



Adelaide Krajenke (right) accepts the "Organization of the Year" award presented to American Polish Assistance Association (APAA) by "Piasť Institute" Friday, April 28 at the "Krakus" restaurant in Hamtramck. The awards were handed out by "Piasť" Executive Director Virginia Skrzyniarz (center) and "Piasť" President Thaddeus Radzilowski. Mrs. Krajenke is the mother of the APAA founder, the late Michael Królewski.

# Piast Institute Awards Dinner

On the Evening of April 28, 2006, The Piast Institute held its First Annual Awards Dinner at the Krakus Restaurant. In keeping with the Institute's policy to work with, support and promote Polonia organizations and individual activists, it sponsored the event to honor those in Polonia who have made a positive difference in the Polish Community and helped to improve its image and the welfare of its people through work, sacrifice and creativity. The Institute also presented a scholarship award to the winner of its essay contest which was open to all eleventh graders of Polish ancestry. Finally the event served as an opportunity to recognize the contributions of its board members, volunteers and associates.

Aided by Piast Board Chairman, the Honorable Roman Gribbs, The Institute President, Dr Thaddeus Radzilowski and its Executive Director, Ms Virginia Skrzyzniarz presented the awards. The Special Awards included: Polonia Organization of the Year- American Polish Assistance Assn (APAA); Polonia Media of the Year- Polish Weekly/Tygodnik Polski; Polonia Business Person of the Year- Wally Banka of Banka Collision and President of Polish Century Club of Detroit; Polonia Religious Leader of the Year- Fr. Frank Skalski, Pastor St Hyacinth Parish; Polonia

Woman of the Year- Stella Szczesny, President PNA Council #1022. The APAA award was accepted by Ms Adele Krajenka, Mother of Mr. Michael Krolewski, the organization's Founder. She was joined by Mr. Michael Ostrowski, APAA President. Mr. Michael Szymanski, Publisher and Mr. Sebastian Szczepanski, Editor accepted the Media Award.

Dr Radzilowski and Ms Alexis Krot, Piast Staff Attorney, who served as judges for the essay contest unanimously awarded the Scholarship check for \$250 and an engraved memento to Kasia Ann Schemanske for her entry on "What it means to be a Polish American". The event was opened with an invocation by Piast vice Chair and Chancellor Emeritus of the Orchard Lake Schools, Msgr Stanley Milewski.

In his concluding remarks Dr. Radzilowski noted that the Piast Institute was motivated in its work by the words of Polish Nobel Prize Laureate, Czeslaw Milosz who wrote: "What is said is strengthened and what is not said tends to be lost". He thanked all those whose help had made the mission of the Piast Institute an on-going success and the honorees for their special contribution in keeping alive the Polish story deed so that it continue to enrich and enlighten the lives of generations yet unborn. ♦