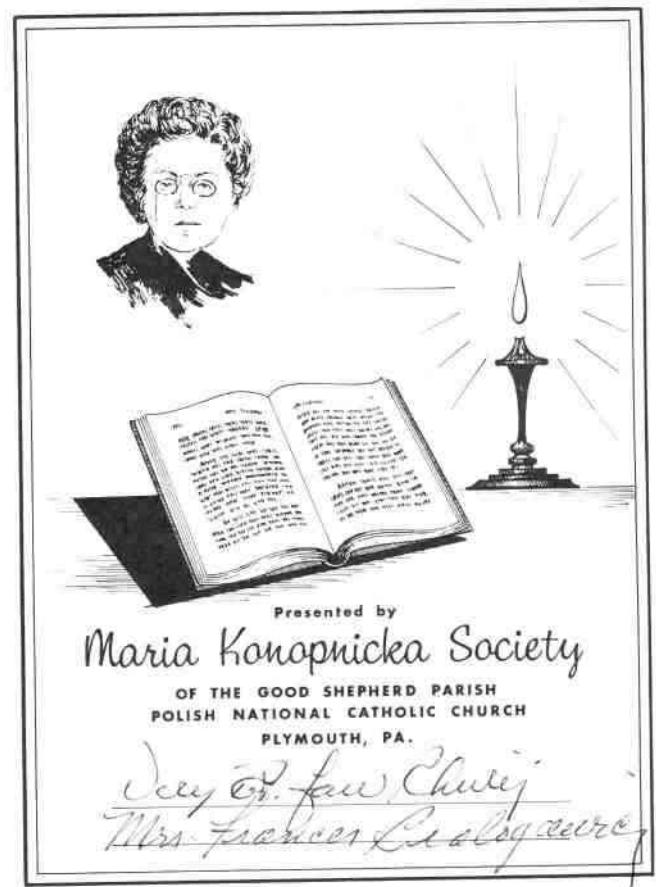


ALEGAT



Church of the Good Shepherd  
*Polish National Catholic*  
Plymouth, Pa.



Presented by  
*Maria Konopnicka Society*

OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH  
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
PLYMOUTH, PA.

*Dee & Mrs. Chute  
Mrs. Francis Gologorec*

# ALEGAT



Church of the Good Shepherd  
Polish National Catholic  
Plymouth, Penna.

## 75th ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL COMMITTEE ALEGAT

The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej

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*Edited*              The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej

*Art and Layout*    Mr. Edward Jazgier

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                        Parish Office, Mr. G. Soppeck, Mrs. L. Yanoski.

*Published*           January, 1976 in conjunction with the Bicentennial of the  
                        United States.

# In Grateful Appreciation

*to the*

**PRIESTS - ORGANIZERS - FAITHFUL**

who labored in the vineyard of Jesus Christ

by TRUTH, WORK and STRUGGLE

and have been building throughout seventy-five years

**GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH**

of the Polish National Catholic Church in Plymouth, Penna.

**WE DEDICATE THIS  
75th ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL**



THE GOOD SHEPHERD



CHURCH  
of the  
GOOD  
SHEPHERD



THE MOST REV. FRANCIS HODUR  
(I Prime Bishop PNCC)

*Born*

Sunday, April 1, 1866 — Zarki, Poland

*Priesthood*

Ordained Saturday, August 19, 1893 — Bishop O'Hara,  
Scranton, Penna.

*Departed*

Holy Trinity, Nanticoke, Penna., to assume pastorate of St.  
Stanislaus, Scranton, Penna., Sunday, March 14, 1897

*Elected*

Bishop—First Synod PNCC, Thursday, September 6, 1904,  
Scranton, Penna.

*Consecrated*

Sunday, September 29, 1907 — Utrecht, Holland, Old  
Catholic Church; Bishops: Gull, Van Thiel and Spit.

*Died*

Monday, February 16, 1953 — Scranton, Penna.

*Funeral*

Saturday, February 21, 1953 — St. Stanislaus Cathedral,  
Scranton, Penna. Principal celebrant, The Most Rev. Leon  
Grochowski.

*Interment*

St. Stanislaus Cathedral Cemetery, Minooka, Penna., Grotto  
of Christ Benign. Transferred to Monument of Gratitude on  
Monday, July 4, 1955.

**First Prime Bishop  
FRANCIS HODUR**

## **CONFESSTION OF FAITH OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1. I BELIEVE in Almighty God, the cause of all existence, in a Being who permeates the universe and is the source of its life and development, both material (physical) as well as spiritual and moral. In relation to man, God reveals Himself through His creative power, His inexpressible wisdom, His provident influence on the formation of the destiny of individual man, nations, states and all of humanity. In a more particular way, God as the Spirit of Life, Light and Goodness, influences chosen spirits of nations, who in a given epoch of human development, are the creative agent in the building of God's Kingdom on earth. This direct influence of God—is not limited to one nation, to one epoch, but is directed to all nations and times—for the purpose of stimulating life, progress and the attainment of the highest degree of culture by individual nations, states and all mankind; it is the outpouring of Divine forces acting upon humanity and the benefiting from these forces by individuals, nations, states and all mankind.
2. I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, the Saviour and Spiritual Regenerator of the world.
3. I BELIEVE that Christ the Lord, was the Emissary of God, of one substance with Him, and as to humanity born of the humble woman Mary. I believe that this Nazarene Master revealed His

Divine mission on earth through His life, an unsurpassed ideal of goodness, wisdom and self-sacrifice for others, especially for sinful and disinherited people; that by His work, teaching and sacrificial death, He became the glowing ember of a new life of mankind, taking its beginning and deriving its strength and fullness in knowing God, loving Him and fulfilling His Holy Will.

4. I BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, rules the world in the natural as well as in the moral order; that all the laws of the universe, as well as those by which the soul of individual man and humanity as a whole are guided, are an emanation of the will, goodness and righteousness of the Divine Being.

5. I BELIEVE that from the Holy Spirit flows grace, that is an invisible power which brings it to pass that, when a man cooperates and works in harmony with it, he becomes better, more perfect, better fitted for his tasks, a participant in the peace of heart and soul, until one day, through union with God in Eternity, he finds infinite bliss and the fulfillment of his own being.

6. I BELIEVE in the need of uniting all followers of Christ's religion into the one body of God's Church, and that the Church of Christ, Apostolic and Universal, is the representation of this

## CONFESSTION OF FAITH . . . .

Divine community of mankind, which the Saviour proclaimed, for the realization of which all noble minded people labored, are still laboring and for which the soul of man yearns, desiring truth, light, love, justice and consolation in God.

7. I BELIEVE that the Church of Christ is the true teacher of both individual man as well as of all human society, that it is a steward of Divine Graces, a guide and a light in man's temporal pilgrimage to God and salvation; in so far as the followers and members of this Church, both lay and clerical, are united with the Divine Founder through faith and life proceeding from this faith.

8. I BELIEVE that every true Christian should take an active and vital part in the spiritual life of the Church; through the hearing of the Word of God, through the receiving of the Holy Sacraments, through fulfilling the laws and regulations established by Christ and His Apostles, as defined and given us by the Church.

9. I BELIEVE that all people as children of one Father, God, are equal in themselves; that privileges arising from differences in rank, from possession of immense riches or from differences of faith, sex and race, are a great wrong, for they are a violation of the rights of man which he possesses by his nature and the

dignity of his divine origin, and are a barrier to the purposeful development of man.

10. I BELIEVE that all people have an equal right to life, happiness and those ways and means which lead to the preservation of existence, to advancement and salvation, but I also believe, that all people have sacred obligations toward God, themselves, their nation, state and all of human society.

11. I BELIEVE in the ultimate justice of God, in a future life beyond the grave, which will be a continuation of this temporal life and which, as to its condition and degree of perfection and happiness is dependent on our present life, but above all on the state of our soul in the final hour before death.

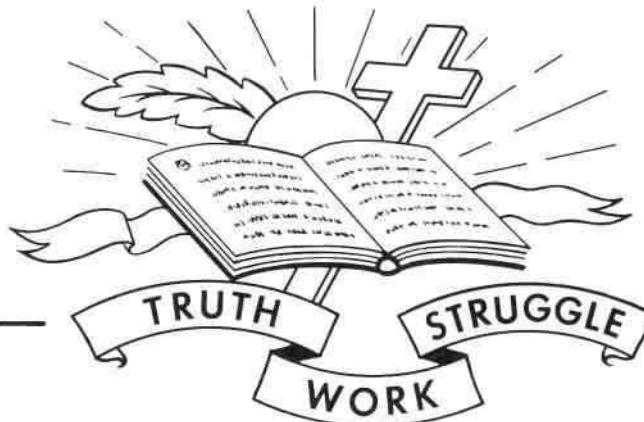
12. I BELIEVE in immortality and everlasting happiness in eternity, in the union with God of all people, races and ages, because I believe in the Divine power of love, mercy and justice and for nothing else do I yearn, but that it may be to me according to my faith.

THE MOST REV. FRANCIS HODUR

*This Confession of Faith was first adopted in 1913 at the Provincial Synod held at Wilkes-Barre, Penna.*



**"In Bishop Hodur's Footsteps"**



### P N C Church Symbol

The Symbol of the Polish National Catholic Church summarizes the substance of Christianity.

The Book — represents the revealed Word of God

The Sun — is the sign of religious freedom and fervor.

The Cross — is the symbol of sacrifice.

The Palm — is the emblem of merited peace and victory.

The Polish National Catholic Church urges its faithful to incorporate these Christian principles into daily life by means of Truth, Work and Struggle.

## HYMN OF THE CHURCH



Through the years unto Thee, O Lord,  
Faithful service we have rendered,  
At the break of dawn marched sunward,  
At the chains of bondage straining.

Unto Thee we built a temple,  
Which for us became a treasure,  
Pouring gifts of faith and courage,  
In it is our hope forever.

Christ Himself speaks from its altars,  
As He spoke throughout the ages,  
To the poor among His people,  
When their blinded eyes He opened.

Now again He comes from heaven,  
Midst the lab'ring, toiling, people,  
In the form of Bread and God's Word,  
To His humble, needful people.

When in doubt by Him we are strengthened,  
From degrading sin He lifts us,  
Animates us and ennobles,  
From a dormant slumber wakes us.

He pours new life into our souls,  
Fires our hearts with passion sacred,  
In contrition He refines us,  
As a sword of steel we're tempered.

Through the storms of life He guides us,  
Midst the thunder and the tempest,  
Christ is ever there before us,  
But are we, Lord, always faithful?

Would to God we be faithful ever,  
Would to God this sacred banner,  
In our souls and hearts be opened,  
Until death our life does sever.

— Most Rev. F. Hodur



**Prime Bishop**  
**Leon Grochowski**

THE MOST REV. LEON GROCHOWSKI  
(*II Prime Bishop PNCC*)

*Born*

Monday, October 11, 1886 — Surpie, Poland

*Priesthood*

Ordained on Saturday, September 10, 1910, Scranton, Penna.  
Bishop Francis Hodur

*Elected*

Bishop on Wednesday, July 16, 1924  
Special Synod — Scranton, Penna.

*Consecrated*

Bishop on Sunday, August 17, 1924 —  
Bishop Francis Hodur — Scranton, Penna.

*Elected*

Prime Bishop — General Synod, 1949, Scranton, Penna.,  
to succeed Prime Bishop Francis Hodur.

*Died*

Thursday, July 17, 1969 — Warszawa, Poland.

*Funeral*

Tuesday, July 29, 1969 — Scranton, Penna. Principal  
celebrant, the Most Rev. Thaddeus Zielinski.

*Interment*

Monument of Gratitude — Minooka, Penna.

## PRIME BISHOP THADDEUS ZIELIŃSKI



November 8, 1973

The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej  
269 East Main Street  
Plymouth, Penna. 18651

Dear Rev. Sr. Jan Chwiej, members and friends  
of Good Shepherd Parish:

I deem it a privilege to extend to each of you sincere and heartfelt congratulations as you observe your 75th year of organization as the 3rd parish of the Polish National Catholic Church.

You are leaving 75 years behind you, years which were filled with both joy and sorrow.

Your parish has taken a very active part in the formative years of the Church always being in the forefront with the Standard Church Societies which are the right hand in carrying on the work and program of this Church.

With best wishes for continued success I am,

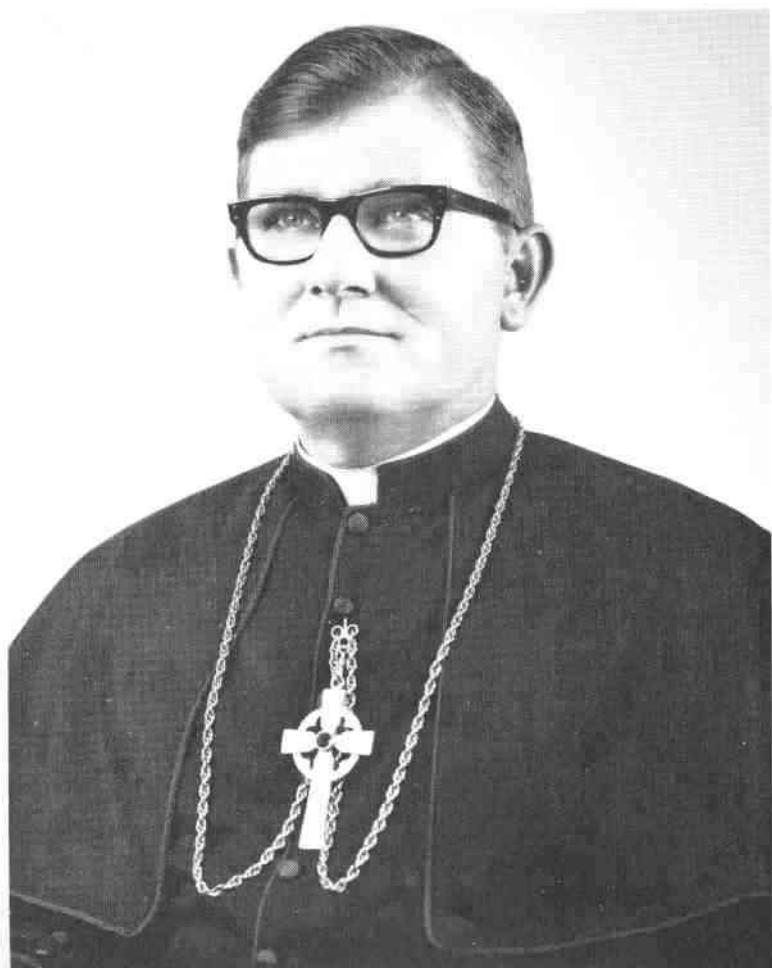
Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "Bp. Zielinski".

TZ:ds

Most Rev. Thaddeus F. Zielinski, D.D.

## THE RT. REV. ANTHONY RYSZ



October 7, 1974

Good Shepherd Parish  
Polish National Catholic Church  
269 E. Main Street  
Plymouth, Pa. 18651

Very Reverend and dear Fr. Senior Chwiej —  
My dear Brothers and Sisters:

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you personally, and on behalf of the Central Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church, words of sincere congratulations as you celebrate the Seventy Fifth milestone of your parish's existence and its work for the Glory of God and the benefit of man.

The life of your parish was intimately connected with the life of the organizer of our church—Bishop Francis Hodur. The early history of your parish is marked with many trials which the young parish had to overcome in order to live and grow. These had all been conquered through a lively faith and the sincere dedication and loyalty of the generations which lived before us.

As three quarters of a century pass in your service to God, it is my prayer that we all continue in this service and continue to share in God's abundant blessings.

May God bless you and continue to guide you and me in fulfilling His will.

Very sincerely yours,

Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz  
Bishop—Central Diocese  
Polish National Catholic Church



## VERY REV. STANISŁAW SZUFLADOWICZ

### *Born*

Wednesday, November 5, 1902 — Warszawa, Poland

### *Received*

Minor Orders in Poland, Bishop Gall — Ordained on Monday, January 14, 1929, Bishop Francis Hodur — Scranton, Penna.

### *Assigned*

To Good Shepherd, Plymouth, Penna., and Holy Name of Jesus,, Nanticoke, Penna., on Monday, April 19, 1929.

### *Elevated*

To Senior Priest — Plymouth Seniorate, on Sunday, February 24, 1935, Bishop F. Hodur,

### *Died*

On Saturday, May 4, 1968, Nanticoke, Penna.

### *Funeral*

On Wednesday, May 8, 1968, principal celebrant the Most Rev. Leon Grochowski.

### *Interment*

Good Shepherd Cemetery — West Nanticoke, Penna.

## VERY REV. JAN CHWIEJ

### IN GRATITUDE —

The perusal of the history of our parish — reaffirms the conviction, that our cause, undertaken at difficult odds, was indeed necessary. Our predecessors discharged their responsibilities with unmatched courage. It is for this reason that we acknowledge the judgment of time and are now cognizant of the beneficial advancements made possible only because they persevered on their chosen course. We look ahead with assurance that the banner of religious tolerance will be carried into the distant future.

As we reflect with respect the deeds of the pastors and faithful — who disregarding personal losses, remained undaunted at the side of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur to continue to build a worthy and lasting institution of God. May the Almighty God reward their devotion and sacrifices to the Polish National Catholic Church through the Good Shepherd parish in Plymouth, Penna.

We do hereby make known our gratitude to the present membership for their generous contributions and love of the Church. May the 75th Anniversary commemoration spur us all to additional worthy accomplishments for the greater glory of God and the improvement of relations between individuals. Let us proceed with hope into tomorrow — for tomorrow awaits us with open arms. May God bless all who participated in this memorable event. Szczęść Boże . . .

Very Rev. Jan Chwiej

### WCZORAJ, DZIŚ I JUTRO . . .

Spojrzenie wstecz utwierdziło w nas zapewnienie istotności i prawowierności naszej sprawy. Chylimy czoła w głębokim przekonaniu iż czas najbardziej sprawiedliwie osądził dokonania naszych przodków. Patrzymy w jutro pełni nadziei, że sztandar Wolnego Kościoła poniesiony zostanie w daleką przyszłość.

Wspominamy ze czcią pionierów wolnej sprawy, którzy nie bacząc na osobiste straty — stanęli u boku obrońcy ludu polskiego Ks. Bp. Franciszka Hodura by tworzyć wielkie dzieło. Oby Wszechmogący Bóg raczył nagrodzić ich poświęcenia i trudy poniesione na niwie organizacyjnej tutejszej placówki.

Obecnych członków naszej parafii pochwalamy za ich troskę, ofiary i miłość dla Kościoła. Niechaj upamiętnienie 75 rocznicy zorganizowania Parafii Dobrego Pasterza w Plymouth, Penna., będzie bodźcem do dalszych szlachetnych wyczynów. Idźmy odważnie w lepsze jutro — wszak czeka na nas z otwartymi rękoma. Szczęść Boże.

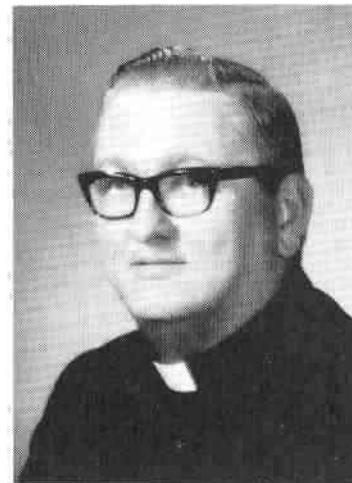
KS. SEN. JAN CHWIEJ, prob.



## SONS OF THE PARISH



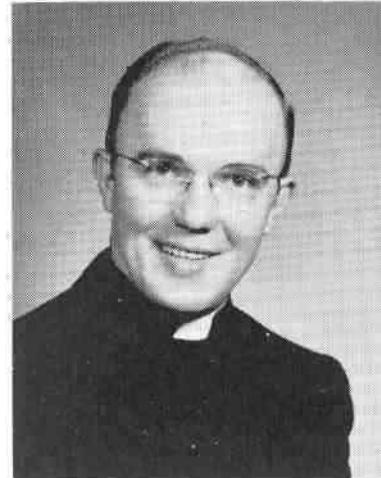
Very Rev. Joseph Tomczyk



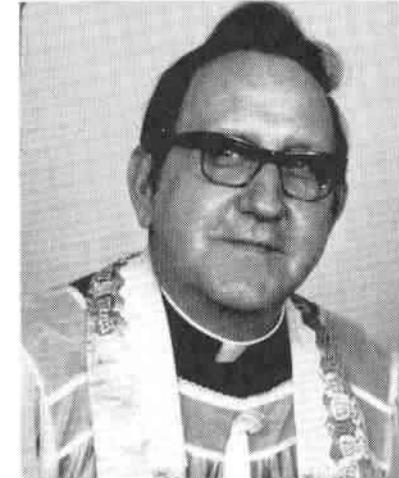
Rev. Edward Tomczyk



Rev. Frank Parulski



Very Rev. Anthony Draus



Rev. Chester Lach

## MESSAGES FROM SONS OF THE PARISH

Dear Father Senior and the Members of the Church of Good Shepherd:

Greetings In The Bond Of Christianity!

On your Diamond Jubilee year I extend congratulations and best wishes to all of you. Undoubtedly your hearts as well as mine are filled with gratitude, happiness and glory to God on this joyous occasion which will be long remembered.

As one of the sons of your parish, I have a special feeling for the wonderful people who comprise the parish. The association and the many pleasant memories of Good Shepherd will always have a very warm place in my heart.

Please be assured that I remember all of you in my daily prayers requesting God's generous blessings upon you. Please grant me the charity of including me in your daily prayers.

May the Omnipotent God permit His rays of Love to descend upon all of you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Szczęść Wam Boże!

VERY REVEREND JOSEPH P. TOMCZYK, Ph. B.

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

On this joyous occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Church of the Good Shepherd Polish National Catholic Church, Plymouth, Pa., it is my extreme pleasure to extend to you my warmest congratulations.

No doubt, your forefathers, the founders and pioneers of this parish have set for themselves a heavy and arduous path in the very beginning of this parish — many sacrifices had to be made, but their deep faith has sustained them in their trials and tribulations; many a sleepless night was endured that you — their children — you the successors — would be able to have a place of worship and to continue the good work of the Polish National Catholic Church. These unselfish sacrifices were made because the Spirit of Christ dwelt in their hearts.

Now, you have continued their good work and have laid upon a solid foundation. Over these seventy-five years, many improvements have been made, and at present you are planning to build a new rectory. Your forefathers are proud of you. I am also edified with your future planning.

Again my sincere congratulations to the pastor, The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej and all the parishioners of the Church of the Good Shepherd. My wish is that Christ will keep all of you in His love and grace. God bless all of you for many, many years!

In Christ's love,  
REV. EDWARD J. TOMCZYK

Reminiscing of The Church of Good Shepherd of Plymouth, Pa., let me express this thought: "When all is bleak and forlorn look to the future."

Congratulations on the 75th Anniversary and may God's Grace be with you always.

REV. FRANK D. PARULSKI

W 75-tą rocznicę powstania Parafji Dobrego Pasterza w Plymouth, Pa.. skromne lecz serdeczne życzenie składam Przewiel. Ks. Seniorowi Chwiejowi i Parafji — Błogosławieństwa Bożego na dalszą drogę w pracy dla dobra i rozwoju parafji.

Przy tej sposobności pozdrawiam iżyczę wszystkiego najlepszego.

