

*Celebrating 50 years in the
Priesthood*



*Father Robert J. Witkowski
1961-2011*

A Polish Toast

zyczymy Ksiedzu Witkowskiemu...

Sto Lat, Sto Lat,

niech zyje, syje nam,

Sto Lat, Sto Lat,

niech zyje, zyje nam,

Jeszcze raz jeszcze raz,

niech zyje, zyje nam.

Niech zyje nam!

Jest tw jeden miedzy namy

Ktory Robert nazywamy

Wiec panowie na jego drowie,

Niechaj zyje nam!!!!

Program

- 3:00 Cocktail Reception
- 3:45 Welcome
 Introduction of guests
- 4:00 Grace - Msgr. Stanley Milewski

— Dinner —

- 4:45 Presentations

Entertainment by
the Kietbasa Kings

Reverend Robert J. Witkowski

Reverend Robert J. Witkowski was born on September 11, 1935 at St. Francis Hospital in Hamtramck. He was the firstborn child of John and Jennie Witkowski.

While his mother, Jennie Nadrowski, was born in Brooklyn, his father, John Witkowski and all his grandparents were born in Poland. Hence his lifelong interest in things Polish.

As a boy, Father Robert attended St. Louis the King elementary school and was taught by the Felician Sisters until June, 1949.

That September he began high school at De La Salle Collegiate High School under the direction of the Christian Brothers.

In September, 1953 Father Robert began his college studies for the priesthood at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake.

September 1957, Father Robert began four years of Theological Studies at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth.

Father Robert Witkowski was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1961 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit by Cardinal Dearden and said his first Mass as his home parish, St. Louis the King, also in Detroit.

His first parish assignment was St. Matthew's where he served from 1961 - 1966. He was then assigned to Our Lady Queen of Heaven from 1966 - 1969, followed by an assignment as hospital Chaplain at Detroit Osteopathic and others. In 1976, Father went on to St. Mary Magdalen in Melvindale. Father Witkowski also served at the parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea (1980 - 1981), St. Lawrence (1981 - 1985), St. Raymond (1985 - 1991). In 1991, Father Robert came to St. Edmund Church and is the current pastor.

Caring and Serving Other Started Early

I was only six years old. It was my first day in school. I was walking down Moenart Street, and came to "Robinhood. I was lost, and didn't know which way to turn. I started to cry.

A young man stopped and asked me why I was crying. I told him I was going to St. Louis the King School, and it was my first day in the first grade and I was lost.

He told me he was going there also and was in the eighth grade. He walked with me to school and to my classroom. He walked me home, when school was over that first day.

I wasn't lost any more. I loved school and I was so grateful to that young man in the eighth grade.

He was Father Robert Witkowski.

Marilyn Roll Cooper
Florida

Wishes for Fr. Robert J. Witowski

Congratulations Father Robert! The members of the Social Commission wish you many blessings as you celebrate 50 years! May you have many more.

Best Wishes on your 50th Anniversary. May you be blessed with many more healthy years.

- Edward & Camille Uryga

Congratulations, Father Bob! We hope you know how much you are loved and appreciated by all of us.

- Dick & Genie Palmer

Sto Lat - niech zyje nam!

Congratulations, Fr. Bob! All of us on the Parish Pastoral Council thank you for your leadership. May you be showered with many blessings as you continue God's work,

Congratulations on your 50 years in the Lord's service. May God bless you and keep you in his care.

- Richard & Andrea Rogos

Congratulations on the Jubilee of your Priesthood. Joining you in grateful prayer for the past and for God's continuing blessings.

- Martin and Linda Wicker

Congratulations on 50 years of serving our Lord. You are a true blessing to our parish family.

- Larry & Kathy Andersen

Father Bob, you have been a wonderful Pastor, our church has been so lucky to have appreciated your personal touches these past years.

