

**Bl. Hanna Chrzanowska
(Poland) 1902-1973**

Helped nurse victims of the Polish-Bolshevik war-1917

Graduated in 2nd class from Warsaw School of Nursing-1924

Studied community health nursing in France, Belgium & USA

*Liaison officer, Krakow Branch, Polish Welfare Committee &
German authorities. Coordinated social and nursing help for
the poor, displaced and homeless in the Krakow region (WWII)*

Head, Department of Community Nursing, Krakow School of Nursing

*During Soviet Occupation - fired from her post as
Assistant Director of the School of Nursing because of her strong Christian values
and appointed Director of the School of Psychiatric Nursing in Kobierzyn-1957*

Authorities closed down the Psychiatric School of Nursing

Started Parish Nursing in Krakow Diocese with support of Fr. Machay

*Lent 1960, invited Bishop Karol Wojtyła (Pope St. John Paul II) to accompany
her to visit 35 chronically ill patients in their homes.⁶*

Funeral Mass officiated by Cardinal Archbishop Karol Wojtyła-1973



Hanna Chrzanowska was born on October 7, 1902, in Warsaw, Poland, to Ignacy Chrzanowski and Wanda Szlenkier. She was baptized on July 23, 1903, at the Church of St. Adalbert in Wiązowna. She had one brother, Bogdan. Her father was a renowned professor of Polish literature who came from a family of landowners. Her mother was from a wealthy Lutheran family of Warsaw Industrialists. They, along with her aunt, were known for their extensive charity and philanthropic work.¹ Her maternal Aunt Zofia Szlenkier founded and endowed a pediatric hospital in Warsaw. In 1910, the family moved to Krakow, and Hanna attended high school in a school run by the Ursuline sisters, graduating with distinction. Having left school she enrolled in a Red Cross course in order to help nurse victims of the Polish-

Bolshevik war (1917).

In 1920, she enrolled at the Jagiellonian University studying Humanities in the Department of Philosophy and Philology because as yet, a school of nursing did not exist in Poland. In 1922, her Aunt Zofia was instrumental in establishing a professional school of nursing in Warsaw, Poland after she



Bogdan & Hanna Chrzanowska

returned from nursing training in London at St. Thomas School of Nursing where she may have met the aged Florence Nightingale.



*School of Nursing, 1928
(Hanna front left)*

Hanna entered the second nursing class at the Warsaw School of Nursing in 1922 and graduated in 1924. In 1925 and 1926, she studied community health nursing in France and Belgium. She taught community health and nursing care of the newborn from 1926-1929. In May 1929, she resigned due to ill health and was treated in Zakopane, Poland and Davos, Switzerland. At this time she wrote the novel, *The Key to Heaven*, which was published in 1934. From 1929-1939, she was the Editor of *Polish Nurse*, the first professional nursing journal. She served as Vice-chair of the Polish Association of Professional Nurses (PNA) and in 1935, actively participated in preparing the 1st Nurse Practice Act.

Blessed Hanna assisted in the formation of the Catholic Union of Polish Nurses in 1937 who entered International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social Assistants (CICIAMS), which was founded in Lourdes, France in 1933 and called, The International Study Committee of Catholic Nursing Associations until 1950. She published her second novel, *A Cross in the Sands*, in 1938, at which time World War II had begun. Between World War II and the communist occupation of Poland, 1945-1989, activities with CICIAMS were not possible. Blessed Hanna and the formation committee's efforts would come to fruition again in 2022 with the attendance of Mme. Krystyna Starosta, RN, Mme. Izabella Ćwiertnia, MA, RN and Katarzyna Białokoz, BS, RN at the CICIAMS XXI World Congress at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. hosted by the National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. at which time "the General Council of CICIAMS, at its meeting held on 1 August 2022 at Peddler's Village in New Hope, Pennsylvania, unanimously recognized The Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives as contiguous members of the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants writing, "We regret that there were many years that we were unable to exchange communications due to World War II followed by the Soviet Occupation of Poland. We are very, very pleased to resume communication and welcome your active participation."

During World War II, in 1939, Hanna single-handedly rescued a friend from advancing German soldiers by transporting her over 50 km on a horse-drawn cart to relatives. Tragedy struck the family in 1939, when her cousin Andrew Chrzanowski died, Aunt Zofia Szlenkier died and her dear schoolmate Zofia Wajda died, all during military attacks in the first days of the war. In addition, in 1939, her father, a retired professor from Jagiellonian University was deported, with his colleagues, to the Sachsenhausen



Hanna Chrzanowska (center) during WWII in Krakow, with Roza Lubienska & Maria Starowiejska, co-workers, Welfare Committee

concentration camp by the Nazis where he died in January of 1940. That year, in 1940, her brother was murdered in the Katyn woods by Soviet Troops and buried in a mass grave. Throughout the war she wondered as to his whereabouts and only discovered the horrible truth at the close of the war. Needing the Soviets as allies, a fabrication blamed the Nazis for this mass slaughter; however, a monument in the town square in Krakow testifies to the true brutality of



Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN at her desk in Krakow

the Soviet communists which would become even more apparent to religious orders and citizens of occupied East Bloc countries after the war (See "Martyrs from the Congregation of Saint Elizabeth - Soviet Occupation-1945").

During the war, Hanna worked as a liaison officer between the Krakow Branch of the Polish Welfare Committee and the German authorities. She coordinated social and nursing help for the poor, displaced and

homeless in the Krakow region and visited prisoners. In 1942, she worked extra shifts in a neonatal unit to ensure safe care and delivery of Polish infants so that they were not euthanized.

After World War II, in 1945, during the Soviet Occupation, she worked with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in Krakow organizing help for refugees and distributing aid. At this time she also became the Head of the Department of Community Nursing at the Krakow School of Nursing. She was sent on an UNRRA scholarship to study public and community health nursing at a large Public Health Service on Staten Island, New York. She was later housed at a School of Nursing attached to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital where she visited the poor and indigent in Harlem. She was very impressed by the professionalism and excellent care given by a dark skinned nurse whom she accompanied on visits. Upon her return to the Krakow School of Nursing, she discovered that militia secret police



Hanna Chrzanowska (center back row)

interrogated, threatened and imprisoned, albeit briefly, nursing students. Nursing lecturers were required to attend socialist indoctrination sessions delivered by special education officers of the Communist Party. Hanna emphasized educating young nurses in a spirit of authentic service to the sick, treating patients with dignity and paying attention to physical and spiritual needs.