Oddany w Bogu,  
KS. SEN. ANTONI K. DRAUS

Good Shepherd Parish is always in my thoughts and prayers . . . Well done Good and Faithful Servants of Good Shepherd. Congratulations on your 75th Anniversary . May the Holy Spirit of God guide you always in your work in our Holy Polish National Catholic Church.

REV. CHESTER B. LACH



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
HARRISBURG

GREETINGS:

My sincere congratulations are extended on this occasion marking the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Polish National Catholic Church.

The members of your Church are to be commended for their humanitarian efforts and dedication to their religion. Your diligent labors do, indeed, exemplify a benevolent spirit to the community of Plymouth and the entire Commonwealth.

The devotion of the members of the Church of the Good Shepherd over the past seventy-five years demonstrates the good things which mankind is capable of doing to make this a better world in which to live.

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to offer best wishes for the future of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Polish National Catholic Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Milton J. Shapp".

MILTON J. SHAPP  
Governor

## **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, there was established on June 4, 1898, The Church of the Good Shepherd, in the Borough of Plymouth, Pennsylvania, by the Most Reverend Francis Hodur, and

WHEREAS, The Church of the Good Shepherd has made many notable contributions to the community through its illustrious sons and daughters, and

WHEREAS, the same Church of the Good Shepherd continues to render strong and meaningful spiritual and moral guidance in these difficult days to members of the Parish,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Luzerne County, hereby extends their sincerest best wishes and congratulations to the Very Reverend Jan Chwiej, Pastor, Mr. Joseph Gladys, Chairman of the Anniversary Committee, and to all parishioners of The Church of the Good Shepherd, Plymouth, Pennsylvania, on the observance of their 75th Anniversary, November 11, 1973.

BY:

LUZERNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

E. C. Wideman, Jr., Chairman  
Frank P. Crossin  
Ethel A. Price

ATTEST:

P. J. Clarke, Chief Clerk  
Date: October 16, 1974

## **RESOLUTION No. 30 of 1974**

WHEREAS, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Plymouth, Pennsylvania observed it's 75th Anniversary on Sunday, November 11, 1973.

WHEREAS, this joyous and auspicious occasion requires recognition by the residents of Plymouth through it's Council and Mayor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the Borough Council and the Mayor of the Borough of Plymouth and all the residents and friends of the Church of the Good Shepherd congratulate the Pastor and their Congregation on achieving it's 75th anniversary, and wish them well in the future. It is hopeful that they will continue their good work providing spiritual guidance and help for their congregation and their many friends.

Passed this 10th day of September, 1974.

JOSEPH R. CONNIEF  
President  
Plymouth Borough Council

ATTEST:

ROBERT A. MUNDAY  
Secretary  
Plymouth Borough Council

Approved this 10th day of September, 1974.

EDWARD F. BURNS  
Mayor of Plymouth

## SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej

Mr. Joseph Gladys, *chairman*

Mrs. Mildred Koninski, *secretary*

Mr. Everyst Chocallo, *treasurer*

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Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Parulski, Jr.

### TICKET COMMITTEE

Mrs. Helen Dinan, *chairlady*

Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz

Mrs. Mildred Koninski

Mrs. Mary Gladys

Mr. Edward Jazgier

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Helen Dinan

Mrs. Mildred Koninski

Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz

Mrs. Dolores Godek

### COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

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Mrs. Dolores Godek

Mr. Donald Godek

Mrs. Tillie Bogdan

Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz

Mrs. Mildred Koninski

Mr. Adam Chwiej

Mr. Stanley Lach

Mrs. Barbara Harris

Mrs. June Zawadski

### COMMITTEE ON INVITATIONS

Mrs. Mildred Koninski, *chairlady*

Mrs. Florence Chwiej

Mrs. June Zawadski

Mrs. Alice Parulski

Mr. Stanley Kaminski

Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz

Miss Stella Rachwalski

Mrs. Pauline Timinski

Mrs. Helen Dinan

# THE THIRD PARISH

## Introduction

The formal history of the Good Shepherd Parish, Polish National Catholic Church of Plymouth, Penna., begins on Saturday, June 4, 1898. In the course of time, specific historical events were recorded in anniversary journals published in 1924, 1938, 1948 and 1964.

Inasmuch as these journals were written in the Polish language - in 1973, we have decided to recapitulate or turn to the first meeting held and retell the important events, but this time in the English language.

More specifically, the history of the parish as published in several of the anniversary journals - has been translated into English and abridged. The period between 1964 and 1973 has been compiled in order to complete the 75 years of activities in the life of the parish.

We firmly believe, that our predecessors possessed unequalled courage, stamina and an enduring conviction that there was need for this parish. They also possessed a deep and abiding respect for the new homeland coupled with a religious reverence for the country of their origin.





Church interior circa 1930

The journals of 1938 and 1948 were titled "Alegat" (enclosure) and in 1973, we take the liberty to title our work the same way in the hope to equal the perception of the other journals. Only time will determine, whether our efforts will have been of any substantial worth. (Additional pertinent information has been secured in order to complete relevant facts and substantiate important events).

The publication of "Alegat - 1973" has been delayed until after the official observance in order to include in it the photographs and description of the event itself which was held on Sunday, November 11, 1973.

May God bless our efforts - in His name we pray . . .

### Plymouth, Penna.

Mr. Samuel Livingstone French in his "Reminiscences of Plymouth" published in 1914, opens the Chapter I with: "In the Historical Sketches of Plymouth by the Honorable Hendrick B. Wright . . . that author gives the date of "birth of Plymouth, as December 28, 1768."

"The present Borough of Plymouth was erected by decree of Honorable John N. Conyngham, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, on the 23rd day of April, A. D., 1866."

"At the commencement of the extensive development of the coal industry in the town and valley, the population was composed largely of Irish and German, drawn hither by those operations. These in a few years gave place to the English and Welsh, and they in turn have been largely displaced by the Slavonic and other peoples of eastern and southern parts of Europe."

### Reasons For Discontent

The reasons which caused Polonians of Plymouth, Penna., to seek alternatives to existing conditions and to eventually organize the parish, can be summarized as follows:

- 1) The unjust treatment of the Polish immigrants by the Irish and German bishops.
- 2) Exploitation and the lack of moral leadership exhibited by the Polish clergymen.
- 3) Refusal by church authorities to heed petitions of Polonians to democratize parish administration and make possible lay participation in parish government.
- 4) Obstruction to uphold that which was connected with Polish tradition and Polish customs.
- 5) The intelligent and alert individuals within Polonia desired to increase the scope of life including religious aspirations.

Therefore, the courageous members of this ethnic group sought religious regeneration, better relations with the clergymen and the salvation of its corporate soul. This resulted in composing new mottos, awakened a religious fervor and caused this group to sever its ties with the Roman Catholic Church.

(A more detailed historical presentation can be found elsewhere in this journal).

### Demand For Action

The pastor of St. Mary's R. C., in Plymouth, Penna., in 1898, was the Rev. Mikolaj Tomkiewicz. He possessed no intellectual distinction nor did he excel in priestly dignity. The parish members had no cause to be proud of their pastor.

On the contrary, He was known as an exploiter, tyrannical in his conduct with parishioners, disdainful of their human rights. The parish members lodged several petitions to have their spiritual leader replaced, but to no avail. The petitions of the Polish people were not acted upon by bishop O'Hara. Father Tomkiewicz was a resourceful contributor and the hierarchy continued to support his conduct.

The people patiently tolerated these conditions, but ever eagerly awaited an opportunity to correct the wrongs which continued to befall them within the parish life. They fervently desired to restore to themselves the human dignity, rights and respect to which they were entitled under the Constitution of the United States.

### The Parish Is Organized

The Polonians of Plymouth and vicinity finally found a way-out of this intolerable situation when a decision was made to invite Father Francis Hodur to speak during a special meeting scheduled for the Polish Youth Alliance, Main Street in Plymouth, Penna.

Father Tomkiewicz, naturally, made every effort to prevent this meeting. He used every possible means at his disposal. He enumerated the types of penalties which would befall all who dared to participate in the meeting, including exclusion from church membership.

However, Polonians of Plymouth were firmly convinced that God had heard their supplications and responded to their prayers - that the time of visitation was upon them and a time of religious freedom was at hand.

Father Hodur was known to them. He often preached in their church. He was the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Nanticoke, Penna., and was loved and respected as a young, energetic and courageous servant of God. In his sermons he often stressed that he is a priest of the Polish people and is deeply concerned about their well-being.



Church interior 1960



Scaffolds for aluminum siding



Church interior 1973

Because Polonians of Plymouth were familiar with Father Hodur's dedication to God, his virtuous character, therefore, they did not fear the incantations and admonitions of Father Tomkiewicz. They knew whom they were going to hear at the Polish Youth Alliance auditorium.

At the appointed time on Saturday, June 4, 1898, at 7:00 P. M., the Polish Youth Alliance auditorium was filled to capacity, with approximately 800 persons. The assembly anticipated an historic occurrence which was at last to liberate the people of Plymouth, Penna., and vicinity, from religious bondage. Father Hodur spoke on "Adam Mickiewicz and the needs of Polish people."

As Father Hodur concluded his scheduled speech, great enthusiasm engulfed those in attendance. Some began to cry with joy, others extended good wishes to each other and still others blessed the sacred moment that had finally arrived.

The presiding officer of this historic meeting was Mr. J. Zawodniak and Mr. D. Langowski was its secretary. At this point Father Hodur announced - "those who do not share the convictions presented, may now leave the auditorium, because the remainder of the meeting will be devoted to organizing the new parish." About 150 persons departed.

Having witnessed the indescribable enthusiasm of those in attendance, Father Hodur proposed the establishment of a new and free parish, patterned after the existing parishes in Scranton and Priceburg. He further proposed, that the participants accept the following principles as a fundamental basis for existence:

- 1) The Polish people must be owners of churches and other property purchased, built and maintained by the Polish people.
- 2) The Polish people must have the right to administer church property through committees elected by the respective parishes.
- 3) The Polish people must have the right to choose their pastors.

Those in attendance emphatically approved these three principles and proceeded to express a desire to formally organize into a legal entity of the Polish National Catholic Church in America.

Thus, as a result of the above action - the third parish of the Polish National Catholic Church in America was established under the patronage of Saint Mary of Czestochowa, Polish National Catholic Church of Plymouth, Penna.

The following participants were elected by the people to comprise the first Parish Committee: Leon Przybylowski, chairman; Piotr Nowik, vice-chairman; Floryan Bialoglowicz, secretary; Franciszek Januszewski, treasurer. Trustees: A. Werner, M. Kaminski and P. Swiecki. Collectors: P. Koczkoda, L. Kosmela, F. Kolczynski, J. Magalski.

The first pastor of St. Mary of Czestochowa, appointed in September of 1898, was the Rev. Waclaw Szumowski. The pastor

was a former Roman Catholic priest, insurrectionist of 1863 (Poland) for which he was deported to Siberia for several years.

The formal application for a charter and all related documents as recorded in the Luzerne County Court House are printed verbatim and follow here:

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Harrisburg, May 28th, A. D. 1898

Pennsylvania, S. S.:

I do hereby certify, That the foregoing and annexed is a full, true and correct copy of the original Act of the General Assembly, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Borough of New Columbus, in the County of Luzerne" approved April 11, A. D. 1861; also of An Act entitled "An Act supplementary to an Act to incorporate the borough of New Columbus in the County of Luzerne, approved the eleventh day of April, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine" approved May 1, A. D. 1861 also an Act entitled "A supplement to an Act incorporating the Borough of New Columbus, approved March 25, A. D. 1864, as the same remains on file in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Secretary's Office to be affixed the day and year above written.

Richard E. Cochran  
Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth

Seal of Sec. of the Comm.

Recorded June 11, 1898

Inre:

Incorporation of Saint Mary  
of Czestochow(a) Polish National  
Catholic Church of Plymouth  
Pennsylvania

In the Court of Common  
Pleas of Luzerne County  
No. 433 Oct. T. 1898

To The Honorable The Judges of the Court of Common  
Pleas of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania:

In compliance with the requirements of the Act of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania entitled "An Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations" approved the 29th day of April, A. D. 1874 and the supplements thereto the undersigned all of whom are citizens of Pennsylvania have associated themselves together for the support of the public worship of Almighty God according to the faith, doctrine, usages and customs of the Polish National Catholic Church and the education of the children of the said Church and Congregation.

I

The name of the proposed corporation is Saint Mary of  
Czestochow(a) Polish National Catholic Church of Plymouth,  
Pa.



Communion 1920



Communion 1914



Communion 1926



Communion 1916

## II

The purpose for which the corporation is formed is for the purpose of the support of the public worship of Almighty God according to the faith, doctrine, discipline usages and customs of the Polish National Catholic Church and the education of the children of the said Church and Congregation.

## III

The business of said corporation is to be transacted in Plymouth, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

## IV

The said corporation shall have perpetual succession by its corporate name and is to exist perpetually.

## V

There is no capital stock nor are there any shares of stock and the names and residences of the subscribers are as follows:

Name	Residence
F. Bialoglowicz	Plymouth, Pa.
Frank Glodowski	" "
Frank Kolchynski	" "
John Urbanick	" "
Theo. Mrowczynski	" "
Frank Yanuszewski	" "
Leon Shibilowski	" "
Andrew Mackowiak	" "
Anthony Bartkowick	" "
Frank Kasziewski	" "
Adam Patrowicz	" "

## VI

The number of Trustees of said corporation is fixed at eleven, a majority of whom shall be lay members and the names and residences of those who are chosen Trustees for the first year are:

Name	Residence
F. Bialoglowicz	Plymouth, Pa.
Frank Glodowski	" "
Frank Kolchynski	" "
John Urbanick	" "
Theo. Mrowczynski	" "
Frank Yanuszewski	" "
Leon Shibilowski	" "
Andrew Mackowiak	" "
Anthony Bartkowick	" "
Frank Kasziewski	" "
Adam Patrowicz	" "

## VII

The names and residences of those who are chosen officers of the said corporation (said officers to be here after ex-officio three of the eleven Trustees) for the first year are as follows:

## Office

President -  
Secretary -  
Treasurer -

## Name

Leon Shibilowski  
F. Bialoglowicz  
Frank Yanuszewski

## Residence

Plymouth, Pa.  
" "  
" "

## VIII

Any property real or personal which shall hereafter be bequeathed, devised or conveyed to said corporation shall be taken and held or inure to it subject to the control and disposition of the lay members thereof or such constituted officers or representatives thereof called Trustees who shall be elected by receiving a majority of the votes of the lay members. And yearly income shall not except from real estate, exceed ten thousand dollars.

Witness our hand and seal the 6th day of July A. D. 1898.

In presence of	his	
P. W. McShewn	Leon X Shibilowski	(Seal)
	mark	
T. D. Garman	Frenk Yanuszewski	(Seal)
	Teofil Mrowczynski	(Seal)
	Andrew Mackowiak	(Seal)
	Frank Kolczynski	(Seal)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
County of Luzerne S.S.:

Before me the subscriber a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid personally, appeared Leon Shibilowski, Frank Yanuszewski and Theo. Mrowczynski three of the subscribers to the above and foregoing certificate of incorporation of Saint Mary of Czestochow(a) Polish National Catholic Church of Plymouth, Pa. and in due form of law acknowledged the same to be their act and deed.

Witness my hand and official seal this 6th day of July A. D. 1898.

T. D. Garman  
Notary Public

Rev. Stamp

Seal of N. P.

County of Luzerne, S. S.

Filed in the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas in and for said County this 13th day of July A. D. 1898.

Paul Dasch  
Prothonotary.



Communion 1957



Communion 1954



Communion 1952

## DECREE OF COURT

In the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County in the matter of the Incorporation of Saint Mary of Czestochow(a) Polish National Catholic Church of Plymouth, Pa.

And now to wit the eighth day of August A. D. 1898 the within certificate of incorporation having been on file in the office of the Prothonotary of said Court since the 13th day of July A. D. 1898 the day on which publication of notice of intended application was first made as appears from entry hereon and due proof of said publication having been therewith presented to me. I do hereby certify that I have perused and examined said instrument and find the same to be in proper form and within the purposes named in the first class of corporations specified in section 2 of the Act of April 29th, 1874 and that said purposes are lawful and not injurious to the Commonwealth:

It is therefore ordered and decreed that the said Charter be approved and it is hereby approved and upon recording the same and this order in the office of the Recorder of Deeds in and for said County which is now hereby ordered the subscribers thereto and their associates shall thenceforth be a corporation for the purposes and upon the terms and under the name therein stated.

Stanley Woodward  
P. J.

State of Pennsylvania  
County of Luzerne  
Borough of Nanticoke  
S. S.

S. B. Coleman of the Borough of Nanticoke, County Luzerne, County and State aforesaid being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is the Manager of a Weekly newspaper of general circulation published in said Borough and County called the "Nanticoke News" and that an advertisement of which the announcement slip cut from said newspaper is a copy was published in said newspaper for three consecutive weeks viz: in the issues under date of July 21, July 28 and August 4, and further saith not.

S. B. Coleman,

Sworn and subscribed before me this 5th day of August A. D. 1898.

T. D. Garman  
Notary Public

Seal of N.P.

State of Pennsylvania  
County of Luzerne S. S.  
City of Wilkes Barre.

Geo. B. Kulp of the City of Wilkes Barre, county and state aforesaid being duly sworn according to law deposeth and saith that he is the editor of a weekly newspaper of general circulation published in said city and county called "The Luzerne Legal Register" and that an advertisement of which the annexed slip cut from said newspaper is a copy published in said newspaper for three consecutive weeks viz: in the issues under date of July 15, 22 and 29th, A. D. 1898 and further saith not.

G. B. Kulp

Sworn and subscribed before me this 29th day of July A. D. 1898.

John T. L. Sahm  
Per. Prot.

Recorded August 8th, 1898

(The Plymouth parish is the first parish legally entitled to the designation "Polish National Catholic Church.")

## Property Purchased - Church Built

Upon receiving the charter, the members immediately began to locate an appropriate site on which to build the new church edifice.

Exploratory conferences were held and within one month after the granting of the charter, parish representatives purchased the property of A. F. Hitchler for the sum of \$6,500.00 located at 269 East Main Street, Plymouth, Penna. The legal document of sale is dated September 15, 1898 (Indenture 206).

The acquired property measured 192 X 110 feet upon which stood a three story building, considered one of the more esthetic structures in Plymouth, consisting of 12 rooms and an adjoining orchard.

All of the liturgical services were conducted in the main rooms on the first floor of the purchased building. In his sermons Father Szumowski endeavored to instill in the faithful the need for profound religious convictions and also to augment their patriotic devotion. He emphasized the benefits of corporate worship as leading toward an exemplary Christian life.

The faithful of St. Mary of Czestochowa were receptive to all that was good, therefore, the inspiring sermons of Father Szumowski were well received. The faithful shared with enthusiasm the fulfillment of necessary tasks and this resulted in all parish functions to proceed with harmony and haste.



Communion 1967



Communion 1968



Communion 1962

An announcement in the September 30, 1898, "Straz" - invited all contractors to peruse the plans and specifications to be found at the home of Mr. T. Mrowczynski. The church structure is to be 100 feet long, 50 feet wide, 36 feet high with a school facility in the lower level.

The "Straz" issue of November 2, 1898, indicates that the construction of the church is progressing satisfactorily. Father Szumowski celebrates Holy Mass every day. Mrs. Urbania, Mrs. Kosmela, Mrs. Strojny and others are in charge of the altars and keep them always beautifully appointed.

In the December 17, 1898, issue of "Straz," there appears a large blocked invitation to Polonians of Plymouth and vicinity to attend the blessing of the corner-stone to be held on Monday, St. Stephen's Day - December 26, 1898. The ceremonies are to commence with Father Hodur blessing the corner-stone at 10:00 A. M., followed by High Mass to be celebrated by Father Anthony Klawiter at 10:30 A. M. The sermon is to be preached by Father Hodur on "The Church of Christ."

The same announcement continues: "Polonians of Luzerne County are cognizant that they endured tremendous struggle and were persecuted by hireling bishops - priests, who disregarding and forgetting their national heritage and the rights of our nation, for a full trough, scorned the people and wreaked rage upon them. Polonians, the moment has arrived when you may demonstrate your faith and patriotism. Come to Plymouth on the day indicated and by your presence prove that you have a courageous heart and a fervent love for God."

No further information in regard to the construction of the church can be found, it is therefore, quite logical to presume, that the blessing of the corner-stone signaled the completion of church construction.

On the basis of available documentation it can be determined that the parish membership at this time consisted of approximately 400 families and several sympathizers.

Parish life progressed systematically with time being devoted to organizing societies - establishing of religious education and general improvements to parish property.

The most constructive period of expansion in the development of the parish was during the pastorate of Father F. Mirek from March, 1901 to October, 1904. At this time nearly 600 families were on the parish rolls. Church attendance was excellent, in fact on many Sundays the faithful had to stand outside because the interior was filled to capacity.

The financial obligations were considerable, but the number of parishioners enrolled - easily met all the fiscal responsibilities. The necessary church ornaments were purchased as needed. The harmony among members resulted in many useful achievements.

The dedication of members is readily demonstrated by the number of delegates sent to the first synod of the Polish National

Catholic Church held on Wednesday 6th and Thursday the 7th of September, 1904, Scranton, Penna. Twenty four members attended and their names are: J. Strojny, F. Mankiewicz, T. Mrowczynski, J. Gurko, K. Strzelecki, A. Szczepkowski, S. Biedus, J. Mazur, I. Kosmela, A. Mazur, K. Wegrzyn, F. Kaszewski, T. Senk, J. Potocki, J. Zaremba, A. Galis, F. Jablonski, W. Szczech, T. Kozak, J. Panek, W. Pyret, J. Sunday, F. Durzynski and F. Bialoglowicz who represented the Polish National Alliance.

## A Major Crisis Develops

Until now conditions in the parish were splendid - membership continued to increase and it appeared that the parish was on its way toward a bright future, but this was to end soon.

In October, 1904, Father J. Dawidowski was appointed pastor replacing Father Mirek. The "Alegat - 1938" describes the period between 1904 and 1909 as the most difficult in the existence of this newly organized parish.

Father Dawidowski, as developed later, was a man of weak disposition and temperament. When Church authorities found it necessary to admonish him and ask that he adjust his personal life in accordance with Church law and synodical resolutions, he balked and answered with rebellious action. He influenced a group of members to oppose the legal Church authority and by so doing, they together, disrupted the harmonious parish life, brought about public disturbance and even court action. He was determined to remain at the helm of the parish at all cost.

A series of court hearings followed and finally Father Dawidowski was removed from the parish by court order. As a result of continued differences among parish members, coupled with financial problems, repayment of loans etc., a turmoil persisted through the next 5 years.

This constant state of imbalance resulted in the fact that membership dropped to 40 families and only a few sympathizers. Most importantly - the parish property was in danger of being sold and this ultimately necessitated the personal attention of Father Hodur who by court order became the sole trustee of the property at this time. (The details of this matter will be explained later).

There seemed to come a moment of true test for those who joined the ranks of parishioners and who hoped to divest themselves from this type of environment. Special meetings were held to cope not only with the Father Dawidowski matter, but also with providers of financial aid who at this time demanded that the parish repay them without delay. The first such meeting was held on February 10, 1909, attended by Bishop Hodur.

