

Polish National Alliance

GROUP No. 425

BANQUET

Honoring

**The Right Reverend Monsignor
Max Gannas**

on His

20th Anniversary

as

Pastor

St. Francis D'Assisi Parish



Sunday

April 5, 1959

PARISH AUDITORIUM

Wesson and Buchanan Ave.
DETROIT

Banquet Program

OPENING REMARKS John Truskowski, Chairman
Group 425 P. N. A.

TOASTMASTER Rev. Joseph Kubik, Professor
St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Michigan

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM School Children of St. Francis

POLISH HYMN School Children of St. Francis

POEM RECITAL Master Myron Zaydel

CONGRATULATIONS Danuta Pietrzak

Guest Speakers:

Councilman JAMES H. LINCOLN
Candidate for Circuit Court

REV. SYLVESTER RADZIECKI

Honorable FRANK G. SCHEMANSKE
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Honorable VICTOR TARGONSKI
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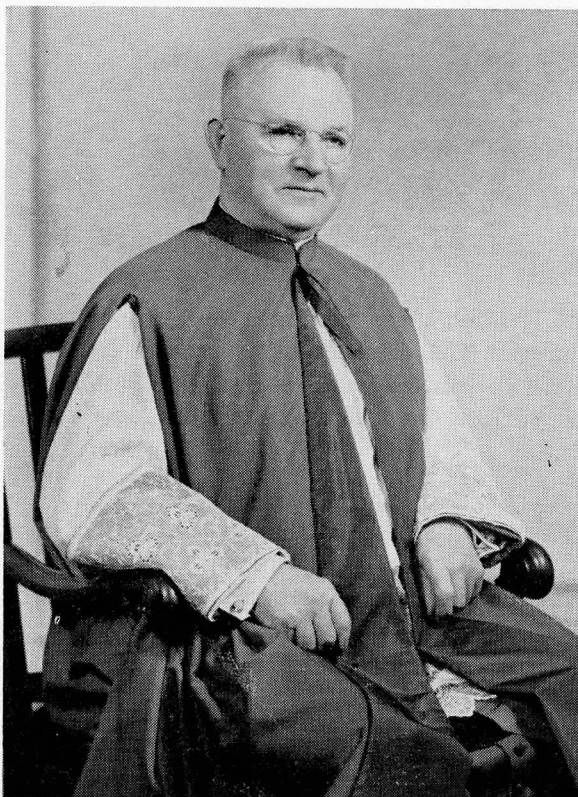
Rt. Rev. Msgnr. MAXIMILIAN GANNAS, Pastor

INVOCATION Rev. George Majewski

SUPPER

FINIS Prayer and Polish Hymn
Rev. Eugene Wojtevicz

ACCORDIONIST Mrs. Mary Harnold



Reverend Maximilian Gannas

PASTOR ST. FRANCIS PARISH

Fr. Maximilian Gannas was born October 2, 1881, in Poland, on the Feast of The Guardian Angels.

Through the efforts of Rt. Rev. Msgr. W. Michulka of West Rutland, Vt. Fr. Gannas came to the U.S. and one year later entered the SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary at Orchard Lake, where he was student for three years and served on the faculty for six years.

In 1917, Fr. Gannas was appointed Pastor at St. Stanislaus Parish, Ford City, in 1919 at the Mt. Carmel Parish in Wyandotte. In 1920, he was called upon by Bishop Gallagher to organize the new Parish of St. Andrews. However, the strenuous work connected with the organization of this Parish, carried on under unusually difficult circumstances, so undermined the health of Fr. Gannas that he was obliged to ask Bishop Gallagher to relieve him of this task and return him to his first Parish, St. Stanislaus Kostka.

From here, Fr. Gannas was appointed Pastor to St. Josephat's. A genuine but pleasant surprise to the Polish Colony occurred in 1927 when St. Josephat's High School became the First Polish Catholic High School to be placed on the accredited list of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Fr. Gannas came to St. Francis Parish on July 3rd, 1938 and on the following Sunday, July 9th, during a grand ceremony he was announced as Our Pastor.

