

**Rev. Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki**  
**2018 “Pride of Polonia Award” Recipient**

On Sunday, August 26, 2018, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Czestochowa was celebrated with a 12:30 Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski, Archbishop, Archdiocese of Miami, was the main celebrant and the homilist was Rev. Prof. Dr. Hab. Antoni Debinski, Rector, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). At the conclusion of the Mass, the 2018 Polish Apostolate Pride of Polonia Award was presented to Reverend Monsignor Anthony Czarnecki by Archbishop Wenski and Reverend Canon Mirosław K. Krol, Chancellor of Orchard Lake Schools and the Polish Apostolate National Chairman.



The Pride of Polonia Award was established in 1992 by the Executive Board of the Polish Apostolate to recognize individuals who make unique contributions to the Polish community and are involved in philanthropic activities. The first recipient was John Cardinal Krol.

The recipient of this distinguished award, Rev. Msgr Anthony Czarnecki, was born in Czarna Poland, ordained a priest in 1966, joined the Worcester Diocese in 1971, served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Worcester and St. Andrew Bobola in Dudley, holds a Master’s Degree in Liberal Arts from Assumption College in Worcester, MA and a JCL degree in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

He worked at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, DC, in the office of Migration and Refugee Services and was responsible for developing and coordinating pastoral care of the migrant communities in the United States. He was given the responsibility to coordinate the pastoral ministry of all the Shrines in the U.S. and published several editions of a directory of all the shrines and places of pilgrimages in the U.S.

Msgr. Czarnecki served as a member of the Pilgrimage Committee for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, director of the National Office of the Polish Apostolate, International Committee of the Vatican JPPII Foundation, helped organize several chapters of the foundation in the U.S. and served on the executive committee in establishing the JPPII Cultural Center in Washington, DC. He was named a Monsignor by Pope John Paul II in 1994.

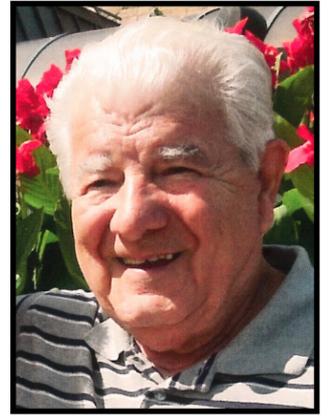
In 1993, he was appointed Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in Webster, MA, where he currently serves. Through his efforts the church was renovated and elevated to the dignity of a Basilica in 1998. With the help of his parishioners and friends, he built a new gymnasium and parish center.

The Friends of John Paul II Foundation, St. Joseph Parishioners in Webster, MA, the Polish Apostolate Committee, along with the entire Polonia, congratulate Msgr. Czarnecki on receiving the 2018 “Pride of Polonia Award” and wish him good health and many blessings.

Congratulations and Sto Lat to Rev. Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki!

**The Life of Andrzej Klimek**  
**A Historic Reflection in Our Own Time**

Andrew (Andrzej) Klimek was born near Bochnia, Poland on September 29, 1931. Just before World War II broke out, Andrzej’s father moved the family to Eastern Poland known as The Kresy.



On the night of February 10, 1940 at 3 AM came the knock on the door of NKVD troops and the Klimek family was given 15 minutes to gather whatever belongings they could and were put on sleds and taken to the local train station. In cattle cars, heading North, Andrzej became part of the mass deportations of the Polish People to Siberia. Andrzej’s gulag was located near Archangel, Siberia. One sister passed at the camp from hunger. Due to Germany attacking Russia and the genius work of the Polish Generals, Anders and Sikorski, an amnesty was declared by the Russians for the Polish detainees and they started to make their way down through the Ural Mountain to Persia, current day Iran.

Andrzej’s mother and father also passed. His remaining sisters went along with the Polish Army to fight in Monte Cassino in Italy. Andrzej being orphaned and too young to help in battle, was shipped to a camp near Tengeru, Tanzania in South Africa. It was here that he also learned metal work which became his life long career and passion. This incredible odyssey that Andrzej experienced was documented by Fr. Lucjan Krolikowski, a priest who took care of the Polish orphans. Fr Krolikowski wrote a book entitled “Stolen Childhood – A Saga of Polish War Children” which is still in print today. Andrzej Klimek’s name can be found in this book.

With the war coming to close and Poland being taken by the communists, Andrzej would not return to his homeland and instead traveled to England. There he met the love of his life, Genia, who also went through Siberia and South Africa. After getting married in 1952, they immigrated to the United States, on the ship US America (sister ship of the US United States currently docked in South Philadelphia) and came through the Port of Passaic. In 1962, the communist Polish Government officially stripped Andrzej of his Polish Citizenship. He did get to see his native Poland again, however, it was as a tourist and almost 60 years after being deported from there. He met with Lech Walesa on that trip and their picture, posed arm-in-arm, still hangs in his dining room today. He was thrilled to see his homeland become free again.

Andrzej was a proud American but he managed to instill his love of Polish heritage in his children Mary and Richard. He was active in St. Adalbert’s Polish Language School for many years where his children and grandchildren attended. Mary and Richard went on to become involved in the Polish Intercollegiate Club (PKM), the Polish American Congress and the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, and Andrzej helped them in those ventures.

He worked with metal, primarily in welding, in both Modern Steel Company and Drexel University and worked full time till he was 77 years old. He gained a reputation for being able to fix just about anything broken and could make his own tools and just about anything you could imagine out of metal. He passed along his strong work ethic to his children and always stressed to take pride in your work, put out a quality product and do things right the first time. During this time, he was always involved with his children and grandchildren either being Mr. Mom when Genia was at work or being Number One Babysitter for grandkids Michael, Basia and Joe Brach and Andrzej, Monika and Thomas Klimek.

He was known as the cool grandpa and to family, friends, neighbors and even strangers, he always had a smile, had something good to say about you and had a way of making you feel special. He loved to laugh and always had a passion for life, maybe because of his experience of surviving the gulag and surviving the odyssey around the world. At the end of his life he fought his disease with his typical resilience and incredible but silent strength and good humor. He joked with the doctors and nurses and they fell in love with him. A simple man, salt-of-the-earth man, kind, gentle, and fun-loving. He loved to tell jokes and funny stories. A great husband, provider, Dad, Grandad, craftsman, Polish Patriot, friend and person.

Andrzej’s funeral was held on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at St. Adalbert Church in Philadelphia, PA. Interment took place in the cemetery at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. Andrzej strongly supported the Polish American Cultural Center Museum in Historic Philadelphia because of its mission to promote Polish History, Culture, and Pride. His family welcomes donations in his memory to be sent to the Polish American Cultural Center Museum, 308 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

**Polish Museum of America**  
**America’s First Ethnic Museum**

984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

773-384-3352, ext. 104 • PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org

Founded in 1935, the Polish Museum of America is one of the country’s first and largest ethnic museums. Polish and Polish American history is promoted through music, artworks, and historical and cultural displays.

**Dennis Polisky and Maestro’s Men**  
**Remembering the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of**  
**the Restoration of Poland’s Independence**

- Sunday November 4, 2018
- 2—6PM
- Associated Polish Home 9150 Academy Road Philadelphia PA 19114
- Ticket Donation \$15 per person
- Cash Bar and Polish Kitchen
- For information, table reservations and tickets: Call John Wisniewski 215-906-1825 or email [jrw153@comcast.net](mailto:jrw153@comcast.net)

**THANK YOU** - Donation to the  
**Polish American Cultural Center**  
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 from  
**Polish National Alliance**  
**Council 171 - Lehigh Valley, PA**