In 1956, as her faith deepened, she became a Benedictine Oblate of

Tyniec Abbey at Benedyktynska 37, 30-398 Krakow, Poland, located on the outskirts of Krakow. In 1957, while Poland was still under Soviet, communist occupation, she was fired from her post as Assistant Director of the School of Nursing because of her strong Christian values. She was appointed Director of the School of Psychiatric Nursing in Kobierzyn, 10 km outside Krakow. After Hanna allowed students to participate in the 1st annual pilgrimage to Jasna Gora (Czestochowa) to pay homage to the Black Madonna (a picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary and infant Jesus, originally painted by St. Luke the Evangelist), the authorities closed down the Psychiatric School of Nursing. Strangely, in 1957, although they had fired her, the Polish socialist government also awarded her a medal for exemplary activity in promoting Public Health Nursing.

Now in retirement she was even more prolific. She started Parish Nursing in Krakow which subsequently expanded to the whole diocese. She especially focused on the lonely, abandoned, elderly, disabled and chronically sick who were deprived of any kind of nursing and spiritual care. She coordinated Catholic nurses who were employed by the church/diocese, and volunteer religious sisters (Sisters of St. Joseph, Franciscan Sisters from the Congregation of St. Felix of Calisante [Felician Sisters], Sisters of the Sacred Heart and Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul), students, and seminarians to look after the sick and lonely. The goal was not to replace their current family and neighborhood support system but to augment and support them. She was also keen on maintaining care in the home, where the patient felt at ease in their familiar surroundings. She made all efforts to keep patients from being institutionalized. Having developed the idea, she turned to Father Karol Wojtyła, later bishop of Krakow (and the future Pope St. John Paul II), for advice. He in turn pointed her to Father Machay from the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the old town square in Krakow, who gave his full approval of her plan for Parish Nursing to be implemented in his parish.¹

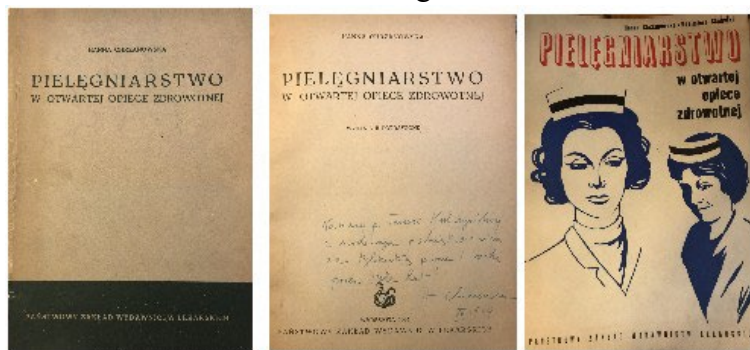
She helped the house-bound individuals rediscover the joys of life and gave them strength to bear their daily crosses. When few people had cars, phones, wheelchairs etc., she instituted retreats for the handicapped and housebound at the Salvatorian Retreat Center, ul Głowackiego 3, 32-540, Trzebinia. She coordinated for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to be offered in the home for those who could not leave their home. She



Bl. Hanna with Archbishop Karol Wojtyła the future Pope St. John Paul II

developed a Code of Conduct for parish nursing with colleagues and Bishop Bronisław Dąbrowski. In 1960, during Lent, she invited Bishop Karol Wojtyła to accompany her on her visits to 35 chronically ill patients in their homes. Under her influence, Karol Cardinal Wojtyła made February 11th (Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes), an Archdiocesan day of prayer for the sick and those who look after them. As Pope St. John Paul II, he made the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes the International Day of Prayer for the Sick to be celebrated by the universal church.

In 1960, she published the textbook of *Community Nursing*, the fourth edition of which was published posthumously in 1973. In 1965, Pope Paul VI decorated Hanna with the order of Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, in recognition of her work with the chronically ill and house-bound in



the Krakow Diocese. The next year, in 1966, she was diagnosed with advanced gynecological cancer. This did not stop her work. She was appointed Deputy Spokesperson for Health Care Workers at the request of the Ministry of Health. She continued to be an active member of the Polish Nurses' Association (PNA), now a "socialist"

organization, to which she brought Christian principles. In 1971, she received from Karol Cardinal Wojtyła, an official letter nominating her the coordinator and director of services of the handicapped and chronically ill within the charities commission of the Krakow Archdiocese. She gradually came to realize that in caring for the sick and those who suffered, she was serving Jesus Christ Himself.

On February 14, 1973, two months prior to her death, she delivered a talk on Parish Nursing titled, *Lay Apostolate and Care of the Sick*, at the annual conference of the Polish Bishops Committee on Pastoral Care. A full transcript of this talk is available in Dr. Gosiań, PhD, RN's book, *Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN: A Nurse of Mercy*.³ In April 1973, Cardinal Wojtyła visited her flat and helped position the dying Hanna Chrzanowska in bed, "his last act of love and human kindness towards her."

Hanna Chrzanowska died on April 29, 1973, on the Feast of St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), at her home on Lobzowska Street from cancer. Archbishop Cardinal of Krakow, Karol Wojtyła (the future Pope St. John Paul II), presided at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and funeral services. In his homily he stated, "*We thank you Miss Hanna that you were among us... an embodiment of Christ's beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, especially the one saying – 'Blessed are the merciful'. Those who knew Hanna well all testify that she heroically obeyed the Greatest Commandment of all – to love God with all her heart and her neighbor.*" Cardinal Wojtyła accompanied her coffin to the Rakowicki Cemetery in Krakow. Attendance at the funeral overflowed into the streets with colleagues, friends and patients attending.

Statements from Pope St. John Paul II:

- She was the incarnation of Christ's blessings, "especially the one which says Blessed are the merciful." (at her funeral)
- "This is a very important matter. Watch it." (to the postulator)
- "She was always very close to my heart," (during a meeting with the Szlenkier family, relatives of Hanna Chrzanowska)



Cardinal Archbishop Karol Wojtyła
(the future Pope St. John Paul II)

The Canonization Process:

Helena Matoga, MA, RN, the Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Canonization of Hanna Chrzanowska described the process:⁴

In 1993, during the meeting commemorating the 20th anniversary of Hanna Chrzanowska's death, Zofia Szlendak-Cholewińska put forward a motion to open her canonization process. After the Holy Mass in the Franciscan Basilica, a meeting of nurses, nuns and the sick was held, during which they remembered Hanna. It was then when I heard them refer to her as "Auntie" for the first time.

