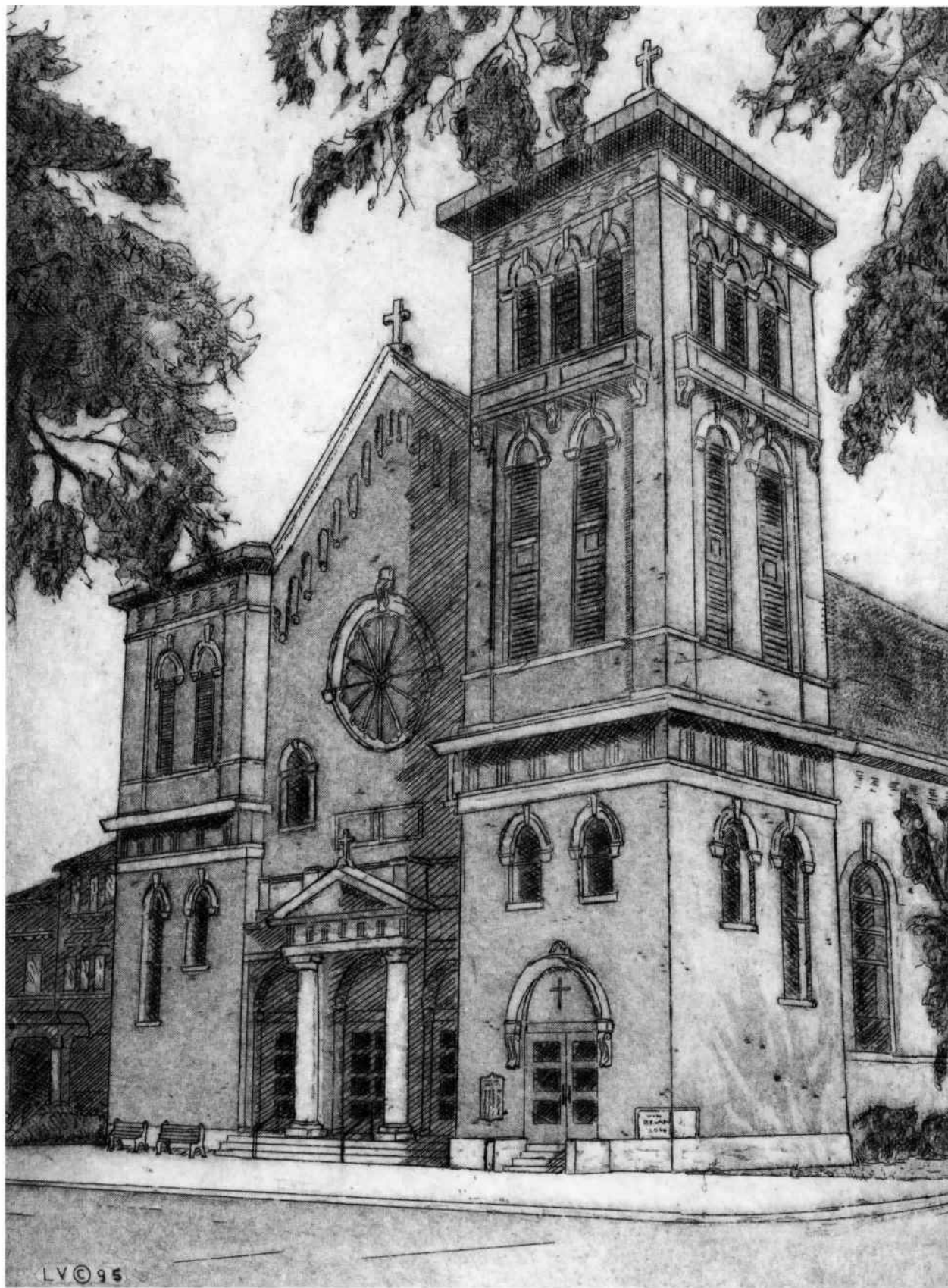


The Church of SS. Peter and Paul



"Reverence for the Past - Hope for the Future!"
1895 - 1995

Ss. Peter and Paul Church

*3745 South Paulina
Chicago, Illinois 60609*



Praise to you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in your great mercy have given us new birth and hope through the power of Christ's resurrection. In our Centennial Year we ask that through the prayers of the apostles Peter and Paul, may we who received this faith through their preaching, share their joy in following the Lord to the unfading inheritance reserved for us in heaven. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



Dedication

*Loving God, Father of all good gifts,
we thank you for forming and fashioning the people and
children of SS. Peter and Paul Church during these past
one-hundred years. You have placed us in this church
family for a purpose, so we have seized the moment and
acted. You have taught us to build our lives on solid rock
through the application of Sacred Scriptures in our daily
lives. You have given the holy apostles, Peter and Paul, as
our intercessors in the heavenly courts. We thank you, God,
for placing us in the Church of Peter and Paul "for just
such a time as this."*

We dedicate this Centennial Year

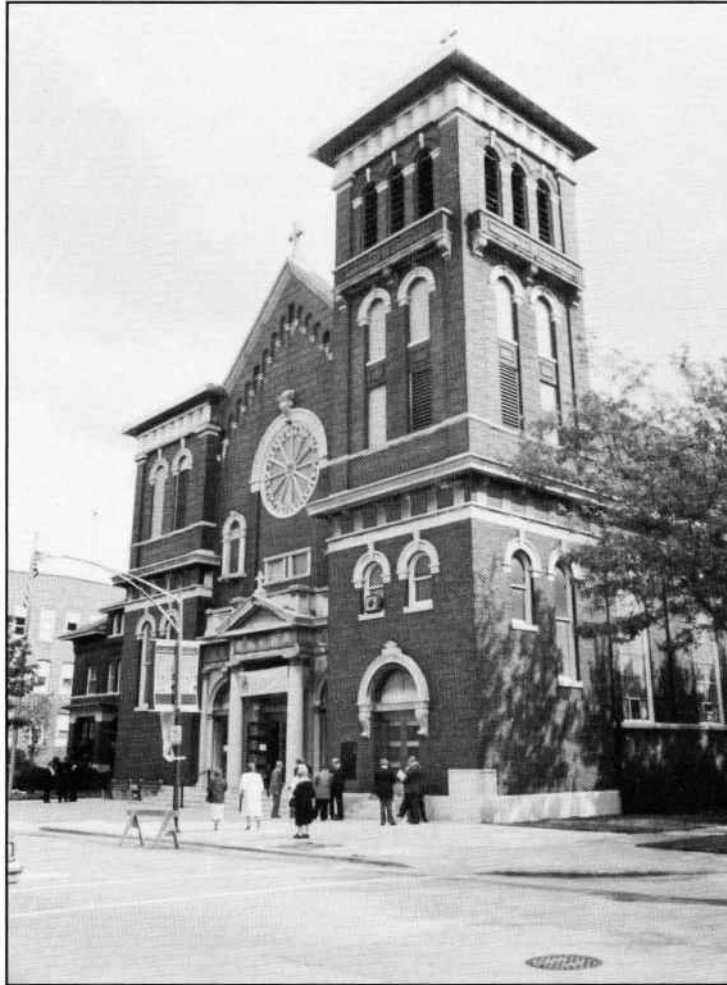
*... to those of the past, the dreamers and designers who have
laid the strong foundations of faith, values and heritage;*

*... to those with us now, the active participators who build
on the foundations of the Church of SS. Peter and Paul;*

*... to those of the future, our children and grandchildren
who are entrusted with the hopes and dreams, the visions
and challenges of our church.*

*Truly the Lord is in this place ...
How awesome is this place.
This is none other than the House of God:
this is the gate of heaven.*

Genesis 28:16-17



*SS. Peter and Paul Church
Reverence for the Past ... Hope for the Future!*

EDITORIAL STAFF

Reverend Robert J. Roll
Mrs. Annamarie A. Bara
Mrs. Lillian H. McMahan

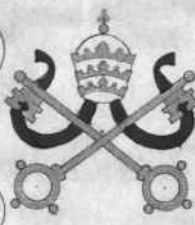
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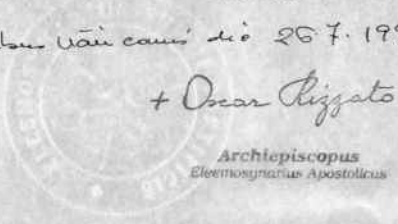
Walsworth Publishing Company
Marceline, Missouri



His Holiness John Paul II
 imparts a special
 Apostolic Blessing to
 St. Peter and Paul
 Parish

on the occasion of the
 100th Anniversary
 1895 ~ 1995

Ex aedibus Vaticani curiae die 26.7.1995
 + Oscar Rizzato



Archiepiscopus
 Eleemosynarius Apostolicus



1555 NORTH STATE PARKWAY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

October 1, 1995

My dear Friends in the Lord Jesus,

I learned that you will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in the McKinley Park Community and wish to extend my greetings and best wishes to you on this special occasion.

During these past one hundred years, impressive milestones have taken place in the life of your community. SS. Peter and Paul Parish has been at the center of that community activity and an important part of the life of the area in which you live.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to you, the parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, for the gifts of your time, talent and financial support to the life of your parish. But most of all, for the example of faith that you give to the Church of Chicago and to one another.

May this Centennial Anniversary celebration be a time of renewal for each of you in the call to love the Lord and live the Gospel.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph Card. Bernardin

Archbishop of Chicago

100th Anniversary
SS. Peter and Paul Church
Chicago, Illinois
October 1, 1995

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago
Episcopal Vicar of Vicariate V



2330 West 118th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60643

(312) 779-8440
Fax (312) 779-8469

October, 1995

Dear Parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul,

As you celebrate your Centennial Anniversary, I write to congratulate you and to share your happiness.

For a hundred years your parish has been a strong witness to the values of the Gospel in the McKinley Parish Community. You have nourished individuals and families with the knowledge of God's presence and love.

The Lord has blessed you with fine priests, religious women and faithful laity. Together you have built one of the finest parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The years that lie before you present an opportunity and a challenge. May your parish continue to be a community where faith is strengthened, hope is ensured and love extended to all who are part of your family.

As you celebrate "Reverence for the Past --- Hope for the Future," please know that you are in my prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John R. Gorman".

Most Reverend John R. Gorman
Auxiliary Bishop

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 1, 1995

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to send greetings to each of you celebrating the 100th anniversary of The Church of SS. Peter and Paul.

A church is more than an edifice. It is a community. For many gathered today to celebrate this centennial, it is the community where you celebrate, mourn, heal and hope. It is the community where you are baptized, confirmed, and married. In communion with each other you celebrate both the services of the religious year and the personal triumphs of your fellow parishioners. I congratulate you on one hundred years as a community. It is my hope that you will flourish for at least one hundred more.

You have my best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton



S.S. Peter and Paul
September 24, 1995



**Centennial Celebration
Chicago**



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1995.

The Church of SS. Peter and Paul
3745 South Paulina
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Dear Friends:

I am honored to have this opportunity to send my greetings to everyone associated with the Church of SS. Peter and Paul as you observe your 100th Anniversary. While I regret that I will not be able to worship with you, I want to offer my best wishes for a very meaningful and memorable celebration.

America's success has depended in large part on the role of the church in our communities. Certainly, I recognize the importance of religious institutions in the growth of our nation and in the lives of our citizens. I personally find great comfort and strength in my faith as I strive to fulfill my duties from day to day.

Your church has played a major role in the history and spiritual development of your area. I am confident that the members of your congregation will remain steadfast in their faith, their commitment to America, and their devotion to the fundamental values of our society.

Please accept my very best wishes for all of you along with my warmest hopes for continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Al Gore

AG/mrm



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JIM EDGAR
GOVERNOR

October 1, 1995

To the Church Community of Ss. Peter and Paul:

As Governor of the State of Illinois, it is a privilege to congratulate you and help celebrate Ss. Peter and Paul's 100th anniversary in the McKinley Park community of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Over the course of these many decades, your church community has served as a vital link to the greater community. Take pride in the efforts of those that came before you--people who strengthened the ties that remain today.

May the strength of your community remain steadfast as you celebrate milestones in the years to come. Your theme, "Reverence for the Past - Hope for the Future!," is quite significant as your past successes and experiences will give strength to your endeavors in the future

On behalf of the citizens of Illinois, please accept my congratulations and best wishes for a prosperous future.

Best regards,

A large, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Edgar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jim Edgar
GOVERNOR







OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

October 1, 1995

GREETINGS

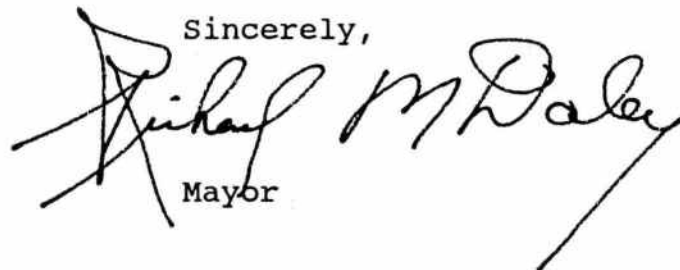
As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it gives me great pleasure to offer my warmest congratulations to the clergy and parishioners of the Church of SS. Peter and Paul on the occasion of your 100th Anniversary.

This celebration marks a milestone in the life of your parish. One hundred years represent a significant part of our city's history. For that time, SS. Peter and Paul has been an anchor and a sustaining force. As you recollect with pride the many events and individuals that have helped build and enhance the McKinley Park Community, I am certain that you will know that all of Chicago has been enriched by the sons and daughters of SS. Peter and Paul.

I join with you in spirit as you look with reverence to the past and with hope toward the promise of the future.

You have my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,


Mayor



CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO

PATRICK M. HUELS
ALDERMAN 11TH WARD

WARD OFFICE:
3659 SOUTH HALSTED STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609
TELEPHONE 254-6677

August 8, 1995

Reverend Robert J. Roll
Saints Peter & Paul Church
3745 South Paulina Street
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Dear Father Roll & Parishioners:

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of Saints Peter & Paul parish. Since its establishment, SS. Peter & Paul has been a source of spiritual strength and inspiration in the 11th Ward community.

The parish has grown with the City of Chicago through the changes of 100 years and has contributed to the spiritual growth of generations of Chicagoans. The devotion of SS. Peter & Paul parishioners and their contributions to our faith are truly commendable.

Once again, best wishes on your Centennial Celebration, and for continued faith and charity into the next century.

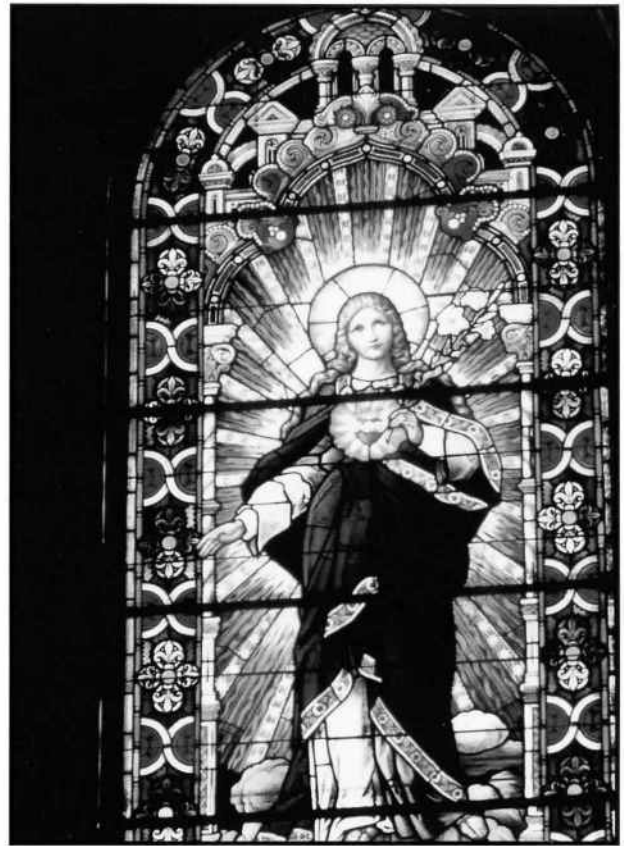
Sincerely,

Patrick M. Huels
Alderman, 11th Ward

Treasured Stained Glass Windows



Sacred Heart of Jesus



Immaculate Heart of Mary



St. Felix of Cantalice



St. Hedwig

City of Chicago *Resolution*

Whereas, One hundred years ago, the expanding population of Polish Catholic immigrants to Chicago's McKinley Park community led to the founding of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in 1895 by Rev. Paul P. Rhode; and

Whereas, The parish of SS. Peter and Paul has grown ever steadily in faith throughout its first one hundred years, continually changing to embrace and reflect the character and needs of its parishioners; and

Whereas, As evidence of its strong faith, SS. Peter and Paul Parish proudly number among its alumni thirty-one nuns, eight priests and one brother; and

Whereas, Throughout its Centennial Year, the parish of Ss. Peter and Paul has celebrated its century of faith with many special events, culminating with the 100th Anniversary Mass on September 24 and 100th Anniversary Gala at Navy Pier on October 1; and

Whereas, The Centennial theme is "Reverence for the Past - Hope for the Future" submitted by the Felician Sisters of SS. Peter and Paul Convent; and

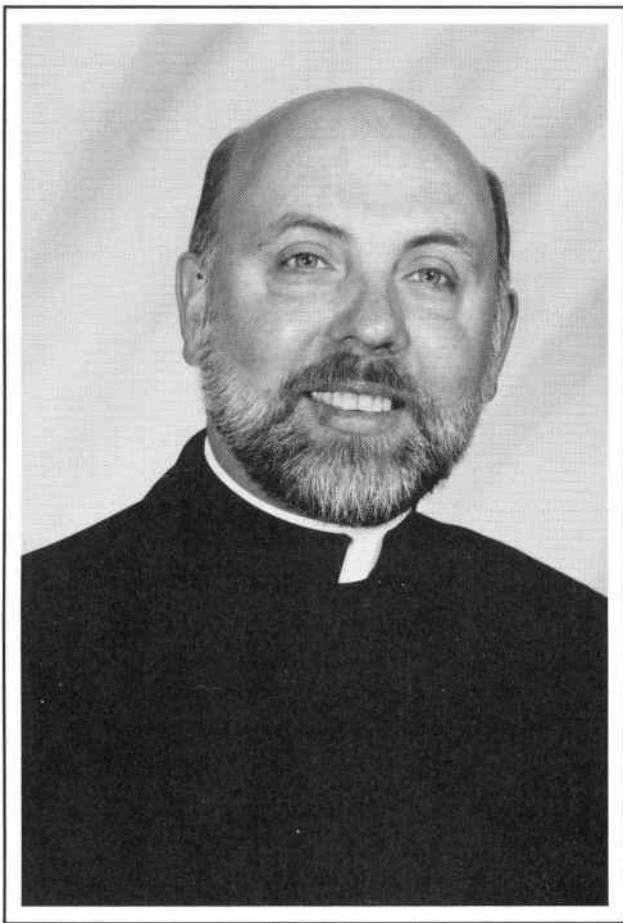
Whereas, Under the leadership of its pastor, the Reverend Robert J. Roll, SS. Peter and Paul Parish carries out its Centennial Theme through the promotion of events and liturgical celebrations which respect the cultural and ethnic heritage of all SS. Peter and Paul's parishioners; and

Whereas, The Parish of SS. Peter and Paul remains an enduring example of the dedicated faith and devotion of Catholic Chicagoans who are determined to preserve the traditions and history of neighborhood parish life while continually striving to grow in faith and love; now, therefore,

Be it resolved, that we, the Mayor and the members of the City council of the City of Chicago gathered here this 13th of September in 1995, do hereby extend to the Reverend Robert J. Roll and the parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul Church our heartiest congratulations upon the 100th anniversary of the founding of their parish, and offer to them our best wishes as they embark on their second century; and

Be it further resolved, that a suitable copy of this resolution be made available to the parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul.