Members who continued to stand firmly by Church principles and ideology - petitioned the Luzerne County Court for an amend-



Communion 1971



Communion 1973



Communion 1969

ment to the charter. The petitioners were: Mr. Joseph Potocki and Mr. Joseph Budynkiewicz.

The charter was legally amended and signed by the Hon. Judge Garmer - to wit: "3. That, on the 23rd day of June, 1910, upon petition presented to this Court, accompanied by proof of publication, and no reason to the contrary having been shown, the following amendments, alterations and improvements to said charter were ordered and decreed:

"SECTION 1. Change in the name of ST. MARY OF CZESTOCHOW POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH of Plymouth, Pa., to ST. MARY OF SUFFERANCE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH of Plymouth, Pa."

"SECTION 8. Any property, real or personal, which shall hereafter be bequeathed, devised or conveyed to the said Corporation, shall be taken and held or inure to it, subject to the control and disposition of the diocese of the POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, of which Bishop FRANCIS HODUR is now in charge, or of which his successors in office may be in charge."

When the organizational meeting of the Polish National Union of America was held in Scranton, Penna., on February 24, 1908, Mr. Marian Kaminski of Plymouth was elected to the Board of Directors.

## Return To Near Normalcy

In March, 1911, the pastorship was placed in the hands of Father B. Krupski. Notwithstanding the crisis which the parish had just suffered, Father Krupski was able to stabilize conditions and significantly improve the spiritual state of members. He initiated a most positive program of activities, instilled new meaning and purpose in the work of societies. He participated in community life and through these specific endeavors he was able to encourage greater attendance at Holy Mass and sacramental participation on a more regular basis.

With the cooperation of the truly dedicated members he was able to strengthen the organizational structure of Church prescribed goals. Many necessary church articles were purchased. Membership increased to about 100 families and several sympathizers.

During Father Krupski's administration - the upper floors of the rectory housed the seminary - from 1914 to 1917. One of the seminarians who studied in Plymouth was the Rt. Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese. The other seminarians were: J. Siembida, J. Rekas, S. Cybulski, J. Solak, J. Jarosz and J. Gritenas. Father Krupski was a capable pastor and also a knowledgeable liturgist. In addition to a number of booklets and

articles published in "Straz", he edited the Polish Missal in use to this day. Later, in 1919, he was assigned by Bishop Hodur to begin missionary work in Poland.

Two branches of the Polish National Union were granted charters at this time. Branch #3 received its charter May 19, 1917, and Branch #50 on April 3, 1919. (Mrs. Frances Mrowczynski is the only living charter member with policy number 35).

During the pastorate of Father F. Siemiatkowski (1919-1920) - Mr. George Swantkowski of Duryea, Penna., essentially proposed: "I George Swantkowski do hereby make known, that I shall donate \$2,000.00 to St. Mary's of Plymouth, Penna., if the remainder of \$14,000.00 is repaid me with 5% interest in a reasonable length of time. Unless these conditions are met I shall not donate said \$2,000.00."

Following World War I conditions in the country began to improve somewhat. In order to take advantage of Mr. Swantkowski's offer it was decided to authorize a special committee to visit every parishioner and solicit contributions with which to repay Mr. Swantkowski. A good number of parishioners made interest free loans to the Parish Committee and in August, 1920, \$6,500.00 was paid to Mr. Swantkowski.

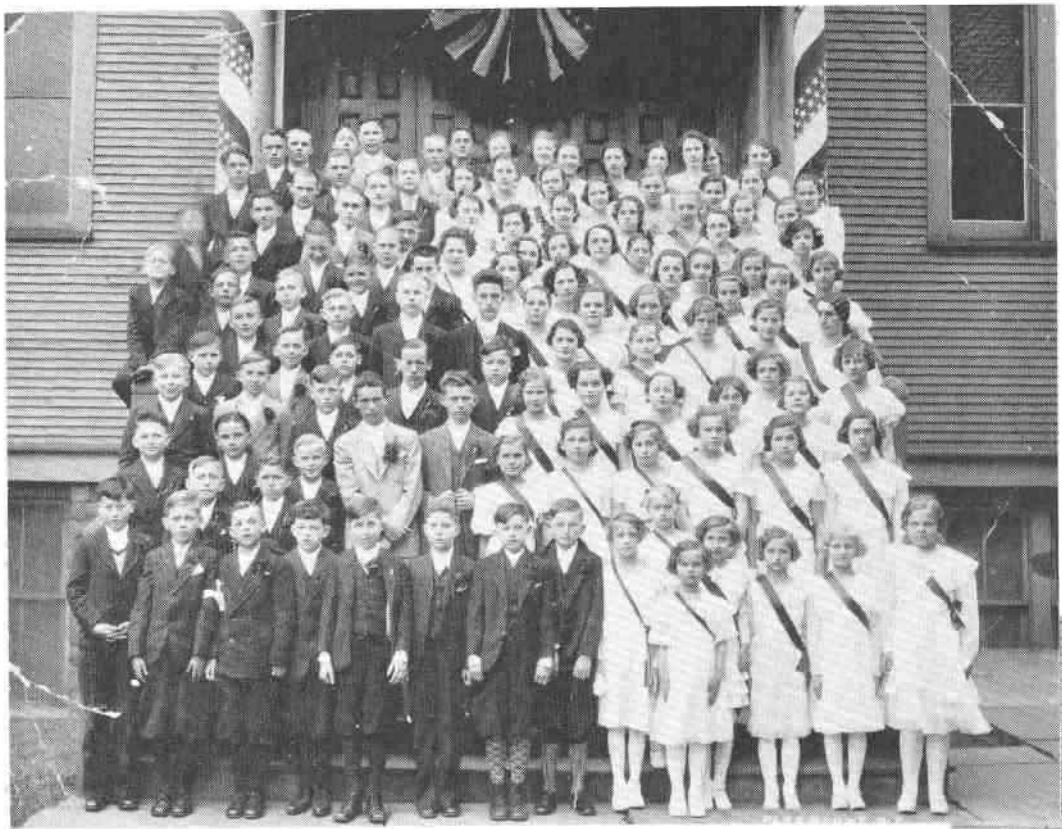
The Parish Committee also obtained a loan from Mr. A. Danielski at 6% interest and this was turned over to Mr. Swantkowski in October, 1921. By clearing this particular indebtedness the parish saved \$2,000.00 which essentially was a donation by Mr. Swantkowski.

## Parish Cemetery

The parish cemetery located at the Plymouth Mountain near the historic "Shawnee Cemetery" was above coal mine workings. The surface began to subside at this time causing several graves to fall into the voids beneath the surface.

Arrangements were made to secure a more suitable plot of land for burial purposes. On November 18, 1919, a special meeting was held, chaired by Mr. J. Biniewicz with Mr. I. Kozik as secretary. It was developed that \$354.00 was received from the sale of grave spaces - \$46.00 was to be added and title on the cemetery to be cleared. Mrs. M. Kaminski turned the deed to the Parish Committee.

At the same time it was resolved to initiate a law-suit to recover the monetary value for the condemned cemetery purchased from the Lehigh Coal Company. In April, 1920, the parish purchased a plot of land from the Templeton Estate in West Nanticoke, Penna., for the sum of \$500.00. Ultimately, in August, 1922, the parish received \$2,000.00 from the Lehigh Coal Company. This total was distributed among parish members who still had outstanding loans with the parish.



Confirmation 1933



Confirmation 1950

## Financial Problems Continue

When in September, 1922, Father R. Zawistowski was appointed pastor - he found a cooperative spirit permeating the life within the parish.

Many improvements were made at this time - including the installation of a central heating system in church at a cost of \$1,500.00. Bonds at \$50.00 per unit were sold to members without interest - payable by December 31, 1945, and with the receipts acquired in this manner, Mr. A. Danielski's loan was paid (including interest) in the amount of \$7,665.00.

The spiritual vitality of members in the Plymouth parish can be substantiated by the fact - that in 1924, with the capable guidance of Father R. Zawistowski and the resourcefulness of his parishioners three parishes were established. The Holy Name of Jesus parish in Nanticoke, Penna., was re-established; the St. John the Baptist parish in Hazleton, Penna., and Ss. Peter and Paul in McAdoo were organized at this time. The Warrior Run mission was not successful.

About this time, the Parish Committee informed the assembled members: "To this day, many parishioners do not know - that when the parish property was in jeopardy, danger of sale, as a result of court litigation, Bishop Hodur was required to satisfy a judgement of \$4,475.00. Part of this total, namely \$3,000.00, was from his personal funds, the balance of \$1,475.00 he borrowed from his parishioners in Scranton, Penna., and has been paying interest on this amount for the past 17 years."

Bishop Hodur indicated that he shall donate the \$3,000.00 as well as the interest, but he has requested that the \$1,475.00 be repaid. If the parish should repay this total in a relatively short time it would save \$3,000.00 and also the interest on the \$1,475.00.

"Consequently, Bishop Hodur also insisted that he be relieved of the responsibility of trusteeship and that the legal transfer of the property take place as soon as is convenient, because years pass and old age quickly approaches."

Upon hearing the above - the assembled members moved to adopt the request made by Bishop Hodur, repay the \$1,475.00, express eternal gratitude for the donation of \$3,000.00 as well as the interest. Even though this motion carried - it was several years before the motion was fulfilled.

It is indeed incredible how much time and personal effort Bishop Hodur devoted to the cause of saving the parish in Plymouth. (For this, as our predecessors, we are eternally grateful and pray that our service and devotion to the parish will at least in part be a sign of remembering the kindness and sacrifices placed here long ago.) The 25th anniversary was observed on November 16, 1924.

The constant financial irregularities weakened the faith of some members and created an atmosphere of mistrust among most - it was hoped that this would soon be corrected. However, a number of members decided to remove themselves from the parish in Plymouth and organize a separate parish in Edwardsville, Penna. The formal dedication of that church was held on May 30, 1927. Once again, the parish in Plymouth suffered a loss of members and a heavier burden was placed upon those who remained.

The foregoing, plus the fact that until this time there were 31 pastors who served during the first 31 years - clearly illustrates the magnitude of the problems confronting the parish in Plymouth.

The listing of pastors and the time of their appointments follows here:

The following priests served as pastors of Good Shepherd PNC Church - Plymouth, Penna.

1) W. Szumowski	From. Sept., 1898 to May, 1899
2) J. Bochdan	May, 1899 to June, 1900
3) A. Plucinski	June, 1900 to Sept., 1900
4) K. Papon	Sept., 1900 to March, 1901
5) F. Mirek	March, 1901 to Oct., 1904
6) J. Dawidowski	Oct., 1904 to April, 1906
7) T. Kowalski	April, 1906 to Nov., 1906
8) A. Drazba	Nov., 1906 to Sept., 1907
9) J. Zielonko	Sept., 1907 to Nov., 1907
10) R. Joschko	Nov., 1907 to June, 1908
11) W. Reichan	June, 1908 to Feb., 1910
12) J. Kolodziejczyk	Feb., 1910 to Feb., 1911
13) A. Markiewicz	Feb., 1911 to March, 1911
14) B. Krupski	March, 1911 to Nov., 1916
15) H. Wahler	Nov., 1916 to Oct., 1917
16) J. Kula	Oct., 1917 to Jan., 1918
17) L. Wojtys	Jan., 1918 to May, 1918
18) A. Korona	May, 1918 to Aug., 1918
19) J. Wroblewski	Aug., 1918 to Aug., 1919
20) F. Siemiatkowski	Aug., 1919 to Nov., 1920
21) E. Gucwa	Nov., 1920 to March, 1921
22) B. Stepczynski	March, 1921 to Jan., 1922
23) J. Brzozowski	Jan., 1922 to May, 1922
24) D. Girecki	May, 1922 to Sept., 1922
25) R. Zawistowski	Sept., 1922 to May, 1925
26) B. Sychta	May, 1925 to Dec., 1925
27) E. Kupski	Dec., 1925 to April, 1926
28) P. Guderski	April, 1926 to Aug., 1926
29) K. Sinkiewicz	Aug., 1926 to Sept., 1927
30) B. Krupski	Sept., 1927 to Sept., 1928
31) J. Jakobsche	Sept., 1928 to April, 1929
32) S. Szuladowicz	April, 1929 to May, 1968
33) J. Chwiej	May, 1968



Confirmation 1972



Confirmation 1964

## Pastor Nearly 40 Years

On April 19, 1929, Bishop Hodur appointed Father Stanislaw Szufladowicz pastor of St. Mary of Sufferance in Plymouth, Penna.

At this time (1929) as Father Szufladowicz assumed his duties in Plymouth - the organizational life left much to be desired. These were the conditions he found:

1) Public opinion of the parish was such that it could not command respect. The constant changes of pastors, the continued financial difficulties, the diminution of membership, all these things brought about inevitable results.

2) The spirit of dedication was strong in some members and they were eager to sacrifice of their time and effort. Others, however, remained indifferent, showed no desire to work for the common good.

3) The only existing societies were: the Frederick Chopin Choir, the Young Men's Society of Resurrection and the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Society.

4) The faithful seldom attended church services because of the differences still existing among them.

5) The church and rectory - their interiors and exteriors, required immediate renovation.

6) The most pressing and dramatically obvious concern was the financial instability. This matter was never satisfactorily resolved and it continued to disrupt parish administration. It was necessary and most expedient to correct this as soon as possible.

The young pastor applied himself in all areas of need. He was fortunate to receive the support for programs he proposed. Father Szufladowicz proved to be a most capable pastor. Mr. Michael Zaremba became the chairman of the Parish Committee and served in that capacity for many productive years.

In 1930 - the church interior was painted. The church roof was replaced and the exterior of the rectory was also painted. To complete this work - members made free-will donations with J. Kurek and F. Januszewski making substantial contributions. The work was done at the cost of \$2,742.00. In addition, the Polish Women's and Maria Konopnicka Societies, headed by Mrs. Theodora Kolczynski-Kulikowski, purchased the sanctuary carpet for the sum of \$585.00.

Bishop Hodur participated in the dedication of the renovated church which was filled to capacity with faithful. This occasion signaled a change for the better. New enthusiasm encompassed all members and it appeared that the parish was heading toward a bright future.

The whole country was experiencing the approach of the Great Depression. Many members found themselves out of work. Conditions became so depressing - that members in ever growing numbers were confronting the Parish Committee with receipts and

bonds of all types demanding repayment or at least a partial payment of their loans.

The Parish Committee made every effort to meet the financial obligations and also to assure the members that all loans would be repaid - that the only danger was the lack of confidence in each other. All agreed - that the improvised and unplanned manner in which previous financial transactions were brought about, were unacceptable and stressed that this would not be repeated, ever again. It was impossible to ascertain the exact total of out-standing loans.

Father Szufladowicz was warned not to become embroiled in the monitory problem. It was feared that he would become discouraged and ask to be reassigned. Nevertheless, he persisted with the Parish Committee and after proper analysis concluded to recommend:

- 1) Amend the charter.
- 2) Establish the total of loans.
- 3) Begin a systematic repayment of every loan.

In order to fulfill these recommendations it was necessary to confer with Bishop Hodur and receive his approval. And so, on July 24, 1932, a delegation was elected to meet with the Bishop. The delegation was composed of: Father Szufladowicz, M. Zaremba, I. Kozik, I. Ostrowski and B. Sochacki. Following a lengthy presentation and discussion, Bishop Hodur agreed to these specific steps.

- 1) Call a special meeting of parishioners and present the entire plan for unanimous acceptance.
  - a) Amend charter to Good Shepherd.
  - b) Settle the financial obligations.
  - c) Transfer legal ownership to the parish.
  - d) Obtain a mortgage of \$1,500.00.
- 2) The delegation is to report to Bishop Hodur concerning the decisions made at the special meeting.

On August 7, 1932, Atty. T. W. Lewis was empowered to petition the Luzerne County Court for a change of the charter, the petition was signed by Mr. Michael Zaremba, chairman and Mr. Walter Kochan, secretary.

An excerpt from the petition follows:

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ST. MARY OF SUFFERANCE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH of Plymouth, Pa. by and through its proper officers, present a petition to the proper Court of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, praying for the amendment, alteration and improvement of Section One and Section Eight of the Articles of Incorporation, as the same have been altered, amended and improved by order and decree of the Court of Common Pleas of said County, which said Section One and Eighth now read as follows:



Polish Language Class 1907



Sewing Class 1916



Polish Language Class 1908

"SECTION 1. The name of the proposed corporation is ST. MARY OF SUFFERANCE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH of Plymouth, Pa."

"SECTION 8. Any property, real or personal, which shall hereafter be bequeathed, devised or conveyed to the said Corporation shall be taken and held or inure to it subject to the control and disposition of the diocese of the POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH of which Bishop Francis Hodur is now in charge, or of which his successors in office may be in charge."

"SO THAT THE SAME SHALL READ:

"SECTION 1. The name of the proposed corporation is GOOD SHEPHERD POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH of Plymouth, Pa.

"SECTION 8. Any property, real or personal, which shall hereafter be bequeathed, devised or conveyed to the said Corporation, shall be taken and held or inure to it subject to the control and disposition of the lay members thereof and such constituted officers or representatives, called Trustees, who shall be elected by receiving a majority of the votes of the lay members. And the yearly income shall not, except from real estate, exceed \$10,000."

The charter as amended was approved by the Hon. Judge McLeen on October 3, 1932.

The transfer of the deed also took place and here we quote the pertinent portion:

Made the 9th Day of November, 1932. Between FRANCIS HODUR, single, of the City of Scranton, County of Lackawanna and State of Pennsylvania, party of the first part, hereinafter termed the Grantor. AND GOOD SHEPHERD POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, of Plymouth, Pa., a Corporation duly chartered under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, of the second part, hereinafter termed the Grantee. Witnesseth. That in consideration of ONE (1) Dollar and other good and valuable considerations in the hand, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged; the grantor does hereby grant and convey to the said grantees, its successors or assigns, All that certain lot of land situate in the Borough of Plymouth, County of Luzerne and State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to wit: BEGINNING at a corner of land of S. L. French . . .

On October 5, 1932 - Mr. and Mrs. Ignatious Kozik granted the parish a loan of \$1,500.00 at 5% interest. Mrs. M. Kaminski was in turn paid \$1,000.00 on her loan of \$1,300.00 and she donated the remainder of \$300.00. On October 11, 1932, Mrs. Anna Potocki received \$200.00 and donated \$200.00. On October 26, 1932, Mrs. Hedwig Mazgaj received \$200.00 and donated the remainder of \$100.00.

Members assembled at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, 1933, approved with commendation the Parish Committee's handling of the amendment of the charter, transfer of deed

and the mortgage. The parish entered upon a new phase of development with every prospect of successful growth based on the exemplary administration of Father Szuladowicz and the Parish Committee headed by Mr. Michael Zaremba as chairman and Mr. Walter Kochan as secretary.

During the monthly meeting of the Parish Committee held on Sunday, March 5, 1933, upon the motion of Mr. W. Mrowczynski, seconded by Mr. M. Plaza, these members were unanimously chosen to constitute the Audit Committee: Father Szuladowicz, I. Kozik, F. Zoranski, M. Zaremba and W. Kochan. This Audit Committee was charged with determining the total of outstanding loans.

The Audit Committee announced that during the next twelve months parish members would be afforded the opportunity to present their documentation as to the total the parish still owed them. The following was ascertained:

1) In receipts	\$ 7,197.00
2) In bonds	5,125.00
3) First mortgage	1,500.00
Total	\$13,822.00

The Audit Committee continued to function in order to clear this final indebtedness by issuing bonds, receiving donations and keeping proper records. From this time on every loan was systematically being repaid.

In 1935 - the Good Shepherd parish and Father Szuladowicz were to share a distinct honor. On Sunday, February 24, Bishop Hodur installed Father Szuladowicz "Senior Priest" with administrative responsibility over the Plymouth Seniorate. A detailed resume of the ceremonies can be found in the "Alegat - 1938," p. 39.

In 1936 - a number of general improvements were made, including new steps in front of the church, new siding placed on the exterior walls of church and painted. The cost of material was \$759.00. The Young Men's Society of Resurrection provided the necessary paint. The work was done by members free of charge. These members deserve special mention: M. Plaza, T. Urbanczyk, M. Mazgaj, M. Zaremba, A. Celmer, B. Zoranski, I. Ostrowski and J. Waszewski.

In 1937 - the organ was extensively reconditioned at the cost of \$1,055.00 and on Tuesday, May 31, 1938, it was rededicated during ceremonies officiated by the Very Rev. Szuladowicz assisted by the following pastors: M. Czerny, S. Molon, L. Orzech and K. Zukowski.

In way of additional improvements were the drainage system along the church foundation and construction of the garage. The work was done by: T. Urbanczyk, M. Plaza, J. Bajorek, A. Kopec, S. Parulski, A. Ambrose, S. Celmer, J. Waszewski, W. Pardo,



Spojnia Farm Encampment



Spojnia Day  
Sans Souci Park 1956



Spojnia Day Angela Park 1969

M. Zaremba, W. Ogorzalek, M. Mazgaj, M. Cislo, Jos. Gorzan, J. Gorzan, T. Tworek and L. Kaminski.

At this time - in order to encourage other members the Very Rev. Szufiadowicz and the 40th Anniversary Committee each purchased a stained glass window. It was not until 1947 - that all windows were replaced with stained glass.

The Audit Committee reported that \$8,727.50 had been payed on the original \$13,822.00 leaving a balance of \$5,094.50. It must be made public - that Bronislaw Mrowczynski and Stanislaw Mrowczynski were most considerate and patient as regards their loans - the parish makes known its gratitude and appreciation.

The prudent and consequential stewardship of the pastor and the Parish Committee brought about stability and the years of turbulence were being left behind. Membership rose to 148 families. Sunday church attendance was good.

The concluding paragraphs in the "Alegat - 1938" are very significant and most encouraging:

"We hope that those who will come after us and will occupy positions of leadership in parish administration - will appreciate the labor and all the sacrifices we endured for many years.

We do not speak of this in order to elevate ourselves, but rather to underline the fact, that during the most trying crises, there was need for systematic, humble and harmonious work which tested our devotion to God and our fellowmen.

We pray that the future generations will understand this, and if they in turn will have the fortitude to emulate their predecessors, then the future of the parish is assured and we will be able to rest in peace."

Parish societies in 1938 -

- 1) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
chaired by Mrs. Estelle Kochan
- 2) Frederick Chopin Choir  
chaired by Miss Hedwig Pardo  
organist and director Mr. Peter Celmer
- 3) Kalina Choral Society  
chaired by Mrs. Hedwig Plaza
- 4) Polish Girls' Sodality  
chaired by Miss Eleanor Plaza
- 5) Young Men's Society of Resurrection  
chaired by Mr. Bernard Zoranski

A special resolution was adopted during the semi-annual meeting held on Sunday, July 31, 1938, which stipulated that Mr. Michael Plaza was to be a life-long Honorary Chairman of the Parish Committee with additional privileges of an advisor to all parish societies.

The 40th anniversary of the parish was observed on Sunday, October 2, 1938. Mr. Stanley Plaza was the chairman of the 40th Anniversary Committee.

## World War II

Between 1939 and 1945, many young sons and daughters of the parish were drafted to serve in the Armed Forces. Others left Plymouth to seek employment in the war effort and this removed about 90 young persons from the parish rolls at this time.