I attended this meeting with my school friend, also Hanna's student, Maryla Cherian, who additionally had a degree in law. After a short discussion, we concluded that opening a canonization process was a very difficult task, so it was necessary to choose people who would find all the information about where to start.

Alina Rumun, a retired nurse and Hanna's oldest student and closest long-time collaborator, and Zofia Szlendak-Cholewińska, also Hanna's student and a teacher of nurses, were able to provide a considerable number of their written and spoken memories of Hanna.

When Alina asked "Who will take care of it?" (i.e. the preparation of the opening of the canonization process), my friend, Maryla Cherian, who was both a lawyer and a nurse, volunteered and asked me to help her. Irena Iżycka, M.A., a distinguished nurse older than us, also Hanna's student, volunteered to help.

At that time (i.e. in 1993), the Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives (KSPiPP) did not yet exist. We were part of the Pastoral Ministry for Nurses (Duszpasterstwo Pielęgniarek), under the patronage of Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, who was Cardinal Karol Wojtyła's successor in this position. He also celebrated Holy Mass in his chapel for us on the last Sunday of each month, after which we attended a meeting in his representative hall to listen to a lecture or watch a film, depending on what our pastoral minister organized. The Lenten retreats, initiated by Hanna Chrzanowska in the 1960's and held in the Dominican Sisters' monastery, were one of the regular events within our Pastoral Ministry. The retreats have been continuing to this day. Cardinal Wojtyła always attended the closing ceremony of the retreats. I have been taking part in them every year since 1985. This tradition originated from the idea to commemorate the first headmistress of the Vocational Nursing School, Maria Epstein, who was a Dominican nun and is a Servant of God, and under whose supervision Hanna Chrzanowska worked as a young teacher in the years 1926-1929. Maria [Epstein] and her life probably helped in shaping Hanna's Catholic attitude.

Since 1991, I was in charge of a large nursing team in an open health care centre and I presented Chrzanowska as an example to my team. I remembered a phrase that Hanna used to repeat to clergymen, seminarians, students, doctors and to us: "God's Word hardly, or not at all, reaches the sick who are unwashed and hungry". In the same year, I was approached by the newly appointed chaplain of nurses and midwives, Father Kazimierz Kubik, who was a medical doctor, whom I "infected" with Hanna. We have been working together to this day. He defended his doctoral thesis on the social evaluation of Hanna Chrzanowska's heroic life and nursing activity.

In 1995, during another pilgrimage to Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, the Catholic Association of Polish Nurses and Midwives was established. Zofia Żmigrodzka, the Kraków delegate who attended this pilgrimage, informed us about it. We, (i.e. a group of 11 Catholic nurses), formed the Kraków Branch of this Association. Izabela Ćwiertnia, M.Sc, was elected the first president, and with interruptions in her term of office, continues to hold the position to this day.

Our meetings were held in a small parish hall at the youth café at St. Nicholas Church on Kopernika Street in Kraków. At that time, Fr. Kazimierz Kubik began his priestly ministry there.



*Helena Matoga, MA, RN,
Vice Postulator for the Cause
of the Canonization of
Hanna Chrzanowska, RN*

In this parish, Hanna developed parish care for the sick. This parish was the first to implement the celebration of Holy Mass in the homes of the sick. During Cardinal Macharski's parish visitation, Izabela Ćwiertnia, the president of our branch, together with Fr. Antoni Sołtysik, the parson of the parish, handed Cardinal Macharski a request to initiate the process of canonization of nurse Hanna Chrzanowska. The Cardinal expressed his oral support, but made it dependent on the decision of the Episcopal Conference, which met in Warsaw under the leadership of Józef Glemp, who was then the Primate of Poland.

Having obtained the Episcopate's consent, Cardinal Macharski issued a statement on the commencement of the trial of the Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska and appointed the Historical Commission for the preparation of documentation and the Tribunal presided over by Rev. Prof. Stefan Ryłko. Several priests, Maria Cherian and I were appointed. We all took the oath on the Gospel in the presence of Cardinal Macharski.

Maria Cherian was appointed a notary in the proceedings. The parson of the parish of St. Nicolas, Fr. Antoni Sołtysik, was appointed a postulator, and I was appointed a vice-postulator. My duties included: running the office of the postulation, handling of the correspondence, searching for witnesses, coordinating and scheduling their hearings, formal work in the cemetery administration related to the exhumation of Hanna's, Servant of God, mortal remains. I also conducted a six-month query in the State Archives in Kraków, where I found many unknown documents related to Hanna's activity during World War II.

The collected documents, together with protocols of hearings of 70 witnesses, amounting to 3000 pages, were delivered to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in the Vatican. They were the basis for preparing the Positio, an important document which assessed the holiness of life and heroic virtues of the Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska. Rev. Mieczysław Niepsuj, a Vatican prelate, was appointed the Roman postulator. All the documentation gathered in Kraków was entrusted to him. The parson of the parish, Fr. Antoni Sołtysik and Rev. Kazimierz Kubik delivered it to him personally. They managed to obtain a private papal audience. They informed His Holiness Pope John Paul II about the completion of the work at the diocesan level. The Pope said only: "Tend to this matter, it is very important!"

In summary, the nurses discussed opening the cause of Hanna's canonization in 1993. They formally made the request in 1995. It was approved by the Archbishop of Krakow following agreement of the Episcopal conference under the leadership of the Primate of Poland. The diocesan inquiry began on November 3, 1998, and concluded on January 16, 2002. An intercessory healing attributed to Hanna had occurred in 2001 and was under investigation.

Miracle #1 - 2001

The miracle accepted for Hanna's beatification was the intercessory healing of a fellow nursing instructor who was her former student, Zofia Szlendak-Cholewińska, who was 60 years old at the time and suffered an inoperable brain aneurysm in 2001. Zofia was the same nurse, who in 1993, had made the motion to open the cause for Hanna's canonization.