Patrick M. Huels
Alderman



*Reverend Robert J. Roll
1986 - Present*

1995 Centennial Committee

Honorary Chairpersons

Sister Barbara Ann Bosch, CSSF,
Provincial Superior

John P. Daley,
Cook County Commissioner

Steven R. DiSalvo,
*Assistant to the President,
Loyola University*

Patrick M. Huels,
Alderman of the Eleventh Ward

Donald E. Lewandowski,
Midwest Calendar Company

Chairpersons

Mr. & Mrs. Francis A. Rzasa

Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Bara

Pastor

Reverend Robert J. Roll

December 31, 1995

Dear Friends in Christ,

Reverence for the past - Hope for the future!

It took some savvy Felician Sisters whose presence we have enjoyed here for nearly ninety years, to put their finger on what it was that has made this community what it is for 100 years.

It was a new Theme Statement for us in 1995...but when you think about it, it has been the hallmark of the people who have gathered here all along.

In the early 1890's, with the still new and rapidly expanding Chicago Stockyards working twenty four hours a day, the second great wave of immigrants began to arrive. The people of Eastern Europe - Poland, Lithuania and Czechoslovakia - were filling the ranks as laborers, working under sometimes appalling conditions.

Those who could, tried to escape the circle of the stockyards when they left their twelve or fourteen hour shifts. They found rest and some sense of security by traveling home to neighborhoods like Mt. Pleasant, now known as McKinley Park, and its nearly suburban quality of life.

From a small school and church building at 36th and Justine in the late 1890's, to this enduring cathedral of our hearts and lives in 1995, the people of SS. Peter and Paul have continued to grow; but even more, to continue to reverence their roots, their past; while always finding hope in what was to come.

The names and circumstances for arriving here have changed over the past years, but be assured that the faith and determination that made the establishment of this parish possible 100 years ago is still here.

There is no escaping ever having been a part of Peter and Paul; it's always a part of you. The lifers and those of us who are still 'new' to the community know that. There's always someone somewhere who recognizes you or the name and can place you at 38th and Paulina Street.

As we have revered the past during these days of celebration, let us always remember the true stories of where we have all really come from. Let us remember the sacrifice and efforts of those who came before us; as well as, the dangers, disappointments and fears that we have faced. Then surely, we will be lead to a devout reverence of the past; and from that respect of where we have truly come from, we will find not only hope for the future - but anxious anticipation, vitality and commitment to whatever it is that may lie ahead!

Very truly yours, in Christ,

Rev. Robert J. Roll



Reverend Paul Rhode
1895-1897



Reverend Boleslaus Nowakowski
1897-1900



Reverend Maximilian Kotecki
1900-1925



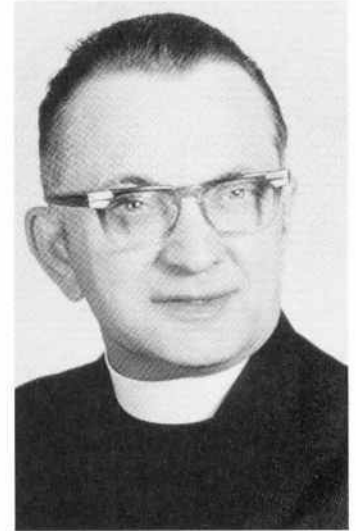
Reverend Adalbert S. Olzewski
1925-1948



*Right Reverend
Bernard Szudzinski*
1948-1954



Reverend Stanley A. Rozak
1954-1966



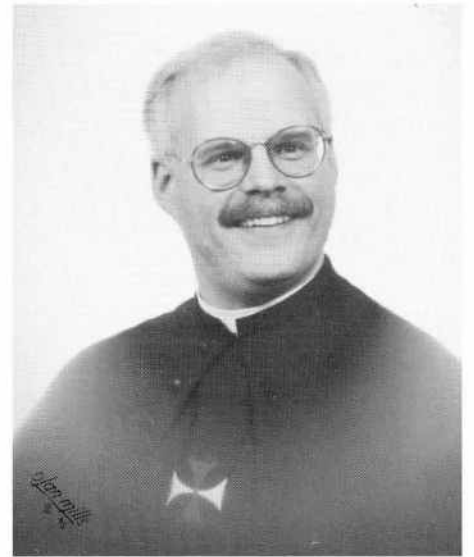
Reverend Joseph F. Mytych
1966-1986

*"How shall I make a return to the Lord
for all the good He has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the Lord.
My vows to the Lord I will pay,
in the presence of all His people."*

Psalm 116: 12, 13, 18

Parish Staff

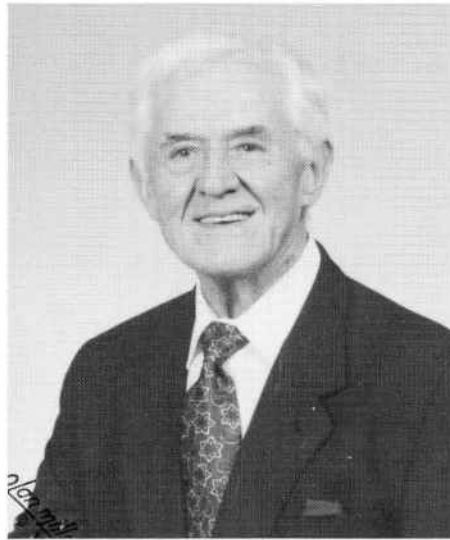
*"May
the favors
of the Lord our God
be ours ...*



*Reverend Stephan E. Bauer, O.S.C.
Associate Pastor*



*Mrs. Joanne M. Amedeo
Pastoral Associate*



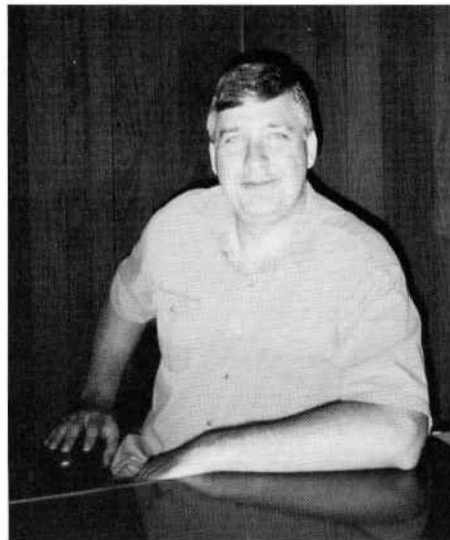
*Mr. Stephen E. Adamczyk
Music Director Emeritus*



*Ms. Sheila M. McAndrews
Music Director*



*Mrs. Virginia E. Rzasa
Ministry of Care Coordinator*



*Mr. David R. Summins
Business Manager*



*Ms. Annette M. Wojcik
Sunday School Instructor*



*Reverend Michael V. Kalck
Associate Pastor*



*Mrs. Freda A. Giemzik
Parish Secretary*



*Mrs. Maryann T. Fox
Parish Secretary*



*Dr. Robert M. Bara D.D.S.
Assistant Organist*



*Mrs. Sophie M. Serva
Rectory Housekeeper*



*Mrs. Gloria G. Estrada
Rectory Housekeeper*



*Mrs. Raylene M. Rzasa
Sunday School Instructor*



*Mr. Edward F. Estrada
Maintenance Engineer*

*... prosper the
work of
our hands!
Prosper the
work of
our hands!"*

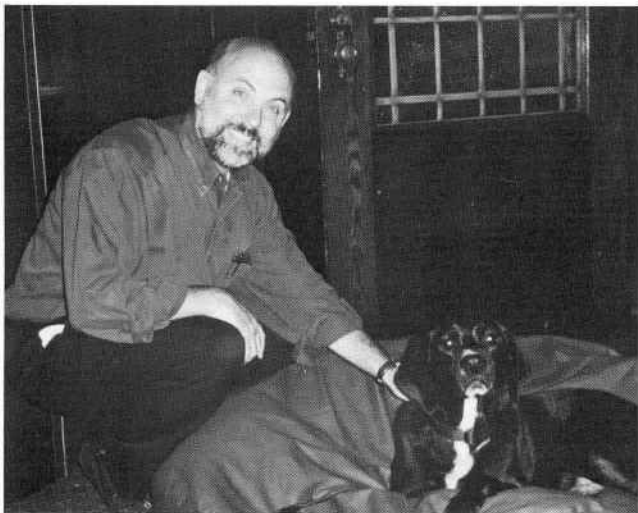
Psalm 90:17

*"For family and friends I say,
'May peace be yours.'"*

Psalm 121:8



We are proud of the young teens who work at the parish rectory. Father Robert J. Roll poses for a Centennial Gala picture with: (Standing): Edward Estrada, John Paul Estrada, Mark Malaniuk, Rafael Martinez, Daniel Vazquez, Francisco Martinez. (Sitting): Michael Malaniuk, Veronica Rangel, Joseph Garcia. (Not pictured: Tony and Adrian Velazquez).



In addition to being an excellent watch dog, the rectory's dog, "Shamus," enjoys the attention of his master, Father Roll, children Lauren Rzasa and Veronica Rangel, and rectory secretary, Freda.



The people of SS. Peter and Paul have come to know the gracious family of Father Roll through their participation and support of various parish celebrations. Pictured at the Celebration of Father Roll's Tenth Anniversary as Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul are: (Back row): Larry Baumgartner (Father's brother-in-law), Father Roll with nephew Jeffrey Baumgartner, and nephew Ryan Baumgartner. (Middle row): Claudia Roll (Father's sister), Robert Baumgartner (nephew and Godson), and Jan Baumgartner (Father's sister). (Seated): Father Roll's two aunts: Catherine Stephens and Lorraine Manicki.



When Father Roll was assigned to St. Constance, his first parish, Reverend Martin Borowczyk was the pastor. Throughout the years, Father Borowczyk's pastoral skills have made a lasting impression on Father Roll. They are pictured at the Taste of Paulina.

Left: A happy and proud moment is shared by Father Roll and his mother, Rosemary, at his installation as Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul.

Chicago and SS. Peter and Paul Parish: The History of A City and A People

The Beginning

Driving from the southwest along the string of expressways that head toward the Loop, a panoramic view of the near southwest portion of the City of Chicago is offered. From the exit ramp of the Stevenson Expressway at Damen Avenue (originally Robey and then "Long John" Street) looking southeast, one can see a dozen church spires, countless bungalows and two flats, industrial complexes, railroad yards and a scattered patch of green sprouting up from the neighborhood parks. It is nearly impossible to imagine that this was once a forsaken area of swamps and forests that was avoided even by the Native American settlers of the region in the mid 1600's.

In the beginning there were just two small streams. One began near what is now 26th and Leavitt Streets and flowed directly east toward what is now Ashland Avenue. This is now known as the South Branch of the Chicago River. The other began near what is now 39th Street and Western Boulevard and flowed straight east until it came to a low ridge of hills just east of Ashland, left over from the Ice Age. There it turned north until it flowed into the first stream near 26th and Ashland (formerly Rueben Street). This second stream was the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River, part of which would later come to be known as Bubbly Creek.

There were no Indian villages along these two small streams. For one thing, the streams began in the prairies near Western Avenue where the tall grass grew as high as a man's head. The area was a flood plain and in the spring thaw, the prairies became a vast swamp. The only dry land was a little ridge of hills just east of the South Fork. It was there that the woods began and ran east along the South Branch of the Chicago River almost to the lake.

A further reason the Indians didn't live along these two little streams was that the area was a portage. One could paddle a canoe from Lake Michigan up the South Branch to what is now Leavitt Street and then drag the canoe through the grass to about where 33rd Street and Kedzie now meet. That was the shore of Mud Lake, a year round swamp that flowed west into the Des Plaines River. From the Des Plaines River one could paddle a canoe into the further reaches of the Illinois territory.

The portage made the area a crossroads for trading posts and war parties. It linked French Canada and the Atlantic with the Spanish settlements of the Gulf Coast, but passed through the Area of the Iroquois and British along the Great Lakes. White men came to trade furs,

then to explore and claim the land, and ultimately to fight one another for it. The portage became their road, and also their battleground. So, instead, the Indians chose to live along the Des Plaines, or along the North Branch of the Chicago River, in Palos, or along the Calumet River. The area of the portage was a place for armed men to travel not for Native Americans to raise a family.

Unlike the Spanish, who often in their search for gold and silver enslaved Native Americans as manual laborers, the French in their missions to the Great Lakes area were fur-trappers and found it expedient to befriend the natives who served as guides and traders. Many Native American souls were won by the dedicated labors of pioneer missionaries in this region.

French Jesuit missionary to the Indians, Father Jacques Marquette, one of the "black robes" who went into the wilderness to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God and salvation in Christ, ministered to many Algonquin tribes and established a number of Indian missions before joining Louis Jolliet, a former Jesuit seminarian turned explorer, in 1672, to explore the Mississippi River region. Marquette had begun in the straits of Mackinac in 1671. They had come down from Canada through Green Bay and the Wisconsin River to the Mississippi. They met an Indian tribe called the Leno, who the French called the Illinois. The Leno lived in a village called Kaskaskia near what is now Utica, Illinois. The Illinois led the Frenchmen to the Chicago portage in the late summer of 1673. Jolliet was quick to recognize the significance of the Chicago portage, and wrote in a report, "the cutting of one canal through half a league of prairie at the place" would allow boats to pass on a waterway reaching from St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico.

After various excursions throughout the Mississippi River region and back to Green Bay, one of Father Marquette's last accomplishments was to return to the Illinois Indians. Traveling south along the western shore of Lake Michigan in birch bark canoes, they occasionally sought shelter along the banks when the November winds and high waves made traveling on the lake extremely treacherous. On the bitter, cold night of December 4, 1674, they arrived at the mouth of the Chicago River. Marquette soon fell ill. They set up camp along the shore and Marquette recorded their stay in his diary. The ice on the river was half a foot thick, and the animal tracks in the snow meant fresh meat would be plentiful, but the extreme cold prevented Marquette from celebrating Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. By December 12, Marquette wrote that they

had begun to haul their baggage to the portage, dragging it up the ice of the frozen river. On December 13, several Illinois Indians, laden with furs, came across and told the Frenchmen of a cabin that was in the area. The next day they found the cabin built by Pierre Moreau, on a small ridge east of the South Fork, between the present 33rd and 35th Streets.

They decided to spend the winter there, because Marquette had become too sick to travel any further.

The Indians left some buffalo robes to keep them warm and headed back to their village on the Des Plaines to bring news of the Missionary. Evidently, Jacques Le Castor went back to the village with them. After the Indians had left, Marquette celebrated the Mass of the Immaculate Conception with Pierre Porteret.

Meanwhile, Le Castor arrived at the Indian village and met with Pierre Moreau and a surgeon. They wanted the Indians to carry Marquette back to the village along the Des Plaines from the portage. On December 30, 1674, Jacques and 15 Indians returned to the cabin to discover Marquette too sick to be moved. He continued to record in his diary:

On January 16, 1675, the doctor came to visit and brought some food. He looked after Marquette and then returned to the village with Jacques. Marquette was not sure if he would be well enough to return to the village in the spring.

January 24: Jacques returned with more food from the village.

January 26: Three Indians arrived from the village with food and furs from the chiefs. Marquette tried to explain that he might not be able to make it to their village in the spring. The Indians cheerfully suggested that he come and die among them.

February 9: Marquette and his two companions began a Novena of Masses to the Immaculate Conception for the priest's health. He soon started to get better. Then on February 20, Marquette was well enough to describe in his diary the effect of tides in the Lake, on the water and in the streams of the area.

March 23: He described the birds of the area that they killed for food.

March 25: The wind shifted and the weather began to warm. On the 26th animals began to appear and the hunting got better.

March 28: The ice in the river began to break up and melt. By March 29, the icy water in the streams started to rise and flood the prairie.

They packed their baggage and put it in the trees to keep it out of the water. They slept on the top of the hill that night because the water was already in their cabin. In the morning they put all their belongings in the canoes and began their journey again. They went up the South Fork of the South Branch and paddled across the flooded prairie, about six miles, then dragged their canoes. But they couldn't find the portage. The water had risen twelve feet and only the highest hills remained

above the water.