-Pat Kennedy

Dear Father Robert, you were a young boy. God called you - you answered. Happy 50th! Enjoy good health and happiness in doing God's work,

- Mr. & Mrs. James Reaume

Congratulations! May God continue to grant you the wisdom and strength to lead the people of St. Edmund in their faith.

- Barbara Shaner

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary Fr. Robert. Thank you for your tireless service at St. Edmund.

- Sharon Goebel

Congratulations on your 50th! Sto Lat!

- Annette, Walt, Matt Majka

Dear Fr. Robert, I pray daily that St. Edmund will have your guidances for many years, you have done wonders for our church and community.

-Audry Salatka

Peter and Cindy Gardulski are happy to celebrate Father Witkowski's 50th ordination Anniversary.

More Wishes for Fr. Robert

Dear Father Robert, Congratulations to you for your dedication in serving for 50 years as a wonderful Priest.

Wishing you many more years ahead of happiness and good health in serving our Lord.

- Mr. & Mrs. John Rizzo

It has been a pleasure and privilege to have known you.

God love you and keep you.

- Geneva and Norbert Ignasiak

We are proud to be at St. Edmund.

You are very special to both of us. As our Pastor, you are wonderful, and have helped us in many ways.

- God's special blessings to you,
Diane & Michael Kozlowski

Thank you for your years of service, Masses said, confessions heard, sacraments of the sick, your goodness and kindness to us. God bless you.

- Fred & Joyce Tworek

Congratulations on your 50th Anniversary in the Priesthood and wishing you the best in your future.

- Mary Lou Krzyminski

Congratulations on your 50 years of service to God and His people. May God continue to keep you in His care.

- Marie T. Sieciechowicz

Congratulations!

Thank you for being here for us.

- John & Mary Alhage

Congratulations! We would like to express our sincere thanks for all your dedication and hard work for the people of St. Edmund!

- Hank & Cathy Cloutier

Congratulations, Fr. Robert Witkowski!

May God continue to bestow His blessings upon you. Keep up the good work. You will always be in our prayers.

- Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Ross & son

Father Bob, thank you for all you do.

You are a blessing for all of us.

- Mr. & Mrs. Mulrenin

Thank you for being an "Awesome" Priest and Pastor.

- Dolores Popa

Dear Father Robert, Sincere Congratulations for all those years of faithfulness, we thank you very much.

- Love you! The Mimeim Group

Congratulations Father Robert on 50 years of dedicated and faithful service! You have emulated Christ's message to us for many years!

- Robert & Diane Apfel

God bless you and thank you for being a Priest.

- Bette Klein

More Wishes for Fr. Robert

Dear Fr. Robert, you are a very special person that God has made into a very special Priest! You have a heart of gold and you generate so much LOVE.

Thank you!

- The Jenkins, Tom & Catherine

Blessings on your 50 years of faithful service in His name.

Thank you.

- Irene W. Starr

Gratuiacje, on your 50 years of shepherding your parish family of St. Edmund Church. Many years of good health and happiness in your continual service to the Lord. Sto Lat!

- The Bruno Family

Wishing you God's blessings on your 50th Anniversary of the Priesthood.

- Edwin Bara

Congratulations! Thank you for dedicated service to our community and our family.

- The Morelli Family

God's blessings and thank you for daily 9 a.m. Mass.

- Robert & Joyce Moser

We congratulate you on your 50th Anniversary. Thank you for your years of service. Our best wishes for health and happiness.

- Richard & JoAnne Aiello

Congratulations Fr. Witkowski on your 50 years of spiritual leadership.

Thank you for your time, energy and faithful love.

- Tom & Noranda Gelardi

With our prayers and Best Wishes, we thank God for your grace of Priesthood and service. May God bless you.

- David, Suzanne & Renee Gensor

KS Bob: Your goodness, caring, devotion and dedication are an inspiration to us all. God Blessed St. Edmund by giving you to us. Sto Lat!

- Loretta Lysk

Congratulations Fr. Robert on 50 years of service. Thank you for welcoming our family to your parish. May God bless you with happiness and health always.