In the early 1960's, Zofia was a member of a secret Catholic organization, Instytut Świecki [the Secular Institute]. The animator was the Abbot of the Benedictine Monastery in Tyniec, Father Piotr Rostworowski. After some time Zofia decided that "this was not her way": "But in leaving the Institute, I also left God."



Zofia Szlendak, student of Hanna and an instructor of Community Nursing, Krakow School of Nursing, Poland



Hanna and Zofia at Tyniec Abbey, Poland

Fr. Piotr believed in her return to God. Zofia valued her friendship with Fr. Peter, and they wrote letters to each other. She was arrested during a case against Fr. Peter, although a search of her flat revealed nothing. She was released after two days. She was kept under surveillance for several years, and it turned out that the secret informer who ‘monitored’ her was a nurse from the gynecological ward, where Zofia underwent surgery for an ovarian cyst (of which the secret services in Poland knew). They also knew that Archbishop Wojtyła (who was very heavily spied on) visited her in the hospital. From the secret files to which I gained access, I learned that the Archbishop brought her flowers (5 carnations), lemons and a picture. This was the time of communist terror.⁴

While crossing the tram tracks, Zofia fell almost right under an oncoming tram. She most probably had an epileptic seizure. Zofia was evaluated and a CT scan of her head showed an inoperable brain hemangioma. According to Zofia’s own testimony, “She thanked the doctor for the information. And he said, are you crazy, do you not know what an inoperable aneurysm in the brain is? I replied that I knew, what’s more I won’t have to pay a fine next time I get under a tram.”

Going to the Rakowicki Cemetery to visit her husband’s grave, Zofia stopped at Hanna’s and began to pray the Lord’s Prayer. She was horrified when she realized that she had forgotten the words.

Either this time or at a subsequent visit to the cemetery, Zofia stated in her testimony, “I went to Auntie’s grave and started shouting there, loudly. Auntie do something so that I can reconcile with God...”

Sometime later, in the middle of the night, the aneurysm ruptured and Zofia was taken to the hospital with a massive hemorrhage in the temporal part of the brain. Complicating matters, she also suffered a heart attack in the supracondylar part of the heart. She suffered paralysis of both upper and lower limbs but was able to breathe on her own. She was not on a ventilator. Over the next six weeks, Zofia’s condition did not improve. The physicians thought there was no real hope for survival. Since an operation was out of the question, she was discharged from the Intensive Care Ward of the Neurosurgery Clinic and transferred to the non-invasive treatment ward. Her limbs were paralyzed and muscles constricted.

The news of her illness reached the nurses and others who prayed every month in St. Nicholas Church (ul Kopernika 9) in Krakow for the beatification of Hanna Chrzanowska and for the intentions of those who entrusted their concerns to her. A member of the Krakow Branch of the Catholic Association of Nurses and Midwives initiated a novena “for Zofia’s recovery through the intercession of Servant of God Hanna.”^{4 8}

At some point, Zofia became aware of her disability and, heartbroken, she again called on Auntie in her dream, who assured her that everything would be all right. And then in the morning, when Zofia awoke, her motor functions began to return. She told her dream to everybody in the ward she had contact with. In her statements Zofia shared,

- “God made me wait. (I know... it was probably two or three years. Indeed, God did his work. He knocked me down. He literally knocked me down...). I was unconscious for six weeks. There were two worlds then. One here with the body, and the other one that I was experiencing (...).
- (...) I was unconscious for six weeks. None of the doctors believed I had any chances of surviving (...)
- (...) In fact, I wasted my life and the graces that the Lord gave me (...). The most difficult thing is to forgive oneself. For 37 years, I was far from God. It’s no wonder I ended up forgetting the words of ‘Our Father’ (...).”

- Zofia, after the healing, stated, “(...) I experienced that God is great love. I felt as if I was surrounded by one great love and I felt very well (...).”

Not only did Zofia recover without mental or physical deficit, her other symptoms and ailments (i.e. epilepsy, etc.) were gone. Her brain scan showed only a small scar that remained. She was in a better condition than before she had the aneurysm. Perhaps more miraculous is that she returned to the faith.

The head of the clinic, a neurosurgeon and professor wrote, “With these severe neurological and cardiac problems, from my medical experience, I cannot explain such a rapid improvement of the patient’s health.” A similar statement was submitted by the head of the neurology department.

When Helena Matoga, RN, MA, the vice postulator for the cause of Hanna Chrzanowska’s canonization, visited Zofia in the hospital in June, Zofia invited her to her house on July 3rd. Helena did not believe she would leave the hospital that soon. However, Zofia kept her word. “Having confirmed by phone that she was indeed home already, Helena paid her a visit. Zofia opened the door supporting herself with a cane. She was happy.”⁴ Helena Matoga shared:⁴

When Zofia returned home, she continued living alone on the third floor in a block of flats without a lift. Someone helped her with cleaning and shopping. She received visitors. She lived for almost 10 more years, spreading the cult of Hanna. The last six months before she died, she was in hospital in the internal medicine ward. She was diagnosed with lymphoma. Her stay in hospital was short. Zofia declared that she wanted to die in her flat “in Auntie’s company”, whose portrait she had by her bed. And so it happened. The caregiver found her dead in the morning. The death official death certificate read: undiagnosed.

The lack of a diagnosis on Zofia’s death certificate was problematic for the Vice Postulator for the cause of Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska’s canonization. Helena Matoga described her dilemma:

It was necessary to complete the process documents, the cause of death being the most important. This is where my problem began. Fr. Prof. Ryłko died, Fr. Postulator Sołtysik suffered a stroke. I did not have the family’s authorization to access her medical history. The authorization was held by her stepson, who lived in Portugal. With difficulty, I was able to find the doctor who visited and treated Zofia. Fortunately, it turned out that she had visited Zofia a few days before her death. Knowing the diagnosis, she advised Zofia to undergo palliative treatment, but she refused.

I obtained the necessary document on the cause of death from her.

