, 58, had indeed won the snap election, called after the death in an April air crash of President Lech Kaczyński, Jarosław's identical twin, 61.

"I must begin with what good manners require: I congratulate Bronisław Komorowski," Kaczyński said at this Warsaw headquarters packed with PiS activists and supporters. "To score a victory one should recall the maxim of (prewar leader) Józef Piłsudski: to win and rest on one's laurels is a defeat; to be defeated and not succumb is a victory."

Kaczyński added that Poland had changed and that huge accumulated power must be tapped if his party is to win forthcoming local elections and next year's parliamentary challenge. Despite his defeat, the surprisingly close outcome marked a serious comeback for a politician that earlier this year had been largely written off as a political has-been. The trauma of the Smolensk air disaster unleashed a wave of sympathy for the president and the once viciously anti-Kaczyński media began showing him in a more favorable light, even publishing long shelved photos of a warm, kind and intelligent head of state

In the wake of the national mourning, presidential contender Jarosław toned down his prickly personality and radical anti-corruption rhetoric, winning over many undecided middle-of-the-road voters. His rival Komorowski unwittingly helped Kaczyński with a series of Bush-style gaffes, including a statement that Poland planned to leave NATO, when he meant it should pull its troops out of Afghanistan.

Ultimately the outcome may not be what it might appear. Komorowski's win means that his Civic Platform party now controls Poland's entire political scene: the presidency, premiership, Sejm (lower house of parliament), Senate and numerous key state posts, as well as enjoying the support of influential media. Up until recently the government had complained that it couldn't carry out necessary financial reforms because they would be vetoed by President Lech Kaczyński. Now the government and the parliament it controls are free to force

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