Joseph & Carol Vitale

Father Robert Congratulations and Best Wishes on your 50th Anniversary.

Tony Volino

Our Congratulations on being a Priest for 50 years, doing God's work shepherding His people. We thank you.

- Bill & Phoebe Sutter

Congratulations Fr. Witkowski, as you celebrate the golden jubilee of your ordination. Thank you for all you've done for us and St. Edmund.

- Jean & Rich Bartowski

More Wishes for Fr. Robert

Congratulations on your
50th Anniversary Father! Thank you
for your commitment to our Holy
Catholic Faith and the families of
St. Edmund. May God bless you always.
Gary & Lisa Ciurla & family

Happy Anniversary Father! We are
privileged to serve at your Masses, and we
wish you continued health and blessings.
- Chris, Robbie, Joseph & Nicholas Ciurla

Thank you for your many years of
unselfish service and devotion. May God
continue to bless you and keep you in
His tender care.
- Doris & Joe Staller

On this happy occasion, we pray that
the Lord will continue to bless you for
the love and service you have given
these past 50 years.
- Chet & Roberta (Sue) Jarosz

Congratulations from the "Village".
We thank you and God for your
50 years of giving, but most especially
your thoughtfulness given to our family.
- Bob & Pat Mitchell

Dear Fr. Robert, Congratulations!
Thanks for the inspiration and guidance
you have give to all of us.
Wishing you all the best in the future.
- Nina & Bill Batty

Congratulations and Best Wishes on
your 50th Anniversary. We are blessed
to have your guidance and friendship.
- The Fitzpatrick Family

Dear Fr. Robert, Congratulations on
your Golden Jubilee. Thank you for your
spiritual guidance and fatherly love at
St. Edmund. God bless you.
- Jack & Lucille Dwyer

Fr. Robert, Congratulations! May God
bless you, give you good health and keep
you in His care. Sto Lat!
- Ceil Adamczyk

Thank you for your unselfish dedication
to St. Edmund's. You are always there
for everyone. Congratulation on your
50th Anniversary.
- Mike & Irene McCann

Congratulations and Best Wishes on
your Golden Anniversary. May God
bless you with peace, health and happiness.
- Carl, Clare Gaslofi & Family

Thank you for all of your spiritual
guidance to us over the years.
May God's blessing be on you.
-Dennis & Judy Leduc & Children

God bless you on your Golden Jubilee.
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ruzsala

More Wishes for Fr. Robert

God bless you and thank you for being
a Priest.

- Bette Klein

Dear Fr. Robert: wishing you a very
happy 50th Anniversary. May the Lord
continue to bless you with good health,
happiness and many blessings.

- Frances McKeown

Fr. Robert, Congratulations on your
50th Anniversary in the Priesthood.
Thanks for your gentleness and kindness
to the parishioners and staff.

God bless you.

-Marge Van Havermaat

Grateful for the numerous prayers and
guidance you bestowed upon my family
members and myself. Congratulations on
your 50th Anniversary serving
Our Lord.

-Joan Flynn

Thank you for being who you are... the
qualities God has blest you with...
kindness, thoughtfulness and
compassion have been who you are for
the many years I have know you.

- Geri Podgorski

Best Wishes Father, you have been
a real leader and an inspiration
to the ushers.

- Edward Kucharek, president

Dear Father, Thank you for your
blessings and your 50 years of serving
The Lord. God love you.

Norbert & Geneva Ignasiak

Congratulations on your
50th Anniversary. We appreciate all you
have done for the parish.

- Edward & Carol Kucharek

Dear Fr. Bob, your 50 years as a kind
and thoughtful shepherd has been a
blessing to us during our 50 years of
marriage.

- Ed & Diane (Noga) Bonkowski

Dear Father, Thank you for your
blessings and your 50 years of serving
The Lord. God love you.