The diocesan inquiry on the miracle for beatification opened on October 18, 2002, and closed on April 3, 2003. The decree on validity of the diocesan inquiry was issued January 11, 2008. The decree on the validity of the diocesan inquiry on the miracle was issued May 21, 2010. The Positio was published in 2011. The Vatican particular congress of theological consultors reviewed the cause on November 27, 2012. And the ordinary session of cardinals and bishops reviewed the cause on September 29, 2015. The decree of heroic virtue was promulgated by His Holiness Pope Francis on September 30, 2015. Hanna was now known as Venerable Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska or just Venerable Hanna Chrzanowska.

Helena Matoga described the next step:

The day of exhumation came in April 2016. I invited Izabela Ćwiertnia and Tadeusz Wadas, a male nurse, who was the president of the Małopolska Chamber of Nurses and Midwives (MOiPiP), to participate in the preparation of the mortal remains excavated from the grave for their later placement in the sarcophagus. Fathers J. Gubała and K. Kubik and the delegates of the Metropolitan Curia were participating in it. The examination and detailed description was done by forensic specialists.

Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska's remains were re-interred in an alabaster sarcophagus in the southern nave of the Church of St. Nicholas (aka "The Nurses' Church"), under the altar depicting the coronation of Our Lady (ul Kopernika 9, Krakow, Poland). The sarcophagus was furnished from donations of the Catholic nurses throughout the country of Poland.

The Vatican appointed Medical Board reviewed the miracle later that year on November 24, 2016. The particular congress of theological consultors followed by the ordinary session of cardinal and bishop conducted their review on February 21, 2017 and July 7, 2017 respectively. The promulgation of the decree on miracle was issued on July 7, 2017. The steps had been taken to set the date for the beatification of Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska, RN which would occur on April 28, 2018.

From the motion made by the nurses in 1993 to move forward the cause for canonization of Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, to her beatification, 25 years had passed. The canonization delegate of the Metropolitan Curia in Kraków, Fr. Andrzej Scaber, PhD2 commented on the efforts of the nurses and the unique and generous contribution of Cardinal Dziwisz:

During one of the meetings preceding the ceremony in Łagiewniki, Fr. Scaber explained that the nurses from Kraków, who were not frightened by the enormity of the formalities, were the initiators of the beatification process: "For the sake of completeness, had it not been for the initiative of these nurses, unprepared for this task in any way, their zeal, their conviction of the holiness of their teacher's life, the cause would not have happened. The beatification will be a celebration of nurses and the sick whom the future Blessed served all her life". Then he also reminded us of the role Cardinal Dziwisz played in H. Chrzanowska's process, who not only appointed the Roman postulator of the case (Prelate Mieczysław Niepsuj) in 2006 but also provided money for the continuation of the process. "I mentioned the financing of the process. I want to say that this burden was taken on personally by Cardinal Dziwisz. I emphasize the word 'personally'", Fr. Scber said.

In addition to conducting the interviews and accumulating the documents required for Blessed Hanna's beatification, the nurses and other organizations have held many conferences and events focused on Hanna Chrzanowska, RN's life and work:

- Symposium on Hanna Chrzanowska's 25th anniversary of her death - May 1998. About 300 people attended it, including the sick who remembered "Auntie" Hanna Chrzanowska
- A trip to Wiązowna in 1999—the place where Hanna was baptised in the Church of St. Adalbert. Organized by: the Catholic Association and Warsaw nursing community.
- Scientific conference on the 100th anniversary of her birth - 2002. Organised by the Catholic Association and the Jagiellonian University.
- On December 30, 2002, Cardinal Franciszek Macharski formally concluded the diocesan phase of the process with a solemn Mass.
- On January 30, 2003, the documentation (3,000 pages) was handed over by Postulator Fr. A. Sołtysik and Fr. Kazimierz Kubik in the Vatican to the Roman postulator, Fr. Mieczysław Niepsuj. To the list of academic works, I would add approximately 10 books (I say approximately because I know of 7, plus 2 for children, and Małgosia's Diary), and many articles.



Sarcophagus containing Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska's remains, side altar at St. Nicholas Church, Kraków

- From the beatification portrait, the Venerable Servant of God looked down upon us. In April 2013, on the 40th anniversary of H. Chrzanowska's death, a Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz. The homily was delivered by Father. K. Kubik. During the panel discussion, her spiritual legacy's universality and enduring value were emphasized.
- 2014 – *Colours of Fire: Biography of Hanna Chrzanowska* – a wise and compassionate nurse published by Gosia Brykczyńska, PhD, RN, OCV.⁶
- On September 30, 2015, Pope Francis confirmed the decree on the heroic virtues of the Venerable Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska.
- On April 6, 2016, her mortal remains were transferred from the Rakowicki Cemetery to the crypt of St. Nicholas Church in Kraków, at Kopernika Street 9.
- On July 7, 2017, the beatification decree was approved by Pope Francis, based on the recognition of a miracle of God.
- On April 1, 2018, her relics were ceremoniously transferred in a procession from the crypt to a chapel and placed in an alabaster sarcophagus funded by community nurses. During the procession, the Litany of the Saints was sung.
- Scientific conference (2018) organized before the beatification ceremony by the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, with the active participation of Fr. Kazimierz Kubik, M.D., PhD and Helena Matoga, MA, RN.
- Press conference at the Polish Episcopate in Warsaw with the participation of Archbishop M. Jędraszewski, Rev. Prof. Robert Tyrała and Helena Matoga.
- 2018, Krakow – In preparation for the beatification the booklet, *Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska* by Dr. Małgorzata Brykczyńska, RN/RSCN published by the Publishing House of the Małopolska Regional Chamber of Nurses and Midwives.⁷
- Shortly before the beatification, in early April 2018, TVP1 dedicated a one-hour Catholic youth program “Ziarno” to H. Chrzanowska featuring a relative, the professional actor Ksawery Szlenkier, and Helena Matoga. Boys (kids) were dressed as paramedics and girls wore nurses' caps and aprons. The studio was decorated as a medical setting; all were prepared to provide first aid, which was demonstrated to them.
- Several films, radio and TV programs were dedicated to the Servant of God.
- Ten schools of nursing in Poland have chosen Hanna as their Patroness.
- Many scientific works have been written about her.
- **April 28, 2018 - The Beatification of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN. The celebration gathered several thousand nurses and faithful.**
- On the second day after the beatification, April 29, 2018, at St. Nicholas, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Archbishop M. Jędraszewski and invited bishops.
- October 2018, USA – *Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN (1902-1973: The 1st lay Catholic nurse to be beatified, Krakow, Poland, April 28, 2018*, pamphlet published by Diana Ruzicka, President, NACN-USA and discussed during December 4 & 6, 2019 interview on the Jim & Joy Show, Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) in the Irondale, Alabama, USA.⁹
- Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama Council of Catholic Nurses (DBACCN) in U.S.A. selected Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN as their patron saint, 2019.
- 2019, Krakow – *Błogostawiona Pielęgniarka: Hanna Chrzanowska: Dama Miłosierdzia* (Blessed Nurse Hanna Chrzanowska: Lady of Mercy), edited by Kazimiery Zahradniczek, Heleny Matogi & Tadeusza Wadasa.¹¹
- 1st anniversary international pilgrimage walking in the footsteps of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN organized by Dr. Małgorzata (Gosia) n, PhD, RN, OCV and attended by CICIAMS International President, Geraldine McSweeney (Ireland); President, Association of



Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski from the
beatification of Hanna Chrzanowska
(Consent from the Press Office of the Archdiocese of Krakow)

- Catholic Nurses of England and Wales, Ms. Janet Muchengwa, MSc, RN (England); President, NACN-USA, Diana Ruzicka, MSN, MA, MA, PHN, RN and nurses from the Association of Catholic Nurses of England and Wales (ACNEW) and the Catholic Nurses Guild of Ireland (CNG-Ireland) and NACN-USA and Helena Matoga, MA, RN, Vice Postulator, 2019.
- Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the 1st Anniversary of Blessed Hanna's beatification, April 28, 2019, celebrated at the Shrine of Divine Mercy, Krakow-Lagiewniki, Poland.
 - On April 29, 2019, The Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass of Thanksgiving for the beatification of Blessed Hanna (1st anniversary) was celebrated at the parish of St. Nicholas by Archbishop M. Jędraszewski with the participation of: Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Vatican City, Archbishop Zbigniew Stankiewicz - Riga (Latvia).
 - 2019, USA – *A Short Biography: Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska*, booklet by Dr. Gosiań, PhD, RN, OCV, published by Marian Press for worldwide distribution.¹⁰
 - 2019, USA – *Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN: A Nurse of Mercy* by Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV, published by Maria Press for worldwide distribution.³
 - 2020, Krakow – *W Kręgu Opiekuńczego Czepka: Blogosławiona Hanna Chrzanowska* (In the Circle of the Protective Cap: Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska) published by Helena Matoga, Vice Postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Blessed Hanna.¹²
 - June 14-16, 2021, Blessed Hanna relics present at the National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. (NACN-USA) conference at St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, Alabama, USA hosted by President, Ellen Gianoli, MSN, RN.
 - The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the intention of the victims of COVID-19 pandemic and a worldwide return to health with relics of Blessed Hanna present on World Day of the Sick, 11 February 2022 in the Sanctuary of St. John Paul II, Willow Springs, Illinois and by Father Joseph Lubrano, S.D.S. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Huntsville, Alabama, U.S.A.
 - The relics of the Blessed are being sent to chapels and temples in many countries all over the world. "As of April 2022, Fr. Gubała, the Curator, has issued about 300 relics of Blessed Hanna to chapels, churches, hospices and hospitals. Numerous hospital and hospice chapels in Poland possess her relics. A constant stream of requests and thanksgiving for graces received is coming."
 - *The Book of Nurses Saints* published by Diana Ruzicka, MSN, MA, MA, RN, in June 2022, containing an extensive explanation of the Blessed's canonization process, first miracle and subsequent events as described by Helena Matoga, MA, RN, Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Canonization of Blessed Hanna, distributed at the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social Assistants (CICIAMS) XXI World Congress in at the Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, USA, August 2-4, 2022.
 - In Warsaw, the parish of St. Anthony on Senatorska Street, where Hanna was born, unveiled a commemorative plaque on the house where she was born in October 2022, on the anniversary of her 120 birth.
 - On December 1, 2022, thanks to the efforts of the Felician Sisters, a hospice named Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska was opened in Warsaw.
 - This year, 2022, thanks to the joint efforts of our community, the Kraków City Council honoured one of the city squares – near Hanna's place of residence and the Carmelite Sisters' Church on Łobzowska Street – with the name of the Blessed. On April 28, 2023, the square was blessed by Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, who also celebrated Mass at the Carmelite Sisters' church (Fifty years earlier, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła had given a beautiful farewell homily for the deceased Hanna at that same church.). The celebration was attended by a large group of pilgrims from Wiązowna and a delegation from the Hanna Chrzanowska School in Ostrów Wielkopolski.
 - In 2023, Wiązowna celebrated the anniversary of Hanna's baptism in their local church dedicated to St. Adalbert. A formation house was built to welcome pilgrims. A local artist sculpted a statue of little Hania, who spent her childhood and youth in Wiązowna with her family.

- 2023, Warszawa – *O Pannie Hannie Wspaniałej Pielęgniarce* (Miss Hanna A Great Nurse), an illustrated children's book by Barbara Nowosielska and Anna Pecyna in Polish and English published by Samuel for Children.¹³
- August 2024 – Relics of Blessed Hanna delivered by hand to the Kingdom of Eswatini, Africa, home of Dr. Rosemary Khosi Mthethwa, MPH, PhD, RN, CICIAMS International President by Dr. Gosia Brykczyńska, PhD, RN, OCV, President, CICIAMS Europe Region and English biographer for Blessed Hanna to be placed in the hospital chapel located in the town of Siteki, in the Lubombo Region. which Bishop Jose Ponce de Leon, Bishop of the Diocese of Manzini, Eswatini, plans to dedicate to Blessed Hanna on 28 April 2026.
- As of February 2025, the Oncology Institute in Warsaw and the University Hospital in Kraków also house Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN's relics.
- 2025 - This bus runs from Otwock (the place where Hanna was baptised in Wiazownia, Otwock County) to Warsaw. It is suspected that the community and parish in Wiazownia organized the picture on the bus because they are very active promoting the cult of Blessed Hanna. On the bus are the last words spoken by Blessed Hanna to Maria Czech, a nursing student, who was looking after Hanna at the time and today is an elderly Poor Clare nun. The words refer to God testing our soul like gold being tested in fire. Our souls need to be pure and “as good as gold”, hence she says, “The soul needs to be gold[en]”



