



Rev. Msgr. Francis "Frank" Kurzaj

Rev. Msgr. Francis Kurzaj, or rather, the preferred "Fr. Frank", was named Pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Bandera, Texas and its Mission, St. Victor in Lakehills. Fr. Frank was born April 19, 1951 to George and Elizabeth Kurzaj and grew up with two brothers, Gerard and Joachim, in the region of Silesia in Poland. In 1970 he entered the Major Priest Seminary and on May 16, 1976 was ordained as priest for the Diocese of Opole, Poland. For the next eight years he served in three different parishes in the town of Bytom and then became a Vocation Director for his Diocese, and a faculty member of the Major Priest Seminary in Nysa-Opole. While in Poland, he received his Master's degree in Theology (M.Th) and Licentiate in Ecumenical Theology (STL) from the Catholic University of Lublin.

Invited by Archbishop Patricio Flores, DD, he came to Texas on November 22, 1986. In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, he served in Castroville, Panna Maria, Helena, Falls City, Runge, Kenedy, Holy Name-San Antonio, St. Paul-San Antonio, Sacred Heart-Floresville and was recently the Administrator Pro-Tem of Our Lady of Atonement Roman Catholic Parish until the community became part of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. When in America, he continued his studies at San Antonio College, St. Mary's University and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary where in 1995 he earned the degree of Doctor of Ministry. Fr. Frank is member of the Presbyteral Council and the College of Consultors.

Even though he loves Texas, his love for his native Silesia remains strong. Annually he takes people from Texas to Silesia, Poland, where many of them find their roots. To build a cultural bridge between Texas and Silesia, in 2001, he established the Father Leopold Moczygomba Foundation. ([www.flmfoundation.org](http://www.flmfoundation.org))

His work and leadership is appreciated and recognized, both, in the United States and Poland. In 1998, at the recommendation of Archbishop Patricio Flores, DD, he was granted the title "Monsignor" by Pope John Paul II, and in 2004, he was recognized by the President of Poland who presented him with the *Krzyz Oficerski Orderu Zaslugi Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* (The Officer Cross of the Order of Merit to the Republic of Poland).