Nonetheless, other parish members assumed responsibilities where necessary. Some undertook to correspond with service persons, others wholeheartedly devoted themselves to routine work within the parish. Among the more active were: J. Zoranski, K. O'Rourke, H. Januszewski, F. Bialogawicz, A. Briggs, L. Kaminski, E. Bialogawicz, E. Chocallo, J. Piotrowicz, B. Green-Boniff, H. Turowski and H. Humphries.

The front of the rectory was renovated at this time - the work being done under the supervision of A. Szczucki and W. Horoszy.

In 1943 a faulty chimney caused an extensive fire which damaged the sanctuary area of the church. Father Senior Szufiadowicz, W. Horoszy and J. Piotrowicz constituted a special committee which negotiated the insurance settlement with the company. Upon receiving reimbursement from the company the funds were placed in a special Building Fund.

As indicated before, the campaign to obtain sponsors for the stained glass windows in church was begun in 1938. Father Senior Szufiadowicz and the Parish Committee patiently continued to head this project through the years. Their efforts were crowned with success in 1947. The Baut Studios installed the beautifully crafted windows throughout the church at a combined cost of \$7,500.00. Members contributed funds and dedicated specific windows in memory of relatives and these were: Florian and Mary Bialoglowicz, Josephine Gordon, Frank and Catherine Januszewski, Joseph and Tekla Tworek, John and Catherine Mazur, John and Eve Zoranski, John and Hedwig Borkowski, Lawrence Masgay, Benjamin and Lottie Sochacki, Denko and Leko Families, John and Catherine Rachwalski, Fataicher Family, Frederick Chopin Choir, Veterans of World War II, Marian and Mary Kaminski, Louise Plaza, Theophil and Rozalia Mrowczynski, Walter and Frances Mrowczynski, Anna Ostrowski, Joseph Koprowski, Sigmund Kliszewski, Mazanowski Family. The newly installed stained glass windows were dedicated on Sunday, November 16, 1947.

In 1948 - major improvements were made in the following areas: A. Ronall & Son replaced the front side-walks. Joseph Budynkiewicz painted the church exterior. James Teal made repairs to church steeple. John Hosage replaced the electrical wiring and special light fixtures were installed in church by Central Brass Company. Robert Crisler installed a new heating system in the auditorium. Chimes, donated by Mr. Stanley Kaminski in memory of his parents were installed in the sanctuary. Liturgical vestments were purchased. Mrs. Caroline Lach donated covers



Christmas Reception



Youth Clubs Representatives 1961

for all altars. The sanctuary was painted by Frank Rozzi. All of the liturgical articles were blessed by the pastor on Sunday, November 21, 1948.

The "Alegat - 1948" concludes with this text: "It is not possible to conceive of a Polish National Catholic Church parish without the active standard and church oriented societies. All parish societies concern themselves with religio-humanitarian work and the funding is obtained from suitable and proper fund-raising undertakings.

The following members headed the societies during the 50th anniversary observance:

- 1) Parish Committee  
Mr. Michael Zaremba
- 2) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Mrs. Lillian Chocallo
- 3) Maria Konopnicka Society  
Mrs. Helen Turowski
- 4) Young Men's Society of Resurrection  
Mr. Edward Januszewski
- 5) Polish Girls' Sodality  
Miss Sylvia Turowski
- 6) Friends of the Polish School  
Mr. Edward Bialogawicz
- 7) Frederick Chopin Choir  
Mr. Everyst Chocallo

The 50th anniversary was observed on Sunday, October 16, 1949.

## After 1950's

On August 6, 1950, mainly through the efforts of Mr. Stanley Kaminski, a plot of land was purchased from the Womelsdorf Estate - adjoining our parish cemetery, for the combined expenditure of \$587.19. Atty. Benjamin R. Jones Jr., provided his legal services free of charge.

The church designation plaque in front of the church was donated by the Polish School Society and approved by the parish at the annual meeting held on Sunday, January 21, 1951.

The Good Shepherd parish in Plymouth, Penna., has the respected distinction of being the first parish to contribute to the "Priests Pension Fund" of which Father Senior Szufladowicz was chairman. The parish contributed \$100.00 and Senior Szufladowicz \$100.00 - this was done on February 18, 1951.

Also in 1951 - Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yaworski donated beautifully sculptured romanesque stations of the cross and these were dedicated at special ceremonies of which a photograph appears elsewhere in this journal.

During the monthly meeting of the Parish Committee held on Sunday, September 7, 1952, on motion of Mr. L. Kaminski,

seconded by Mr. Simon Zaborowski, it was unanimously agreed to honor Mr. Michael Zaremba for his dedicated service to the parish by installing a special plaque in church. The plaque was placed on the left wall of the church interior.

On November 1, 1953, on motion of Mr. Simon Zaborowski, seconded by Mr. Anthony Szczucki, it was decided to place an order for a memorial plaque of Bishop Francis Hodur and to be installed in church. This plaque was placed under the 13th Station of the Cross. The parish also went on record to contribute to the building of the "Monument of Gratitude" at the cathedral cemetery in Minooka, Penna.

During a special meeting of members held on May 27, 1956, it was decided to approve the contract of Life Time Improvement Co., to place aluminum siding on church exterior walls at the cost of \$8,951.44, on motion by S. Mrowczynski, seconded by J. Gorzan.

A contract to stucco the rectory exterior by John Lewis at the cost of \$1,425.00 was approved on July 29, 1956. The Young Men's Society of Resurrection members remodeled the parish kitchen.

In 1957 - Mr. Anthony Szczucki made provisions to enclose the manger scene in the mensa of St. Mary's altar and the grave of Our Lord in the altar of Jesus. The semi-annual meeting held on July 27, 1958, resolved to support all the enactments of the Chicago synod but to retain all services in church in the Polish language.

On July 5, 1959, Mr. Frank Shevock was authorized to survey the newly acquired plot of land and subdivided it into burial plots of six (6) graves each.

On Sunday, November 15, 1959, Father Senior Szufladowicz dedicated the new "Conn" organ purchased from Charles 'n Mary Music Company for the sum of \$2,700.00. This total was solicited by members of the Frederick Chopin Choir with Mrs. F. Bialogawicz as treasurer. A listing of contributions for the organ can be found in the dedication booklet.

Mr. Joseph Gladys and Mr. Joseph Milewski were authorized by the Parish Committee on March 6, 1960, to renovate the room next to the stage so that it could be used for meetings.

The carpet in the sanctuary was purchased under the auspices of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Society on February 28, 1961, from the Harry Bolen, Inc., for the sum of \$2,503.34. The Adoration Society also engaged the Grace Bros., to recondition the statues of St. Mary and of Jesus at a cost of \$305.00 - in 1962.

On August 4, 1963 - at the meeting of the Parish Committee - upon the recommendation of Mrs. F. Bialogawicz it was decided to observe the 65th anniversary of the parish and the 35th anniversary of Father Senior Szufladowicz's pastorate. Both of these anniversaries were held on Sunday, April 5, 1964.

S O C L Seminar 1972



Baccalaureate 1955

It must be noted here - that all major anniversaries, programs, stage plays and dinners were always held in the parish auditorium in Plymouth, Penna.

Heads of parish societies at this time, were:

- 1) Parish Committee  
Mr. Anthony Szczucki
- 2) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Mrs. Helen Paveletz
- 3) Maria Konopnicka Society  
Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz
- 4) Young Men's Society of Resurrection  
Mr. Edward Bialogawicz
- 5) Polish School Guild  
Mrs. Mildred Koninski
- 6) Girls' Sodality  
Miss Carol Markowski
- 7) Frederick Chopin Choir  
Mr. Stanley Godek

At the Parish Committee's meeting held on Sunday, April 4, 1965, the School Guild sought permission to install new pews in church. The permission was granted with the provision the installation be delayed for about 6 months. Permission was granted on July 11, 1965, and the pews were installed under the auspices of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Society at a cost of \$7,685.00 which were manufactured by the Matthew's Woodwork Co., Luzerne, Penna. The actual installation of pews was begun on October 15, 1965.

The Life Time Improvement Co., was engaged again on June 7, 1965, to replace the roof on the church at a cost of \$3,071.00. On September 5, 1965, the contract of Charles Malpass to build a road at the parish cemetery at the cost of \$3,642.00 was approved on motion of Mr. L. Kaminski, seconded by Mr. E. Labatch. The installation of a new heating system for the church and auditorium was begun on September 28, 1966, on motion of Mr. S. Cooper, seconded by Mr. E. Paveletz and the contract was awarded to the Phillips Plumbing Co., for \$9,849.00.

A major project was initiated during the annual meeting held on Sunday, January 1, 1967, when a decision was made to renovate the parish auditorium. The project required several years to complete and it was headed by Mr. Edward Kaleshefski and Mr. Edward Bialogawicz. (The completion of this project will be discussed later).

These six sons of the parish were ordained to the Holy Priesthood: The Rev. Frank Parulski, retired; the Rev. Anthony Draus, inactive; the Rev. Chester Lach, Chicago, Ill.; the Rev. Edward Tomczyk, Frackville, Penna.; the Very Rev. Joseph Tomczyk, Chicago, Ill.; and the Rev. Theodore Shumski, inactive.

It must be stated here - that throughout the 39 years of Father Senior Szufladowicz's pastorate, he concerned himself

with every aspect of religious education and culture. First Holy Communion classes were conducted regularly and several large classes received the sacrament of Confirmation. He was instrumental in initiating classes in religious education with lay teachers supervising the instruction in the synod approved School of Christian Living. The teachers being: Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz and Mrs. Jule Nitkowski.

In addition, endeavors in the cultural area were commendable. There were numerous stage plays presented, minstrels, concerts of sacred and secular music by the Frederick Chopin Choir separately and in conjunction with the Wyoming Valley United Choirs. These stage plays were presented - "Wyrodna Corka" Sunday, October 18, 1931, "George Washington Play" in 1932, "Kto Im Lzy Powroci", Tuesday, October 17, 1933. These three plays were presented at the Polish Home, West Main Street, Plymouth, Penna. Anniversary programs with a variety of presentations and very articulate speakers featured each time.

Delegates representing the parish participated in every general and provincial synod of our Church. Representatives of societies attended conventions and several members usually were active in the Central Committees. Father Senior Szufladowicz, A. Szczucki and M. Zaremba participated in the organization of the Polish American Congress held in Buffalo, N. Y., in 1944.

Suffice it to say - that the pastor and members of Good Shepherd parish were always in the fore-front of Church oriented activities. The members also shared in the missionary efforts in Poland.

## The Pastor Dies In Nanticoke

Father Senior Szufladowicz (as determined later) was awaiting the arrival of children for catechetical instructions at the Holy Name of Jesus parish in Nanticoke, Penna., (which he also served since 1929) on Saturday, May 4, 1968. He expired while meditating in the sanctuary.

Student Stanley Suffren (moments after 1:00 P. M.) proceeded to call upon Father Senior Szufladowicz but could not secure a response. Whereupon - his sister ascertained that he was indeed dead. Mrs. Helen Suffren communicated this occurrence to Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz and in turn Mr. Edward Bialogawicz contacted the diocesan office. Bishop-elect Anthony Rysz responded and later arrived to administer the sacrament of Extreme Unction.

Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski set the funeral for Wednesday, May 8, 1968. The funeral rites commenced with the procession of the clergy into church at 10:00 A. M. The principal officiant was Prime Bishop L. Grochowski assisted by Bishop-elect A. Rysz, deacon and the Very Rev. Edward Kuzminski, sub-deacon. The Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas functioned as the master



United Adoration Societies Convention 1950



Adoration Society 1928

of ceremonies. Mr. E. Bialogawicz presided at the organ with the Frederick Chopin Choir chanting the responses and hymns.

The Very Rev. Edward Abramski delivered the first eulogy in English and the Rt. Rev. John Misiaszek in Polish. The Rev. Anthony Draus and the Rev. Edward Tomczyk offered Requiem Masses at side altars. The Rev. Anthony Wisniewski officiated at the committal service. Representatives of the Polish National Union participated. Hundreds of faithful and 36 clergymen witnessed the funeral ceremonies. (Straz - May 16, 1968)

#### RESOLUTION NO. 14 - 1968

WHEREAS, God in His Infinite Wisdom has called from this earth, Very Reverend Stanislaw A. Szufładowicz, Pastor of the Good Shepherd Polish National Catholic Church of Plymouth; and

WHEREAS, Very Reverend Stanislaw A. Szufładowicz, Pastor of the Good Shepherd Polish National Catholic Church and a Public Spirited Citizen who contributed greatly to the general and moral welfare and pride of the Borough of Plymouth, through his unselfish efforts as a proud resident, clergyman and Pastor as aforementioned;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Borough of Plymouth Council and Mayor extend their sympathy and condolences to his Parish and friends.

PASSED at a regular meeting of the Plymouth Borough Council the 7th day of May, 1968.

Joseph R. Conniff  
President of Plymouth Borough Council

ATTEST:  
Robert A. Mundy  
Secretary

APPROVED this 7th day of May, 1968.

Edward L. Burns  
Mayor of Plymouth

May 9, 1968

I, Robert A. Mundy, Secretary Borough of Plymouth, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Plymouth Borough Resolution No. 14-1968 and was passed at a regular meeting of Council held on May 7, 1968.

Robert A. Mundy  
Secretary  
Borough of Plymouth

The earthly remains of Father Senior Szufładowicz were interred at the parish cemetery in West Nanticoke, Penna.

On May 8, 1968, Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski appointed the Rev. Jan Chwiej to be the administrator of the Good Shepherd parish and Holy Name of Jesus and assigned the Rev. Dr. T. Czarkowski to reside in the Plymouth rectory and serve the parish

needs until the appropriate transfer of the pastor could take place.

The rectory interior was wallpapered and painted. Furniture for all bedrooms and the living room was purchased with the Parish Committee, the Maria Konopnicka and Adoration societies sharing the expenditures. The total cost of renovation and replacing of furniture was \$2,800.00.

The Rev. Jan Chwiej assumed the pastorate of Good Shepherd in Plymouth and Holy Name of Jesus in Nanticoke - correspondent with the letter of appointment from Prime Bishop L. Grochowski - dated June 7, 1968, and effective June 15. (The Rev. T. Shumski was assigned to Nanticoke in September).

The pastor and his family took up residency at the Plymouth rectory on Monday, July 1. Mr. Edward Bialogawicz helped to transport the pastor's personal property to Plymouth.

The parish acquired a mimeograph, light scope and all necessary implements with which to publish a weekly bulletin. This acquisition was made possible under the leadership of Mr. E. Bialogawicz. The cost of this purchase (A. B. Dick) was \$585.70 and was shared with the Young Men's Society of Resurrection and the Frederick Chopin Choir. The first bulletin was published on Sunday, July 7, 1968.

During the semi-annual meeting held on Sunday, July 20, 1968, Mr. Edward Kaleshefski presented his proposal for construction of a monument for the late Very Rev. S. Szufładowicz. On motion of Mr. Joseph Gladys, seconded by Mr. John Pechulis, the proposal was accepted as presented. The following members offered to serve on the Monument Committee: Mr. E. Kaleshefski, chairman; Mrs. H. Kaleshefski, treasurer; Miss M. Zaremba, Mr. J. Gladys, Mrs. H. Paveletz, Mr. E. Jazquier and Mrs. H. Neipert.

On Wednesday, August 14th, the first in a series of organizational meetings was held in Plymouth in order to form Youth Clubs within the Plymouth Seniorate. Representing Plymouth were: C. Markowski, L. Serafin, M. Fedock, J. Gladys, B. Koninski, H. Neipert, G. Sonpeck, C. Nestorick, J. Chwiej, D. Neipert, A. Chwiej, D. Paveletz and S. Chwiej. Attending as adult observers were: E. Bialogawicz, S. Cooper and E. Turaj.

In October the contract was awarded to William E. Ashton for the sum of \$1,850.00 to construct the monument for the late Very Rev. S. Szufładowicz. In addition S. J. Grontkowski for the marble marker \$450.00 and the Huntsville Nursery for trees \$146.77. The monument was designed by Mr. Edward Kaleshefski who also supervised its construction.

Stone steps in front of the church entrance were constructed by the Barbose Masonry Company at a cost of \$1,500.00 - this project was also designed and supervised by Mr. E. Kaleshefski.

A dropped ceiling in the parish auditorium was installed by the Grove Accoustical Tile in November at a cost of \$1,875.00.

On the first Sunday in Advent, December 1, 1968, Low Mass was introduced at 8:00 A. M., with High Mass remaining at



Maria Konopnicka Society 1952



Members During Program



United Maria Konopnicka Societies Convention 1952  
— Presiding Officer

10:30 A. M. This was done on recommendation of parish members who indicated a preference for an early Mass.

New members accepted: Miss Carol Markowski, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Puchalski and Mr. Stanley Godek.

## 1969

During the annual meeting held on Sunday, January 19, upon the recommendation of the pastor and on the motion of Mr. E. Turaj, seconded by Mr. J. Gladys - it was resolved to continue with the renovation of the parish auditorium. Specifically, to replace the wooden floor with concrete and asphalt tile.

A special program devoted to the Polish poet Maria Konopnicka was presented by members of the Maria Konopnicka Society, chaired by Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz - held on Sunday, March 9, parish auditorium.

On Sunday, April 14, the Maria Konopnicka Society sponsored the annual Easter dinner in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the Polish National Catholic Church. The speakers were: Prof. S. Galazka and Prof. J. Kochan former member of the parish.

The Youth Club determined to honor the mothers of the parish on Sunday, May 11, with a special program and breakfast and to continue this practice every year.

The contract for the concrete floor in the auditorium was awarded to Aston Bros., for the sum of \$3,519.80 which included the rear entrance to the auditorium. The work was begun on May 12, and completed in July.

On Memorial Day, May 30, Prime Bishop L. Grochowski, assisted by the pastor, celebrated a Requiem Mass at the parish cemetery and also blessed the monument of the late Very Rev. S. Szufadowicz.

The "Pierogi Project" proved to be very helpful through the years. At this time under the leadership of Mr. S. Lach the project was intensified and the following members worked every week: V. Parulski, T. Bogdan, M. Koninski, M. Lischentski, F. Mazur, E. Turaj, D. Godek, A. Lach, S. Serafin, F. Bialogawicz, H. Neipert, H. Kaleshefski, S. Kaminski, E. Kaleshefski, Dol. Godek and J. Shumski.

This project was always supported by parishioners and friends as a most appropriate means to raise funds that were necessary to improve the church property and purchase all needed implements. Parishioners were not burdened with additional contributions which would otherwise be required.

The School Guild undertook to sponsor Father's Day beginning with June 15, and decided to do this every year. School

of Christian Living students presented a program, received certificates of promotion under the supervision of teachers Mrs. F. Bialogawicz and Mrs. J. Nitkowski.

The following children received First Holy Communion on Sunday, June 29: Mary Ann Lischentski, Karen Heffelfinger, Theresa Tatara, Anna May and Larry Bloom.

Youth Convocation held in Toronto, Canada, in July was attended by the following young people: M. Ostroski, C. Kulikowich, A. Chwiej, S. Chwiej, C. Nestorick, G. Soppeck and J. Olenick.

While in Poland for missionary purposes - Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski succumbed to a heart failure and died in Warszawa on Thursday, July 17. The funeral was held in Scranton, Penna., on Tuesday, July 29. His earthly remains are interred at the Monument of Gratitude at the cathedral cemetery. Many parishioners participated in the funeral rites.

The annual convention of the United Maria Konopnicka Societies was hosted by our local society on Sunday, October 12. The Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz was the celebrant of the Holy Mass. Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz was the convention's presiding officer.

Book racks were purchased from the Scranton Church Furniture for \$238.00 and two racks were installed at every pew by Mr. J. Gladys assisted by F. Koninski, Jr. Mr. J. Gladys did much of the carpentry work for the parish and Mr. F. Koninski, Sr., electrical work together with Mr. S. Kaminski.

On Sunday, November 16, at 4:30 P. M., the pastor was formally installed as Senior Priest of the Plymouth Seniorate by the Rt. Rev. A. Rysz, Ordinary of the Central Diocese. Prime Bishop L. Grochowski announced the elevation of Father Jan Chwiej to Senior Priest during the conference of pastors of the Central Diocese held in Scranton, Penna., on Tuesday, May 13.

Blessed by Bishop A. Rysz on this occasion were: church pews purchased from the Matthew Woodworks (1965) fonts in the vestibule purchased by the School Guild; purple chasuble purchased by the Adoration Society; American and Polish flags donated by the Polish National Union; pastor's cassock donated by Mr. and Mrs. S. Lach and biretta donated by Mr. and Mrs. F. Koninski.

A Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Parish Committee was held in the parish auditorium. In addition to the regular program - the assembled were entertained by Mr. Sol Colter of Pottsville, Penna.

The Maria Konopnicka Society desirous to be of help in the area of church literature - and also to make possible greater dissemination of Rola Boza - God's Field, provided many members with an introductory subscription of this official church publication at a cost of \$284.00.



M. K. Convention 1970



Side Altar



M. K. and A. N. S. Harvest Festival

M. K. Convention

New members accepted: Mr. and Mrs. J. Tatara, Mr. and Mrs. D. Backley, Mr. and Mrs. B. Huff, Miss J. Kuchta, Mr. and Mrs. E. Olenick, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gritsavage, Mrs. B. Jeffrey, Mr. and Mrs. J. Karbon, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. R. Williams and the Rev. and Mrs. F. Parulski.

## 1970

The baptismal font had to be replaced. Over the years - students of the School of Christian Living made small contributions (financial) each Sunday. These contributions in turn were deposited in the bank by Mrs. E. Bialogawicz. It was under her guidance that a new baptismal font was purchased from the Scranton Church Furniture (in oak) for the price of \$575.00.

Under the auspices of the Young Men's Society of Resurrection, headed by Mr. Donald Godek - a testimonial for Mr. Edward Bialogawicz was held on Sunday, March 8. This was undertaken as a demonstration of deep gratitude for the many years Mr. E. Bialogawicz served the parish as organist and choir director.

A benediction service was celebrated by the pastor, assisted by the Very Rev. S. Shuman, and the Rev. T. Shumski, at 4:30 P. M. During the service the recently acquired baptismal font was blessed by the pastor. The dinner and testimonial program was attended by many parishioners and friends of the honored guest.

The annual Easter dinner sponsored by the Maria Konopnicka Society was held on Sunday, April 15, following a brief service in church. This event was significant inasmuch as it was the first time in the history of the parish that Msgr. William Burchill, pastor of St. Vincent's R. C. Church, Plymouth attended the service in church and spoke during the program in the auditorium. The other invited speaker was the Rev. Dr. Burke Rivers, pastor of St. Stephen's, Episcopal Church, Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

In August - the entrance into church was completely modified. Mr. E. Kaleshefski drew the plans and supervised the actual work done by the Somerville Construction Company for \$2,722.30. Doors were purchased from Dorrengton Mill Works for \$318.00 and the Baut Studios installed the side-lights for \$157.00.

At this time - the parishioners contributed \$1,725.00 to the Priests' Pension Fund administered by the Rt. Rev. F. Rowinski. It must be noted here - that the Very Rev. S. Szufladowicz, the first chairman of the Priest's Pension Fund Committee, made the very first contribution of \$100.00 when the campaign for funds began. (This Pension Fund was activated on January 1, 1972).

The Maria Konopnicka Society determined to purchase all necessary paper and other supplies needed to publish the Sunday

bulletin "The Shepherd." The society also prepared and mailed Easter and Christmas greetings to all parishioners. This custom is upheld every year.