On March 31, they went back down the South Fork to where it meets the South Branch and paddled and dragged their canoes up the South Branch to Mud Lake. As they paddled they saw lots of ducks and geese heading north. Traveling was slow because of the floating ice. By April 6, they met the doctor who led them to the Illinois village. Marquette adds:

"The Blessed Virgin Immaculate has taken very good care of us this winter (1675). We haven't gone hungry; in fact, we even have a large bag of corn still left, some meat and lard. We have lived pleasantly since my sickness did not prevent me from saying Mass every day. We weren't able to keep Lent, except on Fridays and Saturdays."

Marquette celebrated Holy Week with the Illinois at Kaskaskia and preached to about 600 families. His health wasn't improving, and right after Easter the Frenchmen returned through the portage toward Canada. Marquette was too sick to record anything in his diary. They got as far as Ludington, Michigan, where he celebrated Mass on Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday, 1675. Soon after this, at age thirty-seven years, eleven months and eight days, Father Marquette died on May 18, 1675, a priestly servant who had truly given his all.

The possibilities of a portage at Chicago to the Mississippi and on to the Gulf of Mexico created enthusiasm among French fur traders, missionaries, and soldiers. It would give them control over the center of North America ahead of the British.

Fr. Claude Allouez set out to take Marquette's place in 1676. He stayed in Chicago, probably at Moreau's cabin and arrived in Kaskaskia in 1677. Like Marquette, he stayed only a short time. He returned the following year, but by 1678 the Iroquois and their British allies were forcing the Illinois west in a vast war for control of the fur trade. With the Indians moving west, Fr. Allouez returned to Chicago and began preaching to the Miami tribe, who were allies of the Iroquois.

From Chicago to the Spanish Territory of St. Louis, the fur trade went on. The language of the people was French but the settlers in the area were of all different nationalities. The French had little racial prejudice and their children were often contemptuously called "half-breeds" by the Anglo-Saxons who arrived later. Italians like Francisco Vigo, Blacks like Jean Baptiste DuSable, and Irishmen like Thomas Brady were all part of this multi-racial community made up mostly of French, Indians, and Spanish traders.

Vigo, DuSable and Brady along with most of the people of Illinois joined in the American Revolution. What made this remarkable was that Illinois and everything north of the Ohio River was considered "Lower Canada." Illinois was the only part of Canada to join the Revolution. If it hadn't, the United States would probably be a narrow strip of land along the east coast.

No one seems to know who lived in Chicago proper at that time. Probably very few people did. But it was such an obvious place for the fur trade that as soon as

the Revolutionary War ended, two trading posts were set up on the Chicago River. DuSable had one trading post that he had acquired in return for his services during the revolution. It was located at the mouth of the river about where the Tribune Tower now stands. The other was a smaller trading post and farm on the South Branch at Racine called Lee's Place or Hardscrabble, which would eventually come to be known as Bridgeport.

The War of 1812 dampened the lively spirit that had begun in Chicago after the Revolution. But following the War of 1812, fur traders were at work again in Chicago. Lee's old place on the South Branch, abandoned and destroyed in the conflicts between the Revolution and the War of 1812, was back in business as troops arrived by boat from New York. What is now downtown Chicago was very small at the time, and most of the activity of the area took place along the South Branch, where Chicago's main industry, the fur trade was centered.

The Rise of Canalport

There was another important factor concerning the area around the South Branch. The official proposal to build a canal from the South Branch to the Des Plaines River was made by the federal government. Major Stephen H. Long was sent in 1817 to report on the possibility of a canal.

"In the flat prairie - is a small lake about five miles in length and six to thirty or forty yards in width, communicating both with the River Des Plaines and the Chicago River by means of a kind of canal which has been made partly by the French and the Indians..."

That August, the United States signed a treaty with the Potawatomies for a strip of land twenty miles wide from Lake Michigan to the Illinois River, so that a canal could be built. But before the canal could be built, a road had to be laid out through the strip.

The Government sent two commissioners to the area in 1819 to define the "Indian Boundaries" along that strip of land, and in their report described, what was to become the Archer Road, as "a well beaten wagon road (over which) boats and their loads are hauled by oxen and vehicles kept for the purpose by the French at Chicago."

In 1821, an Indian treaty was signed at Chicago. Indians arrived in Chicago over the Archer Road from the southwest and camped along the South Branch.

Chicago and Bridgeport were essentially inland 'towns.' The area was slowly developing a grain industry in nearby farms. But the biggest industry was the trading posts that took in furs and paid for them in guns, blankets, kettles, knives, hatchets and whiskey. In the summer of 1826, James Galloway opened a new trading post near the South Fork of the South Branch.

In March of 1827, Congress authorized the Illinois - Michigan Canal to be built along the 20 mile strip of land

through which the Archer Road ran. Since the State of Illinois couldn't raise the money to build it, the Federal Government allowed the state to sell every other square mile section of land on both sides of the canal, in a strip twelve miles wide and as long as the canal.

The land from Western Boulevard to Ashland, and from 31st Street to 39th Street was one of these sections of land sold to raise money for the canal. Among the problems in selling the land that year was the fear of another Indian war. (The Winnebago Scare, as it was called, never amounted to much.) That fall, Archibald Clybourne traveled to Hickory Creek to buy cattle for the troops at Ft. Dearborn. He drove the cattle back along what is now La Grange Road to the Archer Road and into Chicago along Archer. This was to be the beginning of the early cattle and meatpacking industry along Archer Avenue.

In the fall of 1829, the Illinois-Michigan Canal Commission surveyed the town of Chicago and laid it out into streets and lots to be put up for sale. Until this time, most of the people in Chicago were merely squatters on Federal lands.

The surveyor who laid out the town, James Thompson, planned Chicago's first streets as a grid of straight lines; something that wasn't done in most cities. As a result, only in old sections, outside the original town, such as Hardscrabble/Bridgeport and Canalport, were there streets running at odd angles like Archer, Blue Island and Robinson streets.

In 1831, the town of Bridgeport, Illinois was laid out in the "Southwest Quarter of Section 29-39 of Township 14." It was roughly triangular. Its boundaries ran from Halsted Street on the East to 31st Street on the South and followed the River from 31st Street to Halsted. The little town of Bridgeport got its name, according to some of the old timers, from a small bridge on Archer about a block west of Halsted that crossed over a small stream. That stream no longer exists.

There were already a number of settlers living in the area. A Mr. Beers lived West of the South Fork, probably near 38th and Ashland. Wood Street was originally named Beers Street after him.

In September of 1831, the Indians of the United Tribes of Potawatomies, Chippewas and Ottawas petitioned the President of the United States for permission to sell some of their land near Irving Park Road and the Des Plaines River to build a Catholic School. President Andrew Jackson, who wanted the Indians to move west of the Mississippi refused, but in turn gave Fr. Stephen Badin some land in Indiana "to build a school." That "school" would become the University of Notre Dame, at South Bend, Indiana.

In 1832, with the last of the Indian wars over and the Indians being forced to move west of the Mississippi, Chicago, and particularly the Bridgeport area, including the canal land west of the South Fork, all became booming towns.

The Federal Government built a harbor at Chicago in preparation for the proposed canal. Stephen A. Douglas,

the Senator from Illinois, who lived at 35th Street and the Lake Shore, argued that the canal should be built where the Calumet-Saganaw Canal is now. But the army officer in charge of the canal, Jefferson Davis, insisted that the canal should start from the South Fork of the South Branch, just north of the Archer Road.

In 1833, 150 buildings were built in the town of Chicago and probably a goodly number around the South Fork as well. By the summer of 1834, two hundred and fifty wagons were leaving Buffalo, New York, every day with settlers coming to Chicago. As a result, the price of land around Chicago skyrocketed. Everyone who could, began speculating in Chicago real estate. As the better land was sold, speculators mapped out whole sub-divisions, sometimes without even surveying them. Lots and whole sections were sold "site-unseen," even though they were only swamps.

The Village of Chicago was incorporated in 1833 and its first parish, St. Mary's, (now known as Old St. Mary's in the Loop), was founded. At least half of the total population of two or three hundred were Catholic, being mainly of French and Jesuit-converted Native American origin. Just a few years before, Chicago had consisted of seven rustic cabins nestled in a wilderness on the border of Lake Michigan. In 1834, Bishop Simon Brute of Vincennes visited Chicago and was amazed at its swift expansion. He wrote:

"Of this place the growth has been surprising, even in the west, a wonder amidst its wonders. From a few scattered houses near the fort, it has become, in two or three years, a place of great promise. Its settlers sanguinely hope to see it rank as the Cincinnati of the North. Here the Catholics have a small, neat church."

Also in 1834, the section of land from Western to Ashland, from 31st to 39th Streets was put up for sale without being surveyed. In 1835, a Mr. Haley mapped out a sub-division called Canalport between 22nd and 31st Streets, from Ashland to Western. The map showed streets and lots, but most of the land was a swamp and many of the lots were right in the middle of branches of the Chicago River. But people bought them, because they believed the canal would make them even more valuable. Workers flocked into Bridgeport, Canalport and the area west of the South Fork to find work building the canal and in the meatpacking houses. The work on the canal began at what is now 29th Street and Ashland.

In the spring of 1834, J. T. Temple opened a stage coach line between Chicago and St. Louis that ran along the Archer Road. Oliver Newberry and George Dole opened a meatpacking house on the South Branch that same year.

By 1837, the land boom went bust. The United States entered a recession. Banks that had over extended credit to the real estate speculators began calling in their loans. No one could pay their bills. Land that cost so much two years before was confiscated for unpaid taxes. The state was going bankrupt. The men working on the

canal were laid off and all work stopped.

People in the area around Bridgeport and Canalport grew cabbages to sell and worked the winter at the slaughter houses along the river to survive. There they could take home all the "left overs" such as hearts, kidneys, livers, and the like for free.

Work on the canal was halted until 1845 when the bankrupt State of Illinois borrowed money and began work again. With work available on the canal again, Bridgeport and the area west of the South Fork began to grow. Irish refugees from the famine and German refugees from political troubles flocked to the area.

John Chapin and Thomas Dyer opened another packing house along the river which supplied more work. Both of these men later went on to become mayors of the City of Chicago.

The slaughter houses along the river would throw away the hearts and livers of the cattle they butchered and people would often pick them out of the river or the canal. Occasionally, as one might expect, there were epidemics of cholera and other diseases. Bubbly Creek became a manifestation of industrial dominance of the time and became one of the best known waterways in the urban United States. The packers who would use it for decades to come, used it as their communal sewer. By 1929, the daily output of "suspended matter" from the factories to the sewers was a staggering 131,500 pounds. All this "putrefying organic matter" released "gaseous ebullition," or bubbles, giving rise to its infamous name.

Mrs. Sarah Tamany, one of the early settlers in the area in the 1840's, became a squatter living in a little "shanty" on federal land, right along the canal. In those days there were no sewers, so the water in the canal and in the rivers was generally clean, and people built their shanties right up close to the canal so that they could draw water from it without walking too far. Mrs. Tamany told of the woods that existed to the west of Western Avenue; so dense that people could get lost in them. The best known section was called "McKenna's Woods" near what is now 39th (first called Egan then Pershing Road) and Rockwell. It was there that the Indians often camped before moving west. Wild animals roamed the area between the canal and the South Fork, and people left lights burning all night in their windows to frighten off wolves, foxes, and other animals that might kill their chickens. Most of the people kept chickens or a few pigs, even an occasional cow.

By the late 1840's, the Archer Road was the principal highway from Chicago to Joliet and St. Louis. It was also the center of trade for the area. Farmers hauled in their grain from the west and stockmen drove their cattle down it to the slaughterhouses. Stores opened up all along Archer. Stern's Quarry at 29th and Halsted Streets was operating about this time, and so were the adjacent lime kilns.

The big industry of the area was the canal itself. Workers on it were paid about \$16.00 per month. It began at Ashland where it had two branches like the

letter Y. The North Branch was the canal which connected with the South Fork at about 27th and Ashland Avenue, by means of locks. Here was the Bridgeport Pumping Station, considered the engineering marvel of the day. Immediately south of the Pumping Station was the other branch of the canal, which didn't connect to the South Fork. It stopped abruptly at Ashland and was used for loading and unloading barges. Horses and mules towed the barges from a path alongside the canal, and a man walked in front of the mules to watch out for muskrat holes. Along the canal, there were stables for changing mules. It was later that tugboats were introduced.

Saloons, boarding houses, grocery stores and stables sprang up around Ashland Avenue near the canal. The stables at Ashland alone handled three to four-hundred mules a day. But the grandest building of all was the three story frame hotel called the "Canal House." It faced the canal on one side and Ashland Avenue on the other. During the 1840's, Stephen A. Douglas, the man who beat Abraham Lincoln in the famous debates and was elected to the Senate, stayed there. Lincoln himself stayed there. The first city omnibus line was run from the Loop to the hotel in 1852.

The canal carried twenty-two thousand passengers from Bridgeport to Ottawa in 1850 and seventeen thousand from Ottawa to Bridgeport. But it soon had competition from the railroads and became less important. Other industries continued to flourish along the Archer Road. R. & O. Hough opened a packing house at Throop Street and the River in 1850. Hancock's plant opened at Loomis and the River in 1854. Every new enterprise brought more people to the area.

In the early 1850's, a priest used to come from St. Patrick's Church (established in 1846 at Des Plaines and Adams Streets) to say Mass for the people in Bridgeport. The first Mass was said at the Scanlon home at Archer and Pitney Streets. Mass was later said in the home of James McKenna on Archer and Lock Streets. The records of baptisms and marriages were all kept at St. Patrick's. In 1854 Fr. Michael Donahue was sent out to organize a regular parish. Mail was often delivered to the Church, and the priest would read out the names from the altar of people who had a letter. Fr. Thomas Kelly came out the next year and that was the beginning of St. Bridget parish (established in 1850). St. Bridget was closed in 1990.

In 1857, Long John Wentworth was elected Mayor of Chicago. He owned the land where McKinley Park is presently. They named Robey Street, "Long John" Street in honor of the six-foot seven-inch Mayor. It is now Damen Avenue named after a Chicago Jesuit priest.

In 1859, St. Bridget Parish opened the first Industrial School in Chicago. It was known as the Bridgeport Institute and was conducted by the Christian Brothers.

At this time 35th Street was named Douglas Place in honor of Stephen A. Douglas. He founded the original University of Chicago at 35th and the Lake and later, when the Civil War broke out, donated some of his land for an army camp, named Fort Douglas in his honor.

Later, it became a prison camp for captured Confederate prisoners of war.

During the Civil War, Chicago boomed again. Slaughter houses and railroads had more business than they could handle. As of 1863, there were still no houses south of the Archer Road, just rolling prairies. Toward the west were flocks of sheep. The homes were shanties of upright boards, built north of Archer by squatters. The main foods were salt pork, beef and potatoes. The people of the community were Irish and Germans who were attracted by the building of the canal. Saw mills started along the river, with brickyards, stone quarries and packing houses.

After the Civil War, the area continued to grow. The Armour Plant came to Salt and Archer in the 1860's. The Methodists built a wooden church on Bonfield near the Chicago, Quincy and Alton tracks. Later, they moved and built a new brick church on the corner of 33rd and Paulina.

In the mid 1860's, the Union Stock Yards were organized and built. By the 1870's the Canal at Ashland was no longer the center of the community. The railroads were taking over as the most important means of transportation. Instead, the center of the community was more and more the stockyards and steel mills which provided jobs for new arrivals whether or not they had a skill, and whether or not they spoke English. A resident of the time described life in the area then:

"The people were brought here by the packing houses and brickyards. The packing houses were: Armour, Hancock & Bell's, Reed's & Sherman's, and Shinneman's. Phil Armour used to come out here on horseback. Lumber yards brought the first Poles to the area, and now most of the Poles are storekeepers. Buses pulled by horse served as transportation."

The biggest event in the history of the fledgling city of Chicago was the Great Fire of October, 1870. It began on a Sunday evening at around nine and destroyed not only the entire downtown section of the city, but also the homes of thousands of poor working families, particularly on the west and north sides. For many of them, Irish and Polish laborers, not only their homes were gone, but also their jobs. There was only one place in the city where they could live and find indispensable jobs as well, and that was at the steel mills, stock yards, brickyards and docks near Archer and Ashland.

As industry and population grew in the 1880's, the Santa Fe Railroad bought up a right of way just north of 31st Street which dislocated a lot of residents, though some were still squatters. For some reason that no one can remember, the area between the Santa Fe tracks and the Chicago and Quincy and Alton tracks, (between Archer and 31st Streets), became known as Mopetown. South of the Archer Road the area was no longer called Piper's Woods, but now the much more pretentious name of Mount Pleasant, the present McKinley Park area.

Immigrants and the Church

In 1874, Bishop Thomas Foley had permitted the organization of St. Adalbert Church at 17th and Paulina Streets, to serve the Polish families who had settled in the Bohemian district of Pilsen. St. Adalbert was the third Polish Parish founded in the Archdiocese, preceded by St. Stanislaus Kostka (1867) and Holy Trinity (1873) on the northwest side of the city. As the areas of Mount Pleasant and Canalport filled with people in the 1870's, (with the Germans settling around Winchester, Wolcott and Damen, south of 35th, and the Irish and French nearer the locks along the South Fork), new churches were built. The Methodists moved their little wooden church on Bonfield to the corner of 33rd and Paulina Streets. The German Lutherans in the area constructed a church and soon afterwards a school, St. Andreus Evangelische Lutheranische Kierke, now simply St. Andrews at 37th and Honore Streets.

St. Agnes Parish was organized in 1878 but Mass was said in a cottage on 38th and California. For most of the English speaking Catholics of the area, the parish was still St. Bridget. Yet, another Catholic Church was to be built for the area in 1882, St. Jean Baptiste de Bridgeport.

