

Looking through the Window...

by Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski



February is the shortest month of the year. It's cold and bleak. During this month, we celebrate the births of two presidents, however honoring Washington and Lincoln is not enough to take the chill off February. But most importantly, February provides a good excuse for staying home, keeping cozy by the fireplace with a glass of good wine or just hot tea, a good book or an old fashioned movie. It seems that February just needs Valentine Day. A day dedicated to love, chocolates, flowers and gifts. When considering a Valentine's Day gift to give your love, here is a piece of advice – know the recipient's likes and dislikes before making your purchase. You should not get carried away by pushy ads or go overboard or try to outdo each other. Valentine Day isn't just for the lovers; it is also for persons we cherish for their friendship. Remember to say "I Love you", "I care for you" or "I am here for you" not only on Valentine Day, but everyday. Happy Valentine Day to you all!

Speaking of gifts and loved ones, how about giving your loved ones an insurance certificate as a gift? The PRCUA offers a full range of life insurance products, including permanent and term insurance and single premium insurance. These programs are designed to fit your budget and needs. We guarantee that the benefits will be there for your beneficiaries in the event of your death. PRCUA also offers excellent annuity plans, IRA's and ROTH IRA with excellent interest rates (up to 6%). Contributions to the Traditional IRA's may be tax deductible. Please note that ROTH IRA contributions are not deductible, qualified contributions are received free from federal income tax. At the same time, the PRCUA provides its members with a wide range of valuable fraternal benefits. Please call our home office or the Philadelphia, Cleveland or Wisconsin offices today to set up a review to see what is best for you. Also mention our insurance products and fraternal benefits to your relatives and friends. Encourage them to join our organization. Only together we can make this organization grow in membership!

This year February 6, Ash Wednesday will mark the beginning of the Lenten Season. It is a time to prepare for Easter by reflecting on the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection. In Lent, we journey with Jesus to the cross. We reflect on the example He gives us of selfless and total love. During Lent we make a special point of denying ourselves, serving others and developing a closer union with God. Lenten discipline is meant to help us appreciate what love and service really mean. May our Lenten journey draw us closer to Christ's love and strengthen us within. May this sacred forty days truly show us the way and lead us to resurrection.

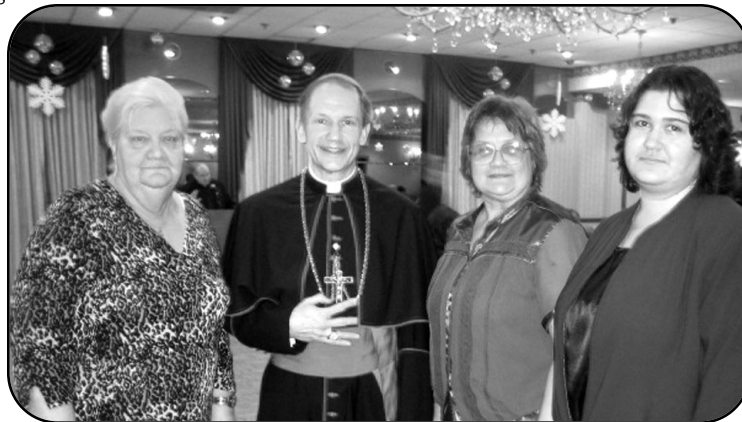


Children from Holy Innocents Parish singing Christmas carols

Let me share with you what was happening in PRCUA since the last column. On January 6th the Third Annual *Seven Great Moments of Polish Christmas Program* at Bishop Abramowicz Seminary was held in the beautiful House of White Eagle Banquets. The guests of honor were young seminarians from Poland who moved to Chicago to learn English and become familiar with American culture. They are now attending Bishop Abramowicz

Seminary and will do further theological studies at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein Seminary (Archdiocese of Chicago). Currently four Polish seminarians are going through the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary Program.

The Bishop Abramowicz seminarians presented bi-lingual program of music and verse that celebrated the Polish customs of St. Nicholas, Polish Advent, Wigilia and Pasterka, St. Stephen's Day, Three Kings and Our Lady of Light. It was a joy to see the children of Holy Innocents Parish, dressed in their finest, as they shared the spirit of Christmas by singing Christmas Carols. The entire program touched us with a warm holiday atmosphere that recharged our spirits and rekindled the joy of the holidays. Most Rev. Thomas Paprocki, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, informed everyone that he just got back from Poland, where he visited



PRCUA employees with the bishop (l-r) Dorothy Bialek, Bishop Thomas Paprocki, Mary Jane Robles and Julie Prado (Photo: A. Sokolowski)

several seminaries trying to recruit more seminarians to come to Chicago, complete their studies here and become priests in Chicagoland area. We pray that they will respond favorably to his appeal. Special thank you goes to PRCUA employees - Mary Jane Robles, Julie Prado, Dorothy Bialek and Kasia Budzyn - who served on the Auction Committee.

On the evening of January 10th, the Polish Museum of America (PMA) Annual Summer Ball committee meeting was held in the PRCUA Social Hall. There is long-standing tradition of the Ball being held on the third Friday in June. This event, with its accompanying Silent Auction - is the Museum's largest fund raising function of the year. The Museum always is in need of your financial assistance to carry its mission of preserving, maintaining, and restoring its many treasures and hosting new exhibitions and workshops. Teresa Buckner, PMA Board Member and Summer Ball Chairlady, presented several proposals on a site. The Summer Ball will be held at Wyndham Hotel, 810 N. Mannheim Road in Rosemont, IL with the Silent Auction and cocktails 7:00 pm and dinner 8:00 pm. The committee is working very hard to make this upcoming Ball bigger and better than ever! So, please save the date – **Friday, June 20, 2008** - for this lavish event. More information will appear in future issues of Narod Polski. We hope to see you at the PMA Summer Ball. If you cannot make it, please make a donation to the PMA, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622. Anyone who wishes to donate an item for the Silent Auction can call Jenny Crissey at 773-782-2605.