New members accepted: Miss B. Koninski, Mrs. J. Regula, Mr. and Mrs. H. Acker, Mr. A. Janowski, Mrs. Maryann Wozinski, Mr. F. Golenski, Mr. and Mrs. F. Ciabotti and Mr. and Mrs. C. Draus.

## 1971

At the annual meeting held on Sunday, January 31, it was resolved that an effort be made to have every member subscribe to the official Church publication "God's Field" - Rola Boza."

Between October 1968 and this time - the School Guild's "Pierogi Project" provided \$10,055.00 for various needs in the renovation of the auditorium and the church.

The following members participated in the project and were helpful in securing funds to make possible major improvements: S. and A. Lach, D. and D. Godek, E. and F. Bialogawicz, E. and H. Kaleshefski, B. and T. Bogdan, M. Koninski, D. Kulikowski, M. Mazur, B. Mazur, S. Serafin, M. Gladys, S. Kaminski, H. Neipert, V. Lake, E. Pechulis, M. Lischentski, H. Dinan, F. Turaj, H. Nestorick, A. Masqay, V. Stepanik, H. Puchalski, S. Grzywaczewski and M. Vinsheski.

Mrs. Helen Neipert, a very capable seamstress, always made the necessary alterations of altar covers. She never refused to be of service to her Church. The Adoration Society, headed by Mrs. Blanche Mazur, took meticulous care of the sanctuary.

When The Kosciuszko Foundation announced the establishment of the Dr. Stephen Mizwa Scholarship Fund - several parishioners hastened with contributions totaling \$225.00.

Mr. Edward Jazquier designed and made an appropriate identification plaque for the parish cemetery. The plaque was donated by Mr. Jazquier and his sister Mrs. Helen Dinan and it was installed by Mr. Joseph Gladys.

On July 12, Miss Mary Ann Ostroski departed for Poland to participate in the Summer Polish Language course conducted by The Kosciuszko Foundation at the Jagiellonian University at Krakow, Poland.

The Maria Konopnicka Society presented the Plymouth Public Library with 10 books in English on Polish subjects including anniversary journals published by the parish.

The 13th General Synod of the PNC Church was held in Toronto, Canada, October 5 through 8. Representing our parish as delegates were: the pastor, Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz, Mrs. Mildred Koninski and Mr. Stanley Kaminski.

On Sunday, December 19, the pastor blessed the following liturgical items: intinction vessel donated by Mrs. Marion Dun-



Y M S of R with wives 1954



School Guild 1958



Outing Committee 1965

stan Carsten; censer, donated by Mr. Frank Januski, a white chasuble and altar linen donated by the Adoration Society.

Mr. Joseph Gladys renovated the store-room adjacent to the parish kitchen.

New members accepted: Mr. Carl Horoszy, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Szczucki, Mr. and Mrs. John Szczucki, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ketchum, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Harris, Mr. Lee Beretsky, Mr. Louis Melovage, Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, Mr. Charles Nestorick and Mr. Adam Chwiej.

## 1972

At the annual meeting held on Sunday, February 13, on the motion of Mr. Stanley Kaminski, seconded by Mrs. Verna Soppeck, it was resolved to have the church interior painted.

On Tuesday, March 7, members of the Parish Committee and representatives of all parish societies met to discuss all matters related to the observance of the 75th anniversary of the parish.

Sub-committees were appointed (listed elsewhere in this journal). After sufficient deliberations it was decided to have four specific dates comprise the anniversary observance: 1) Easter dinner, April 29, 1973. 2) Homecoming July 1, 1973. 3) Principal observance, November 11, 1974. 4) Easter dinner April 21, 1974.

Easter dinner sponsored by the Maria Konopnicka Society was held on Sunday, April 9, with the Rev. Dr. Stephen Włodarski as main speaker. Combined with this annual event each year was the observance of the anniversary of the Polish National Catholic Church. Therefore, in his speech Father Włodarski reviewed the history of the Church.

The parish was officially represented by the pastor, Mr. Stanley Kaminski, Mr. Donald Godek, Mrs. Mildred Koninski and Mr. Everyst Chocallo at the annual meeting of the Polish American Congress, held on Sunday, April 16, Polish Union Building, Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

The pastor, the Very Rev. Jan Chwiej, having been elected by the priests of the Central Diocese in Toronto, Canada, to be their representative, attended the annual meeting of the Supreme Church Council held on April 25 and 26 in Scranton, Penna.

The Mother's Day program sponsored by the Young People's Organization on Sunday, May 14, secured another first for the parish. The main speaker during the program was Sister Mary Agnes Brennan, member of the faculty at Misericordia College, Dallas, Penna.

Through the efforts of the Maria Konopnicka Society - the Matusz Polish Dance Group was brought to Wilkes-Barre, Penna. This group under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jaworow-

ski presented a beautiful program of Polish songs and dances at the Wilkes College Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 P. M., on Sunday, May 28. The auditorium was filled to capacity including the Prime Bishop T. Zielinski, Bishop A. Rysz, local clergymen, seminarians and Polonians of distinction from throughout the Wyoming Valley.

A Festival of Sacred Music was presented by the United Choirs of the Central Diocese on Saturday, June 10, Masonic Temple, Scranton, Penna. in observance of 75th anniversary of the PNCC and our Frederick Chopin Choir participated. The performance was recorded and is available on 12" long playing records.

On June 23rd Wyoming Valley was devastated by the "Hurricane Agnes." Susquehanna River rose to 41 and 1/2 feet. In all properties of 46 parishioners were damaged by the flood waters. The valley was flooded several times before this, but never to this extent.

The Polish National Union together with the Polish National Catholic Church formed a "Disaster Relief Fund" to which members of our Church from throughout the United States contributed funds. In turn members of our parish received \$13,171.00 in aid. This was truly an humanitarian act and all flood victims were appreciative of the help in time of need.

The meeting of the Diocesan Council on August 19, was attended by the pastor, the Rev. Edward Tomczyk, Frackville, Penna., and Mr. Stanley Kaminski who replaced Mr. Stanley Cooper as the lay representative.

The Youth Convocation held on August 15 through 18, was held in Pittsburgh, Penna., and the following young people attended: C. Nestorick, A. Chwiej and K. Gresh.

The School of Christian Living seminar was hosted by our local branch on Saturday, September 16, attended by the diocesan clergymen and teachers. Our teachers and the School Guild prepared the facilities and also served the food.

Mr. Edward Jazgier completed an artist's rendition of the parish property and this drawing was sent to Bishop J. Nieminski to be included in the calendar for the 1973 edition, published by the Diocese of Canada.

Many members attended the 75th anniversary of the PNC Church sponsored by the Polish National Union of America and held at the cathedral facilities on September 24, in Scranton, Penna.

The Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz, Ordinary of the Central Diocese, arrived in Plymouth to bestow the Sacrament of Confirmation upon the class of young people of our parish.

The service began at 4:00 P. M. The Bishop was assisted by the pastor and the following Fathers: E. Tomczyk, E. Paluch, T. Dymkowski, T. Shumski, J. Harchula and C. Grotnik.



School Guild 1974



Pierogi Project 1958

The confirmants were: Christine Eve Kulikowich, Kathleen Ann Marie Nestorick, Johanna Marie Turaj, Mary Ann Jane Lischentski, Jody Ann Dawn Godek, Karen Marie Heffelfinger, Barbara Ann Sovina, Karen Eve Mary Olenick, Sandra Maria Kuchta, Jo Ann Yvette Kuchta, Ronald John Soppeck, Robert Edward Nitkowski, John Elias Olenick, David Paul Basarab, Robert Stephen Redinski, Kenneth Paul Seane Gresh, Robert Miles Puchalski, Bruce Raymond Puchalski, Charles Julius Deitz.

The "Pierogi Project" sponsored by the School Guild refrained from this activity following the flood. The project was resumed in November.

The following altar boys received special mementos (New Testaments) as they completed many years of service at the altar. It should be noted here that all of these young men served until graduation from High School and they are: Adam Chwiej, Charles Nestorick, Stephen Chwiej and George Soppeck.

Rummage Sale - a project of the Maria Konopnicka Society was held every year in the parish auditorium and was headed by Mrs. Lillian Chocallo assisted by Miss Victoria Parulski, Mrs. Helen Dinan, Mrs. Alice Parulski, Mrs. Pauline Timinski, Mrs. Verna Soppeck, Mrs. Stella Grzywaczewski, Mrs. Anna Masqay, Mrs. Estelle Sienkiewicz, Mrs. Agnes Lach and Mrs. Mildred Koninski.

New members accepted: Miss H. Kosmela, Mr. F. Karbon, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mazur, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Bouika III, Mr. T. Deitz, Mrs. F. Kulp, Mr. M. Kotinsley, Mr. and Mrs. R. Bergman and Mrs. J. Regula.

## 1973

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, February 25, at which the report of the 75th Anniversary Committee was approved.

The following members continued to work each week on the "Pierogi Project" which at this time was concentrating on providing funds for the construction of a "New Rectory." Mr. S. Lach, Mrs. M. Koninski, Mr. S. Kaminski, Mrs. D. Kulikowski, Mrs. T. Bogdan, Miss B. Borkowski, Mrs. M. Mazur, Mrs. V. Lake, Mrs. J. Stonik, Mrs. E. Pechulis, Miss S. Rachwalski, Mrs. P. Timinski, Miss A. Karbon, Mrs. A. Lach, Mr. E. Chocallo. This project would not be so successful were it not for Mr. and Mrs. E. Bielogawicz who over the years sold hundreds of dozens of pierogi in their store.

On March 17, the pastor and Mrs. F. Bielogawicz, on behalf of the Maria Konopnicka Society, donated several books to the Plymouth Public Library. The books previously donated were destroyed by the flood of 1972.

On Sunday, April 29, opening of the 75th anniversary years, benediction was imparted in church at 4:30 P. M. Preceeding the Easter dinner, after the blessing of food, the bust of Mikolaj Kopernik (1473 - 1973) was dedicated by the pastor. The bust of this Polish astronomer was commissioned by The Kosciuszko Foundation and sculptured by Mrs. Wilma Buszewicz of Grand Rapids, Mich. The Maria Konopnicka Society purchased this bust (\$125.00) to be placed in the parish office.

The program included the dedication of the completely renovated parish auditorium and honoring the men who worked to bring this about. The following deserve our gratitude: Mr. Edward Kaleshefski, who planned and supervised most of the work. Mr. Edward Bielogawicz, who substituted in supervisory capacity and Mr. Fred Lischentski, Mr. William Dinan, Mr. Edward Turaj, Mr. Everyst Chocallo, Mr. Edward Jazgier, Mr. Donald Paveletz, Mr. John Pechulis and Mr. C. Ostrowski.

Mr. Edward Bielogawicz reflected upon the 75 years of existence of Good Shepherd parish and recounted his personal experience as a life long member. The other speaker was Prof. Joseph Kochan, treasurer of the Polish National Union, who compared the past with the present conditions within the Church.

For this event Mr. Edward Jazgier constructed a special back-drop which depicted the church, the future rectory, symbol of the 75th anniversary, portraits of the Very Rev. Stanislaw Szufadowicz and the Very Rev. Jan Chwiej. (The portraits were later placed in the church vestibule).

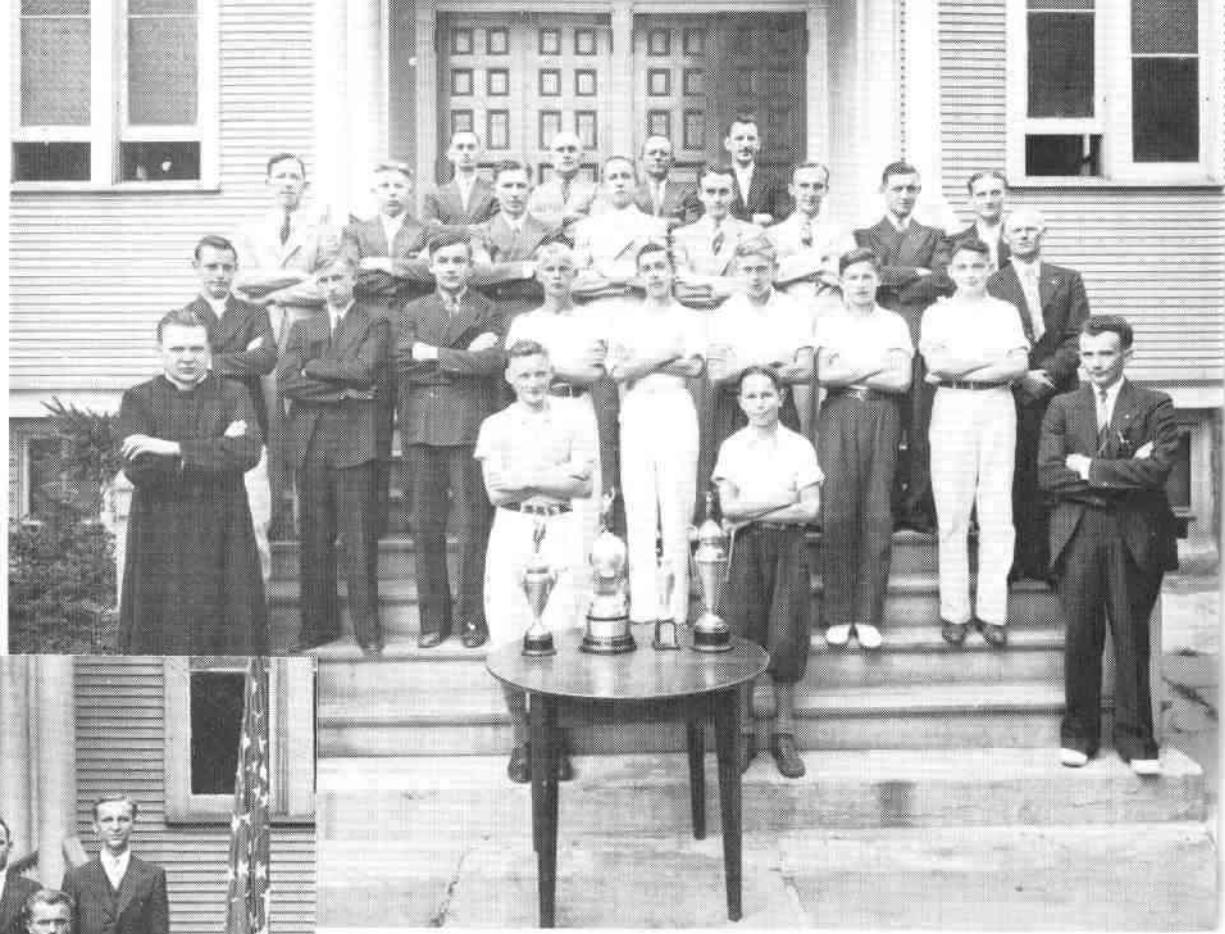
The contract to paint the church interior was awarded by the Parish Committee to H. A. Smith Company for \$10,830.00; repair and renovation work to Somerville Construction Company for \$2,101.74; repair of stained-glass windows to Paddock Glass Company for \$1,487.00 and ceiling in the vestibule to Grove Accoustical Tile for \$150.00. Contributions from parishioners and parish societies covered these expenditures. The light-fixture in the vestibule was donated by the D. Godek and J. Wyatt Families. The work was begun in July and completed in September.

First Holy Communion class composed of Mary Lach, Laura Redinski, Henry Kuchta, Kenneth Heffelfinger, John and Joseph Stortz who received the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, June 11.

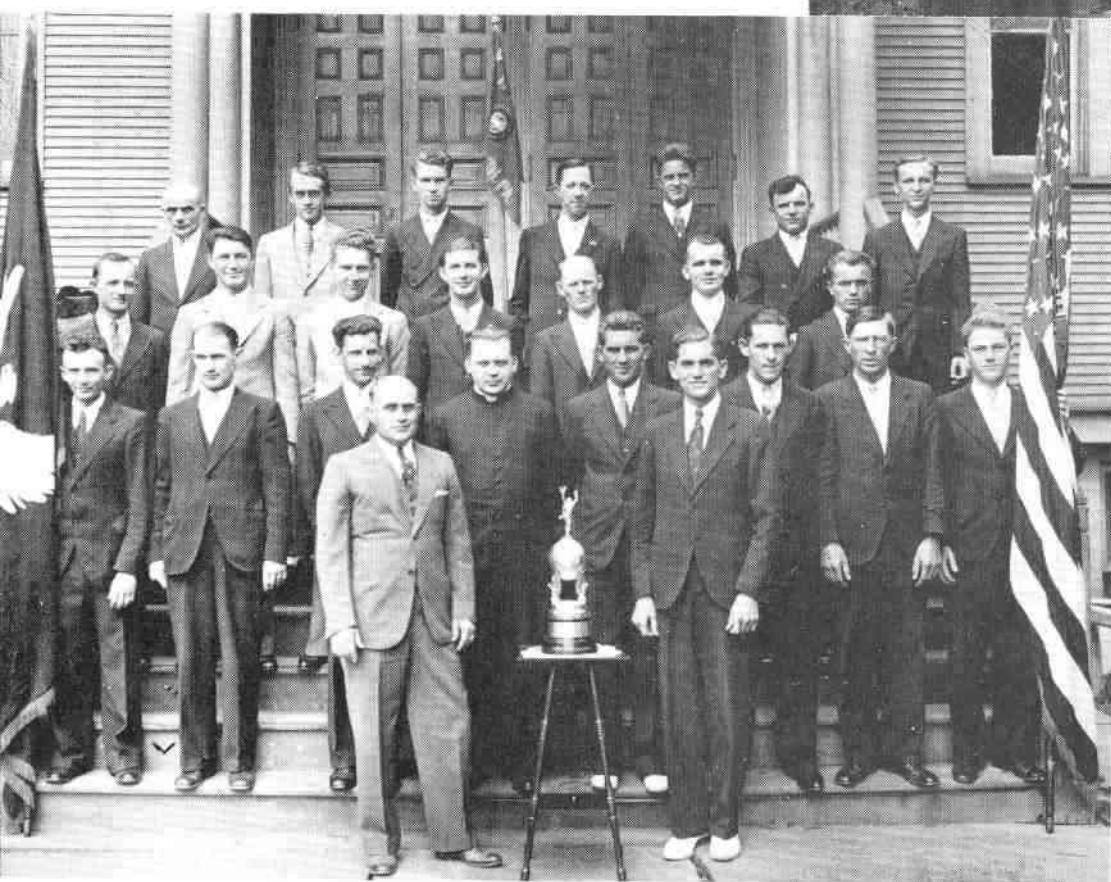
Beginning with the first Sunday in July Holy Mass was celebrated in the auditorium at 9:30 A. M., and this continued until Sunday, September 16, when the work in church was completed.

The home-coming was held on Sunday, July 7, at Wallo Pines, Lake Lehman. A number of former members and friends of the parish attended and was considered a success.

On Thursday, July 26th, the Very Rev. Jan Chwiej, observed the 25th anniversary of ordination with Holy Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at 7:30 A. M. Parishioners attended the Mass and the Frederick Chopin choir chanted appropriate hymns.



Y M S of R 1938



Y M S of R 1933

Mrs. D. Godek and Mr. S. Lach were instrumental in providing the leadership and encouragement which resulted in increasing membership in the Frederick Chopin Choir. These members joined: Mr. and Mrs. S. Lach, Mr. and Mrs. D. Godek, Mrs. F. Chwiej, Mrs. F. Bialogawicz, Mrs. E. Sienkiewicz, Mrs. V. Soppeck, Mr. J. Dick, Miss C. Markowski, Miss S. Rachwalski, Miss K. Nestorick, Mr. C. Nestorick, Miss M. Lach, Miss V. Soppeck, Mrs. M. Koninski, Mrs. T. Bogdan, Miss J. Godek.

A questionnaire was distributed to members on July 15, in regard to a recommendation that Low Mass be eliminated. Responding in favor were 54 and opposed 19. Therefore, from Sunday, September 16, only one Holy Mass on Sundays was to be celebrated at 9:00 A. M.

At this time the Rev. Chester B. Lach, Chicago, Ill., a son of the parish, donated a beautiful bronze missal stand as his contribution to the 75th anniversary of the parish.

At the semi-annual meeting of the parish held on Sunday, July 29, it was unanimously agreed on the motion of Mrs. F. Bialogawicz, seconded by Mrs. H. Dinan, that an altar facing the faithful be installed in church. This altar was constructed by the Somerville Construction Company at a cost of \$780.00 - was delivered and placed in the sanctuary in October. The altar was purchased with contributions from: Mr. B. Ambrose, Very Rev. Jan Chwiej, Mr. J. Losh, Young People's Organization, Mr. J. Lazar, Mr. W. Dinan, Mr. B. Bogdan, Mr. J. Redinski, Mr. S. Chwiej, Mr. E. Lake, Mr. J. Compton, Mr. E. Chocallo, Mr. C. Matuleski, Mr. E. Bialogawicz, Adoration Society, School Guild, Mr. A. G. Mazur, Mr. F. Neipert, Mr. S. Nitkowski, Miss J. Cureka, Mr. J. Pechulis, Mr. A. Poloski, Mr. D. Godek, Mr. J. Wyatt, Mr. A. Yaniga.

The first synod of the Central Diocese was held on September 28 and 29 in Scranton, Penna. Representing our parish were: the pastor, Mr. J. Gladys, Mrs. M. Koninski, Mr. D. Godek, Mrs. F. Bialogawicz, Mr. A. Chwiej and Mr. S. Kaminski who attended as the member of the Diocesan Council.

Under the auspices of the United Maria Konopnicka Societies a "Musicale" was presented in the Cathedral Youth Center on October 21. Mr. E. Bialogawicz directed the program and 18 of our members participated.

Mrs. Alice Tusinski donated the crucifix and the candlesticks for the consecration altar - in memory of her late husband Mr. Stanley Tusinski. The total cost \$326.00.

The first contribution of \$100.00 to defray the cost of printing the 75th anniversary journal "Alegat" was made by Mr. and Mrs. B. Bogdan.