It seems that there was always a French speaking colony along the South Branch. It was small but some of the people still had names that went a long way back in Chicago's history. Most of them lived on what was then the "West Side," around Notre Dame de Chicago Parish. A priest came regularly from Notre Dame to the locks to say Mass for the French speaking people. In the 1870's, Mass was said upstairs of Bloessinger's Hall a huge old tavern standing on the southeast corner of Archer and Wood. The building would later pass into the hands of the Kwak Family and be run as a tavern. It was here that St. Jean Baptiste de Bridgeport was organized.

In 1882, a new priest, Father Jean Mevel, was sent to build a proper church for the French speaking people of the neighborhood. He held Mass at Bloessinger's Hall for a time and then bought three lots on 33rd Place near Hermitage for \$1100, and later a fourth lot and began building his Church and Rectory at 1724 W. 33rd Place. During the construction, Fr. Mevel stayed with the Bloom family, who owned much of the land in the area and after whom Bloom Street, now Hermitage Avenue, was named.

"The old French church was across the street from the Methodist church and down the block some. It was a temporary wooden building and the priest lived in a room in the back. There was quite a French colony here; the Criemieux family, who now own a large hardware store are the remnant of that colony, and lived on the corner of 33rd and Paulina. Later, the French bought land at what is now 39th and California and built St. Joseph & St. Anne's, (now Our Lady of Fatima), and all the French moved up there."

In 1889, a Catholic Church was organized for the

Germans of the area, St. Mauritius, now simply St. Maurice.

From 1893-1895 the whole area was becoming more and more industrial and people were moving South of 31st Street. One problem with Canalport was that it was mostly swamp much of the year, in which boys from the neighborhood used to hunt for crabs or go swimming at Murphy's Clayhole near 31st and Ashland.

Where Robinson, Archer and Ashland met was Market Square, now a park. In the 1890's, it was a shopping center for the area. The Piper's Grocery Store stood there along with Piper's Ice House.

Archer Avenue was then paved only as far as Paulina. At Wood Street stood the Mabbitt Grain Elevator. Paulina was a fancy street then, for it was one of the only streets that was paved. Archer and Wood was pretty built up too with Bloessinger's Hall there. East of Ashland Avenue and south of Market Square were the Steel Mills. They closed down and moved South to Gary shortly after 1900. This left the whole area from Ashland to the river full of huge slag heaps which were then used for fill.

Along Ashland in those days were mostly taverns that offered free lunches to men in the steel mills and brickyards. One such brickyard was at 33rd and Ashland Avenue

Thirty-third Street was pretty well built up also. There was a fire station and the Methodist church at Paulina. The vacant area west of the Methodist church was used as a baseball diamond.

Thirty-fifth Street, then known as Douglas Place, at the time was not paved. Near the river were coal docks and grain elevators. Joyce's Box Factory was on the South East corner of 35th and Ashland. It later became part of Wrigley and Company. Across Ashland from the Box Factory was Joyce's mansion, a grand old house. Its grounds ran all the way to Marshfield and took up much of the block.

On 35th Street, where Kozy's Cyclery now stands, there was a Blacksmith's shop and Hickey's Funeral Parlor. A great deal of 35th Street was still open prairie. On Hermitage, just south of 35th, there were three grand houses belonging to Seth Piper and his sons. One of them would become the first rectory for Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

Where McKinley Park now stands was the Brighton Race Course and several cabbage patches owned by a Mr. Ackerman. The South Fork still ran as far west as Western Boulevard in those days. There were clayholes and brickyards south of 39th, yet several families lived there.

The Lure of Jobs and the 'Polanie'

For some time after the Great Fire and into the early part of 1890, the newly immigrated Poles had been working their way to the southside. The lure of jobs in

the Union Stockyards, as well as the dream of owning a parcel of land and a home, was also motivation. After spilling out of the first Polish settlement of the north side (St. Stanislaus Kostka and Holy Trinity Parishes), they settled in Pilsen, then Bridgeport and then along Ashland. Their push west of Ashland was to take advantage of the open prairie land parcels that had yet to be developed.

Later on, in 1913, a researcher would note, "The ambition of the immigrant to own property in America is one of his most striking characteristics. For it, he will make almost unbelievable sacrifices both of his own comfort and that of his wife and children." This passion stemmed from the traditional peasant attachment to the land. Many of the immigrants had strong ties to the soil. The term *polanie*, for example, by which these early Poles described themselves, means "dwellers of the fields." Property represented home and hearth, the bounty of nature and the satisfaction of a good days work.

At first, these Polish settlers along Ashland Avenue attended St. Adalbert Church, three miles to the north in Pilsen. They also traveled to St. Mary of Perpetual Help in Bridgeport (established in 1886), but this early group deeply yearned for a Church of their own.

The Dwelling of the Holy Apostles

With the aid of Reverend John Radziejewski, himself a Polish immigrant who served for twenty years as pastor of St. Adalbert, the one hundred Polish families of this area along Ashland Avenue petitioned Archbishop Patrick A. Feehan for a parish of their own. Archbishop Feehan appointed a young Polish-born priest, Reverend Paul P. Rhode, to organize the national parish of The Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. Following his ordination on June 16, 1894, Father Rhode had been serving as an assistant at St. Adalbert Church. In announcing Father Rhode's appointment, *Dziennik Chicagowski* (*The Polish Daily News*) on December 30, 1895 reported that a school had been organized and noted that: "*Although the pastor has not taken permanent residence because of lack of rooms, quarters are being arranged for him. In order to facilitate matters, the parish committee convened last night to take up the problem of making a home for their new pastor.*"

Full of zeal and enthusiasm, Father Rhode gathered the congregation to build a two story combination church and school, for the then staggering sum of \$16,000. Early parish records indicate that the two story combination building was constructed at 36th and Charlton (now Justine) St., just east of Ashland Avenue and now a part of the Wrigley and Company complex. Described in 1900, is this "dwelling of the Apostles."

"Please imagine: there in the distance, beyond the smelly Chicago River, the stockyards were smoking so much that if you put a few Vesuviuses beside each other, they would not have spouted forth so terribly - and here, at the "dwelling of

the Apostles," as if on a farm, spacious fields expanded, great with cabbage heads, and among those cabbage heads there was a fenced-off quadrangle in which rose a rectangular, many storied building with an Ave-bell - The Church of the Apostles Peter and Paul. In the building, the Church was downstairs, the school and rectory and housing for the teacher were upstairs - everything under one roof."

The first baptism at SS. Peter and Paul, recorded in Father Rhode's hand, is that of Francesca Kmiecik, on the evening of December 29, 1895. The church, school and residence building would be dedicated on the following day by Archbishop Feehan.

Three parishes were organized in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1895: St. Mary of Czestochowa in Cicero; Sacred Heart in Glenrock, now the Diocese of Joliet; and SS. Peter and Paul.

In 1897, Father Rhode was appointed pastor of St. Michael Church at 83rd and Bond (now South Shore Dr.). Between 1897 and 1907, St. Michael's grew from 500 to 1200 families under Father Rhode's leadership. He was named Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago in 1908 (the first Polish Bishop consecrated in the United States), and in 1915, he became Bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he remained for the rest of his life and died at age 85. He would be followed as the Bishop of Green Bay by two more Chicago priests of Polish descent: Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona (1945 -1968) and Bishop Aloysius J. Wycislo (1968 - 1983).

Father Rhode's successor at SS. Peter and Paul Parish was Reverend Boleslaus Nowakowski. The Polish-born priest had grown up in St. Adalbert and since his ordination in 1895, he had been an assistant at St. Adalbert and Immaculate Conception Parishes in Chicago.

During Father Nowakowski's short term as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Church, he began negotiations with the Chicago Junction Railway Company who needed the land the church stood on for development. Since 1890, the railway companies and the Union Stock Yard and Transit Company had been acquiring land north of the stockyards on which to create an industrial district, the resulting Central Manufacturing District. The parish realized some financial gain from the transaction and made plans to build a complete church and school complex.

However, before Father Nowakowski could complete his plans for a new parish plant at 38th and Paulina Streets, he was transferred, in December of 1901, to the pastorate of St. Andrew Church in Calumet City.

Meanwhile, the Old French Church of Canalport, St. Jean Baptiste de Bridgeport, located at West 33rd Place, was abandoned by 1900. As a result, Reverend Daniel Dowling, Pastor of St. Bridget and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago, sent Reverend Patrick R. Bulfin from St. Bridget to the old French church to say Mass for the English speaking Catholics west of the South Fork. By August of 1901, he organized a new

parish at the church, dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel. The first baptism was September 16th, 1901. Fr. Bulfin baptized 32 people in the next three months.

Reverend Maximilian Kotecki succeeded Father Nowakowski as pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Church in 1901. Father Kotecki had previously organized the Polish Parish of St. Stanislaus in Kankakee, IL, in November, 1900. SS. Peter and Paul now was a parish of several thousand souls. Up to eight Baptisms a week took place. Under Father Kotecki's leadership, a new rectory, church, and school were constructed at the present parish site. The rectory at 3745 S. Paulina Street was completed in 1904 and in the following year, a house at 3726 S. Paulina Street was secured for use as a convent by the Felician Sisters who staffed SS. Peter and Paul School. They had replaced the lone layman who had staffed the one room school until the Sisters arrival.

The Felician Sisters Community was still young, having only been founded in 1855 in Warsaw. In the span of 85 years of teaching at SS. Peter and Paul School, (1904 -1989), 318 Felician Sisters ministered to the people and children of the parish. This is a cumulative 962 years of service averaging 3 years per Sister. As of 1995, of the 318 Sisters, 79 were living; 22 transferred to other Felician provinces (Oklahoma and New Mexico); 44 were secularized; and 176 are deceased.

Progress and A New Beginning

In 1905, development of the Central Manufacturing District began in the territory bounded by 35th St. (formerly Douglas) on the north; 39th St. (formerly Egan and later Pershing Road) on the south; Ashland on the west; and Morgan St. on the east. This district, the first of its kind in the United States, provided jobs within walking distance for men and women of SS. Peter and Paul Church, though most continued to work at the Union Stock Yards.

On September 3, 1906, Archbishop James E. Quigley laid the cornerstone of the present SS. Peter and Paul Church. Designed in the Romanesque style and constructed at the northeast corner of 38th and Paulina Streets, at a cost of \$100,000. The Church is 73 feet by 150 feet and had an original seating capacity of 1100. The present SS. Peter and Paul Church was then dedicated on June 29, 1907 by the Archbishop. Present on the occasion of the dedication was the Mayor of Chicago, Carter Harrison.

The New World reported on September 14, 1907 that a three story brick school was to be constructed at the southeast corner of 37th Place and Paulina Streets. At the time, 205 students were enrolled at the parish school.

On August 30, 1908, the newly consecrated Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, The Most Reverend Paul P. Rhode, the founding Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul, returned to dedicate SS. Peter and Paul School which had been completed at a cost of \$85,000. In its account

of the ceremony, *The New World* noted that: "Nearly all the houses in the neighborhood were decorated with American bunting and the Polish colors of red and white, while the church and parish buildings were almost hidden in bunting."

The Twenty-fifth Jubilee Celebration of SS. Peter and Paul took place on October 3, 1920 with much pomp and celebration; to be similarly repeated seventy-five years later at the Centennial Celebration in October of 1995. The day began with the return of the founding pastor, the Most Reverend Paul P. Rhode, for a Pontifical Solemn Mass at 10:30 in the morning. After a luncheon, a concert by the school children was held in the church at 2:30 in the afternoon. The Jubilee Dinner was served by the ladies organizations of the parish and was followed by a classical music concert at 8:00 in the evening. The evening concert featured a full orchestra and chorus under the direction of the music director Alexander Karczynski. The musical program included sacred and secular works of Bach, Vittoria, Palestrina, Scarlotti and Dvorak.

Father Kotecki served as pastor until 1926, and then served as an assistant at the Polish Parishes of St. Pancratius and St. Turibius. He died on December 28, 1959 at the age of 85.

Reverend Adalbert S. Olszewski succeeded Father Kotecki as pastor. Prior to his appointment, the Polish-born priest served for more than 20 years as pastor of Holy Cross Church in Joliet, IL. At the time he began his work in 1926, 1500 families belonged to SS. Peter and Paul and 1,217 children were enrolled in the school.

With the onset of the Great Depression, no new buildings were constructed in the parish complex. Although times were hard for the majority of parishioners, Father Olszewski saw to it that no child was compelled to leave the parish school because of financial difficulties. During this time (1933) the parish boasted of raising an Alderman from its ranks, Ben Zintak.

In 1945, the people of SS. Peter and Paul Church observed the Golden Anniversary of the founding of their parish with solemn religious rites. Since the Jubilee fell during wartime, no social celebration was held.

Father Olszewski died on September 21, 1948, at the age of 71. His successor was Reverend Bernard Szudzinski, another Polish-born priest who had served as pastor of St. Valentine Church in Cicero, IL. for 25 years.

With the generous support of his parishioners, Father Szudzinski was able to pay off a \$93,000 war time parish debt and to improve the school and church facilities. Under his leadership, property was purchased just east of SS. Peter and Paul Church at 38th Street for a new convent. Father Szudzinski was named a Domestic Prelate with the title Right Reverend Monsignor in 1949.

On Easter Sunday, April 5, 1953, ground was broken at 1640 W. 38th St. for the new convent. Unfortunately, Msgr. Szudzinski did not live long enough to see the residence completed. He died on January 18, 1954 as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

In April, 1954, Reverend Stanislaus A. Rozak, pastor of St. Stanislaus B. & M. Church in Posen, IL, was appointed to succeed Msgr. Szudzinski as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Church.

Samuel Cardinal Stritch dedicated the new convent on May 2, 1954. Under Father Rozak's direction, a hall was completed under the church, the school was modernized and the interior of SS. Peter and Paul Church was renovated. As a result of the continued support of his parishioners, Father Rozak was able to pay for the new convent and for the renewal projects, which totaled \$600,000. Father Rozak continued to serve the people of SS. Peter and Paul Church until his death at the parish on February 2, 1966.

Reverend Joseph F. Mytych was made pastor of SS. Peter and Paul on March 20, 1966. Father Mytych supervised the renovation of the church to reflect the changes adopted by the Second Vatican Council. The 75th anniversary of the founding of SS. Peter and Paul Parish was celebrated on October 25, 1970 with a Jubilee Mass and Dinner.

Change, Growth and Diversity

Originally founded as a national parish for Polish immigrants, SS. Peter and Paul lost its exclusively Polish character as Catholics of many national backgrounds joined the congregation starting in the 1950's and 1960's. For years, the Union Stock Yards remained a major source of employment. However, following the decline of the stockyards in the 1950's and 1960's, McKinley Park residents sought jobs in other industries.

In 1978, 259 children were enrolled in the parish school under the direction of five Felician Sisters and five lay teachers. Vocations from the parish include thirty-one nuns, eight priests and one brother. Father Mytych retired from the parish at the age of 71 in January, 1986.

Reverend Robert J. Roll was assigned as pastor on February 1, 1986, one day short of the twentieth anniversary of Father Rozak's death. He had previously been an associate pastor at St. Constance, St. Giles (Oak Park), and St. Cornelius Parishes. From 1978 - 1981 he also worked with the Archdiocesan Office of Radio and Television. Father Roll immediately undertook the establishing of a needed Senior Citizens organization, the Friendship Club. Soon after, the Our Lady of Guadalupe Society was established to serve the members of the Mexican-American community that had taken up residence in the parish.

SS. Peter and Paul also rededicated itself to bringing the fine arts to the Southwest Side of Chicago. Annual concerts have been presented by the renowned Lira Singers, as well as jazz concerts and special liturgies, craft shows, visiting Church choirs, and musical groups.

The McKinley Park Catholic Parishes (St. Maurice, SS. Peter and Paul, and Our Lady of Good Counsel) began to meet regularly in 1986 to discuss and plan for

the ever changing community, as well as set agendas for the future. Combined parish celebrations of Confirmation, an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, the establishment of the Friends of the McKinley Park Library, as well as the construction of a new full service branch library facility, have all been fruits of these continuing meetings and efforts.

The status of the McKinley Park Catholic Schools had been the focus of discussion since 1987. Formal discussions and planning were instituted at that time. After two years of planning and investigating the decision was reached to close SS. Peter and Paul School, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Archdiocese. The announcement of the closing came on January 13, 1990. In 1989, 166 children were enrolled in the school; a far cry from over 1200 students in the time of Father Olszewski. At the same time, over 25 parishes and schools were closed in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The hardest hit areas were the Back of the Yards and Bridgeport where St. Bridget, the historic Mother Church of Bridgeport, was shuttered and demolished.

The year 1995 marked the latest configuration of Catholic Education in the community with the closing of both Our Lady of Good Counsel School and St. Maurice School. The opening of the McKinley Park Catholic School sponsored by the three parishes of McKinley Park, took place in August, 1995. The school was dedicated and blessed by Bishop John Gorman on September 15, 1995. Sr. Lois Matusiak, OSF, was the first principal. The Chicago Public Schools currently lease the SS. Peter and Paul school building as a Junior High School - The Evergreen Academy.

The Felician Sisters maintain a strong presence in the community, as residents of the SS. Peter and Paul Convent. They are joined by two Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

On the First Sunday of Advent, 1994, another era began at SS. Peter and Paul with the establishment of a Bilingual Spanish Mass each Sunday, reflecting the new and changing character of the community. The Spanish Mass Choirs have evolved from this group.

"Reverence for the Past - Hope for the Future"

Those words were the theme chosen for the one-hundredth anniversary celebration of SS. Peter and Paul. Plans for the Centennial Celebration of 1995 began in 1992 with the formation of the Centennial Committee. The first phase of the planning involved preparing the buildings for the Anniversary celebrations. Fundraising was planned for a new roof (Summer, 1993) and the cleaning and painting of the Church (Fall and Winter, 1994).

The firm of Daprato Rigali was hired to clean, paint and decorate the interior of the Church. The process began on August 29, 1994 and was completed in March

of 1995 at the cost of around sixty-thousand dollars. (The original Church construction cost had been one hundred thousand dollars in the early 1900's). The Nesko Electric Company provided lighting design and installation, replacing the forty year old fixtures and instruments, for the cost of about thirty-eight thousand dollars. Additional work included new sidewalks in front of the church and rectory, obtained with the generous assistance of Alderman Patrick Huels (D-11th); creation of a choir area in the body of the Church; refinishing of the pews and new carpeting for the sanctuary and sacristies; the renewal of the Altar Crucifix, the main doors, the Tabernacle, candlesticks and door accessories.