In a short time he was organizing the youth, i.e., Holy Name Society, realizing that the future of the Parish would someday be in the hands of this youth. Later he organized the Altar Society, which the Parish sorely needed. Since 1939, Fr. Gannas has been constantly concerned with the improvement and development of the Parish and the newly organized Holy Name and Altar Societies. These flourished beyond expectations through his constant conscientious supervision.

At this occasion we wish to extend our congratulations on the 20th Anniversary in the Pastoral Office of Our Fr. Pastor Gannas. May God Continue to bless him in his future labors here at our Parish.

ST. FRANCIS D'ASSISI

On July 24, 1889, a delegation, representing a group of two hundred and fifty Immigrant Catholics of Polish Descent living west of Grand Blvd. and north of Michigan, approached the Pastor of St. Casimir's Church, Fr. Paul Gutowski, and petitioned him for assistance in forming a new Parish.

Bishop Foley agreed to the request of Fr. Gutowski and appointed Fr. Romuald Byzewski as the first Pastor. Due to his great enthusiasm and because of the wonderful cooperation of the people, the necessary land was purchased, plans were prepared and a temporary church was constructed within nine months. On April 19, 1890, their dream was realized, the Church was blessed under the Patronage of St. Francis D'Assisi and the first Mass was offered.

After eight years, Fr. Byzewski was transferred and in May, of 1898, Bishop Foley appointed Fr. Felix Kieruj the next Pastor. His eager zeal soon proved itself, because all the present buildings were erected, the cost of the magnificent church being \$154,000.00. With great splendor on June 3, 1905, the new church was blessed. Fourteen years later, April 23, 1919, Fr. Felix Kieruj died at the age of 49, completing twenty one years of hard and meritorious work as Pastor.

On May 24, 1919, Bishop Kelly appointed Fr. Alex Grudzinski as third Pastor. During his Pastorate, the Parish debt was cleared and nine years later, on April 4, 1928, the church was consecrated. St. Francis D'Assisi Church thus became the first Catholic Church built by Polish Immigrants, to be so honored in the State of Michigan and the fifth in the United States. Bishop Gallagher recognized Fr. Grudzinski's zeal and made him a Monsignor.

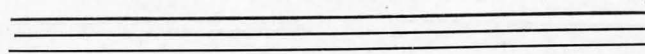
In failing health, Msgr. Grudzinski retired and Archbishop Edward Mooney appointed Fr. Max Gannas, the present Pastor, to this post on July 5, 1939. Since that time many necessary repairs and improvements were accomplished and new Societies were organized; namely the Altar Society, the Holy Name Society, the National Council of Catholic Women Conference and lastly, the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Although the Ford Expressway forced about four hundred families to move, yet many of these have remained members of St. Francis D'Assisi Parish till the present day.

Today the St. Vincent de Paul Society numbers eleven members who tirelessly help out the poor, practicing the works of mercy.



REVEREND GEORGE A. MAJEWSKI

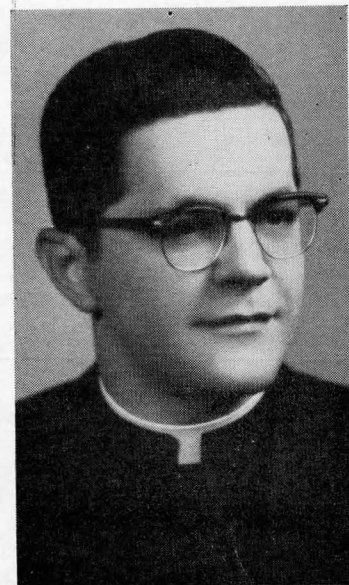
Fr. George was born in Hamtramck, Michigan, April 23, 1928. He attended grade school at Our Lady Queen of Apostles, and later St. Ladislaus High School. He began his studies for the priesthood at Sacred Heart Seminary, and finished his studies for the priesthood at SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. Ordained on June 7, 1952, Fr. George had his first Mass on June 15. Before coming to our parish, Fr. George served as an assistant at Our Lady of Help of Christians until January 13, 1957.