The principal service in observance of the 75th anniversary of the Good Shepherd was held on Sunday, November 11, at 4:00 P. M. The sequence follows here:

## 75th Anniversary Service In Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1973

- 1) Bishop: Wspomóż nasze w imieniu Pana.  
Choir: Który stworzył niebo i ziemię.
- 2) Kto się w opiece ..... Procession From Rectory
- 3) Modlitwa w Kościółku ..... Dedicated to the Diocesan Bishop
- 4) Blessing of church Interior ..... Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz  
Ritual p. 216 - Priests Respond
- 5) The Kingdom of God ..... Frederick Chopin Choir
- 6) Consecration of the Altar ..... The Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz  
Ritual p. 230 - Priests Respond
- 7) Wielki Jest Pan Bóg Nasz ..... Frederick Chopin Choir
- 8) Sermon ..... The Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz
- 9) Expressions of Gratitude ..... The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej
- 10) O Heart of Jesus ..... Frederick Chopin Choir  
(Offering to be taken at this time)
- 11) Benediction ..... The Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz
- 12) Tyle Lat My Ci o Panie ..... Faithful  
Recessional - Naprzód z Krzyżem  
Mr. Adam Chwiej, *Organist*  
Mr. Edward Bialogawicz, *Director*  
The Faithful Assemble For A Photograph

The program following the dinner at the American Legion Home is listed here:

## PROGRAM

Sunday, November 11, 1973

*American Legion Home - Wilkes-Barre, Penna.*

- 1) Welcoming Remarks ..... Mr. Joseph Gladys  
Chairman, Parish Committee and 75th Anniversary Comm.
- 2) Invocation ..... The Very Rev. Joseph P. Tomezyk  
Pastor, Divine Word Parish, Chicago, Illinois
- 3) American and Polish National Anthems ..... Assembly
- 4) Pójdzmy Razem ..... Duet  
Mr. and Mrs. E. Bialogawicz - Accomp. Mr. A. Chwiej
- 5) 75th Anniversary of Good Shepherd —  
Poem ..... Author the Rev. Walter A. Hyszko  
Reader, Miss Mary Ann Ostroski
- 6) Introduction of Guests ..... Mrs. Mildred Koninski  
Rec. Sec., Parish Committee and 75th Anniversary Comm.
- 7) Remarks ..... Atty. Blythe H. Evans, Jr.  
Former District Attorney - Luzerne County, Penna.
- 8) Remarks ..... Mr. Vincent Yuszkiewicz  
President, Polish National Union of America
- 9) Remarks ..... Parish Priests



Frederick Chopin Choir 1905

- 10) Battle Hymn of the Republic —  
Wieniec Melodii Narodowych ..... Frederick Chopin Choir  
Mr. Adam Chwiej, Accompanist
- 11) Principal Address ..... Dr. Eugene Kusielewicz  
President, The Kościuszko Foundation, New York City
- 12) Silver Anniversary of Priesthood —  
Poem ..... Author the Rev. Walter A. Hyszko  
Reader, Mr. Paul Chwiej
- 13) Remarks ..... Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz  
Chairman, 75th Anniversary Journal Committee
- 14) Spiritual Address ..... The Rt. Rev. Anthony M. Rysz  
Diocesan Bishop - Central Diocese P N C Church
- 15) Expressions of Gratitude ..... The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej  
Pastor, Church of the Good Shepherd, Plymouth, Penna.
- 16) Benediction ..... The Rev. Casimir Grotnik  
Pastor, St. Joseph's Parish, Middleport, Penna.
- 17) Tyle Lat My Ci o Panie ..... Assembly  
Hymn of the Polish National Catholic Church

Members who belonged to the parish 50 years or longer - were especially honored. Mrs. M. Koninski and the pastor, on behalf of the 75th Anniversary Committee, presented to these members the most recent edition of the ecumenical Bible. The members so honored were: Mr. John Bajorek, Mrs. Helen Humphrys, Mr. Stanley Kaminski, Mr. Joseph Karabon, Sr., Mrs. Theodora Kulikowski, Mrs. Frances Mrowczynski, Mr. Theofil Mrowczynski, Mrs. Helen Piotrowicz, Mrs. Josephine Zaremba and Mrs. Margaret Celmer.

The introduction of reading the Epistle and Gospel, sermon after Gospel, recitation of the Lord's Prayer by the faithful became part of the Mass as recommended by Prime Bishop L. Grochowski at the 1967 synod.

On Sunday, November 18 - the Mass according to the renewed liturgy recommended by Prime Bishop T. Zielinski - was celebrated for the first time in Plymouth.

It must be stated here - that the altar facing the faithful was introduced by Prime Bishop Francis Hodur in 1931, in Scranton, Penna.

New members accepted: Mrs. M. Carsten, Mr. and Mrs. F. Letukas, Mr. and Mrs. M. Korchnak and Mr. and Mrs. S. Chwiej.

Officers of the Parish Committee and societies in 1973:

### **Parish Committee**

The Very Rev. Jan Chwiej, pastor  
Mr. Joseph Gladys, chairman  
Mr. Stanley Lach, vice-chairman  
Mrs. Blanche Mazur, vice-chairlady  
Mrs. Mildred Koninski, recording secretary  
Mr. Donald Godek, financial secretary

Mr. Everyst Chocallo, treasurer  
Mrs. Helen Dinan, offering envelopes

#### **Trustees:**

Mr. Stanley Kaminski  
Mr. Edward Jazgier  
Mrs. Lillian Chocallo  
Mr. George A. Mazur  
Mr. Stanley Parulski, Jr.  
Mr. Adam Chwiej

Miss Carol Markowski  
Mr. Clement Ostrowski  
Honorary Trustees:

Mrs. Josephine Zaremba  
Mrs. Agnes Gordeck  
Youth Representatives:  
George Soppeck  
Charles Nestorick  
Kenneth Gresh

Cemetery caretaker - Mr. Donald Paveletz  
Organist - Mr. Adam Chwiej  
Church interior - Mrs. Anastasia Gresh  
Church property - Mr. Adam Chwiej

### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Society**

Mrs. Florence Chwiej, chairlady  
Mrs. Tillie Bogdan, vice-chairlady  
Mrs. Agnes Lach, recording secretary  
Mrs. Mildred Koninski, secretary-treasurer

### **Maria Konopnicka Society**

Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz, chairlady  
Mrs. Lillian Chocallo, vice-chairlady  
Mrs. Mary Gladys, recording secretary  
Mrs. Helen Dinan, assistant  
Mrs. Mary Foley, secretary-treasurer

### **Young Men's Society of Resurrection**

Mr. Donald Godek, chairman  
Mr. Charles Nestorick, Jr., vice-chairman  
Mr. Adam Chwiej, recording secretary  
Mr. Paul Chwiej, secretary-treasurer

#### **Trustees:**

Mr. Joseph Dick  
Mr. Lee Beretski  
Mr. Stanley Lach  
Mr. Benjamin Bogdan



Frederick Chopin Choir 1928



Drama Society 1936

## School Guild

Mr. Stanley Lach, chairman  
Mr. Stanley Kaminski, vice-chairman  
Mrs. Dolores Godek, recording secretary  
Mr. Benjamin Bogdan, secretary-treasurer

Trustees:

Mrs. Mildred Koninski  
Mr. Donald Godek  
Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz  
Mrs. Verna Soppeck  
Mrs. Stella Grzywaczewski

## Young People's Organization

Mr. Adam Chwiej, chairman  
Mr. George Soppeck, I vice-chairman  
Miss Kathleen Nestorick, II vice-chairman  
Mr. Charles Nestorick, recording secretary  
Miss Karen Olenick, assistant  
Mr. Kenneth Gresh, secretary-treasurer  
Mr. Stephen Chwiej, assistant

Trustees:

Mr. Ronald Soppeck  
Mr. Paul Chwiej  
Mr. John Olenick

Annual financial statements had been published since 1969.

Here are the total receipts and disbursements for the past five years.

Year	Receipts	Disbursements
1969	\$15,380.32	\$14,617.26
1970	16,801.33	16,695.77
1971	16,995.96	15,679.19
1972	23,414.00	24,542.57
1973	35,507.84	34,737.36

The 75th Anniversary observance concluded with the Easter dinner and an appropriate program held on Sunday, April 21, 1974.

Benediction was imparted in church at 4:30 P. M., followed by the program and dinner in the parish auditorium and was well attended by parishioners and friends.

The principal speaker was Mr. Joseph Kochan, General Secretary of the Polish National Union of America.

## An After Word -

It is proper and necessary - that special acknowledgment be made as regards participation of members in the life of the parish.

A good number of parishioners devote much energy and time to the required functions in an active parish. Without their dedication it would not be possible to meet all essential parish obligations.

Whether it was ordained by God, we do not know, but our Church has been the precursor of the movement to return to the Church which was known in the Apostolic Era. Mr. Adolph Schalk, the author of the article "The New-fashioned Old Catholics" published in the U. S. Catholic, states: "Many of the reforms toward which Roman Catholics are moving have been embodied in the Old Catholic Church since its inception over 100 years ago." As members of the Old Catholic Union - we are part of that reality.



## Bibliography

1. Straz - 1898
2. Luzerne County Court Records - 1898, 1910, 1932
3. 10th Anniversary Journal - PNCC, 1907
4. "Reminiscences of Plymouth" - 1914
5. "Alegat" - 1938 and 1948
6. Parish Records, minutes and financial, 1948 - 1968
7. God's Field - Rola Boza -
8. Po Drodze Zycia - 1922
9. "33" 33rd Anniversary PNCC - 1930
10. The Growth of a Church - 1965
11. Parish Bulletin "The Shepherd" - 1968 to 1973



Choir Committee 1967



Frederick Chopin Choir 1938



Frederick Chopin Choir 1948

## The Only Living Charter Member . . .



Mrs. Helen Piotrovitz — a charter member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Plymouth, Penna., observed her 100th birthday on Wednesday, April 25, 1974. She is the only living person who participated in the organizational activities of this parish.

Mr. Adam Piotrovitz and Mrs. Helen Wysocki Piotrovitz were united in Holy Matrimony by the Rev. Francis Hodur on February 4, 1896, who was then the pastor of Holy Trinity, R. C. Church, in Nanticoke, Penna.

Mrs. Piotrovitz still displays keen interest in the parish. She often reflects upon her work in the parish societies when she was a little younger. She remembers with enthusiasm her acting in stage plays and especially "Wyrudna Corka." Mrs. Piotrovitz resides with her daughter Mrs. Helen Martin in Forty Fort, Penna. On Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1974, she was interviewed on Channel 22 (CBS) and responded to questions about how present Thanksgiving Days compared with Thanksgiving Days of years ago.

(Certified Copy Marriage Record) 1000-3-11

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, }  
County of Luzerne } BB:

I, JOHN SHIVELL, Clerk of the Orphans' Court in and for the County aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, That the following is a true and correct copy of the records relating to the marriage of  
A. S. PIOTROVITZ and HELEN WYSOCKA  
so full and entire as by the records in said office it appears,

No. 19601, Name A. S. PIOTROVITZ Born in POLAND  
Born NOVEMBER 12, 1872 Residing at PLYMOUTH, PA.  
Occupation GROCER NOT relative by blood or marriage of the  
person whom he desires to marry. NOT married before  
Name HELEN WYSOCKA Born in POLAND  
Born APRIL 25, 1874 Residing at NANTICOKE, PA.  
Occupation \* \* \* NOT married before  
Marriage License issued JANUARY 31, 1896 Married FEBRUARY 4, 1896  
Married by REV. F. HODUR at NANTICOKE, PA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal,  
at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, this 5th day of JUNE 1974

A. D. 1942

*John Shivell*  
*John Nettman*  
Clerk of the Orphans' Court  
Ass't. Clerk of the Orphans' Court



United Choirs Wyo. Valley 1955



United Choirs 1952



United Choirs 1956

**In Honor of the Men and Women of This Church  
Who Served in the Armed Forces of Our Country**



Ambrose, Benjamin  
Bajorek, Edward  
Barczewski, Stefan  
Barczewski, Joseph  
Barczewski, Walter  
Barczewski, John  
Biniewicz, Edward  
Biniewicz, Leon  
Beretsky, Lawrence  
Borkowski, John  
Bogdan, Benjamin  
Celmer, Theodore  
Celmer, Leonard  
Celmer, Joseph  
Cwieka, John  
Chwiej, Very Rev. Jan  
Cwieka, Walter  
Cwieka, Walter  
Demski, Mitchell  
Evola, Edward  
Fataicher, Edward  
Gorzan, Walter  
Gorzan, Joseph  
Godek, Donal  
Januszewski, Edward  
Jazgier, Edward  
Karaban, Adam

Kochan, Stanley  
Kochan, Walter, Jr.  
Kochan, John  
Kennedy, Vincent  
Kulikowski, Bernard  
Koninski, Frank  
Kaminski, Michael, Jr.  
Lelakowski, Joseph  
Letnianczyn, Peter  
Lach, Stanley  
Mazur, Edward  
Mazur, Joseph  
Mikolajek, Wilhelm  
Marcinkowski, Dorothy  
Niewiadomski, Theodore  
Ostrowski, Joseph  
Orlowski, Narcyz  
Osak, Wanda  
Osak, William  
Plaza, Theophil  
Pardo, William  
Pucylowski, Joseph  
Pucylowski, John  
Pucylowski, Edward  
Powalczyk, Andrew  
Pokladowski, Joseph  
Pawlowski, Stanley

Podkonski, Louis  
Rudzinski, John  
Rudzinski, Joseph  
Serafin, William  
Sowa, Edward  
Sowa, Carl  
Sochacki, Theodore  
Swiatek, Carl  
Swiatek, John  
Tworek, Frank  
Tencza, Joseph  
Tencza, John  
Tencza, Edward  
Tworek, Valentine  
Tworek, John  
Turaj, John  
Tyson, Carl  
Waszewski, Benjamin  
Wysocki, Felix  
Widuch, Andrew  
Wyatt, Joseph  
Yankoski, Leon  
Zoranski, Barnard  
Zdancewicz, Narcyz  
Zdancewicz, Henry  
Zdancewicz, Alphonse



Diocesan United Choirs 1955  
Wilkes College

## **The Following Have Served As Chairman of the Parish Committees 1898 - 1973**

Mr. Leon Shibolowski  
Mr. Marian Kaminski  
Mr. John Bieniewicz  
Mr. Francis Durszynski

Mr. Michael Zaremba  
Mr. Adam Januszewski  
Mr. Anthony Szczucki  
Mr. Stanley Gordeck

Mr. Leon Kaminski  
Mr. Stanley Cooper  
Mr. Joseph Gladys



## **Parish Organists During the Past 75 Years**

Mr. Theodore Robaczewski  
Mr. Adam Pikulski  
Mr. Peter Celmer  
Mr. John Danielski  
Mr. Edward Bialogawicz  
Miss Sylvia Turowski, asst.  
Miss Christine Bialogawicz, asst.  
Mr. Adam Chwiej  
Miss Kathleen Nestorick, asst.  
Mr. Edward Bialogawicz, dir.



Minstrel 1932



Minstrel 1934

# *The Polish National Catholic Church*

*Most Rev. Leon Grochowski*

The missionary apostles to the Slavic people, Saints Cyril and Methodius, organized the first Christian Church in early Poland. They celebrated Mass and performed all religious ceremonies in the native Old Slavonic language. These two missionaries introduced Christianity into Poland in 865 AD and in many parts of Poland the liturgy, according to history, existed until the 16th century when it was completely overwhelmed by Romanism. These missionaries had given the people their first common alphabet which strengthened their unity. Further, Saints Cyril and Methodius had translated the Holy Scripture into this common language. Christianity was accepted by these people as a national religion, as the Church of a people united by language and the spirit of brotherhood.

In the year 965 AD, the Polish Prince Mieszko I, due to pressure exerted by the German State, accepted the Roman Rite in the Latin tongue. Poland was thereby opened to the full missionary endeavors of the German clergy and their Monastic Orders, who having full support of the Vatican, labored to eradicate and destroy the church organized by Cyril and Methodius.

Valerian Krasinski, author of "History of the Reformation in Poland," writes: "The Moravians, that is the Slovanians including the Poles, had a strong aversion to any mode of worship which prevented them from using the language of their fathers. The Poles, after the Latin Rite was introduced, did not understand the service of the Roman Church and longed for the use of their native language in the liturgy. They resented the Latin Rite which was forced upon them and in the 11th Century gave vent to their pent up feelings in an uprising against their overlords and foreign clerics."

The historian Matthew of Miechowa wrote: "The chronicles positively state that in the year 949, the Moravians founded at Kleparz in the environs of Krakow, the Church of the Holy Cross and it is well known that they preserved the liturgy in the national tongue until the year 1506. Queen Hedwiga was a great and ardent patroness of the Polish liturgy, and she founded the "College of the Slovanius Brothers" in which divine services were celebrated in Polish. This is the end of the 14th Century. The Rev. John Dlugosz, Polish historian of the latter part of the 15th

Century, often attended these devotions to hear and enjoy the anthems chanted in the Polish language."

Father Juszynski asserts: "The reformers of the 16th Century adopted, for their own use, much of the liturgy of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Martin Tromba, Archbishop of Gniezno, who took a prominent part in the Council of Constance, was a great advocate of that liturgy and ordered it to be translated into the modern Polish. Copies of that translation were preserved in the library of Zaluski and after the fall of Poland, were carried away to Petersburg."

As generations passed, the Polish people found it more and more necessary to resist encroachments and claims of the Papacy. The memory of the first National Church was intensified by the spirit of religious unrest that was sweeping over Europe. Men began to talk openly about a Church which would concern itself with the spiritual welfare of the people and not with foreign and selfish interest. Men like Nicholas Rey, Jan Kochanowski, Andrew Frycz Modrzewski and others wrote boldly and openly about the need for Church reform.

During the 16th Century, a second attempt was made to organize a National Church in Poland. At this time, practically the entire "Sejm" zealously supported such a move. Primate Uchanski and Bishop John Drochojewski were strong supporters of this vital issue.

Walter Smolenski, a Polish historian, described this period as follows: "After the death of Sigismund I, the royal crown went to his son Sigismund August II. The gentry made the following request of the young monarch: 1. Regulation of the privileges between the nobility and the clergy; 2. Freedom to organize a National Church."

The Rev. John Laski, able and energetic, after many years of reformation activities in foreign countries, returned to Poland and worked diligently to unite all religious groups in the country for the purpose of organizing a National Church.

Andrew Frycz Modrzewski and Father Orzechowski, emphasized the definite need of a National Church, which would be free of foreign influences. They earnestly desired to create a pure Polish Church in conformity with the nation's needs and conceptions.



Minstrel 1949



Minstrel 1949

"During the Sejm at Piotrkow in 1555," writes Smolenski, "the entire nobility revealed an ardent desire to separate the Church in Poland from obedience to Rome. Due to their demands, it was resolved that a National Council or Synod should be called."

Jan Ostrorog, an official of the government in Poznan, a patriot of keen mind and prophetic vision, in his letters which were later compiled and published under the title "The Organism of the Republic," reveals the many discrepancies and abuses which were suffered by Poland, because of the policy of the Vatican to dominate every realm of Poland's national life.

Modrzewski fearlessly criticized the abuses practiced by the Roman Church upon the peasant masses, exploiting their illiteracy, credulity and superstition. He called for freedom, justice and equality for all people of Poland. His greatest passion was a desire to unite all Christians in Poland into one Church, which would be based upon and governed by the Word of God, as taught by Jesus Christ. He believed that neither civil nor church law should repress the voice of conscience. He condemned the clergy's lust for power and position. They falsely teach that their Church is the only true Church. They force their man made laws on the people, not for the greater glory of God, but for their own profit. His recommendations for reform were:

1. The Bible is the only criterion of Divine teaching.
2. The clergy should be permitted to marry, as they did without hindrance to the year 1123 when celibacy became mandatory in the Roman Church.
3. The liturgy should be celebrated in the language of the people.
4. Each nation should have its own National Church.

When these requests were presented at the Council of Trent, the issue was evaded by a promise that the Council would strive to find a medicine for the ills of the Church in Poland.

With the adjournment of the Council of Trent in 1563, vesting the Pope with supreme authority and branding as heretics, pagans and infidels, all those who did not conform to the decrees of the Council, the Polish leaders of the reformation were firmly convinced that the only solution to the religious problem in Poland, was to call a Synod without the sanction of Rome and proceed to form a National Church. However, before the leaders of the reformation could have taken definite action, the Jesuit Order was brought into Poland by the Prelate of Warmenia, Bishop

Hoziusz, with instructions to penetrate the religious, educational, social and political realms of Polish life. Within a short time, the Jesuits managed to incite quarrels, sectarian jealousies, disorganize and divide the nobility into small groups and once again enslave the nation. Tolerance succumbed to intolerance and injustice resulting from religious persecution. This persecution severed the Ukraine from Poland, incited chaos among the people, damped the fires of patriotism and dug a grave into which Russia, Prussia and Austria buried Poland with three notorious partitions, enacted in 1773, 1792 and 1795. Thus, the curtain fell on the second attempt to bring religious freedom and liberty into Poland.

By the grace of God, Poland in her darkest hour was given three great people, Adam Mickiewicz, Julius Slowacki and Maria Konopnicka. In their literary works, they revealed the cause of Poland's misery, poverty and misfortune. They revived the slumbering soul of the nation and fired the people again with new faith and hope for the future. All three agreed that the Roman Church in Poland was a disintegrating power; that Poland needs a Church that will recognize not only the element of natural culture and its development but will zealously labor for the moral, material and spiritual upliftment of the people; a Church that will have at heart at all times, unhindered by foreign influence, the good of the nation and the welfare of its people.

Adam Mickiewicz (1797-1855) severely criticized the Roman Church. He wrote: "Today, the Roman Catholic Church is a cold ritualistic organization. The Church of Rome is dead. She has lost the spirit and the soul of Christ. Politics, financial matters and a blind passion to rule the world are her cardinal interests. Do not say that the people are betraying you, the leaders of the Church. On the contrary, you have betrayed them. You are to conquer sin and the world and bring salvation to the people, but instead, you seek the riches of the world. Do you think that a soulless ritualism, denunciations, anathemas, gold and political power will build the Kingdom of God on earth?" (Mickiewicz's "Lectures on Slavonic Literature," Vol. IV).

Julius Slowacki (1809-1849) strove continuously toward perfection. Pain, disappointment and the uncounted hardships of life, refined and ennobled his soul. Under the influence of a sincere and deep faith in God, he rose spiritually high above the cold materialism of the world into the realm of the spirit. In his works, he unceasingly criticized the Roman Church in Poland and dropped one bomb of censure after another upon the Vatican which he considered the source of Poland's poverty, misery and enslavement. He sounded this ringing cry of warning to his countrymen! "Poland! Thy ruin is in Rome!"



Orchestra 1927



Orchestra 1907

Maria Konopnicka (1846-1910), the greatest poetess of Poland, severely criticized and condemned the Roman Church for its abuses, which suckled the life-giving blood of the Polish people. Her attitude toward the Vatican was very definite. Citing events of European history, she showed that the diplomacy of the Vatican always harmed Poland deeply. She grieved that Poland, like a slave, clung to the papal throne. If Poland only had the leadership and the courage, as other peoples and nations, to throw off the papal shackles, it would become a more fortunate and blessed nation.

In her poem entitled "Before God", she complains to the Heavenly Father that it is difficult for God-seeking souls to live in the dark dungeons of Roman dogmatism which deprive the human mind of freedom of thought and expression. Obey and do not ask questions is the voice of Rome. And so Konopnicka writes:

*"O, God! Blessed by Thy laws,  
But torn asunder by those shackles.  
Under which the unenlightened bend,  
Increasing before the eye, the poverty of men."*

After visiting the Vatican and the Church of St. Joachim at Rome, she learned that the name of Poland was crossed off the list of nations, because it was temporarily partitioned and enslaved by her three neighbors. She severely reprimanded and denounced the politicians of the Vatican who forgot the oppressed and put a stamp of approval upon those who live by the odious principle that "might makes right."

Upon her return to Poland, Konopnicka instructs the people thusly: "Look not to Rome for guidance and compassion, but to the Lord, Jesus Christ."

*"And you dear people - do not drag  
Your souls to those doors.  
There you have no friends.  
There you are foreign, unknown and scorned.  
Appeal from this day to Christ our Lord,  
For only heaven knows your suffering."*

After Poland's dismemberment, two heroic but unsuccessful insurrections in which the Polish people tried valiantly to liberate their country from alien rule because of political and religious persecution, they began to seek new homes outside their native land. The greatest number came to the friendly shores of the United States to find new life, hope and opportunity, but especially freedom. Having only hope and faith left, they sought that which was so ably expressed by Thomas Jefferson: "The

God Who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time. The hand of force may destroy, but it cannot disjoin them."