Work on the buildings went on as the parish prepared for the Centennial Celebration with numerous social and religious activities and celebrations. Of primary note were the Centennial Pilgrimages made to Chicago area Churches starting in September, 1994 through June, 1995. Mass was celebrated at each parish or institution. Sites visited included: St. Adalbert's, (the Mother Church of SS. Peter and Paul), Archbishop Quigley Seminary, Holy Innocents, St. Benedict the African, St. Mary of the Angels, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Nicholas Ukrainian Cathedral. The pilgrimages were highlighted in an article in the Chicago Tribune of March 12, 1995.

Parish Family Masses were highlighted each month, with the children of the parish presenting a Centennial Cheer that continued to expand with each presentation. It was also presented at the Centennial Celebration of the Eucharist on September 24, 1995 with Joseph Cardinal Bernardin in attendance.

"Family Ties" was initiated as a new organization to commemorate the Centennial Year. This project matched a child presented for Baptism with a parish teen who volunteered to serve as a "parish sponsor" for the child. The first "Family Ties" celebration took place on October 9, 1994 with Robyn Hope McMahan being sponsored by Veronica Rangel.

The start of The Centennial Year was marked with a Dinner/Dance on October 8, 1994. Over two hundred people attended the inaugural celebration. Two special concerts were offered during the year of jubilee. On the Feast of the Epiphany, the St. Ailbe Gospel Choir performed in the Church. In celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph, a concert was presented by Father John Moulder and His Jazz Quintet. More than three hundred attended both concerts.

In February, 1995, Bishop-elect Edwin Conway presided over the McKinley Park Catholic Community celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation at SS. Peter and Paul. It was Bishop Conway's first Confirmation having been named an Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago just two weeks previous.

A Centennial Lenten Mission was conducted from April 4th through 10th by Father Eliot Bacia, OFM, an alumnus of SS. Peter and Paul. Father Eliot also presented the Invocation at the Centennial Gala on October 1, 1995 at Navy Pier.

Bishop John Gorman presided over the Blessing of the Easter Foods on Holy Saturday. A Solemn Novena to SS. Peter and Paul was held in June and concluded on the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, June 29th, with a special evening Mass and Veneration of the Relic of SS. Peter and Paul.

The Annual June Fundraiser was held as a Family and All Class Reunion. It was the largest crowd ever in the nine year history of the June event, with alumni attending from Colorado and California. The highlight was the Noon Reunion Mass which filled the Church.

In July, thirty-two parishioners and friends, led by Father Roll and parishioner Florence Krok, traveled in pilgrimage to Poland and Rome in honor of the Centennial Celebration. Among the sites visited in Poland were the Felician Motherhouse in Krakow, the Chapel of Divine Mercy in Krakow, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Poznan, the camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau including the death site of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Church of St. Mary's in Krakow, the town of Wadowice and Pope John Paul II's birthplace, Chopin's birthplace and the Tatra Mountains at Zakopane. In Rome the usual historic sites of St. Peter's, the catacombs and the major Churches were visited, with the finale being a Mass celebrated in the crypt of St. Peter's.

A Celebration of Faith, Love and Unity

The Centennial Mass was celebrated on September 24, 1995 at noon. Joseph Cardinal Bernardin presided at the Eucharist which was celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop John R. Gorman, Retired Bishop Alfred L. Abramo-wicz, Pastor Emeritus Father Joseph Mytych, Father Robert Roll and thirty other priest alumni and friends. Father Jose Lucchessi, O Carm., of Lima, Peru, and pastor of the sister parish of SS. Peter and Paul, St. Therese of the Little Flower, made a special pilgrimage to attend along with a parish representative of St. Therese.

Music for the celebration was provided by a Festival Chorus of nearly ninety musicians and singers. Music commissioned for the event included "*I Give You A New Commandment*" by Reverend Steven R. Janco, commissioned by parishioner Vivian Curran; and "*Hymn to SS. Peter and Paul*" by Marty Kay, commissioned by Father Roll. The Festival Choirs and Musicians were under the direction of Sheila M. McAndrews.

The Processional included representatives of every parish organization marching behind their banner or emblem, as well as children of the parish. Immediately following the Celebration of the Eucharist, Cardinal Bernardin spoke and was presented with flowers and gifts by representative children of the community. The Centennial Mass was one of the first public appearances by the Cardinal after his cancer surgery in the summer of 1995.

At the conclusion of the Recessional, the assembly

gathered in front of the Church, as Cardinal Bernardin and Alderman Patrick M. Huels unveiled a new street sign, dedicating Paulina Street as "SS. Peter and Paul Place," in honor of the Centennial Year Celebration. The Cardinal and guests greeted one another for almost two hours in front of the church following the celebration.

A Centennial Gala was held the following week, on Sunday, October 1, 1995 in the Grand Ballroom of Navy Pier. Over one thousand people attended, including alumni and friends from Massachusetts, Florida, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin and California. Chairpersons for the Centennial Celebrations were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rzasa and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bara. Honorary Chairpersons for the Centennial Gala were: Sister Barbara Ann Bosch, CSSF, the Provincial Superior of the Felician Sisters in Chicago, representing the Felician Sisters who have served at SS. Peter and Paul; John P. Daley, Commissioner of the Cook County Board; Steven R. DiSalvo, Assistant to the President of Loyola University, Chicago; Patrick M. Huels, Alderman of the Eleventh Ward, a constant presence and support to the parish for more than ten years; Donald E. Lewandowski, President of Midwest Calendar Company of Summit, IL, and an alumnus of SS. Peter and Paul. The programs for the Centennial Gala and the Centennial Mass can be found elsewhere in this book.

The Centennial Celebrations of SS. Peter and Paul concluded in much the same way as the parish had begun in 1895. In the evening quiet of December 29, 1995, Christopher and Jacqueline (nee: Serva) O'Neill presented their son, Christopher O'Neill, Jr. to Father Robert Roll for Baptism at SS. Peter and Paul. Members of the Kmiecik Family, descendants of the first baby baptized by Father Paul Rhode in 1895 were present at the ceremony. John and Marge Kmiecik were the last to inscribe Christopher O'Neill, Jr., with the Sign of the Cross that night. One hundred years to the day, the never ending circle of faith of the parish community continued unbroken.

The final Centennial Celebration took place on Saturday, December 30, 1995 at SS. Peter and Paul. The Centennial Finale began with the 5 PM Mass in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the original church and concluded with a Christmas Concert. The Anniversary Mass featured our Children's Choirs, a String Trio, and Cantor, John Eskola of Holy Name Cathedral. This Celebration of the Eucharist marked the dedication of the original church at 36th and Justine Avenue (then Charlton Street) on December 30, 1895 by Archbishop Feehan.

The Concert of Christmas Music in English, Polish and Spanish was presented by The Lira Singers and The Cuerdas Clasicas. Following the Concert a reception took place in the Church Hall with the Breaking of the Oplatki and the Opening of the Pinata.

People of Faith Gathered Again

One hundred years to the date, people again rejoiced at their accomplishments in the name of the Lord. This time though, instead of just a handful gathered in a temporary church and school building, hundreds gathered in their historic church to give thanks in song and celebration. This time there were different languages and customs shared. This time there was confidence about the future.

While the days of Father Marquette to these joyous moments of celebration seem a million years apart, a simple and profound connection as people of faith remains. The faith of missionaries setting out upon uncharted courses. The simple faith of immigrants that enabled them to bear endless hardships. The faith of the determined survivors of disease, depressions and wars. Faith that is entrusted to us for the next one hundred years and beyond.

Today at SS. Peter and Paul - 1995

Reverend Robert J. Roll has been Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul since 1986. The present Associate Pastors of the parish are Reverend Michael V. Kalck, formerly a classics professor at Quigley Seminary South; Reverend Stephan E. Bauer, OSC, who came to the parish during Father Roll's 1993-94 sabbatical.

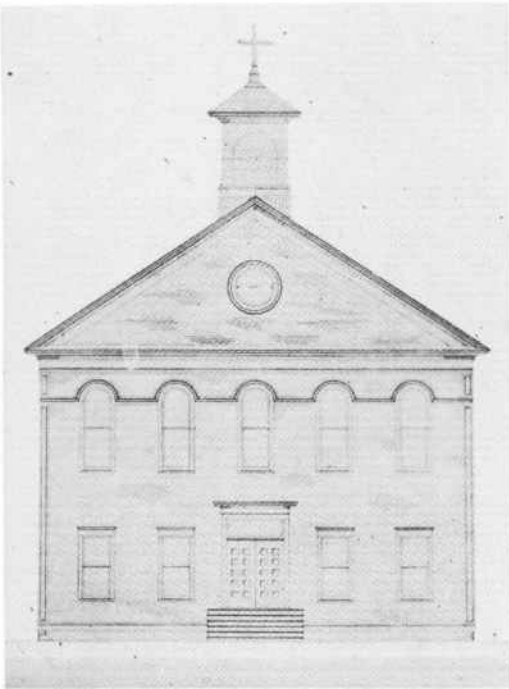
Mrs. Joanne M. Amedeo joined the staff as a Pastoral Associate in August of 1990, after having served nearly twenty years as a teacher at SS. Peter and Paul School.

The Music Director is Ms. Sheila M. McAndrews who continues as assistant organist at Holy Name Cathedral. Stephen E. Adamczyk, who served the parish as Music Director for over forty years, continues as Music Director Emeritus and a choir member, as does Dr. Robert M. Bara, DDS, as Assistant Organist.

Also staffing the parish are the parish secretaries. Freda Giemzik has been loyally serving the priests and people of SS. Peter and Paul for thirty-three years. Maryann Fox joined the parish after the closing of Sacred Heart in the Back of the Yards in 1990. She joined the staff in 1993. Completing the Rectory staff are Business Manager, David Summins; Sophie Serva and Gloria Estrada are the parish housekeepers, and Edward Estrada serves as Maintenance Engineer for the parish.

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A sketch of the original SS. Peter and Paul Church located on 36th and Justine (Charlton) Streets in 1896.



Parishioners began laying the foundation of the present site of SS. Peter and Paul Church in 1906.

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours ..."

1 Chronicles 29:11

Right: The first residence for the priests of the parish was situated in the second floor quarters of the original church building. The current parish rectory was completed in January of 1905.

Below: A view of the "Honorary SS. Peter and Paul Place," the title given to 3700 South Paulina Street in honor of the Centennial Year of SS. Peter and Paul Church.





"... therefore, our God, we give you thanks and we praise the majesty of your Name."

1 Chronicles 29:13

A goal of Monsignor Bernard Szudzinski was to build SS. Peter and Paul Parish Convent. His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch dedicated the new convent on May 2, 1954.



The Grotto of Our Lady of Grace is dedicated to the loving memory of our war dead who have perished in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

*"Happy are they who dwell in your house!
Continually they praise you, O Lord!"*

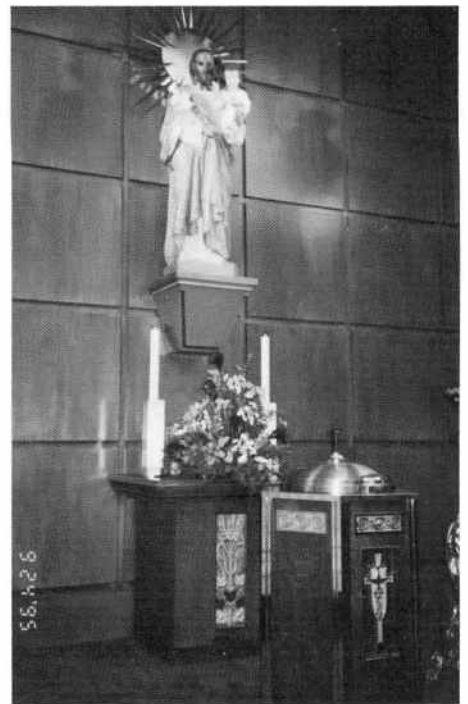
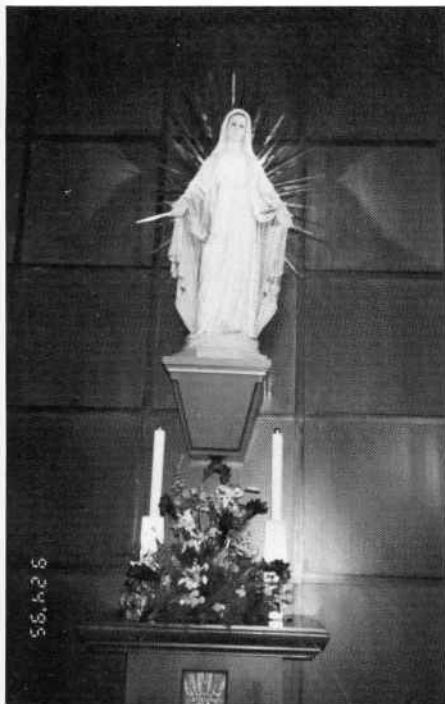
Psalm 84:5



This photograph captures the original altar of SS. Peter and Paul Church.



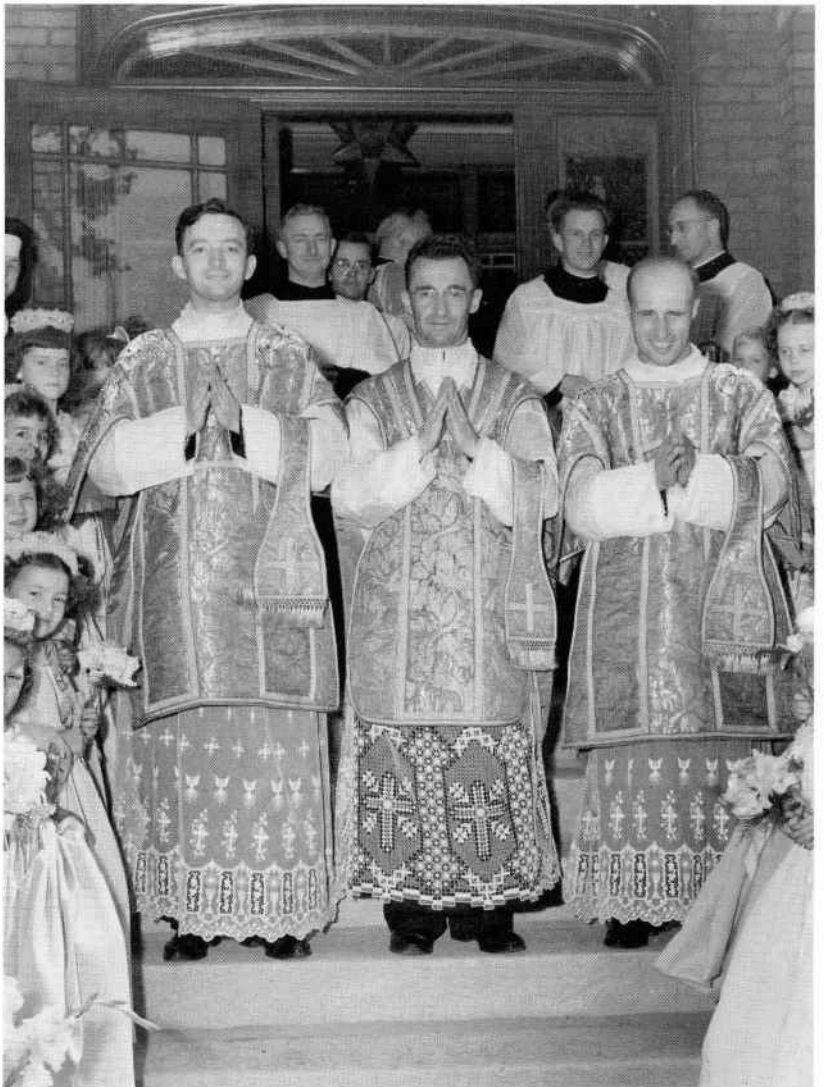
This photograph reveals an altar view of the Wedding Liturgy of Walter and Marie Pasinski on October 23, 1937.



These three photographs were taken on September 24, 1995, the day of the Centennial Mass Celebration at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul. The main altar, the Shrine to the Blessed Mother, and the Shrine to St. Joseph provide a prayerful atmosphere to begin Psalm 85: "My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

*"God's flock is in your midst;
give it a shepherd's care."*

1 Peter 5:2

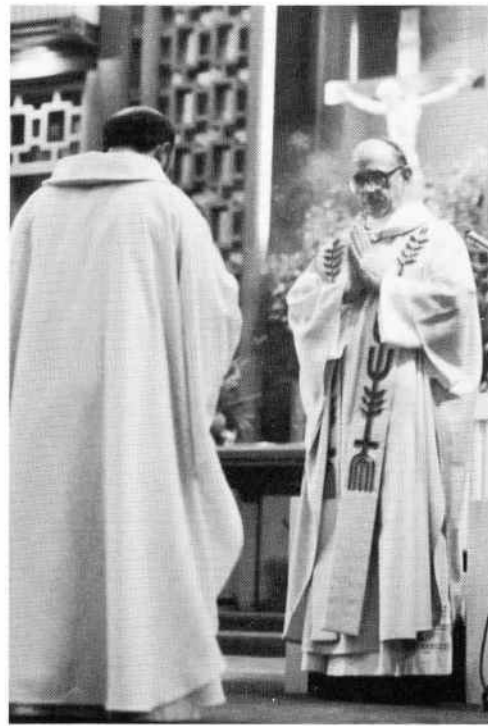


Above: The First Mass of Reverend Edward Grzenia (center) took place at SS. Peter and Paul Church in August of 1947. Father Grzenia is accompanied by Fr. Sylvester Urbanek (left) and Father Henry Gomolka (right).

Left, top: Father Tony Nowakowski greets a parishioner.