- Marilyn Roll Cooper

Gratefulness to God and to you for
God's grace and favor in you, and your
service in home visits, hospital treks and
all for the people of St. Edmund and
the Archdiocese of Detroit.

- Fr. Lawrence Ventline

Fr. Robert, your faithful service has been
a shining example and you have blessed
us more than you will ever know.

- Shirley & Jay Cusatis

Thank you for your inspirational
sermons throughout the years! May God
bless you with good health and
happiness for many years to come.

- Janet Piche



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Anniversary of
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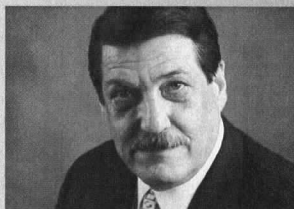
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St. Edmund Church
on your 50th Anniversary



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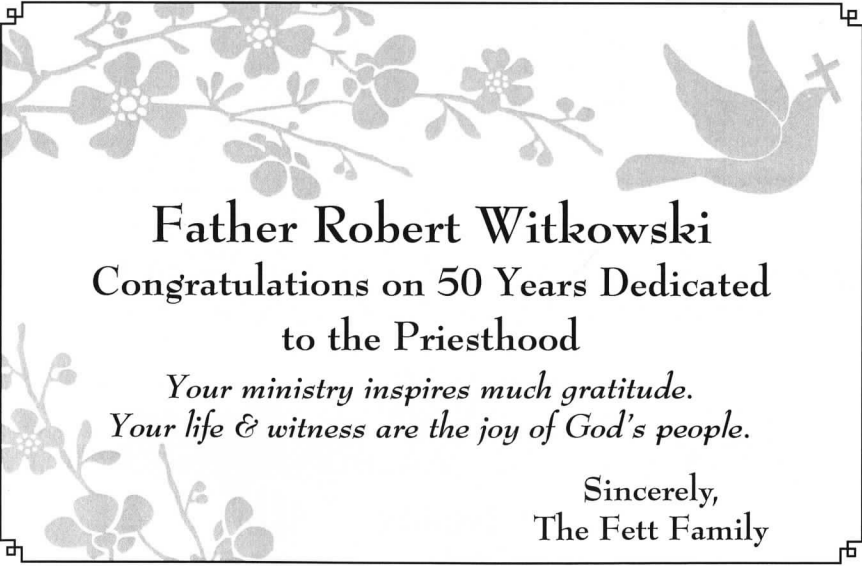
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BY APPOINTMENT

**Congratulations on
your 50th Anniversary!**

*Thank you for all of your spiritual
guidance to us. God Bless you!*

- St. Edmund Senior Club



Father Robert Witkowski
Congratulations on 50 Years Dedicated
to the Priesthood

*Your ministry inspires much gratitude.
Your life & witness are the joy of God's people.*

Sincerely,
The Fett Family

*Congratulations
Father Robert J. Witkowski
on 50 years dedicated to the Priesthood and
St. Edmund Parish*

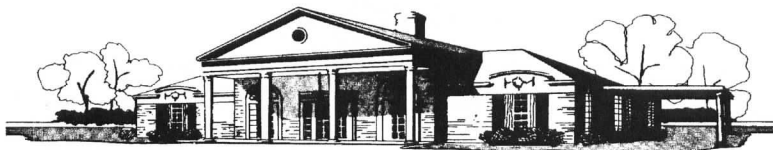


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Congratulations
Fr. Robert J. Witkowski on
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for 50 years.

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it's about sharing the gift God has given
each one of us.*

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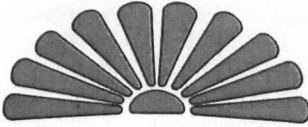
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Irish Blessing

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for your hands to do.

