

Pastor's Egg Collection Reflects Art of Poland

By LISA MUEHLBAUER

Each year during Lent parishioners in St. Augustine's Church, Depew, visit the church rectory to admire an Easter egg

display arranged by the Rev. Edwin J. Fagowski, pastor.

Some are of the ceramic, china, porcelain and wood varieties. Others are made of

paper, velvet, clay, shell and stone.

Father Fagowski started collecting the colorful holiday eggs about 20 years ago when he received several as presents at Eastertime.

Today the collection numbers 150 eggs. Many depict intricate designs and motifs that are a feature of the traditional Polish art of decorating Easter eggs, or "Pisanki."

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THE COLLECTION evokes childhood memories for Father Fagowski who recalls his grandmother making egg dye by boiling onion skins.

Friends and relatives have added to the collection, which consists of decorative eggs from Poland, Russia, the Ukraine, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Czechoslovakia, India and Japan.

"On my own trips to Europe, and especially in Poland, my special search always has been for decorated eggs. Some I found in the marketplace at Sukienice in Krakow," he said.

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"A GREATER and finer group was found in Zakopane, a winter ski resort city in the Carpathian Mts. in the southern part of Poland," he added.

Included in Father Fagowski's Easter egg display are a sugar Easter lamb from Poland and a rabbit carved from wood.

"In our family we also make butter lambs at Easter time," Father Fagowski continued.

"These are not the molded variety but are made by hand to achieve a woolly appearance. My aunts, the Misses Frances A. and Lotti Wroblewska, are experts at carving butter lambs," he said.



DECORATIVE EASTER eggs are admired by Michele Wlodarski, 6, who inspects the display with her grand uncle, the Rev. Edwin J. Fagowski, pastor of St. Augustine's Church, Depew. Michele is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis A. Wlodarski.