Left, center: Bishop Alfred Abramowicz and Father Joseph Mytych greet parishioner Martin Piekarz.

Left, bottom: Father Stanley Przybylowicz distributes the Eucharist to Pamela and Patricia Piwowar.



Top left: Father Joseph Pachorek is assisted by Virginia Rzasa at a parish celebration.

Top center: Father Robert J. Roll is joined by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin for the Dedication of a new Altar and Ambo in 1988.

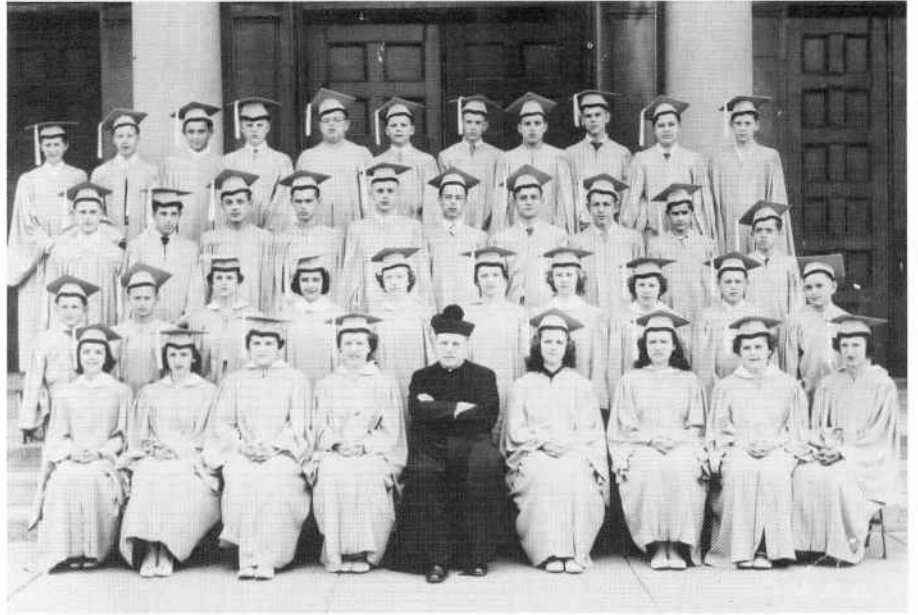
Top right: Father Eliot Bacia, born and raised in SS. Peter and Paul Parish, gave a Parish Mission during our Centennial Year. He was presented with a remembrance of the Mission by a SS. Peter and Paul classmate, Theresa (Paluch) Bryk.

Left center: Monsignor Szudzinski presents a diploma to Wayne Brongel at his Kindergarten Graduation in 1953.

Left bottom: Father Robert J. Roll is presented with the "SS. Peter and Paul Award" on October 8, 1994 for "shepherding God's flock at SS. Peter and Paul with insight, wisdom, and sensitivity." Pictured with Father Roll are Joyce Fornek, Steve Adamczyk, Sophie Serva, and Joanne Amedeo.

*"I am
the Vine,
you
are the
branches..."*

Right, top: Father Stanley Rozak and the SS. Peter and Paul graduates of 1954 pose for a picture in front of the church.



Right, center: The SS. Peter and Paul graduates of 1954 gathered, once again, on the church steps with Father Robert J. Roll after celebrating a thirty-five year Reunion Liturgy in 1989.

Right, bottom: The dedication and presence of the Felician Sisters at SS. Peter and Paul is recognized as a special blessing. They attend a Liturgy vested in their new habits.



Below: The Felician Sisters are shown in their original habits at the groundbreaking of the convent.



... he who
lives in Me,
and I in him,
will bear
much fruit."

John 15:5

Left: SS. Peter and Paul
Kindergarten class of 1970,
the Silver Jubilee Year, pose
for a picture with their
teacher Mrs. Z. Baron.

Below: The Kindergarten
Class of 1970 becomes the
graduates of 1979!



Kurt Aglynez



Maria Alon



Roman Berlycz



Ariada Calatron



John Chack



Jacqueline Gize



Carol Hugon



Carmen Jimenez



Thomas Kaspinski



Carolyn Kasprowicz



John Louvard



Christine Machowski

SS Peter & Paul

Graduates

Class
of
1979



FATHER JOSEPH MICHAYLO



Kimberly Matlick



Mary Ann Malinowski



Cynthia Mantel



SISTER EVENCIA TEACHER



SISTER ALOYSIA PRINCIPAL



SISTER M. FONTIANA TEACHER



Anthony Murawski



Maryanna Murza



Rosanne Matka



Hugh Moran



Monica Orlik



Irina Rinalto



Rachel Rodriguez



Mary Gay Rizna



Raymond Rzesutko



Jacqueline Siron



Robert Wandroba



We remember ...



We celebrate ...



We believe.





Imelda
Campos



Carrie
Cusulich



Tania
Mikrut



Shelley
Myczek



Dawn
Rios



Wendy
Rodriguez

SS. Peter and Paul Graduation Class of 1990



Juan
Alejandro



Mrs. Joanne Amedio
TEACHER



Fr. Robert Roll
PASTOR



Sr. Mary Odelle
PRINCIPAL



Mrs. Pamela Crimin
TEACHER



Edward
Estrada



Joseph
Garcia



Patrick
Glennon



Jason
Kjuk



Robert
Kuzek



Derek
Magdziak



Robert
Mena



Alex
Saucedo



Mark
Zavala

Carmen Ramirez

PSALOMARK STUDIOS INC.

Class of 1990

The last graduation class of SS. Peter and Paul School.



The last desk ...
But notice the desk
is not empty,
it holds a young life
and the
promise of a future.

"For I know well the plans I have in mind
for you, says the Lord,
Plans for your welfare, not for woe;
Plans to give you a future full of hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

Hymn of SS. Peter & Paul

Commissioned on the occasion of the One-hundredth Anniversary of
SS. Peter & Paul Parish - Chicago, 1895-1995

Marty Kay

The glo-ry of two saints, two ve-ry dif-frent lives, Saint
Pe - ter, Saint Paul, be strength for us all.
Pray for us, we cry to you, help us in the things we do.
Prince of the A - pos - tles, God's own choice to lead, be our rock and guide us in
thought and word and deed. Teach-er to the na - tions, wri-ter of great worth,
calm us in our strug - gles, help us here on earth.
The glo-ry of two saints, two ve-ry dif-frent lives, Saint Pe - ter, Saint
Paul, the cross. and the sword. May the keys of Pe - ter and the
words of Paul lead us to our e - ter - nal home. A - men!

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The Birth of the Centennial Year

The Centennial Year began with the Eighth Annual SS. Peter and Paul Dinner Dance at the Archview Banquet Hall on October 8, 1994.



Right, top and center: Parishioners enjoy the dinner and dancing but most of all the fellowship of the Dinner Dance, which was attended by over two hundred parishioners and guests.

Right, bottom: The Centennial Theme: "Reverence for the Past, Hope for the Future," was submitted by the Felician and Poor Handmaid Sisters who reside at SS. Peter and Paul Convent. Sister Jeanine Heath, Sister Antoinette Volk, and Sister Margaret Eder are joined by a few parish children as they are congratulated for their winning theme entry.

Below: Father Robert J. Roll and Frank and Raylene Rzasa, Centennial Chairpersons, await the Dinner Dance guests and look forward to the coming year.



Centennial Tour - Poland and Rome

Parishioners, friends and alumni of SS. Peter and Paul Parish toured Poland and Rome in celebration of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the parish. They experienced the heritage of the founders of the parish in Poland and the roots of their faith in the Eternal City of Rome. The tour began on July 10, 1995 and ended on July 22, 1995. Highlights of the Centennial Poland/Rome Tour are found on this page.



Highlights of Parish Pilgrimages



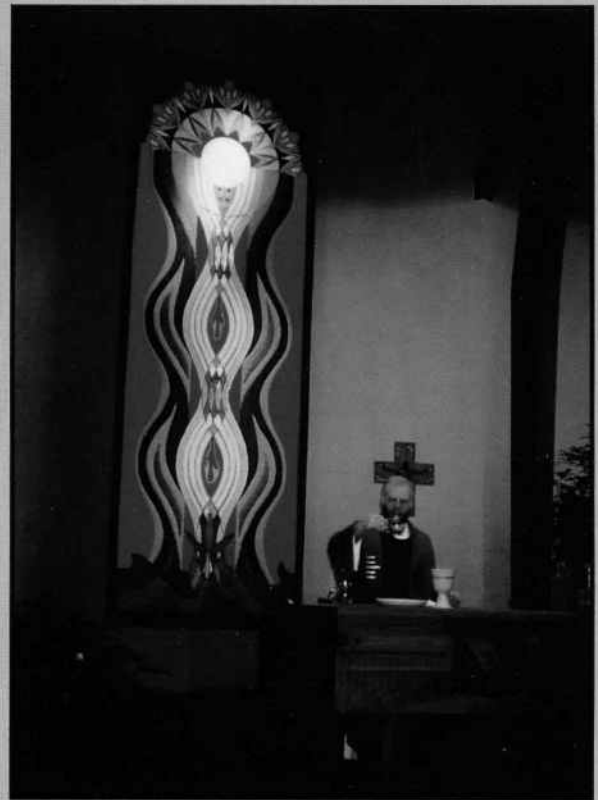
Holy Name Cathedral - December 29, 1994



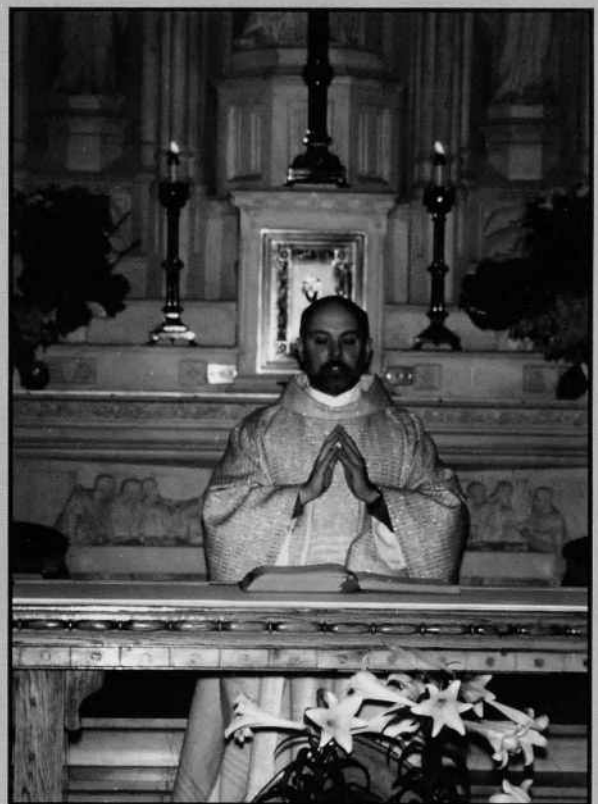
Cathedral of St. Nicholas - November 17, 1994



Holy Innocents Church - January 26, 1995



St. Benedict the African Church - March 30, 1995



Archbishop Quigley Seminary - April 27, 1995

*One-Hundredth
Anniversary
Family Reunion
Weekend*

June 24 and 25, 1995

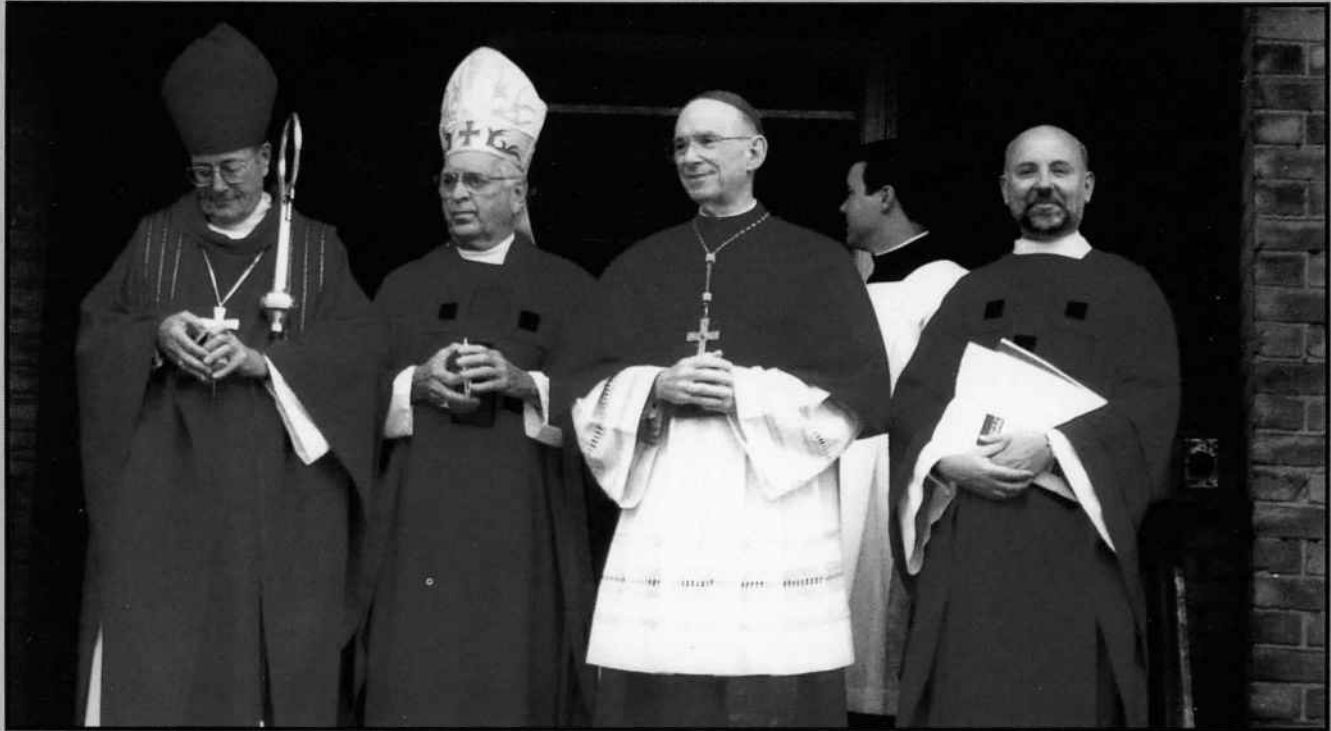


*Music and Dancing ...
Games and Raffles ...
Food and Fun For All!*



The Centennial Mass of SS. Peter and Paul Church

September 24, 1995



Father Robert J. Roll, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Church, beams with pride as the numerous preparations for the Centennial Mass become a wondrous reality. Father Roll (far right) is joined by (left to right): Most Reverend John R. Gorman, Celebrant; Most Reverend Alfred L. Abramowicz, Concelebrant; and Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago, Presider.



The Adult Choir of SS. Peter and Paul assembles in front of the rectory for the Ceremonial Entrance Procession.



Parish representatives of the Holy Name Society, Chester Wilk and Stanley Gruca, are part of the Ceremonial Entrance Procession, too.

*Reverence
for the
Past...
Hope
for the
Future!*



Top: The young ladies of the parish performed a Liturgical Movement to the hymn, "Sing A New Church," which prefaced the Solemn Entrance Procession.



Center: The Church of SS. Peter and Paul boasted standing room only capacity as the Solemn Entrance Procession began.

Bottom, left: Carolina Martinez and Elizabeth Medina model the handiwork of Mrs. Mary Myszkowski and her daughter, Mrs. Helen Malaniuk, who designed and sewed each liturgical dress.

Bottom, right: Susana Martinez and Lauren Rzasa mirror the expressive liturgical dance training of Miss Anne Nunez and Mrs. Joanne Amedeo.