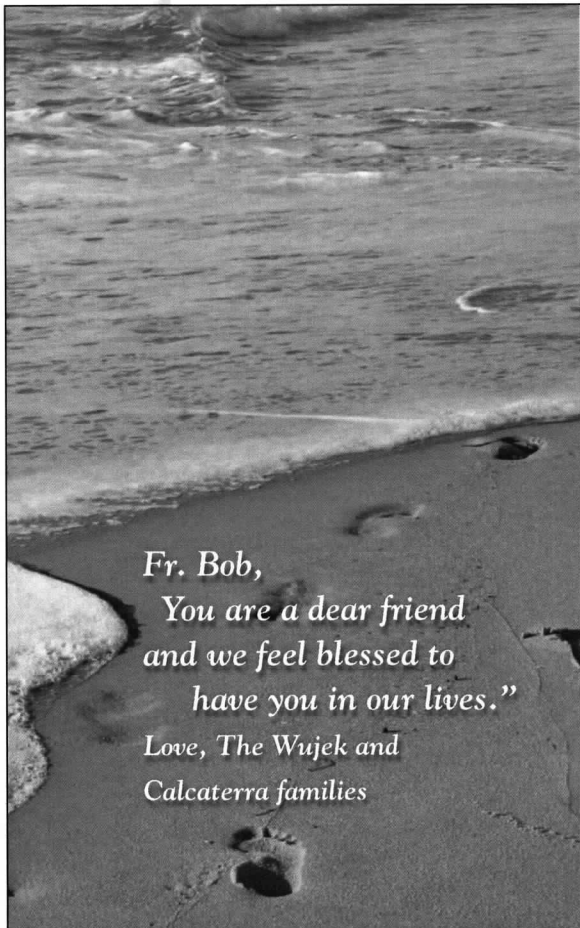
May your pockets always
hold a coin or two.

May the sun shine bright
on your windowpane.

May the rainbow be certain
to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend
always be near you.

And may God fill your heart
with gladness to cheer you.



Fr. Bob,
You are a dear friend
and we feel blessed to
have you in our lives.”
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Merged Parishes Renamed for Blessed John Paul

Buffalo Bishop Edward Kmiec approved the consolidation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Lakeview and St. Vincent dePaul Parish in Evans into Blessed John Paul II Parish. It is believed to be one of the first parishes in the world named for the newly beatified pope. St. Vincent's will be closed and Perpetual Help will be the new worship site.

In other news from the Buffalo Diocese, **Rev. Michael Burzynski** has been appointed pastor of St. John Gualbert Parish in Cheektowaga. Additional appointments include **Rev. Jacek Mazur** as pastor of St. Mary of the Cataract Parish in Niagara Falls, **Rev. Czeslaw Krysa** as rector of the St. Casimir Oratory in Buffalo and **Rev. Gary Szczepanek** as pastor of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in North Tonawanda. **Rev. Francis Chmielewski** has been named the new pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Buffalo's Kaiser-town neighborhood. Plans to close this church have been delayed by the diocese.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...

Fr. Robert Witkowski, pastor of St. Edmund's RC Church, Warren, Mich., celebrating 50 years of priesthood. Born in Hamtramck in 1935 and ordained in 1961, he served various Detroit area parishes (St. Matthew, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Mary Magdalene, Our Lady Star of the Sea, St. Lawrence, St. Raymond) before becoming pastor of St. Edmund's in 1991. In 2005 he was honored by the Polish American Priests Association in recognition of his active involvement with the association and Polonia.

