

Rev. Wyszynski to make history for his diocese

By Monetta L. Horr
Staff Writer

A century-old European religious title will be given on Sunday to the Rev. Darius W. Wyszynski of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church.

Wyszynski will be made an "honorary canon" of a Catholic diocese in Poland. He will be the first canon in the 50-year history of the Catholic Diocese of Lansing, which includes Jackson.

The investiture ceremony for Wyszynski will begin at 3:30 p.m. Sunday and be followed by a reception in the St. Stanislaus School social center, 608 S. Elm.

Approximately 300 religious persons and lay people from all over Michigan are expected to attend, including Wyszynski's sister and several aunts.

Bishop Kenneth J. Povish of the Lansing Diocese will give a brief sermon and present Wyszynski with violet-colored robes, a gold chain with a cross, and a ring.

Wyszynski was appointed canon on Oct. 11 by Bishop Juliusz Paetz of the Diocese of Lomza, Poland, with Povish's approval. In December, Wyszynski received a document from the Vatican, which was stamped with Pope John Paul II's official seal.

"I am very honored by it. I have received a lot of congratulatory letters and phone calls. It means a lot



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The Rev. Darius W. Wyszynski of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church.

to me and I know it means a lot to Bishop Povish and the diocese," said Wyszynski.

Wyszynski's grandparents were born in the Diocese of Lomza and the late primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, his cousin, was also

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from that diocese.

Wyszynski contributed money to be used for an addition being built on a seminary there. There are 192 students studying for the priesthood, the largest in the history of the seminary.

Wyszynski, 55, is one of only a handful of men in the United States who have received the title of canon, according to the Rev. Donald Eder of the diocese Office of Communications.

"This is a real honor to Father Wyszynski and a real tribute to his desire to continue traditional Polish faith and dedication to the church," said Eder.

The religious title of canon has been done in Europe as far back as the 12th Century but was dropped in the United States at the end of the last century by the American bishops. Instead, the term

in this country is a "consultant" to the diocese.

A canon actually belongs to a "chapter of canons," which is a college of clerics whose "primary function is to give God solemn worship in a cathedral or collegiate church." An honorary canon — such as Wyszynski — may be appointed by a bishop only after approval from his "chapter of canons."

Wyszynski was born in Wyandotte, near Detroit, and was the eldest of four children. He was ordained a priest on June 7, 1958, after graduating from Christ the King Seminary in West Chicago.

Wyszynski was an associate at six Michigan parishes, including St. John Catholic Church in Jackson. He taught church history at the former St. John High School from 1964-67 and was a chaplain at Foote Hospital those same years.

In 1971 Wyszynski was named pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Ypsilanti and in 1979, he was appointed pastor of St. Stanislaus. Wyszynski is also a vicar of the Lansing Diocese, which means he oversees parishes in the Jackson and Hillsdale regions.