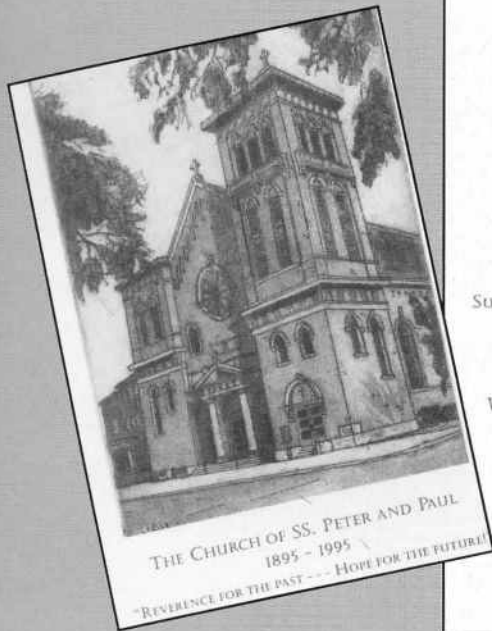




*"Praise
our God,
all you
His servants,
and you
who
serve Him,
small and great."*

Revelation 19:5





Truly the Lord is in this place...
How awesome is this place
This is none other than the House of God;
this is the gate of heaven.
Genesis 28

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED AT
A CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST
MARKING THE CENTENNIAL YEAR
OF THE
CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL

HIS EMINENCE
JOSEPH CARDINAL BERNARDIN
ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO
PRESIDER

SUNDAY, THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER
NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE
AT THE NOON HOUR

THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL
WEST THIRTY-EIGHT AND SOUTH PAULINA STREETS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH WILL OPEN AT 11:00
A SOLEMN PROCESSION WILL COMMENCE AT 11:45

*IF YOU CANNOT BE WITH US,
THE ASSURANCE OF YOUR PRAYERS IS AN "HONORED GIFT."*

IN THANKSGIVING
FOR THE CENTURY OF FAITH
THAT HAS FORMED AND FASHIONED
THE CHURCH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO A

CENTENNIAL GALA

SUNDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER
NINETEEN HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE

THE GRAND BALLROOM
NAVY PIER, CHICAGO

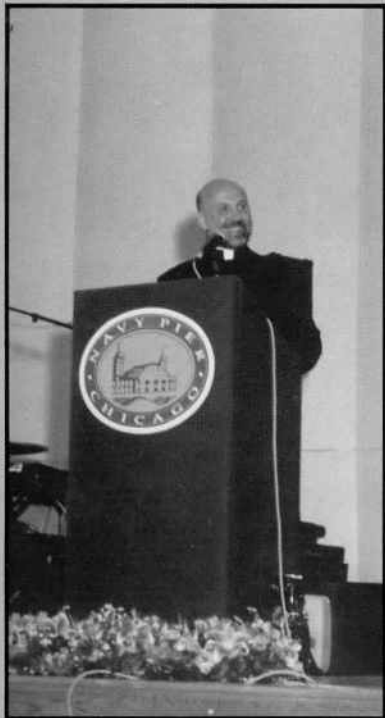
COCKTAILS, DANCING AND RECEPTION
AT THREE O'CLOCK
DINNER AT FOUR O'CLOCK
DANCING UNTIL NINE O'CLOCK
BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

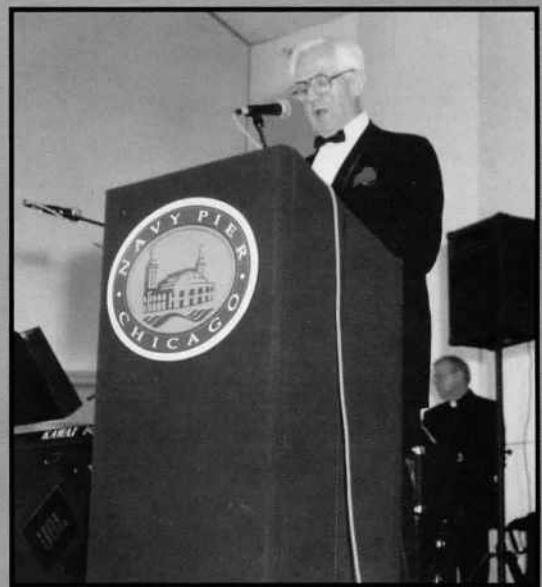
MUSIC BY
THE JOE LILL ORCHESTRA, MARIACHIS,
THE MUSIC COMPANY AND THE CHICAGO PUSH

MOONLIGHT CRUISE ABOARD
"THE CHICAGO PRINCESS"
FROM HALF PAST EIGHT UNTIL HALF PAST TEN
CHAMPAGNE AND DESSERT BUFFET

The Centennial Gala at Navy Pier

October 1, 1995







Centennial Gala Memories

Page 60, left column, top to bottom:

- (1) Karen and David Summins congratulate Father Roll.
- (2) Sisters Brendan and Rosilda reminisce with former SS. Peter and Paul students.
- (3) Centennial Committee members Lillian McMahan, Raylene Rzasa, and Scott McMahan greet many guests.
- (4) Adeline Gonerka and Ann Wzorek dance the polka.

Right column, top to bottom:

- (1) More guests: Sister Odelle, Alma Baca, Catherine Sereda, and Sister Lidiane.
- (2) And more guests: Marge Kmiecik, Ann Marszalek, John Kmiecik, Sophie Serva, Frank and Madeline Bus.
- (3) And still more guests (seated) Maria Campos, Gloria Estrada, Rosa and Filiberto De La Torre, (standing): Eligio Campos, Juan Estrada, Maria and Gildardo Barrera, and Sister Josetta Prondzinski.

Page 61, left column, top to bottom:

- (1) SS. Peter and Paul young ladies: Row 1 - Lauren Rzasa, Katie Krok, Ashley Sapinski. Row 2 - Jennifer Malaniuk, Patricia Rangel, Carolina Martinez, Susana Martinez, Nicole Malick. Row 3 - Julie Malaniuk, Dana Cosentino, Elizabeth Mayorga.
- (2) Alderman Patrick Huels congratulates Centennial Chairpersons Frank and Raylene Rzasa and daughter Lauren and Co-chairpersons Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Bara.

Right column, top to bottom:

- (1) Father Michael Kalck, Father Robert Roll, and Mrs. Sophie Serva pose for a lakefront picture.
- (2) More guests - Helen and Eugene Malaniuk and Mary Myszkowski.
- (3) And more guests - Lynn DeGroodt, Dorothy Plaza, and Rita Plaza Mulay.



Centennial Celebrations of Faith



Confirmation Liturgy - February 17, 1995



*First Reconciliation
March 15, 1995*



Good Friday - April 14, 1995



Easter Vigil - April 15, 1995



*McKinely Park Civic Association Memorial Day Parade
May 29, 1995*



Easter Sunday - April 16, 1995



First Holy Communion Liturgy - May 7, 1995



Summer Centennial Practices!



Christmas Eve Liturgy - December 24, 1995



*Baptism of Christopher O'Neill, Jr.
One-Hundredth Anniversary of the First Parish Baptism
December 29, 1995*



*One-Hundredth Anniversary of the
Dedication of SS. Peter and Paul Church
December 30, 1995*



We "give" a Centennial Blessing ...



We "become" Centennial Blessings to one another ...



*We
"are"
Centennial
Families
of Faith!*

SS. Peter and Paul Centennial Cheer

Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate one and all.
Celebrate the spirit of the Church of Peter and Paul!
Activate! Activate! Activate your heart!
Activate God's love within! He gave it from the start!
Don't delay! Let's all pray! The time is drawing nigh!
SS. Peter and Paul's one hundred years old in 1995!

Peter, yes Peter, was a fisherman, you see,
Until Jesus came and said, "Peter, follow me."
Peter followed Jesus, on land and over sea.
He saw Jesus heal the sick in the land of Galilee.
Peter was a rock! He became the very first Pope.
And we are members of this Church, this Church that's built on hope!

Paul was called Saul, before he met the Lord,
He persecuted Christians with his mean and mighty sword.
One day he was struck, by a bright and mighty light.
It was Jesus saying, "Saul give up the fight.
A preacher you shall be, your sword will be My Word."
And in this Church of Peter and Paul,
The words of Paul are heard!

Reverence, reverence, reverence for the past,
Many people built this church, built it as to last.
The past is filled with memories, found in hearts and minds.
Baptisms, Communions, Weddings, Processions of all kinds.
We salute the past, as we ... Stand tall!
And salute the Church of Peter and Paul.

With hope, hope, hope for future dreams.
That's the second part, of our Centennial theme.
Do you see the vision? It's written on your heart.
Jesus calls each of you, to do your part:
To build the Church we hope in, To build the Church we know.
So put your heart in Peter and Paul
And surely we will grow!
So ... Celebrate! Celebrate! Celebrate one and all!
Celebrate the spirit of the Church of Peter and Paul!

Written by Mrs. Joanne Amedeo and the Parish Children

*Commissioned for the
Centennial Year of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Chicago, Illinois*

A New Commandment

Verses 1,3, &5: James Quinn, S.J.
Verse 2: ks. J. Dziurzynski

Steven R. Janco

REFRAIN:

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "I give you a new com - mand - ment: Love one a - noth - er as I have loved you, as I have loved you."

English verses: Copyright 1969 by James Quinn.
Music: Copyright 1995 by Steven R. Janco.

SS. Peter and Paul Centennial Eucharistic Celebration

Pastor	Reverend Robert J. Roll
Associate Pastors	Reverend Michael V. Kalck Reverend Stephan E. Bauer, OSC Mrs. Joanne Amedeo
Pastoral Associate	Ms. Sheila M. McAndrews
Director of Music/Organist	Mr. Stephen E. Adamczyk
Music Director Emeritus	Dr. Robert M. Bara, DDS
Assistant Organist	Mr. Robert Heitzinger
Cantor	The SS. Peter and Paul Adult and Festival Choirs The SS. Peter and Paul Children and Cherub Choirs
Choirs	Tim Fiala - <i>St. Mary of the Lake Seminary</i>
Master of Ceremonies	
Trumpets	Mr. Ross Beacraft Mr. Richard Rzeszutko Mr. Paul Semenek
Violinist	Mr. David Hildner
Flutist	Ms. Rhonda Rzeszutko
Readers	Sharon Baldwin Rosie De La Torre
Eucharistic Ministers	Sr. Margaret Eder, Ray Brady, Juan Estrada, Maryann Fox, Madeline Heppner, Mary Ann Mikrut, Mary Jo Obrzut, Dorothy Plaza, Raylene Rzasa, Virginia Rzasa, Sophie Serva, Ann Wzorek
Altar Servers	The SS. Peter and Paul Altar Servers
Centennial Family Banner	SS. Peter and Paul Ministry of Care
Concelebration Vestments	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Janco and Vivian Curran
Flowers	C. M. Fasan
Church Decoration	Daprato / Rigali, Inc.
Church Lighting	Nesko Electric
Centennial Logo	Courtesy of Armgardt Design of Oxnard, CA
Centennial Collages	Anthony J. Monaco
Original Centennial Etching	Larry Valentine
Parish Secretaries	Mrs. Alfreda Giemzik Mrs. Maryann Fox
Liturgical Movement	Anne Nunez, <i>Choreographer</i>
Liturgical Movement Gowns	Mary Myszkowski and Helen Malaniuk
Liturgical Movement Participants	Ashley Atkus, Carlee Bator, Dana Cosentino, Lizzel Cuevas, Katie Krok, Jennifer Malaniuk, Julie Malaniuk, Nicole Malick, Carolina Martinez, Susana Martinez, Elizabeth Mayorga, Elizabeth Medina, Patricia Rangel, Lauren Rzasa, Ashley Sapinski, Lucia Vazquez, Sarah Vazquez, Ana Maria Velazquez

Special thanks are extended to the Soodik Printing Company of Chicago and to Ray Serva Jr. for their expertise, patience and generosity throughout the Centennial.

SS. Peter and Paul Centennial Gala

The Grand Ballroom of Navy Pier - Chicago

October 1, 1995

The Programme

Cocktails and Reception

"The Joe Lill Orchestra"

Welcome

Mr. John C. Kmiecik

"Joy Is In Our Heart"

Young Ladies of
SS. Peter and Paul

Invocation

Reverend Eliot Bacia, OFM
Young Ladies of
SS. Peter and Paul
Reverend Stephan Bauer
Ms. Sheila McAndrews

A Centennial Toast

Mr. Steven E. Adamczyk
Escorted by
Ms. Veronica Rangel

The Dinner

"Music by the
Joe Lill Orchestra"
"Mariachi Ameca"



The Dinner

The Salad

*Centennial Salad
a'la Pier*
Boston Bibb Lettuce with
Cherve Cheese,
Walnuts and Citrus Served
with Apple Cider Vinaigrette
Dressing

Dominus Vo- Biscuits

A Selection of Assorted
Freshly Baked Rolls and
Sweet Butter

The Main Course

Heavenly Harmony

A Filet of Beef Served with
Herb Compound Butter
A Chicken Breast Stuffed
with Fontina Cheese and
Spinach

Pearly Gate Vegetables

A Medley of Sauted Mixed
Baby Vegetables
Oven Roasted Rosemary
Red Skin Potatoes

The Dessert

A Cherubic Chocolate Treat

A Dark Chocolate Bag Piped
with
White Chocolate Mousse
Served on a Design Plate with
Fresh Berry Garnish
Coffees and Herbal Teas

The Wines

A Toast of Angels

Chateau St Jean Champagne
Fortant
Chardonnay & Merlot

After Dinner

Remarks

Mr. John C. Kmiecik

Sr. Barbara Ann Bosch, CSSF
Felician Provincial
Introduced by
Annamarie Bara

Commissioner John Daley
The Cook County Board
Introduced by
Dr. Robert M. Bara, DDS

Alderman Patrick Huels
The Eleventh Ward
Introduced by Raylene Rzasa

Reverend John Piderit, SJ
*President of
Loyola University Chicago*
Introduced by Frank Rzasa

Reverend Robert J. Roll
Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul
Introduced by Frank Rzasa

Benediction

Joanne Amedeo
*Pastoral Associate of
SS. Peter and Paul*

Dancing

"The Music Company"
"The Chicago Push"

*The Ice Sculpture of
SS. Peter and Paul Church
Courtesy of
Jim and Joan Nadeau
of Nadeau Ice*

SS. Peter and Paul 1995 Centennial Committee

HONORARY CHAIRPERSONS

Sister Barbara Ann Bosch, CSSF, *Felician Provincial Superior*

Commissioner John P. Daley, *Cook County Board*

Mr. Steven R. DiSalvo, *Assistant to the President of Loyola University*

Alderman Patrick M. Huels, *The Eleventh Ward*

Mr. Donald E. Lewandowski, *The Midwest Calendar Company*

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rzasa - *Chairpersons*

Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Bara - *Co-Chairpersons*

Rev. Robert J. Roll - *Pastor*

Mr. Steve Adamczyk

Mrs. Joanne Amedeo

Mrs. Alma Baca

Mrs. Therese Berkowicz

Mrs. Vivian Curran

Mrs. Barbara Czachor

Ms. Lynn DeGroot

Mrs. Rose De La Torre

Mr. and Mrs. Juan Estrada

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Funk

Mrs. Freda Giemzik

Ms. Susan Gonerka

Ms. Donata Heppner

Mrs. Dolores Jaskierski

Mr. John C. Kmiecik

Mr. Jeff Koziel

Mr. and Mrs. James Krok

Mrs. Sheila Malick

Mr. and Mrs. Scott McMahan

Ms. Marilyn Miaso

Ms. Dorothy Plaza

Mrs. Ginger Rzasa

Miss Catherine Sereda

Mrs. Sophie Serva

Mr. Paul Setlak

Mrs. Cecelia Tryba

Mrs. Cathy Wasik

Ms. Annette Wojcik

Ms. Patricia Wojcik





Chairpersons Frank and Raylene Rzasa (left) and Co-chairpersons Dr. Robert and Annamarie Bara (right) discuss an upcoming Centennial agenda with Father Robert Roll.



Frank, Raylene, Annamarie, and Bob admire the Centennial invitations.



Chairpersons Steven DiSalvo and Sister Barbara Ann Bosch C.S.S.F. (far left) join guests who have gathered for the Centennial Mass.



Committee members gather for a Centennial Meeting: (Back row): Steve Adamczyk, Annette Wojcik, Vivian Curran, Patricia Wojcik. (Front Row): Therese Berkowicz, Marilyn Miaso, Catherine Sereda.



Honorary Chairpersons Alderman Patrick Huels (left) and Mr. Donald Lewandowski (right), as well as distinguished guests look forward to the Centennial celebrations.



These Centennial Committee members agree that planning is fun! (Standing): Sophie Serva, Dorothy Plaza, Barbara Czachor, Alma Baca. (Seated): Lynn DeGroot.

Centennial Preparations

Formal preparations for the Centennial Celebrations and Festivities began on February 13, 1992, with the first of many Centennial Committee meetings. Throughout the years, Father Robert J. Roll was the masterful artist who designed and initiated all plans and fundraising proposals with the help of the Centennial Committee, chaired by Frank and Raylene Rzasa and Dr. Robert and Annamarie Bara as well as the expertise of the Honorary Chairpersons: Sister Barbara Ann Bosch, CSSF, Felician Provincial Superior; Commissioner John P. Daley, Cook County Board; Mr. Steven R. DiSalvo, Assistant to the President of Loyola University; Alderman Patrick M. Huels, Alderman of the Eleventh Ward; and Mr. Donald E. Lewandowski, President of Midwest Calendar Company. As the Centennial Celebrations approached, many parishioners were involved in the final preparations for the special liturgy and gala.



Sister Margaret Farley C.N.D. teaches Anita Sosa, Gloria Estrada, and Betty Dehmer how to make decals for the Centennial candles used in the centerpieces at the gala.



Eddie and Juan Estrada help in the removal of the old carpet in the church sanctuary.



Maryann Fox, Virginia Rzasa, Raylene Rzasa, and Lauren Rzasa help prepare the candle decals.



Betty Dehmer, Maria Barrera, and Anita Sosa proudly show the finished candles.



Left, top: At the kind and generous invitation of Mr. Don Lewandowski, parish volunteers gathered at Midwest Calendar Company to pack the souvenir glasses for presentation at the Navy Pier Gala.

Left, center: Dorothy Plaza, Sister Joretta, Dan Wantroba, Virginia Rzasa, Raylene Rzasa, and Ann Marszalek shine each souvenir glass.

Left, bottom: Many generous parishioners assist with the "Birthday Grab Bag" in preparation for the One-Hundredth Anniversary Family Reunion Weekend.

Right, top: Julie Malaniuk poses as her grandmother, Mary Myszkowski alters one of the eighteen liturgical gowns that she sewed for the Centennial Liturgy.

Right, center: Virginia Rzasa carefully balances herself as she hangs the Church decorations designed by her, Sister Joretta, and the Ministry of Care members.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism is the door to fullness of life in the Catholic Church. Through Baptism, we enter the Church, forming "a holy nation and a royal priesthood" where God lives in the Spirit.

The first Baptism at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul, then located at 36th and Justine, took place on December 29, 1895, as Francesca Kmiecik, born to Joseph and Agatha Kmiecik on December 27, 1895, was baptized by Father Paul Rhode in the presence of Godparents John Beczak and Harriet Gnatek. Little is known of what became of baby Francesca, however, her place in our parish history is well noted.

Since the beginning of the Centennial Celebrations, it had been the secret dream of the Pastor, Reverend Robert J. Roll, to celebrate a Baptism exactly one-hundred years to the day of the first recorded Baptism. That dream became a possibility with the birth of Christopher O'Neill, Jr., born to Christopher and Jacqueline (Serva) O'Neill on December 13, 1995. On December 29, 1995, exactly one-hundred years to the day of the first recorded Baptism, Christopher O'Neill, Jr. was baptized by Father Robert J. Roll at a 7 p.m. Liturgy, in the presence of family, friends, and parishioners. The parish sponsor was John Paul Estrada. Representatives of the Kmiecik family, John and Marge Kmiecik, completed the circle of one-hundred years of history by tracing the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of Baby Christopher.

During the past one-hundred years, 11,949 Baptisms have been administered at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul.



The Baptism of Christopher O'Neill, Jr. is celebrated one-hundred years to the day of the first recorded Baptism at SS. Peter and Paul: December 29, 1995.