At the turn of the 19th Century, an increasing stream of Polish immigrants reached the shores of the United States. They brought along their traditional customs which added to the beauty and wealth of the mosaic culture that is America. The first centers of Polish religious, social and patriotic life, were the Polish parishes of the Roman Catholic Church. However, within a short time, they found disappointment in the Church. In their eyes, this Church was a strange institution dominated by hostile men who would not recognize their needs. The hierarchy showed practically no concern for the welfare of the Polish immigrant. He seemed to be relegated to the status of a second rate member in the Church with no rights — only obligations, with no jurisdiction — only submission.

The Baltimore Council of 1884 was the clarion call which awakened the Polish people to renew their struggle for religious freedom. At that Council, it was resolved, that hereafter, all church property automatically becomes the sole possession of the Bishops of the various dioceses of the Roman Church. The Polish people had no Polish Bishops. This decision of the Council would be an encroachment upon their right to private ownership and paved the way for the political and social exploitation of the Polish people.

It is now necessary to turn to Scranton, Pennsylvania, for the main story of religious freedom. The Polish National Catholic Church is a direct outgrowth of the Scranton movement.

The organization of the Scranton parish and the development of the Polish National Catholic Church is inseparably linked with the life and work of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur. As the first leader and active spiritual head for over a half century, Prime Bishop Hodur was the founder of the Church's early publications and institutions.

Following his ordination on August 19, 1893, Father Hodur was assigned to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Roman Catholic Church in South Scranton, as assistant to the Reverend Richard Aust.

In the autumn of 1896, a large group of members of the parish formed a picket line around the church to prevent Father Aust from entering. According to newspaper accounts, the 7:30 a.m. mass was celebrated in quietude and order. The riot broke out with great violence just before the 10:30 o'clock mass. The reason for the demonstration was that the Bishop nor any member of the hierarchy considered the request of the laity to be allowed repre-



Plymouth Centennial 1966

sentation in parish management: that the people be respected as God's children and not be abused verbally and otherwise by the pastor. What added to the hurt of the people was the message from the Bishop reprimanding them for what he termed their disobedience. Unwilling to withdraw their request without a fair hearing, the people petitioned and petitioned the Bishop without success.

An August 1896 newspaper account states: "Rev. Richard A. Aust, pastor of St. Mary's Polish Church, has publicly excommunicated every person connected with the opposition to him. They have set his orders at defiance and propose not to stop short of having him removed. If they do not succeed in that, if the bishop does not give them any satisfaction, they have threatened to organize another parish. Father Aust spoke of having warrants issued for the arrest of all who participated in the disturbance Sunday morning."

Another newspaper account states this: "The police officers were clubbing right and left, women often coming in the way of the blows. Blood began to flow and at the sight of it desperation seized both sides. The police after a hard scrimmage succeeded in getting the upper hand and at once clearing a circle about them drove the mob in all directions. Then nine persons, three of them women, were lodged into the patrol wagon and under a strong guard were rushed to the central station house."

Some 200 families left the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish. They made plans for the erection of a new Church. They sent their delegation to Father Hodur, now in Nanticoke, for counsel and advice, asking also that he accept the pastorate. On Sunday evening, March 14, 1897, Father Hodur arrived in Scranton. On the following Sunday, he celebrated mass in the crypt of the incompletely built Saint Stanislaus Church thus beginning his life long service with the Scranton flock as priest, teacher, protector, emancipator and Prime Bishop.

Father Hodur was not yet convinced that the position of the American hierarchy was entirely in accord with the principles of the Church. He appeared in Rome in January, 1898, bearing a petition to the Pope. A newspaper account appeared in the Tribune as reported by the reporter from the interview with Father Hodur. Father Hodur said: "I have been away for two months and reached New York City yesterday at noon on the steamer New York. My mission to Rome you know was an important one. I went there as the special representative of my congregation, St. Albert's Church at Priceburg and the Blessed Virgin congregation of Philadelphia, to present to His Holiness, Pope Leo, through

Cardinal Vanatelli, a petition signed by committees of these congregations and by a committee of the National Polish Alliance of Chicago, an organization of 14,000 members, to ask the Pope to bring about many needed reforms in the church affairs of the Polish people of this country. The petition was sent to His Holiness Feb. 28, last month and in the document we asked for the consideration of these four imperative reforms: First, that a Polish bishop be sent to America; Secondly, self-government among the Polish people, and new rules in the management of church funds be adopted; Thirdly, that church properties shall be in the name of the congregation, and not deeded to the bishop of the diocese, and the last; that the Polish people select their pastors. The affairs of our people are badly managed and we feel that the Polish people themselves should select their priests. All these changes are needed to put an end to discord and bad feeling so prevalent among our people in this country." After reporting to the congregation of what was said and transpired in Rome, that no separate laws or privileges will be established for a handful of Catholics in America who are dissatisfied, it was then resolved not to return to Rome evermore!

In September, 1904, the first Synod was held in Scranton, Pa., with 147 clerical and lay delegates representing already some 20,000 adherents in five states. The delegates elected Father Hodur as their first Bishop and proceeded to plan for the future. Father Hodur was consecrated Bishop on September 29, 1907, in St. Gertrude's Church in Utrecht, Holland. The consecrators were the Most Rev. Gerard Gul, Archbishop of Utrecht, the head of the Old Catholic Churches in Europe; the Right Rev. John Van Thiel, Bishop of Haarlem; and the Right Rev. Michael Bartholomew Spit, Bishop of Deventer. The consecration of Bishop Hodur by the Old Catholic Bishops of Holland gave to the Polish National Catholic Church a direct western line of apostolic succession. It must be noted, however, that Bishop Hodur was consecrated for the Polish National Catholic Church as it is stated in the Act of Consecration.

The first Synod defined the purpose of the Church. Among other things, it was the duty of the Church:

1. To sanctify people by introducing them to the living Christ.
2. To preach the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, interpreting it with sound knowledge.
3. To help mankind create a Church which, in living practice, would meet the standards of Jesus Christ.

Dedication of Stained Glass Windows 1947



Dedication of Stations of the Cross 1951

The Polish National Catholic Church accepts the decisions of the first four Ecumenical Synods of the Undivided Church. It denies the doctrines of the infallibility of the Pope and pledges its allegiance to Christ, the visible and invisible Head of the Church. It does not accept the original sin dogma as taught by the Church of Rome. The term "original sin" does not appear in the Bible nor did it receive the universal approval of Christianity of the first thousand years. Bishop Hodur rightly observed, that one cannot talk about sin, where there is a lack of the essential conditions of sin, consciousness and free will. When speaking of Christ's redemption, there is no trade transaction between God and the devil, but rather a regeneration of man dependent upon this, that after baptism, we become a "new creation." It rejects the doctrine of eternal punishment but accepts the principle of punishment for sins. The hearing and preaching of the Word of God has been added to the Seven Sacraments, while Baptism and Confirmation are one, for Confirmation completes Baptism.

The doctrine of the Polish National Catholic Church is founded on the Holy Scripture, the Holy Tradition, and the decisions of the first four Councils. We believe in and worship only one God in three Divine Persons, distinct from, equal to each other, that is, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. We believe in the Incarnation, Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We believe in the personal union in Christ of two natures, the divine and human. We honor the Blessed Mother Mary as the Mother of Jesus Christ. We believe in the true and mystical presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

The Polish National Catholic Church is the propagator of religious freedom and liberty which is God's idea. It is Catholic and proves its catholicity by its teachings and practice, for Jesus Christ had One Gospel for all His followers. The Church recognizes the element of national culture, its development and the legitimate aspirations of every nation. The Polish National Catholic Church has a democratic form of government as existed in the Early Church of Christ. The church property is deeded in the name of the congregation and is the property of the people in

union with that particular parish. The people have a voice in all matters pertaining to the parish and the Church. The women received equal rights with men long before women were even permitted to vote in the United States. This Church was organized by the Polish people but its doors are opened unto all ethnic groups who love, cherish and seek religious freedom. Holy Masses and devotions are conducted in two languages: Polish and English. This Church has labored and struggled to bring about social justice; it has restored to man his inalienable rights.

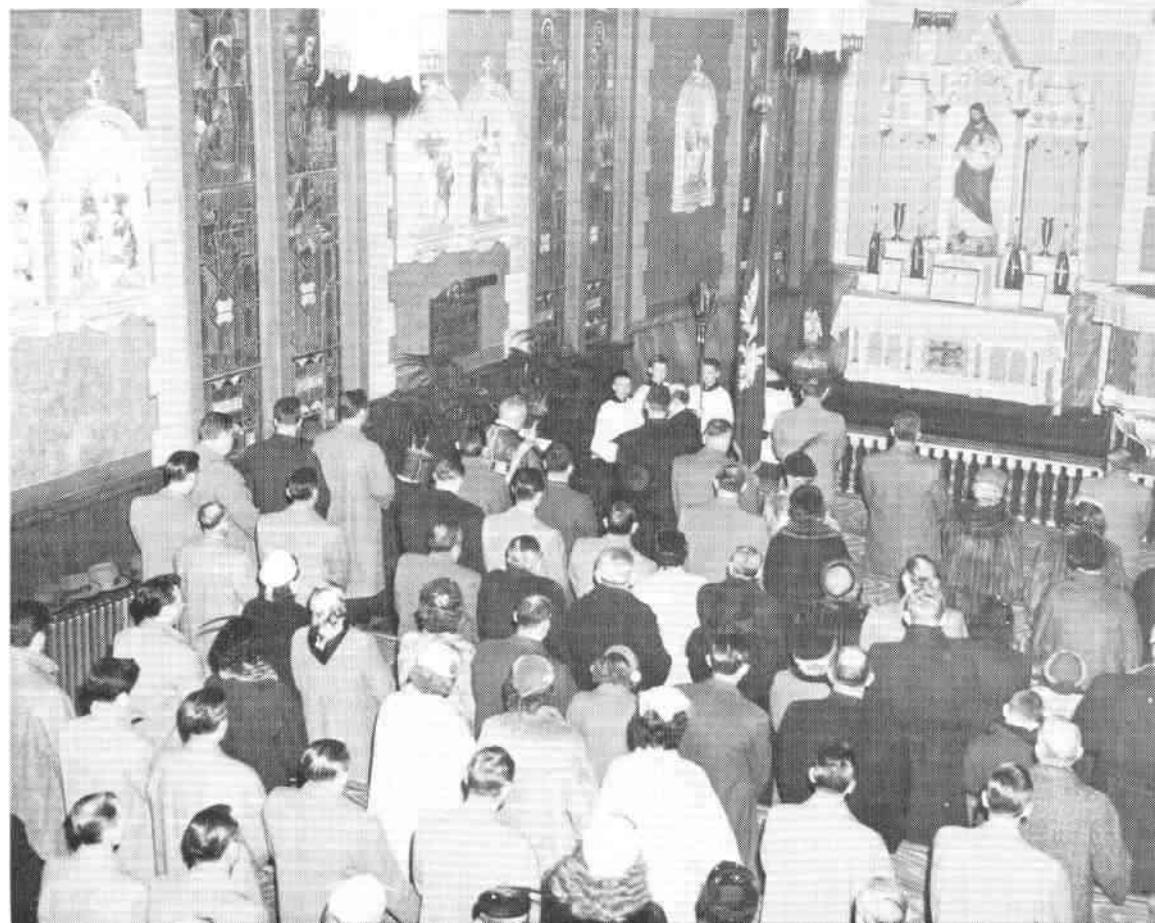
The early Synods of the Church established five new feasts, namely: Feast of the Poor Shepherds, Feast of the Fatherland Poland, Feast of the Founding of the Polish National Catholic Church, Feast of Brotherly Love and the Feast of the Christian Family. Already in 1921, the Church introduced general confession, abolished celibacy and joined the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. In 1923, Prime Bishop Francis Hodur published the "Eleven Great Principles of the Polish National Catholic Church". In 1948, intercommunion with the Episcopal Church was established. In 1958, the Church officially became bilingual introducing the English Mass and the English language in devotions where this was necessary. The English language was a subsidiary to the Polish and was permitted by parishes after a two-thirds vote of all parishioners was taken.

According to the Organizer of the Polish National Catholic Church, the late Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, "the Polish National Catholic Church is a regenerated and renewed Church of Christ". This Church is cleansed of all those things which hindered man's direct approach to God and man's progress in developing mentally, spiritually and physically; a Church adapted to the changing conditions and needs of man; a Church dedicated to truth, laboring for its victory, battling with half truths, seeking the victory of truth and justice. This renewed Christian Church will not bless or tolerate privileged classes of people. This renewed Church is absolutely necessary for the abused, oppressed, hungry, spiritually needful people into whose hearts and souls, truth, strength and new life will flow.





Dedication of Baptismal Font 1970



Dedication of Bishop Hodur Plaque 1954

# *The Apostolic Succession in the Polish National Catholic Church*

Rt. Rev. John Jasinski

The Rev. Francis Hodur who was elected as Bishop at the First Synod in 1904 was consecrated in 1907 by Archbishop Gerard Gul, of Utrecht, Holland, Bishop John Van Thiel, of Haarlem and Bishop Peter Spit, of Deventer, the Old Catholic Bishops of the Netherlands. The Old Catholic Church which was a small Jansenist Church in Holland is the sole historic survival of a movement which had contended in a brilliant controversy with Jesuitism. This Church has the true Catholic and Apostolic Succession. Some facts pertinent to this are:

A vicar apostolic, Peter Kodde, consecrated as Bishop at Brussels, Belgium in 1689, supported a Jansenist cause and organized a Jansenist Church and had been elected Archbishop of Utrecht by the Holy See. He refused to sign the formulary of Pope Alexander VII and died without incantation in 1710. The Church of Utrecht joined the French Appellants in their resistance to the Bull "Unigenitus" (only-begotten) issued in 1713 by Pope Clement XI. The Church of Utrecht kept up a supply of priests by sending their candidates with dimissorials to French Appellant Catholic Bishops for ordination.

In 1723 the chapter of Utrecht chose C. Van Steenhoven, formerly Vicar General to the Archbishop of Utrecht. He was consecrated by the French Jansenist Bishop of Babylon, Dominic Marie Varlet. The legality and canonicity of this consecration was defended by the famous canonist of Louvain University, Van Espen. Bishop D. M. Varlet consecrated four archbishops of Utrecht. When he died, Meinhardt, the last Archbishop whom he consecrated established the bishopric of Haarlen in 1742 and of Deventer in 1752. Meinhardt's successor was consecrated by the Bishop of Haarlem and so the succession of bishops and priests has been maintained down through the ages to our own day.

The apostolic line of the Archbishops of Utrecht in communion with Rome is as follows:

1. Fredrick Schenck, 1560-1580.
2. Sasbold Vosmeer, 1602-1614.
3. Philip Rovenius, 1620-1651.
4. Jam de la Torre, 1651-1661.
5. J. Van Neerchasel, 1661-1686.
6. Peter Kodde, 1688-1710.

After the break with the Roman jurisdiction:

7. V. Van Steenhoven, 1724-1725.
8. Cor. J. Barchman Wuytiers, 1725-1733
9. T. Van der Croon, 1734-1739.
10. P. J. Meindart, 1739-1767.
11. Walter Van Neuwenhuisen, 1768-1797.
12. J. J. Van Rhym, 1797-1808.
13. W. Van Os, 1814-1825.
14. J. Van Santen, 1825-1858.
15. Henry Loos, 1858-1873.
16. John Heykamp, 1875-1892.
17. Gerard Gul, 1892-1920.
18. Fr. Kenninck, 1920-1937.
19. Andreas Rinkel, 1937-1971.
20. Marinus Kok, 1971

The consecration of Rev. Francis Hodur by the Old Catholic Bishops of Holland gave a direct western line of Apostolic Succession to the Polish National Catholic Church. The doctrine of Apostolic Succession means that according to the institution of Christ, the Bishops succeed one another in an unbroken chain of succession from the time of Christ Himself down through the Apostles and their successors and reach down to the episcopate of the present day. This doctrine of Apostolic Succession is upheld by the Polish National Catholic Church.



Very Rev. S. Szufladowicz 30th Anniversary



Beginning of Renovation in Auditorium 1967

# THE ONE HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

"And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." St. John 8:32.

The Polish National Catholic Church —  
It's Principles and Foundation.

By RT. REV. FR. BONCZAK

(Translated by Rev. A. B. M.)

The Polish Nation was the first to become democratized in the modern world; four hundred years ago it accepted the term—republic, and was called at that time the Republic of Poland. It elected its kings, guaranteed its citizens equality before the law, and protected them from arbitrary rule. It is true that equal rights did not reach into all the spheres of the nation, but considering the times it was a tremendous step forward.

Nevertheless this Republic, which inspired awe and envy in other countries later had fallen. The reasons for the downfall were, the prevalence of selfishness and conceit, and a lack of respect for the convictions of others, whether these convictions were religious or social. The noblemen called each other brothers, but during arguments and quarrels, they would reach for swords and destroy their opponents. Dissidents were expelled from the country because of their differing religious convictions and in this manner many worthy and useful people were eliminated.

Many social and cultural groups had disappeared, as well as churches, for these same reasons. Even in our Church a few parishes had their downfall because of a few conceited and presumptuous individuals desired to rule as they pleased. The constitution of the Church was of no concern to them; their own whims and fancy took the place of laws instituted by the whole Church.

Democracy or equal rights, have their beginning in the teachings of Christ and of His Church. Here democracy revealed itself first and demonstrated its vital force. The closer and more alike is a church unto the early Christian Church the more democratic it is. The same pertains to nations: the better the knowledge and understanding of

Christian ideals among a given people, the better is the democracy of their government and of their life.

The Holy Bible characterizes beautifully the figures of the great democrats of the past. I will give you two pictures of such providential men.

The first of these was the patriarch Abraham. He lived at first with his tribe, which he treated as his own family, in Mesopotamia in Asia. Surrounded from all sides by pagans, who fought continuously, he knew that his numerically small race will not survive amidst all this plunder, that it will lose its faith in a good and just God, and also lose its social system. Even though Abraham was the leader of his race and could call himself king, as others had done, and enslave the people he abhorred this. He taught his people that God alone is Lord and King, and considered himself as a father of his people and treated the people like his own children.

Fearing that such a state of affairs cannot be maintained for long, he leaves his ancestral territory and migrates to Chanaan, present-day Palestine. He purchases land there which is sparsely populated and institutes a social order, unknown anywhere at that time, the patriarchate, very similar to our present day democracy, and even better in some respects. All the members of the tribe have the privilege of a family member. They work for their "Great Father" — as they call Abraham, but not only for wages; everyone has a secure means of existence, both bachelors or fathers of families. The sick or healthy, young or old — none need fear hunger, unemployment, or old age. And everyone blesses him for his fatherly rule and care.

At one time bands of robbers and plunderers attack a neighboring people — they sack the town, take the people into slavery, and garner all their possessions. When Abraham hears of this, he arms his people, catches up to the thieves, defeats them and frees the unfortunate prisoners. The freed people want to become his slaves, in appreciation for what he did for them, but the noble patriarch answers them that it is wrong for men to enslave others. They then want to offer him all their possessions, but



Spojnia District 8th Convention 1968

Abraham answers that he swore unto God, that "I will not accept even a strap from your sandals."

Where did this unusual nobility of Abraham come from? From his profoundly religious soul. He believed so strongly in the goodness of God that his chief desire was to conduct himself as God does. Here is the reason for the fatherly treatment of his children. His piety and religiousness didn't consist of prayer and ceremonial offerings only, but it was the conviction, that his rule should be like that of God, — good, generous and kind. And Abraham doesn't attribute these ideas to himself, but he believes that God always tells him what he is supposed to do, and he only carries out God's will obediently.

The second great figure of the Bible is Moses. Brought up in the palace of an Egyptian King, initiated into all the achievements of the science of his day, young but already holding high office, he looks sadly upon the misfortune of his own people, groaning in slavery. He determines to free them and considers this a Divine command. Many difficult years having elapsed, he exploits a moment of natural calamities and unrest in the country of the conqueror and leads his people to freedom. He shares with them long years of nomadic life, and teaches them the way of life from the beginning. This was a tremendous task, for the most part met with ingratitude. He had to deal with the worst kind of human material. For the most part they were slaves, born and brought up in slavery for a few generations; they were very backward and ignorant, not knowing what freedom means, what truth and fatherland means, or God, justice, goodness, duty or gratitude. They were brought up by the whip, contempt, moral and physical filth. They knew nothing of ideals. They were covetous and greedy like animals, suspicious, stubborn and disobedient when they saw no whip above them.

Moses led them with unheard of patience and understanding. He taught and brought up the young generation, because he most often was met with opposition by the elders. They refused to help, were afraid of anything new, and rebelled continually.

Moses was bitterly discouraged many times. When spiritual depression got the better of him, he would go for a few days into the mountains to pray, to speak with the Lord — as he called it. And he always returned strengthened with new vitality.

Where did this man gather this zeal, this faith, that it is necessary to make people of these beggars, and that some day this can be achieved? From whence came this perseverance, this colossal sacrifice, this tremendous strength of soul, that he did not retreat, that he did not change his intentions? Certainly he could have proclaimed himself king, he could have ruled as a dictator, when he organized thousands of young men into an army. He did not do this, he craved no honors for himself, but desired obedience to the laws of God, which he drew up thru inspiration and proclaimed to the people. He saw idealism in a greater knowledge of God by the people, in the better understanding of God's goodness and justice; he felt profoundly that without this ideal his nation will be no different from the bands of desert bandits which surrounded him continuously, and very often attacked his people and even plundered amongst themselves.

From these examples and many others like them it is easy to see that the education of people for democracy necessitates powerful religious feeling and conviction. Our Polish poet Mickiewicz repeated continually that without sincere religious convictions, that minus an understanding of Christian teachings, democracy cannot prevail, because Christianity is the soul, the strength and life of democracy.

We, the members of the Polish National Catholic Church, not only preach this truth, but also put it into practice. Our Church system is democratic, like that of the apostolic times. And although it is more difficult to work under such a system, with people who are unaccustomed to think independently about religion, God, and man's duties, nevertheless we believe that our nation needs this religious enlightenment and consciousness, that only in this way will it acquire true and complete freedom, that it will learn to respect it, that it will recognize its duties and fulfill them willingly, with conviction and not because of force.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life," spoke the Lord. May even a part of our nation find this way; may those understand the truth who seek it and thirst after it; may those taste the life of a free Christian, who yearn for better and more noble life, — and they shall become the mustard seed, a new beginning, of a truly free Polish nation.

Whosoever believes in such ideals, let him help us in this work, let him join with us.