On May 25, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo honored its

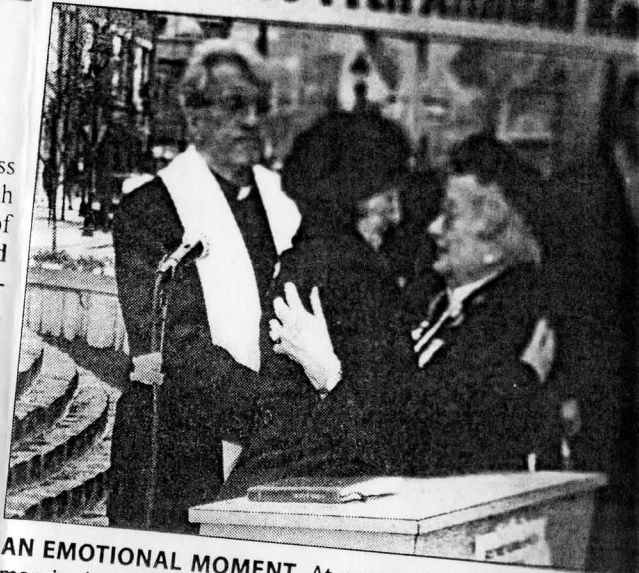
1971 ordination class with a Mass and reception at St. Stephen Church in Grand Island. The members of this class include **Bishop Edward Grosz**, **Rev. Thaddeus Bocianowski** (St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert, St. John Kanty), **Rev. David Borowiak** (St. Philip), **Rev. Joseph Janaczek** (Our Lady of Loreto), **Rev. Fabian Maryanski** (St. Andrew) and **Rev. Charles Slisz** (St. Christopher) ... Buffalo Auxiliary Bishop **Edward Grosz** marked the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood with a special Mass at Assumption Parish in Black-Rock on May 29 ... **Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr.** on his 25th anniversary of ordination celebrated at St. Michael the Archangel PNCC Parish in Cedar Lake, Ind.

STOLATTO ... Fr. Miroslaw Król, Vice Rector of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Mich., on his appointment by Stanislaw Cardinal Dziwisz of Kraków and Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, to be the Director of the Pope John Paul II - Be Not Afraid Foundation. The foundation is being established in Newark to promote the legacy of Blessed Pope John Paul II and to raise funds for the Be Not Afraid Foundation in Kraków. In addition, Fr. Król will become pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Linden, N.J., one of the larger Polish American Catholic communities in New Jersey.

Edward Osowski and **David Barnes**, members of Blessed Trinity PNC Parish in Fall River, Mass., on receiving parish scholarships to aid in their college studies.

Walter Szczesny, owner of WTS Plumbing in Batavia, N.Y., who was ordained a permanent deacon by Bishop Kmiec, May 28.

Baltimore's 11th Annual Katyn Memorial



AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT. At center above, Rabbi Amy Berman is shown sharing a sisterly embrace bestowed by Polish Lt. Alfreda Jamrosz. Observing is Rev. Zdzislaw Nawrocki (left) and Rep. John Sarbanes.

BALTIMORE —The National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF), led by Chairman Richard P. Poranski, conducted its 11th Annual Katyn Remembrance, April 10, 2011.

The day began with a very well-attended Katyn-dedicated Mass, celebrated in Polish by Rev. Zdzislaw Nawrocki, at Holy Rosary Church. A traditional coffee-and-cake gathering followed in the church's undercroft. The early afternoon formal ceremony at the National Katyn Memorial site, located on Katyn Circle in the Harbor East neighborhood, was opened by MC Adam Mazurek with the presentation of national colors by the local SPK and PLAV veteran's organizations. Traditionally-costumed folk dance ensembles Krakowiacki and Ojczyzna raised their combined voices in the singing of the Polish and American national anthems.

Opening and concluding Invocations were given by Rev. Zdzislaw Nawrocki (RC) and Rev. Andrzej Bieganski (PNCC), respectively. Rabbi Amy Scheiner-prayed and sang Kaddish in memory of Baruch Steinhundred Polish Army officers of the Jewish faith who all perished at Katyn along with over 22,000 of their majority-catholic military brothers.

Representing the Embassy of the Republic of Po-

Rev. Canon Thomas C. Machalski, Jr. Named N

continued from cover

Bishop for further assignment. Effective January 1, 2012, Fr. Machalski will be Chancellor/Rector of the Orchard Lake School.

Both the Prep and the Seminary have recently received renewal from their respective accreditation agencies and have

MODLITWY / Prayers

PUBLICATION OF PRAYERS: THE POLISH AMERICAN JOURNAL