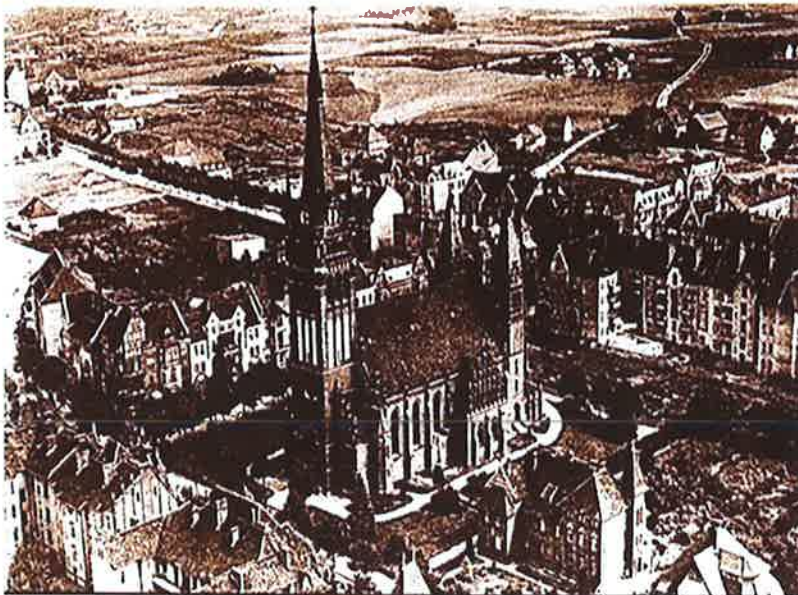


Jesus' Holiest Heart church

I was born in Poland in a small town called Turek. My parents and grandparents were also born there. Before the outbreak of World War 1, Turek held 9,000 people. At that time the town completely changed from a wooden town into a town full of small factories with multinational society. Small groups of weaver started to form from Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and from Austria. In Turek there was a small wooden church which was too small for the community. They started to build a new stone church.



Even though the people of the town were poor they helped build the church. The woman brought eggs to help as well to strengthen the building! Eggs, water and sand were mixed and used as cement to build up the church. During the building of the church, one of the walls fell down. The people that were building the church had to start building the wall again. My great great granddad helped to build the church back up again. They finished building it in 1913. They called the church “kosciól pod wezaniem Najswietszego Serca Pana Jezusa” it is an outstanding example of Gothic revival architecture. With the tall tower, it stands at 82.50m height and the two smaller towers it stands at 42m. The length of the church is 60m width 18m height without the two towers.



Polychrome and stained glass chancel and chapels were constructed according to the design by Joseph Mehoffer. Joseph Mehoffer was a well known artist student of Jana Matejki, one of the leading painters between 1869-1946. The work of Mehffera remains the most precious treasure of the town.

While Ireland was experiencing Civil War, this is what they were doing in my hometown in Poland. Unfortunately, Poland was no stranger to war either.

By Tomek Lechtanski

Told by my granny Grazyna Lectansk and my aunt Krystyna

Blachowska.

February 2017