- Each year, on the Feast of St. Stanislaus the Martyr, her relics are carried in a solemn procession from Wawel to the Pauline Fathers' Basilica on Skalka, led by nurses from the association.
- 2025 – *Memoir Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska* published by Dr. Gosia Brykczyńska.¹⁴



Polish Nurses (black stripe on cap) & Midwives (red stripe) at the Beatification Ceremony for Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, April 28, 2018, Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, Krakow, Poland

Helena Matoga, MA, RN, described the beatification ceremony held on April 28, 2018,



Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski, beatification of Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, Shrine of Divine Mercy (Consent from the Press Office of the Archdiocese of Krakow)



Geraldine McSweeney, CICIAMS International President (center) followed by Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN (blue) and Marie Romagnano, MSN RN, CCM carrying lamps behind the relics of Hanna Chrzanowska, Beatification Ceremony, April 28, 2018,

The Beatification ceremony was organized by the Metropolitan Curia in Krakow and headed by Archbishop Marek Jędraszewski. Three nurses: Izabela Ćwiertnia, Helena Matoga, Tadeusz Wadas and Fathers Kazimierz Kubik, M.D. and Józef Gubała were part of the organizing committee. Servant of God Hanna Chrzanowska, RN, was beatified at the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, in Krakow-Lagiewniki, Poland on April 28, 2018, within 45 years of her death. Helena Matoga, RN, vice postulator for the cause of Blessed Hanna's canonization, now in her 80's, was present and, accompanied by children, brought the relics of the Blessed into the Basilica. Geraldine McSweeney, the International President of International Catholic Committee of Nurses



A presentation of flowers made to Helena Matoga, RN, student of Hanna Chrzanowska and Vice Postulator of Hanna's cause, at the end of the Thanksgiving Mass Behind is Dr. Gosia Brykczynska and part of Geraldine McSweeney visible on the right.

and Medico-Social Assistants — Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales (CICIAMS) from Ireland, Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV from the United Kingdom and Marie Romagnano, MSN, RN, CCM from the United States of America carried lamps in the procession. The papal delegate, Archbishop Angelo Amato, handed Pope Francis' five original decrees of beatification to: Marek Jędraszewski, Metropolitan Archbishop of Krakow two, and one each to the Roman postulator; Fr. Franciszek Slusarczyk, the Custodian of the Shrine of the Divine Mercy; and Helena Matoga, MA, RN, as a representative of the nursing community. Izabela Ćwiertnia, and Tadeusz Wadas read the Lessons during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Nurses, from all over Poland, smartly dressed in their nursing uniforms, participated in this joyous occasion.

Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska, RN's feast day is the 28th of April because the 29th, the day she died, was already the important feast of St. Catherine of Siena, one of the patrons of Europe, also a lay Catholic nurse and a Doctor of the Church. It was thought better to place Blessed Hanna's feast on the next closest day.(Memorial: April 28).⁵

*“God’s Word hardly or not at all reaches the sick
who are unwashed and hungry”.*

*"What dignity belongs to our profession!
Christ in us serves Christ in the other person."*

Intercessory Prayer:

God, who in a special way called your servant Hanna Chrzanowska to the service of
the sick, poor and abandoned,
grant that she who answered your call with all her heart,
should be counted among the saints while encouraging us with her example
to bring help to our neighbors.

Through her intercession grant us the grace... for which we pray
in faith and hope. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...

Report any graces obtained through the intercession of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska to the
Postulator’s Office: Parafia Sw Mikolaja, Kopernika 9, 31-034 Krakow, Poland.
Email: kancelaria@parafiamikolaj-krakow.pl

ADDENDUM:

On May 17, 2025, at the request of Diana Ruzicka, Secretary General for the International
Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico Social Assistants (CICIAMS), Helena Matoga
summarized the many nurses who worked to promote the cause for Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska,
RN’s canonization:

Many Polish nurses and clergy worked tirelessly to promote the cause of the canonization of Blessed
Hanna Chrzanowska, RN. In 1998, Metropolitan Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, in addition to the
priests, appointed the following nurses

- To the Trial Tribunal: 1. Registered nurse Helena Matoga, a student of Hanna Chrzanowska
as vice postulator 2. Registered nurse, MA in law, a student of H. Chrzanowska, Maria
Cherian (+2012) as notary
- To the Historical Commission: 1. Registered Nurses Krystyna Pęchalska as a member of the
commission - she worked the entire time, currently serves as the association's archivist. 2.
Registered nurse Maria Przybylska, who resigned shortly afterwards.

Master of nursing Izabela Ćwiertnia was already serving as chairwoman of the Catholic Association
of Nurses and Midwives, Kraków Branch. She was very active until the end of the beatification
process. She, together with the Postulator, then parish priest Andrzej Sołtysik, filed a motion to start
the process with Cardinal Macharski.

- Our priests - chaplain Fr. Kazimierz Kubik and Canon Fr. Józef Gubała (since 2014 parish
priest of St. Nicholas) were very active in spreading the cult of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska
- The senior nurses still alive at that time, also Hanna's students and co-workers, actively
cooperated with in the canonization process until the end of their days. They were: Alina
Rumun, Irena Iżycka, Zofia Szlendak (healed).

Since around 2006, we have been financially supported by the newly elected chairman of the Małopolska District Chamber of Nurses and Midwives, Mr. Tadeusz Wadas.

A Nurse's Examination of Conscience

Amongst Blessed Hanna's documents was found, "*A Nurse's Examination of Conscience*." In an effort to share this document across CICIAMS, at the request of the Secretary General, Helen Matoga, a student of Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska and the Vice Postulator for the Cause of the Canonization of Blessed Hanna and Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, PhD, RN, OCV provided the prefaces for a booklet. Copies of the Examination of Conscience are available in several publications by Marian Press which helped to give the cult of Hanna Chrzanowska worldwide distributions. The prefaces are below. The Examen can be found in references 3 and 10. From Helena Matoga:



Helena Matoga, MA, RN
a student of Blessed Hanna and
Vice Postulator for the
Cause of the Canonization

Blessed Hanna Chrzanowska was a devout Catholic and she drew her strength from prayer and the systematic participation in the sacramental life of the church. Her life was an example of combining religious practices with nursing service.

