

## Looking through the Window...

by Resident Vice President Anna Sokolowski



Dear Readers,

On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from Britain and democracy was born. In honor of our founders and, in spirit of our freedom, it is a good time to think about where we are as a nation. This country is still the land of the free, home of the brave and the country that we love. Let's enjoy the 4th of July, a day filled with parades and speeches, picnics, family and fireworks. Do not forget to display our American flag. Many thanks to all who provide the opportunity to celebrate yet another anniversary of freedom. May God bless the men and women who fought for our country and may God Bless America! Wishing all of you a safe and happy 4th of July and Happy Birthday, America!

The sunny weather has finally arrived. It is time for cookouts, picnics and get-togethers with your family and friends. If you are looking for good and easy food recipes for July, or as great gift idea, remember the PRCUA cookbook! To receive yours, just send a check for \$15.00 (post paid) to PRCUA Cookbook and send to: PRCUA, 984 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60642.

Let me share with you what was happening in the last few weeks. The month of May is always a busy time of year for our Polish Language Schools with graduations and end of the school year ceremonies.

On May 2nd the graduating class of John Paul II Polish Language School from Lemont, IL, held its banquet for this year's graduating class. It was the last formal occasion for the senior students before they leave for summer vacation and, for most, embark upon the next stage of their education: college. It was a time to celebrate the success of this very talented group of young adults and reflect upon their achievements. The speeches perfectly reflected the mood of the evening. The formal program started with the performance of a beautiful Polonaise, under the direction of Misia and Richard Jaminski. Entertainment included dancing to the late hours of the evening. It was a fantastic evening which I hope will remain in the memories of the 2010 graduating class for a long time to come. Special thank you, to all students, for their kind words and flowers.

On May 16, St. Rafael Kalinowski Polish Language School in Munster, IN, held its annual celebration at the end of the school year and graduation ceremony. After Mass, in the nearby park an annual school picnic was held which was a great success due to beautiful weather and numerous activities. It was a joyful ending to the school year and everyone had a great time!

On Friday, May 21, Maria Konopnicka Polish language School in Oak Lawn, IL, held its end of the school year ceremony and on Saturday at Five Holy Martyrs all the graduating students from grammar and high school participated at the special Mass in their honor.

On May 23, a very special graduation Mass was held at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Chicago. The church is an example of 'Polish Cathedral style' of churches and it is one of the monumental Polish churches. It is an annual tradition that all graduating seniors from the Polish language schools celebrate their graduation at one of Chicago area's Polish churches. Almost 700 graduating students, along with their parents, teachers, and guests, attended this graduation ceremony at a special Mass which was concelebrated by local Polish priests. After Mass, some of the graduates were recognized for their academic success and were presented scholarships, as many of them have distinguished themselves in academics achievements.

We are so proud of our youth who want to preserve Polish language, culture and traditions. We wish you all the best and hope to hear from you down the road. Be involved in our organization and in the community. Remember the happy times you had in Polish language school and the people you met who will always be part of your life. We, the PRCUA, will be here for you as well. It was wonderful to meet so many students during my visits to their schools and various functions and reflect on their accomplishments with joy. It is somewhat difficult parting as we bid our senior class good-bye and wish them well on their most exciting journey into adulthood. *Dear Graduates, remember, you have the opportunity to be our future leaders and as a leader, people will be looking to you for guidance, even if you are not aware of it. Always strive to use your abilities to empower those you lead. Stay connected and we look forward to learning of your future endeavors and successes. We congratulate all of our graduating students on a job well done.*

In April, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki to the position of Bishop Ordinary and the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, IL. Bishop Paprocki has served as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago for the last 7 years and as Cardinal Francis



Bishop Paprocki with dignitaries of Chicago's Polonia at the Bishop's Farewell Reception

George's liaison to Polonia. He has been a great friend to Polonia and our organization. On May 17, at St. Constance Church in Chicago, Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki celebrated his farewell Mass before leaving for Springfield. The church was packed with parishioners, representatives from Polonia's organizations and special guests. After Mass, a reception sponsored by the Polish fraternal organizations - PNA, PWA and PRCUA - was held in honor of and in thanksgiving for Bishop Paprocki's ministry work. The PRCUA congratulates Bishop Thomas Paprocki on his auspicious appointment by the Holy Father.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - Happy Belated Birthday to very special person and great friend to many - Walter L. Sojka, who celebrated his birthday in June in style with family and friends with a beautiful and really fantastic party. Thank you so much for an unforgettable evening! We wish you good health, which is so necessary for a cheerful perception of life, happiness and all the best!

Happy Birthday to all readers celebrating their birthday in July, especially PRCUA employees: Julie Prado, general office supervisor; Mark Sorbi, general office; and Emily Kurda, Controller; to Fred Tuytens, a very friendly Polish Museum guide. Also Happy Birthday and Sto Lat to Rogalin-Gym Director, Mary Ann Davis. Very special 10th Birthday wishes to the beautiful Gillian Rustik

**August Birthdays** - PRCUA employees: Maria Grzadziel, general office; fraternal agent William Seranko; PMA employee Julita Siegel; PRCUA National Director Edward Kaplaniak. To my husband, Mark, and his twin brother, Bohdan, - best wishes always! Wishing all of you a very special birthday that is filled with happiness and health! Wishing you all a special, happy day!

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** - Another link of love will be celebrated in July by Joan and Donald Versen; Basia and Patrick Foran; John and Ligia Borkowski, Anna (Muszalski) and Chris Toltzman. Happy Anniversary to all who are celebrating in August: Joann and President Wallace Ozog, President Emeritus Edward and Loretta Dykla, Dona and National Director Robert Bugielski, National Director Krystyna and Tadeusz Lech, Misia and Richard Jaminski, Jolanta and Jacek Tatara, Danielle (Lech) and Robert Kroplewski. Also my sister, Eva, and Steve Maze, daughter Basia and Sean Ackerman, and daughter Alicia and Chris Marron.

*Happy Anniversary to my husband, a kind and devoted man who puts spice into my life and extra zing into everything. I treasure the special love that came into my life so many years ago. I love you so much, Mark. You are everything to me and bring me so much happiness. God has truly blessed me and I thank Him for you.*

**CONGRATULATIONS** - On behalf of our organization, we send congratulations and best wishes to Mary Anselmo, on her election as President of the Polish American Congress Illinois Division and we look forward to working with her in the future. We wish her a successful presidency.

**GET WELL WISHES** - We are sending best wishes for a speedy recovery to District #8 National Director Krystyna Lech and James Rustik, both are recovering after knee surgeries.

Dear Readers, as you know by now, the PRCUA Convention is upon us. This will be a great time for gathering new ideas, renewing old friendships, gaining strength from like-minded delegates, a busy time deliberating and to have some fun, too. I truly look forward to representing our organization and the Fraternal Department at our Convention.

Please accept my deepest appreciation for your generous support over the last eight years. It has been a wonderful experience serving you as Resident Vice President and I hope I served you well. I have felt welcomed since day one and, while some days have had their challenges, I could always count on you to turn challenges into opportunities for growth. I wish you all a safe trip to the Convention, happy deliberations and a successful PRCUA Convention. I am running for re-election as Resident Vice President. Thank you for your support. May God Bless you and our organization.

Until next time, take care and keep in touch. Send comments, ideas, news to [anna.sokolowski@prcu.org](mailto:anna.sokolowski@prcu.org) or call 1-800-772-8632 ext. 2643. Hope to hear from you soon!

Photos from events mentioned here can be found on the PRCUA website by going to "News and Events" then "Looking through the Window" and "July".