

Polish American Congress – Wisconsin Division
Congressman Clement Zablocki Civic Achievement Award
2016 Award Recipients

Dr. Stanley Jaskolski is Professor Emeritus (Engineering) at Marquette University and the former Dean of the Marquette University School of Engineering.

During his long and very distinguished academic career Dr. Jaskolski made many great contributions to the field of Engineering as a scholar, researcher and mentor of students. He published more than thirty research papers and is the co-holder of nearly thirty patents. Moreover, as Dean, he was a champion promoter of the programs in his school and a most successful fund raiser.

Dr. Jaskolski also enjoyed a very fruitful career as a top officer of the Cleveland-based Eaton Corporation and served as vice president responsible for technical development and new product innovation and research. Honored on many occasions in his profession, Dr. Jaskolski was appointed to the Board of the National Science Foundation by the President of the United States.

Stanley Jaskolski and his family have been generous supporters of the Polish Heritage Alliance and the Polish Center of Wisconsin through the years.

Mr. Leonard Jdrzejczak served in the Polish Army as a Major in World War II and took part in the capture of the German held mountain fortress of Monte Cassino in 1944. This achievement, under the command of General Wladyslaw Anders, was of extraordinary value in the Allied forces' campaign to capture Italy. It was a selfless victory won at the cost of the lives of more than a thousand young heroic Polish soldiers. In addition, Jdrzejczak fought in the battles of Tobruk and Bologna.

Following demobilization, Mr. Jdrzejczak finished his technical studies in London. After immigrating to the United States, he worked in Milwaukee as an engineer and metallurgist. Mr. Jdrzejczak was one of the founders of the Polonia Sport Club and was actively involved in a number of Polonia organizations over the years, including the Polish Scouts, the weekly Polish radio program, and the Wisconsin Polish American Congress.

Major Jdrzejczak has received many military and civilian honors including service to Poland and Polonia by the President of Poland. He has been recognized by a number of American organizations for his patriotism.

Rev. Timothy Kitzke is Pastor of Three Holy Women Parish on Milwaukee's East Side. This parish includes three neighboring churches, the historic and beautiful St. Hedwig's Church, an edifice he has taken a lead role in preserving for future generations, Holy Rosary Church and St Rita of Cascia. In addition, Fr. Kitzke is a co-pastor of a cluster of churches in Milwaukee's East Side and Riverwest communities. These include two churches which, along with St. Hedwig, were established by Polish immigrants - St. Casimir and St. Mary of Czestochowa. Father Tim serves as Vicar for Urban Ministries for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He is an active member and supporter of a number of community and religious organizations and is a member of the Board of the Catholic Home of Milwaukee.

Father Kitzke is a native of South Milwaukee and was ordained in 1989.

Ken Skowronski of Franklin, Wisconsin is the President of the Polish Heritage Alliance of Wisconsin and has been an active supporter of its work for many years. The Polish Heritage Alliance is the sponsor of the annual Polish Fest and the Polish Center of Wisconsin.

A native of West Allis, Mr. Skowronski served with the 128th Air Refueling Wing of the Wisconsin Air National Guard. Mr. Skowronski has worked in the construction and remodeling industry for fifty-three years as a general contractor. He served as president of the Milwaukee area chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

Mr. Skowronski is very active in the community serving on many civic boards. He is a member and leader in a large number of community service and fraternal societies. Mr. Skowronski served for more than a decade as an Alderman for the City of Franklin. In 2013 he was elected to serve as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly. He is a life member of the Polish Heritage Alliance that directs activities at the Polish Center of Wisconsin located in Franklin. He is an active volunteer at Polish Fest. Mr. Skowronski served as president of the Franklin Lions Club, Deputy Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and is a member of the Franklin Seniors Association. He has taught Hunter Safety courses for nineteen years.

A strong supporter of the mission of the Polish Heritage Alliance, Mr. Skowronski was elected to serve as its president in 2015.

St. Josaphat Basilica Foundation is a non-profit body composed of dedicated Milwaukee area business, professional and community leaders. It has worked hard and successfully since its formation in 1991 to achieve two goals - that of raising the needed funds to preserve the magnificent Basilica of St. Josaphat for the benefit of its members and for future generations of parishioners and its visitors from around the country, and to raise public awareness about the history and meaning of this extraordinary and priceless edifice.

The Basilica, which dates back to 1901, is one of this country's most beautiful and impressive shrines to faith and the Polish cultural heritage. It ranks as one of the most popular places to see for people who come to Milwaukee.

And thanks to the continuing close cooperation between the Foundation and the Franciscan Clergy who lead the parish, the Basilica of St. Josaphat will remain for decades to come as a key cornerstone that anchors the entire community for which it has been and will continue to be an important and integral part.

St. John Paul II Catholic Polish Saturday School program, established at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish in Milwaukee, offers its students an excellent program of classes in the Polish language, Polish culture and traditions, the geography of Poland, and religious education - all in the spirit of providing the youngsters with a deeper appreciation of their heritage.

St. Maximilian Kolbe parish was established for the benefit of Polish newcomers to Milwaukee by Archbishop Timothy Dolan and is located together with the historic and continuing parish of Saints Cyril and Methodius on Milwaukee's south side.

The Polish school continues a long standing tradition in Milwaukee of offering a Saturday school program in Polish language and cultural studies for children and young people. Most notable in this area in the past was the Saturday school program directed for many years by the Casimir Pulaski Council of Milwaukee County.

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis is an order of religious women which was founded in 1901 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and this year celebrates its 115th anniversary of community service.

Originally known as the Polish Sisters of St. Joseph, the congregation's name was changed to the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1945. It was formed as a teaching order for the school age children of Polish immigrants in Wisconsin and elsewhere. The order and its members today are engaged in the fields of health care, housing for the aged and the infirm, and in doing respite care work. Its members work in fourteen U.S. states and three countries. Over many years, they have operated hospitals and care facilities in Colorado, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska and Wisconsin. Their mission was enhanced by serving in Puerto Rico in 1962, Peru in 1971, Brazil in 1971 and South Africa in 1981. The community continues to grow and administer to those in need.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis are celebrating a special Jubilee this year: 115 years of caring and sharing. It is fitting and proper for the Polish American Congress - Wisconsin Division to celebrate with the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis by presenting them with the 2016 Congressman Clement J. Zablocki Civic Achievement Award.