Already by the second half of the 1950s she was demonstrating the need to help ill people get closer to God, especially those not accepting their approaching death but still requiring special care and attention. For Hanna, it was not a question of "converting" them, but rather of pointing out to nurses the spiritual dimension of their nursing care. But the nurse who bends over her patient will herself require a special bond with God, since she is someone who will constantly be searching for the spiritual understanding/significance of her work. Therefore, in the patient's environment she will need to evangelise – by her own example.

To facilitate this, Hanna undertook various works whose aim was to deepen the spirituality of her nurses. She organised for them days of prayer, Lenten retreats, even cyclical conferences, despite constant problems thrown up by the communist regime, who all the while kept a close eye on her varied activities and referred to them as "*illegal gatherings of nurses*", which threaten the public [i.e. communist] order. During these meetings, because of problems around state censorship, Hanna Chrzanowska would distribute in small quantities and in manuscript form, copies of the *Examination of Conscience*, without explicitly stating the author of the work.

She also initiated nursing retreats held [held to this day] at the Dominican nuns' monastery in Kraków, where during the years 1931-1947 Servant of God sister Magdalena Maria Epstein lived out her consecrated life. Sister Magdalena had been the Director of the Kraków School of Nursing and therefore Blessed Hanna's principal, prior to entering the Dominican cloistered monastery.

In the promoted *Examination of Conscience* there are questions concerning our personal contact with God and our vocation. Hanna points out to us that it is precisely God himself who places in our hands our various talents, which we are obliged not squander.

The *Examination* is quite detailed. Her insightful examination of every possible aspect of nursing work constitutes a priceless help in developing our own sensitivities and skills in observing Christ in every situation; since it is Christ himself through his work with the sick who shows us how to act. The *Examination* is a lesson concerning the dignity of the nursing vocation in serving others - through daily acts of mercy.

Hanna was one of the organisers of the national [nursing] retreat in Laski, situated close to Warsaw, which came about as a result of the annual pilgrimage of nurses to Jasna Góra [shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa] and was organised through the church's pastoral ministry to nurses, under the specific patronage of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński [now Blessed Cardinal Wyszyński] - who had just been released from prison. The retreat itself was conducted by Father Placid Galiński, OSB – Hanna's personal Benedictine confessor from Tyniec Abbey. The retreat in Laski was hosted by the Franciscan sisters who run a centre there for the visually impaired.

The aim of the national annual nursing pilgrimage to Jasna Góra was to: *"introduce participants into ways of fulfilling their [nursing] duties from the perspective of faithfulness to God, the Cross, the Gospel and the Church."*

Due to organising a large pilgrimage group from Kraków in 1958, Hanna lost her position as director of the School of Neuro-psychiatric nursing in Kobierzyn. Most probably it was during that pilgrimage that the nurses received *The International Code of Nursing Ethics*, approved during the Fifth CICIAMS Congress in Quebec in 1954 and published in a small booklet format. The Code was published by the Primate of Poland's *Institute of National Vows* on Jasna Góra. It was published as a spiritual aide and copies were made at the request of the Polish Primate and dated 1958.

After Hanna Chrzanowska went on early retirement, based on the church in Kraków, she proceeded to organise long-term care of the chronically sick and terminally ill. She was a forerunner of domiciliary hospice care and the extensive use of volunteers.

She prepared for her nurses and volunteers *Ethical Issues in Home Nursing* and dedicated to them her memoirs. Undoubtedly, *The International Nursing Code* published in 1958 was the inspiration behind her own writings and reflections. *The Examination of Conscience* prepared by her is adapted to Polish conditions, focusing on the nursing profession [there is no mention of midwifery] and guided by the scope of nursing responsibilities.

She was beatified by Pope Francis on the 28th April 2018 in Kraków, Poland.

A FEW WORDS OF INTRODUCTION TO THE *NURSE'S EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE* from Dr. Gosia Brykczynska, English Biographer for Blessed Hanna and President, CICIAMS Europe Region.

Blessed Hanna wrote the *Nurse's Examination of Conscience (NEC)* in Communist Poland the 1960s, distributing it freely among her Parish Nurses and volunteers. Her primary aim was to raise the moral standard of the nurses and in addition to the usual nursing skills and arts - to emphasise the spiritual, religious and ethical dimensions of their nursing work – something which was not being addressed in the schools of nursing or among the various professional nursing groups - at that time.



Hanna Chrzanowska, RN



Małgorzata Brykczyńska,
PhD, RN, OCV

As BI Hanna stated - *Do I realize that as a Catholic my duty is to evangelize, above all by example?* If that is the case, what sort of an example do I need to be... What sort of a nurse do I need to be? This inward looking, reflective and almost confessional approach to character building, proved not only to be very insightful but also prophetic. The NEC was read, commented upon and discussed among the nurses; it was retyped many times on multiple layers of carbon paper and distributed for many years - all over Poland. It was read and re-read and reflected upon right up to the commencement of Blessed Hanna's canonisation process.

In Bl Hanna's beatification portrait – unveiled in Łagiewniki on the 28th April 2018, she is seen holding the NEC in her hands. In post-communist Poland today, the NEC is freely published and distributed by the Association of Catholic Nurses - without any restrictions and it is as relevant today as it was fifty years ago. This predominantly virtue-based approach to nursing ethics is consistent with the Second Vatican Council's understanding of the role of the laity and indeed the need for an appropriate sanctity for those members of the laity working within the caring professions. In 2019, I translated into English Bl Hanna's NEC. It is hoped that in time, all Catholic nurses wherever they may be, will be able to read and reflect on Bl Hanna's NEC in their own native tongue.

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Note: This biography is for all desiring to grow in holiness and follow His Holiness Pope Pius XI address to 2000 nurses assembled at Castel Gondolfo on August 27, 1935 for the II World Congress of Catholic Nurses (www.ciciams.org / www.nacn-usa.org): to first and foremost bring the Christian supernatural, Christ to our patients, bring salvation to souls. May it also help nursing students with your Nursing History course. Source: Diana L. Ruzicka (2022). *The Book of Nurse Saints*. Available at www.lulu.com/spotlight/Ruzicka © 1 September 2025 (Excerpts may be reproduced with permission).