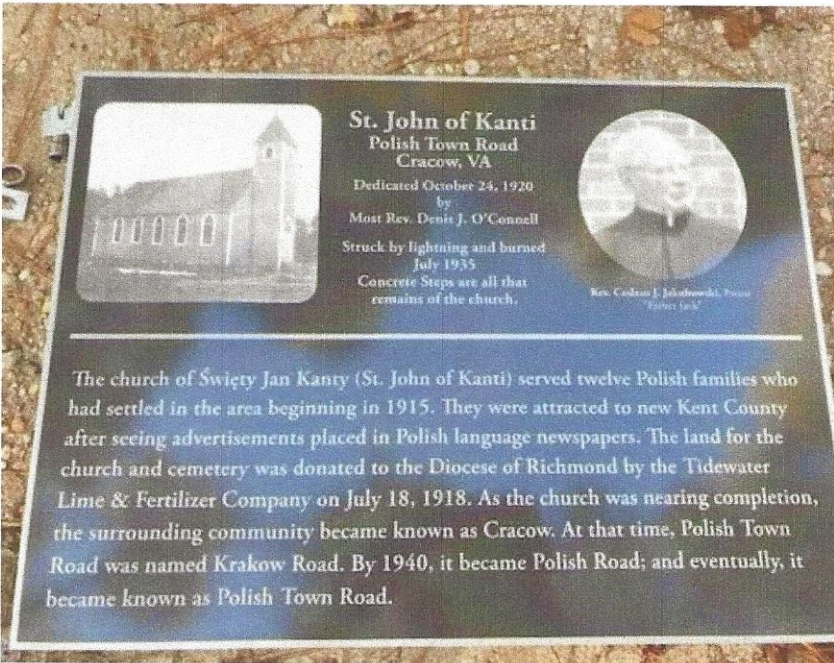


REDEDICATION CEREMONY
St. John of Kanti Cemetery
October 24, 2020



100th Anniversary of
Dedication of
St. John of Kanti Catholic Church
October 24, 1920



The blue and gold stones in the cross that Kody constructed are shards of the stained glass window which was above the front door of the church.



The concrete steps are the only remaining part of the small wooden church after it was struck by lightning and burned in July 1935.

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Welcome/Introduction	Kody Kopacki Eagle Scout Troop 360
Introduction of Gary Silvia Chairman/OLBS Cemetery Comm.	Kody Kopacki
Introduction of Special Guest Speaker Thomas Hollowak, Author <i>From Cracow to Polish Town</i>	Kody Kopacki
Comments from Audience	
Introduction of Father Oscar Paraiso OLBS Pastor	Kody Kopacki
Rededication/Blessing of Grounds	Father Oscar
Closing Comments	Kody Kopacki
Closing Prayer	Father Oscar

There are individual cupcakes (made by Holly McGowan) and bottled water which can be eaten here or taken home. There are also copies of today's program on the table. The program contains information on the cemetery renovation.

St. John of Kanti Cemetery is a small cemetery in rural New Kent County just outside of Barhamsville off Route 634 (Polish Town Road). The cemetery has fewer than 25 graves. For many years this cemetery was not known much beyond the families whose loved ones were buried there.

For many years, the father/son team of Roger and Roger "Butch" Staskiel worked as caretakers. They kept the grass mowed and weeds down. When Roger died in 1990, Butch took over as sole caretaker. He began working toward making the cemetery a more tranquil resting place. He started to remove small trees, level the ground, seeded and reseeded in an attempt to grow more grass. He put out flags for patriotic holidays and flowers for Easter and Christmas. He continued his efforts until his health declined. At that time, Butch contacted the Chairman of the Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Cemetery Committee and told him he could no longer care for the St. John cemetery. The OLBS Cemetery Committee took over maintenance.

In January 2020, Eagle Scout Kody Kopacki contacted the church to discuss a project that could benefit the parish and serve as his Eagle Scout project. The Cemetery Committee had been discussing the beautification of St. John cemetery to complete the vision that Butch had had and suggested that perhaps Kody would consider this for his Eagle Scout project.

Kody drew up plans and presented them to the full Cemetery Committee and the Scout Council and received approval from both. In the following months, Kody received many monetary donations and help from friends, family, and the Knights of Columbus. Working within COVID-19 restrictions, the group worked diligently to make the cemetery and surrounding area a serene resting place for loved ones. The results speak for themselves.

St. John of Kanti (Święty Jan Kanty) is a popular saint in Poland. John Cancius was born in Kanty, Poland, of well-to-do parents. Early on, his parents recognized that he was an extremely bright boy. He studied at the University of Cracow where he was ordained a priest and appointed to a professorship. He spent most of his life teaching theology and Sacred Scripture. He was devoted to poverty and charity and was generous to the poor. His feast day is December 23. St. Pope John Paul II had a deep devotion to St. John of Kanti.