Funeral of Very Rev. S. Szufladowicz 1968



Dedication of the Monument 1969

## THE POLISH NATIONAL UNION of AMERICA

extends

*Congratulations and Best Wishes  
to the Pastor and Parishioners  
on this Anniversary*

**BE A MEMBER OF A FRIENDLY FRATERNAL**



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Home Office

Polish National Union of America  
1002-04 Pittston Avenue  
Scranton, Pa. 18505  
or  
Contact your local Branch Secretary

## As a Fraternal Organization SPÓJNIA PROVIDES

- 1) A Home for the Aged at Waymart, Penna.
- 2) The Polish Weekly Straz
- 3) Scholarships to college and university students
- 4) Subsidies for Children and Youth Days
- 5) Text books for Polish language classes
- 6) Opportunities to participate in civic life
- 7) Supports encampment for young men
- 8) Bowling and Golf tournament trophies and prizes
- 9) Scholarship for parish organists
- 10) Cultural tours to Poland
- 11) Supports Youth Convocations and Senior Citizens
- 12) Contributes to the Clergy Pension Fund
- 13) Low rate mortgage loans to members

Secretary of Branch #3  
Mr. Stanley Kaminski

Secretary of Branch #50  
Mrs. Frances Bialogawicz

The Wyoming Valley members take this opportunity to thank the Polish National Union of America and the Polish National Catholic Church for the financial help provided after the disastrous flood caused by Hurricane "Agnes" in June, 1972.



Installation of Very Rev. Jan Chwiej 1969

## Members of Good Shepherd Parish in 1973

Acker, Herman

Bajorek, John

Bialogawicz, Edward

Bogdan, Benjamin

Barcheski, Joseph

Bialogowicz, Frank

Bouika, Alex II

Borkowski, Blanche

Basarab, John

Benavage, Leon

Bogdon, Blanche

Beretsky, Elinor

Brand, Mary

Bloom, Harry

Beretsky, Lee

Bouika, Alex III

Bergman, Robert

Backley, David

Cooper, Stanley

Celmer, Margaret

Chocallo, Everyst

Cureka, Josephine

Cureka, Mary

Cureka, John

Cureka, Joseph

Carpenter, Paul

Chicko, John

Carsten, Mary

Chwiej, Very Rev. Jan

Chwiej, Adam

Chwiej, Stephen

Chernetski, John

Ciabotti, Frank

Dinan, William

Dobrowalski, John

Dunne, Marcella

Deitz, Helen

Draus, Charles

Deitz, Thomas

Dick, Joseph

Elinski, Stanley

Evans, Genevieve

Foley, John

Fataicher, Carl

Fataicher, Edward

Fedock, Joseph

Ferri, Anna

Gallagher, Anna

Gladys, Joseph

Gurzon, Blanche

Gurzon, Joseph

Gurzon, Walter

Gresh, Anastasia

Gordeck, Agnes

Grzywaczewski, Stella

Godek, Donald

Gritsavage, Frank

Gresh, Paul

Gresh, Stanley

Golenski, Frank

Goleski, Frank

Humphryes, Helen

Horoszy, Nellie

Halowich, Wanda

Hynoski, Agnes

Huntz, Walter

Haydock, Stanley

Huff, Basil

Harpersberger, John

Heffelfinger, Dolores

Horoszy, Carl

Harris, Alan

Isbitski, Constance

Januski, Helen

Junevitz, Anna

Januski, Mary

Jazgier, Edward

Jarmolowski, Leon

Jeffrey, Barbara

Juba, John

Janouski, Adam

Karabon, Joseph, Sr.

Kulikowski, Theodora

Kaminski, Stanley

Karbon, Anna

Kotinsley, Olga

Kennedy, Rose

Karolski, Henry

Kizelowicz, Florence

Kaleshefski, Edward

Kuchta, Henry

Krysick, Mary

Koninski, Frank

Krajewski, Mary

Kuchta, Edward

Kuchta, James

Kuchta, Clarence

Karpinski, Louis

Kozak, Stanley

Kulikowich, Nicholas

Karabon, Joseph, Jr.

Kotinsley, Martin

Kuchta, Walter

Kosmela, Helen

Karchnak, Martin

Kulp, Frances



Testimonial for Mr. Edward Bialogawicz 1970



## Members

Karbon, Frank	Martin, Ephraim	Paveletz, Edward	Timinski, Pauline
Kopacz, Mary	Melovage, Louis, Jr.	Paveletz, Donald	Tusinski, Alice
Kubicki, Michael	Martin, John	Pechulis, Joseph	Turosky, John, Dr.
	Mazur, John	Paluch, John	Tworek, Michael
Lipo, Mary	McDonnell, Cecilia	Panasiewicz, Margaret	Tworek, Frank
Lach, Stanley		Panasiewicz, Bernard	Tencza, John
Losh, Joseph	Neipert, Floyd	Rachwalski, Stella	Tencza, Edward
Lake, Edward	Novakoski, Mary	Rutkowski, Alexander	Turaj, Edward
Lischentski, Fred	Nitkowski, Stanley	Redinski, Bridget	Turay, Joseph
Lazar, Mary	Nestorick, Helen	Ruzicki, Leonard	Tokar, Sophie
Lazar, John	Novitski, Edward	Rustay, Ernest	Trojanowski, Stella
Lozinski, Anthony	Novitski, Michael	Redinski, Joseph	Tatara, John
Labatch, Edmund	Novitski, Leonard	Ruda, John	Williams, Richard
Luchinock, Helen	Novitski, Dora	Ruszkowski, Anna	Wallace, Mary
Lazar, Stephen	Nestorick, Charles		Williams, Clara
Letukas, Frank	Novakoski, William	Stonik, Josephine	Wallace, Joseph
Lushefski, Julia		Sienkiewicz, Estelle	Walko, Frances
	Ostroski, Clement	Szczucki, Anthony	Wyatt, Joseph
Mrowczynski, Frances	Olenick, Mary	Szczucki, John	Winczkowski, Ethel
Mazur, George S.	Olshefski, Amelia	Sowina, Edward	
Mazur, A. George	Olszewski, Sophie	Semanski, Leon	
Mahon, Mary	Owens, Frances	Soppeck, George	
Matuleski, Charles	Ostrowski, Camilia	Serafin, Michael	
Makowski, Joseph		Stepanik, John, Sr.	
Markowski, Frank	Piotrowicz, Helen	Stepanik, John, Jr.	
Markowski, Carol	Parulski, Stanley, Sr.	Styczen, Sophie	
Mazur, Leonard	Parulski, Stanley, Jr.	Serafin, Stasia	
Melovage, Louis, Sr.	Pokladowski, George	Sutryk, Agnes	
Magalski, Maureen	Pokladowski, Walter	Sobiecki, Alan	
Mrowczynski, Thomas	Parulski, Frank, Rev.	Serafin, Walter	
Masgay, Michael	Petrosky, Sophie	Stepanik, Robert	
Miller, John	Puchalski, Adam	Sitkowski, Eugene	
Mazur, Dorothy	Poloski, Alexander	Switzer, Robert	
Mazur, Margaret	Pechulis, John		
Macosky, Gerald	Pipech, Joseph		



Matusz Polish Dance Circle

Matusz Dancers — Wilkes College 1972

Clergy and Principals



## 75th Anniversary of Good Shepherd Church!

(*Third Oldest parish of P.N.C.C.*)

---

### These Walls Thou Blest!

THESE WALLS THOU BLEST—echo thy name  
As church bells our JUBILEE proclaim!  
Each year — a diamond of sweat — of tears —  
Blazing now — in TIARA — strife of 75 years!

Thy banner of ideals — its sacred demands —  
Held high — never faltered in our hands!  
Ever — we fire thy HYMN with our voices —  
Honoring this HOLY DAY — our spirit rejoices!

From the altar where you preached — emits  
Priests voices of SZUMOWSKI — SZUFLADOWICZ  
Who with sacrifice our parish elevated  
TO TRIUMPH OF JUBILEE — CONSECRATED!

So many faithful — gave so much — now gone —  
In spirit — feast our joys — in HOLY TONE  
Acclaim this hour — heavenly sent —  
Solemnizing its reward — with sacred intent!

That God's Field be nurtured with more fervor —  
Encouraging to the Vineyard of our Savior  
More workers to reap His sheaves of love —  
Harvest of God's Riches from above!

On this solemn day we pledge to endow  
To the cause of our church — to make it grow —  
More of our worldly goods — a more helping hand —  
In all its challenges — take a firmer stand!

Give more fuel to the torch of mission work  
Encouraging others to tasks they must not shirk!  
For loud calls our church — clear as a bugle:

"OUR VICTORY — WITH TRUTH — WORK AND  
STRUGGLE!"

— *Rev. Father Walter A. Hyszko*



Mr. and Mrs. H. Jaworowski with Mrs. F. Bialogawicz



Audience During Matusz Program

## SILVER JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD!

(Dedicated to Very Rev. Jan Chwiej!)

—

May the Heavens in your Holy Hour  
Of Jubilee — with blessings shower  
All hopes and dreams you shared in God —  
Never tiring on the PATH His Son Trod!

Daily you brought blessings from above  
As you raised His Chalice of Love —  
Inspiring our hearts with fervent prayer —  
Cleansing our souls — to purity — in God's Care!

For your sacrifices — all that you gave —  
For unending efforts — our souls to save —  
Receive our heartfelt gratitude —  
Our inspiring prayers with beatitude!

That your glory in God shall be ours!  
To the Sacred Hill where His Cross towers —  
In its shadow — in Christ — we'll walk with you —  
To the symbol of our church — being ever true!

Hear our founder's Hymn as we rejoice —  
In His spirit — your praise — we voice —  
May God bless your life with many years —  
Our source of faith against all doubts — fears.

— Rev. Fr. Walter A. Hyszko



"I don't know if I shall  
be alive tomorrow, but I  
shall work tomorrow, if  
I am alive, that I certainly  
know."

— BISHOP F. HODUR



Parishioners in Front of Church 1973

# *Summit Patrons*

Harvest Festival - M. K. and A. N. S.	Parish Committee '73
Maria Konopnicka Society	Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kaminski
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Soc.	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Koninski
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bialogawicz	Mrs. Agnes Gordeck
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gurzon	Miss Anna Karbon
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bogdan	Very Rev. and Mrs. Jan Chwiej
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gladys	In Memory of Mr. Walter Mrowczynski
Mr. and Mrs. A. George Mazur	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Godek
S. J. Grontkowski Funeral Home	Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Lach
In Memory of Very Rev. S. Szufladowicz	Mr. John Tencza
The Polish School Guild	

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

75



Opening of 75th Anniv. Program



Participants of the Program — Auditorium

## *Centenary Patrons*

Polish National Union of America  
The Plymouth National Bank  
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Mr. Joseph Stemple

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Yankowski  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kotinsley  
Stanley and Martin Kotinsley

## *Diamond Patrons*

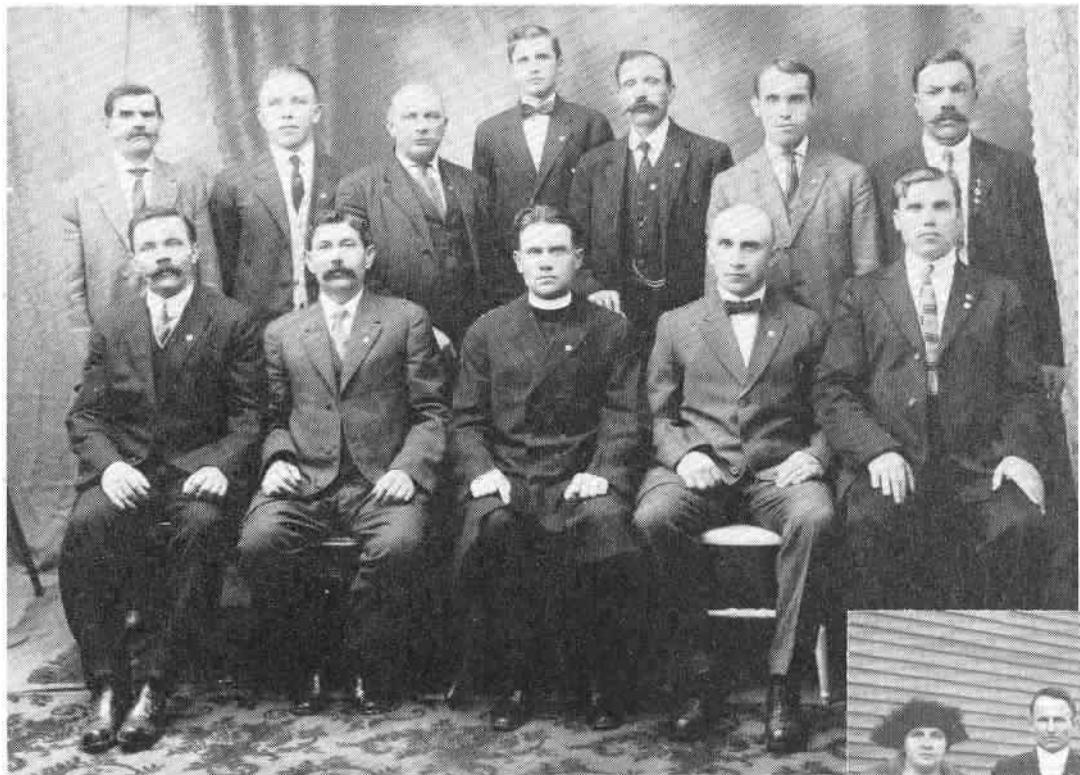
Mrs. Pauline Timinski  
Mrs. Florence Kennedy Sledd  
Mrs. Rose Kennedy  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jazgier  
St. Stanislaus B. and M. Cathedral PNCC

Miss Stella Rachwalski  
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Young People's Organization  
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In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Cislo  
Dokas, Gemick and Vozarek Families  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Barcheski  
Rev. Chester B. Lach



Parish Committee 1912



Parish Committee 1924

# *Silver Patrons*

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& Daughters  
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H. A. Smith Painting Company  
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Mr. and Mrs. Angelo F. Grasso  
Mrs. Anna Ferri

Mrs. Mary Wallace  
Mr. and Mrs. John Zawadski  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nestorick, Sr.  
Rev. and Mrs. Frank D. Parulski  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kaleshefski  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Plaza  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph  
Szymanski  
In Memory of Joseph and Mary Koprowski  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lach  
Daughters B. Zoranski - A. Kulikowich  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Harris  
In Memory of John Gurzon - Wife Blanche  
Mr. George Pokladowski  
Mrs. Sophie Petrosky  
Dev. Comm. P N U - District #8  
Mr. and Mrs. John Juba  
Miss Jody Ann Godek  
The Kosteva Family  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony  
Michalski  
In Memory of Jan and Katarzyna  
Rachwalski

# *Benevolent Patrons*

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Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1425

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Atty. and Mrs. Zygmunt Bialkowski  
J. Grontkowski Funeral Home - Nanticoke  
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Mr. Joseph I. Hosey  
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Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Parulski, Sr.  
In Memory of Mr. Leon Siemanski  
United Maria Konopnicka Societies



75th Anniversary Committee

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In Memory of Miss Victoria Parulski  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Redinski  
Mr. and Mrs. Adam Puchalski  
Mrs. Barbara Jeffrey  
Shawnee Lumber Company  
Andrew Strish Funeral Home  
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The Melovage Family  
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U. G. I. Corporation Luzerne Electric  
In Memory of Stanley and Barney Mrowczynski  
Mrs. Helen Piotrovitz  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zdancewicz  
Paul and Christine Carpenter  
Hon. Judge and Mrs. Bernard Brominski  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Matuleski  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ambrose  
Jastremski Funeral Home  
Fabian Ceramic Tile  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. A. Zieleniewski  
A Friend  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pagoda  
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Jarmiolowski  
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shumski  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chervy  
Mrs. Marcella Dunne  
Ronald and Barbara Fitzgerald  
Mr. Walter Falchek  
Mr. and Mrs. Clement Ostroski and Mary Ann



Church Interior Following Service

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The Pet World  
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Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cegielka  
Mr. and Mrs. Constantine Vaskas  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kuchta  
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Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pokladowski  
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Mrs. Helen Martin  
Karpy's Cafe  
Mrs. Anna Gallagher  
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Mrs. Mary Lipo  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zdancewicz  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kunigiel, Sr.  
Mrs. Blanche Bogdon  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Markowski  
Dr. Frank Gazda  
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Mr. and Mrs. John Vengyn  
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Very Rev. and Mrs. Joseph P. Tomczyk  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Karolski  
Holy Name of Jesus - Nanticoke, Penna.

# *Young People*

Charles Draus, Jr.  
George W. Soppeck, Jr.  
Valerie Anne Soppeck  
Mary Carolyn Lach  
Johanna Turaj  
Stephen Parulski  
Arthur Jeffrey, Jr.  
Christine Kulikowich

Blanche Kulikowich  
Kathleen Fitzgerald  
Jacqualine Fitzgerald  
Paul Robert Carpenter, Jr.  
Angela Marie Draus  
Ronald J. Soppeck  
Frank S. Koninski  
Kathleen Nestorick

Donald Scott Paveletz  
Paul J. Chwiej  
John Paul Jeffrey  
Cynthia Kulikowich  
Ronald Fitzgerald, Jr.  
Sharon Fitzgerald  
Edward Fitzgerald  
Kristen Carpenter



Speakers Podium — Anniversary Program



Opening of Program



Guests During Program



Another View of the Auditorium



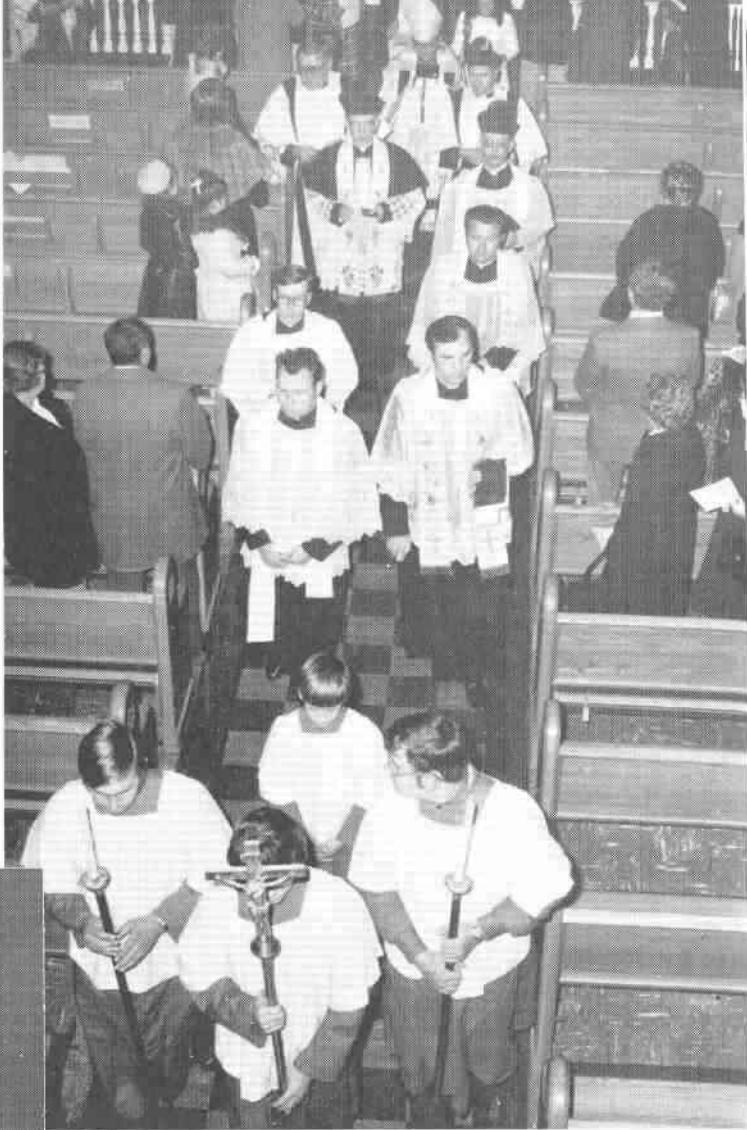
Participants During Program



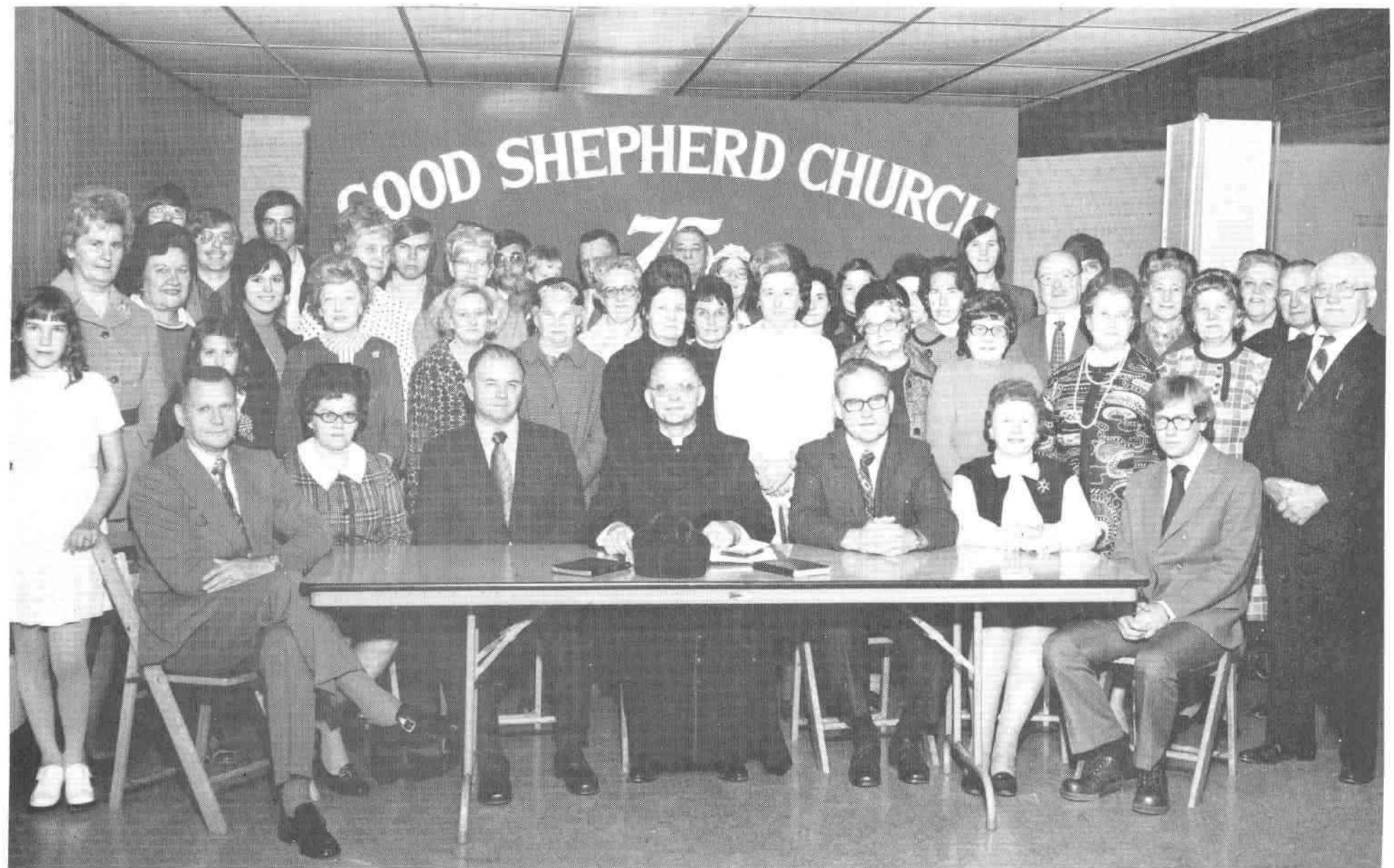
Altar Boys with Pastor



Main Altar



Recessional After Anniversary Service



Executive Committee of Parish Societies



After the Anniversary Service