On Sunday, January 13th, Polonia celebrated the 100th Anniversary of founding of the Polish Daily News - *Dziennik Zwiastkowy*. It's the largest and the oldest Polish language daily newspaper continually published in the US. For the last 100 years, the *Dziennik Zwiastkowy* has covered the local, national and international news and events. The newspaper was and still is a source of editorial opinions, letters from the readers,



Dziennik Zwiastkowy Editor-in-Chief Wojciech Bialysiewicz



PRCUA members (l-r) Anna Krynski, Cecylia Roznowska, 1st Lady Joann Ozog, Joan Smuda, VP Anna Sokolowski and Secy-Tres Joyce Szarowicz

activities of Polonia organizations and cultural events, opinions on political issues, but most importantly, it provides us with news and events from Poland. This newspaper still - even with easy access to the internet - provides news that is avidly read by new immigrants as well as by Poles who have lived in the U.S. for years. It brings us closer to our roots and encourages us to be involved in Polonia and U.S. Civic affairs by embracing our adopted country. The centennial banquet was held in House of the White Eagle in Niles, IL. Over 500 people attended including many Polish organizations, clergy, culture clubs, the media, sponsors and state and local political leaders. Also in attendance were the PRCUA Executive Officers, President Wallace Ozog, Secretary-Treasurer Josephine Szarowicz and Resident VP Anna Sokolowski and our spouses. We congratulate the *Dziennik Zwiastkowy* on its 100th Anniversary. Congratulations to the employees for bringing the newspaper into the 21st century. It is quite impressive in regards to the tremendous amount of work and detail that goes into it, which clearly (Cont. on page 7)



Left - Res. V. P. Anna Sokolowski, with retiring Diane Saczynski of the Membership Department and Secy.-Tres. Joyce Szarowicz



Diane Saczynski at her retirement party

(Continued from page 5) reflects employee commitment, hard work and dedication. "Knowing the quality of your work and your commitment to the newspaper I am sure that you will continue to perform a great service to the Polish community and be an excellent representative for Polonia for at least another 100 years."

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes are expressed to our co-worker Diane Saczynski of the PRCUA Membership Department on her retirement. Thank you for your many wonderful contributions over the sixteen years that you have worked for our organization. Your hard work, the excellent service that you have provided to our members and your accomplishments are acknowledged by all your coworkers. I, for one, have enjoyed very much working with you. Together with your coworkers and the PRCUA family, we all join in to wish you happiness and much enjoyment during your retirement years. Enjoy your free time to kick back and relax! We are happy to report that Diane Saczynski has been retained as a Membership Department consultant on a part-time basis. She will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday wishes to PRCUA employees – Boguslawa Chrzanowska, Treasurer's Office; Frances Surowiec, Gen. Office; Jozef Gancarczyk, home office maintenance; Philadelphia Office Manager Sharon Quinn, Jan Lorys – PMA Director, Krystyna Grell – PMA librarian, Monica Nowak –PMA project curator, Basia Frankowicz – Maria Konopnicka Polish Language School Director and Financial Secretary of Soc. #1622; and to Soc. #1605 members - Lottie Myslinski, Hania Kwasniewski and her daughter, Kasia and Dianna Foran, who will be 7 years old on the 12th of February; Halka Dancers Director – Rita Cerankowski; Past National Director (District 10) –Edward Mylenek; PRCUA Vice Chaplain – Rev. Anthony Iwuc; PRCUA Insurance Supervisor and Deputy Edward Muszalski and our son-in-law, Chris Marron. Belated Happy Birthday to Diane Cortesi who celebrated her birthday on January 27th. Best wishes to all on your Birthday and throughout the year ahead and Sto Lat.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Happy Wedding Anniversary to my niece and godchild, Dorothy (Sokolowski) and Scott Weihofen, who will be celebrating their Anniversary on Valentine Day. "May your love grow into a lifetime of tomorrows. Wishing you both a happy anniversary, and best wishes for many more wonderful years together."

GET WELL WISHES

Get well wishes are extended to Frank Ocwieja (husband of the late Regina Ocwieja PRCUA Past Resident V.P.) who is recuperating from a broken hip. We have no doubt that he is surrounded by good friends and family. I hope you're on your way to feeling better day by day. Take care. Our prayers and good wishes go out to you for a quick recovery. If any of our readers want to send Get Well wishes to Frank Ocwieja, please send to: Frank Ocwieja, c/o PRCUA Fraternal Department, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. 60622. I will forward your letters and cards to him.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, February 23, 2008 PRCUA Michigan State Ball will be held. For information, please contact Maria Jalkiewicz -586-979-5164. Hope to see many of you there!

PRCUA Maria Konopnicka Adult Culture Group invites you to the 33rd Annual Fashion Spring Show with a Hollywood Theme on February 24, 2008. (For more information see page 2.)

74th Annual PRCUA National Basketball Tournament hosted by Holy Name of Jesus #750 and St. Hyacinth #868 will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 in Cheektowaga, NY (Buffalo, NY area). (For more information, turn to page 11.)

71st Annual PRCUA National Bowling Tournament hosted by PRCUA District #3 will be held on April 25 - 27, 2008 in Laurel Lanes, Maple Shade, NJ. (Philadelphia, PA. area) For more information on the above tournaments please call our office – 773-782-2600 ext.2601 or go to the PRCUA web site – www.prcua.org

I look forward to receiving your comments, suggestions and ideas. Take care until next time. Email fraternal.department@prcu.org or call 1-800-772-8632 or send letters to 984 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622-4101.