REVEREND EUGENE E. WOJTEWICZ

Moderator of Holy Name Society

Fr. Eugene was born in Delray, Michigan on December 20, 1930. He attended St. John Cantius elementary school and completed his High School studies at the University of Detroit High School. In 1948, he entered Sacred Heart Seminary for two years of college. After studying Philosophy at SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary for two years, Fr. Eugene completed his studies for the priesthood at St. John's Provincial Seminary, in Plymouth, Michigan. He was ordained on June 1, 1957, and came to our parish for his first assignment.



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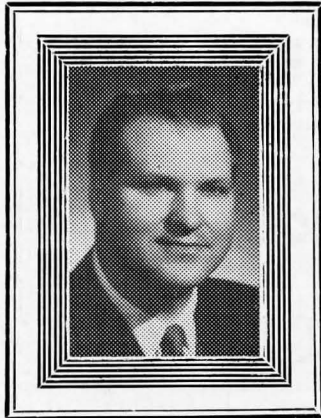
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CONGRESSMAN

15th Congressional District of Michigan

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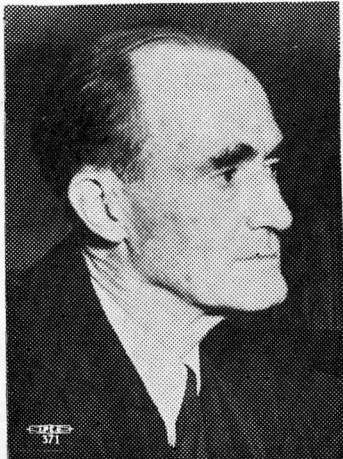
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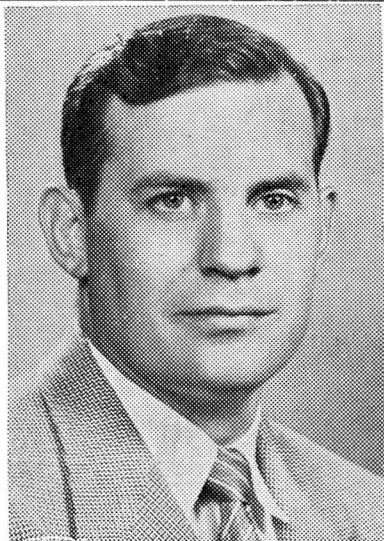
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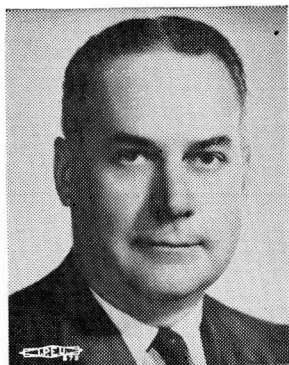
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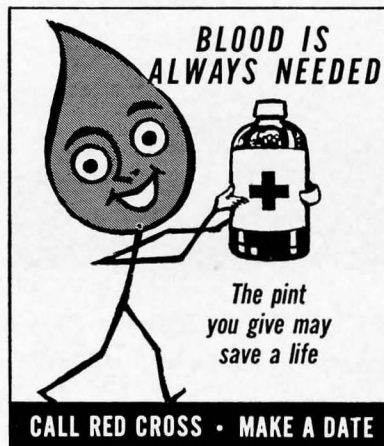
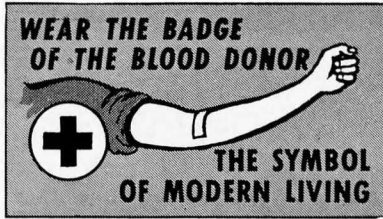
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