"I present to you a new member of the Catholic Church, Christopher O'Neill, Jr.," says Reverend Robert J. Roll, as he lifts the newly baptized infant in front of the congregation.



The Parish Organization of "Family Ties" joins Gloria and Juan Estrada and teen son John Paul with Christopher and Jacqueline O'Neill and their newborn son Christopher, Jr.

Family Ties at SS. Peter and Paul Church

The first Family Mass initiating the year of Centennial Celebrations took place on Sunday, October 9, 1994 at the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy. At this Mass, a new organization called "Family Ties" was designed to build relationships among our families and Christian responsibility in the hearts of our teens.

The founding members of "Family Ties" are Baby Robyn Hope McMahan and her proud parents Scott and Lillian McMahan, along with the Parish Sponsor, Veronica Rangel and her proud parents, Rogelio and Eutiquia Rangel.



*The Baptism of Robyn Hope McMahan
"October 9, 1994"
Parish Sponsor: Veronica Rangel*



*The Baptism of Tara Alisabeth Bagnola
"July 9, 1995"
Parish Sponsor: Imelda Campos*



*The Baptism of Amanda Gail Crozier
"February 19, 1995"
Parish Sponsor: Carrie Cusulick*



*The Baptism of Cesar De La Torre, Jr.
"November 13, 1994"
Parish Sponsor: Max Malinowski*

The Sacrament of Holy Eucharist

The celebration of your First Holy Communion is a memorable day. The Church of SS. Peter and Paul has acknowledged each First Holy Communion Liturgy with the grace and dignity that befits the occasion. Our prayer for all First Holy Communicants is that the Lord Jesus may touch their ears to receive his Word, and their mouths to proclaim His faith. May they come with joy to His supper as they grow in wisdom and years.



First Holy Communion girls from May of 1991: Vanessa Balderas, Lucia Vazquez, Lesley Sellak, Julie Malaniuk, Marisa Sengstock, Dana Cosentino, and Danielle Call.



Max Kawa, Sr. poses for a formal First Holy Communion photograph in 1928.



A procession in the early years takes place at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul.



Jacqueline (Serva) O'Neill received her First Holy Communion on May 6, 1973, at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul.



Father Robert Roll and teacher Mrs. Joanne Amedeo congratulate Jennifer Malaniuk after participating in her First Holy Communion Liturgy on May 2, 1993.



Jessica Wasik, Andres Villela, Carolina Martinez, and Sarah Vazquez pose for a First Holy Communion picture.



Father Robert Roll poses with the First Holy Communion Class of May 7, 1995.



A First Holy Communion Mass is celebrated in the early years of the Church.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

"We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified." That is our faith, our belief about the Holy Spirit, that we profess each time we pray the Nicene Creed. Without the Holy Spirit, there would, of course, be no Sacrament of Confirmation.

Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical "Dominum et Vivificantem," on the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and the World, points to the Spirit as "the center of the Christian faith" and "the source and dynamic power of the Church's renewal." The Holy Spirit gives life, guides us in the way of truth, establishes unity, builds up the Body of Christ, enkindles in us God's Word, and provides us the fruits of the harvest: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness, and chastity. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

The first complete records of the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul show that the Most Reverend George Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago, presided over the Liturgy on February 5, 1918. On February 17th of our Centennial Year, Bishop-elect Edwin Conway presided over the McKinley Park Catholic Community celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation at SS. Peter and Paul. It was Bishop Conway's first Confirmation having been named an Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago just two weeks previous.



Father Robert J. Roll prays over the Confirmation candidates who are being presented to the Parish Community.



Eric Erickson poses with Bishop Edwin Conway, his brother Patrick, and Confirmation sponsor, Elizabeth Arnis on February 17, 1995.



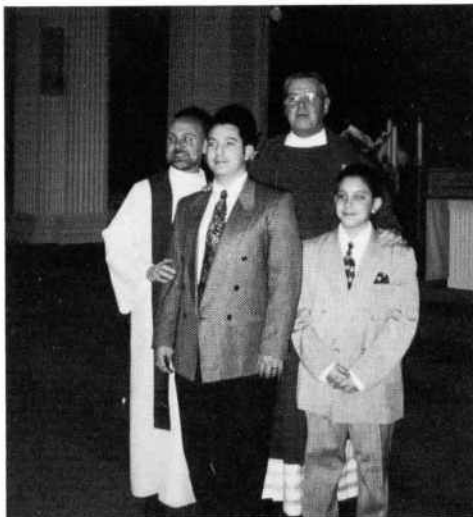
Carlee Bator is congratulated by Bishop John Gorman and Confirmation Sponsor Noreen Sepulveda.



Father Robert J. Roll confirms Tina Buehner and Joseph Lang at the Easter Vigil on April 15, 1995.



Bishop Timothy Lyne and teacher Mrs. Joanne Amedeo congratulate Mark Malaniuk.



John Paul Estrada poses with Bishop Edwin Conway, Father Roll, and Confirmation Sponsor Edward Estrada on February 17, 1995.

The Sacraments of Healing ... Reconciliation

Daily in the Our Father, Catholics seek forgiveness and pray for deliverance from evil. In the Hail Mary, Catholics call on our Heavenly Mother to "pray for us sinners." We begin each Eucharistic Liturgy by praying for the Lord's mercy before we gather around His table. Every year, Catholics observe the season of Lent: forty days for finding anew the strength to turn away from evil and to live again in the grace of Baptism.

Repentance and reconciliation are an ever present part of our life journey as Catholics. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, something as personal as sin, as personal as sorrow and confession, is brought to the community, to the Church, and the Church's ministers. The Church comes together so that God's pardon may be sought in the confession of sin, sorrow, deeds of penance, and the expression of God's forgiveness in words of absolution. The Sacrament of Reconciliation embraces all these moments.

When the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated with a number of persons present, the rite begins with a song calling on the Lord's mercy followed by a reading of Scripture, homily, examination of conscience, individual confession and absolution, and prayers of thanksgiving. This rite is celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul during the Advent and Lenten seasons.

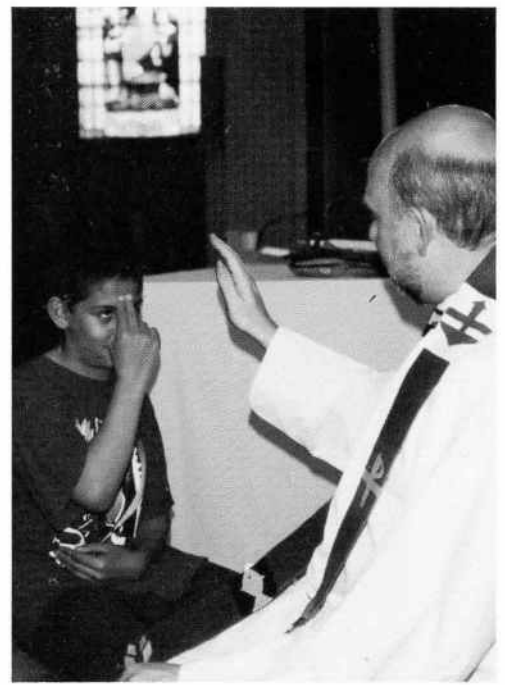
The rite of individual confession is still celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul each Saturday afternoon, weekdays before morning Mass when necessary, and with the children.



Father Stephan Bauer administers the Sacrament of Reconciliation to Stella Brongel.



Father Bauer extends a blessing to Maria Murillo during a Reconciliation Service.



Father Robert J. Roll concludes the individual Reconciliation of Alex Mendoza with the Sign of the Cross.

Anointing of the Sick

"If one member suffers in the Body of Christ, which is the Church, all the members suffer with that member."
(1 Corinthians 12:26)

"The man who is seriously ill needs the special help of God's grace in this time of anxiety, lest he be broken in spirit and subject to temptations and the weakening of faith."

The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick provides the sick person with the grace of the Holy Spirit by which the whole man is brought to health, trust in God is encouraged, and strength is given to resist the temptations of the Evil One and anxiety about death.

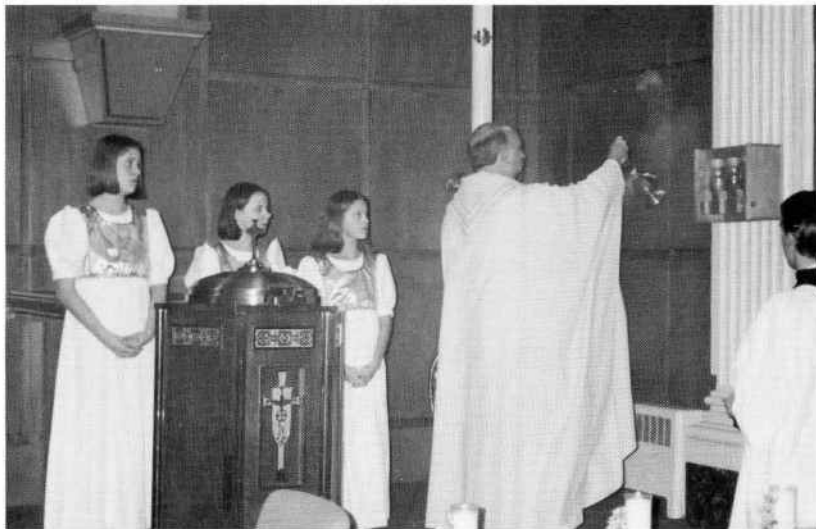
Oils are blessed at the Cathedral during Holy Week and are distributed to the parishes to be used for Baptisms, Confirmations and Anointing of the Sick.

Kindness shown toward the sick and works of charity and mutual help for the relief of every kind of human want are held in special honor.

It is especially fitting that all baptized Christians share in this ministry of mutual charity within the Body of Christ by doing all that they can to help the sick return to health, by showing love for the sick and by celebrating the sacraments with them.

Our dedicated Ministers of Care have made a tremendous impact on the shut-ins of our community. Weekly visits are being made to several homebound parishioners and their families. The Eucharist is being brought to many, as well. Often during their visits, additional practical needs of these people surface which are then shared with the pastor.

The rite of Christian burial is an exercise of the Church to commit the body of the deceased to earth and the soul to the loving mercy of God. The first burial from SS. Peter and Paul was a 1-1/2 month old baby, Maryanna Dudek who died on December 29, 1895 and was buried on December 31, 1895. During the past one-hundred years, 9,869 burials took place from our parish.



Above: Father Robert J. Roll incenses the sacred oils used for Baptisms, Confirmations, and the Anointing of the Sick during a Holy Thursday Liturgy while Julie Malaniuk, Carlee Bator, Jennifer Malaniuk and Max Malinowski look on.



Right: Ray Brady carries the Ministry of Care Banner with fellow Ministry of Care member Adeline Gonerka.

The Sacrament of Marriage

In the beginning God created the universe and made mankind in His likeness. He gave man the constant help of woman so that two shall be one. What God has united, it may never be divided.

Married Christians signify and share in the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and His Church; they help each other to attain to holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children; and they have their own special gift among the people of God.

Christian couples nourish and develop their marriage by undivided affection, which wells up from the fountain of divine love, while, in merging of human and divine love, they remain faithful in body and mind, in good times as in bad.

The first marriages in the parish took place on January 27, 1896, as Joseph Studzinski and Antoinette Brzeska, Adalbert Niegosz and Marianne Robak, John Byczek and Magdalena Krol exchanged vows of marriage in the presence of Father Paul Rhode, pastor. During the past one-hundred years, 3,868 weddings took place at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul.



Sophie Serva (left) and Josephine Amedeo (right) join their children for a wedding photograph in front of the altar of SS. Peter and Paul Church.

The Marriage of Salvatore "Sam" and Joanne Amedeo

April 10, 1988



*The Marriage of Donald and Lillian Rosinski
October 15, 1955*



*The Marriage of Robert and Rita Janco
July 11, 1959*



*The Marriage of
Raymond and Sophie Serva
October 17, 1948*



*Keith Dehmer walks his daughter
Michelle down the aisle.
The Marriage of
James "Jay" and Michelle Folino
July 7, 1990*



*The Marriage of
Dr. James and Stella Bara
August 27, 1938*



*Left and above: The Marriage of James and Vivian Curran
The Feast of SS. Peter and Paul
June 29, 1975*

*Centennial Year
Twenty-fifth Wedding
Anniversary Celebrations*

Robert and Barbara Pienta
Michael and Carol Nolan
Michael and Beverly Curtis

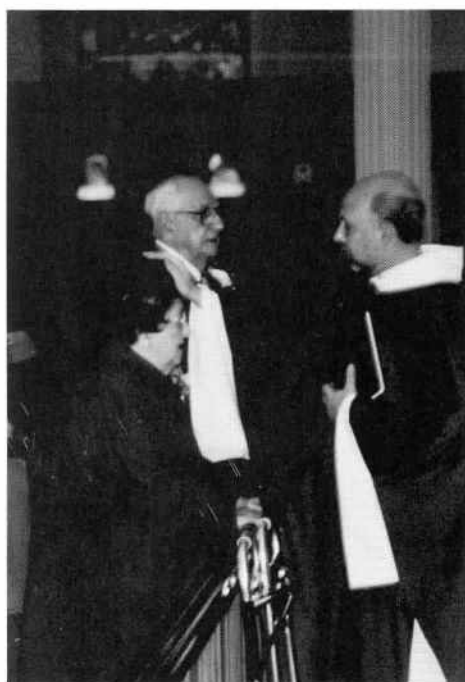


*Centennial Year
Fiftieth Wedding
Anniversary Celebrations*

Leonard and Virginia Borkowski
Frank and Blanche Kosierowski
Frank and Lillian Glemkowski
John and Norene McMahan
Julian and Amelia Maciag
Thaddeus and Mildred Kmiecik
Frank and Mary Kosmider



Frank and Blanche Kosierowski receive admiration of the congregation as well as Father Robert Roll on their Fiftieth Anniversary.



Frank and Mary Kosmider receive a blessing from Father Roll at their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary Mass.



John and Norene McMahan pose with their family as they celebrate their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.



Father Roll blesses Ted and Mildred Kmiecik at their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary Mass.



Robert and Barbara Pienta renew their vows at their Twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary Mass.



After twenty-five years of marriage, Michael and Beverly Curtis renew their vows in the presence of sons Christopher and Joshua.



A yearly anniversary celebration is Mother's Day. At the conclusion of each Mass on Mother's Day, every mother receives a flower. Mrs. Stella Wojcik receives a carnation from Father Robert Roll (left), while Mrs. Dorothy Oczkowski receives her flower from Father Stephan Bauer (right).

SS. Peter and Paul Organizations and Societies

SS. Peter and Paul Parish has been blessed with many organizations, societies and fraternal groups over the years. These groups not only encouraged social action, but supported the parish financially through participation in fund raising and contributions for parish needs. Some of the furnishings still used today have been largely made possible through the efforts of the various organizations. Many of the organizations and societies trace their origins to the early days of the parish, but in recent years new ones have been established and continue to flourish. We are grateful to all the members of our organizations, societies and fraternal groups who help provide a firm portion of the mainstay of the parish.

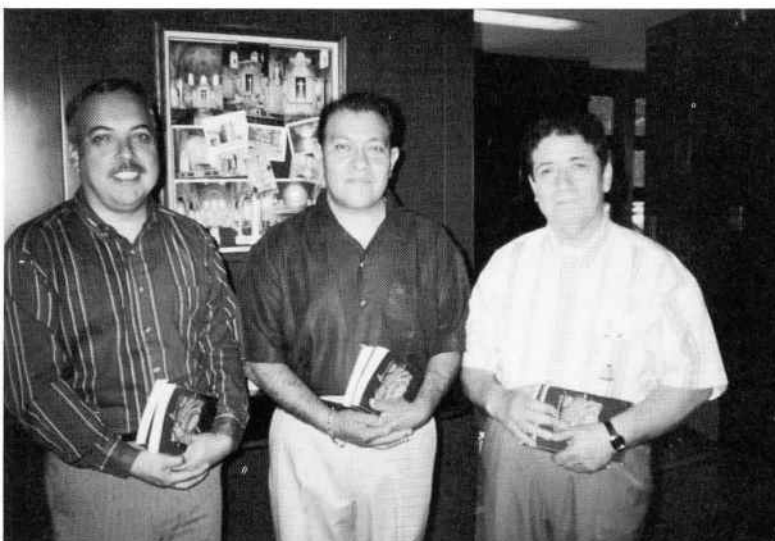
Altar and Rosary Society
 Apostleship of Prayer
 Baseball Club
 Church Ushers
 Friendship Club
 Holy Name Society
 Market Day Volunteers
 Mother of Good Counsel Auxiliary
 Ministry of Care Outreach
 Parents' Organization
 Pro-Life Prayer Group
 Spanish Mass Community
 St. Vincent De Paul Society
 Third Order of St. Francis
 St. Barbara Society Gr #35 P.W.A.
 St. Catherine Society P.R.C.U.A. 772
 Kordecki Society Gr #353 Z.N.P
 St. Mary, Star of the Sea Society Gr #310 P.U.A.
 Our Lady of the Angels Society Gr #464 P.W.A.



Friendship Club



Baseball Club



Spanish Mass Community



Market Day Volunteers



St. Vincent De Paul Society



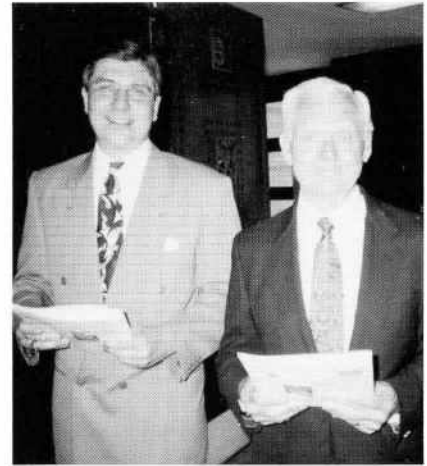
Parents' Organization



Ministry of Care Outreach



Third Order of St. Francis



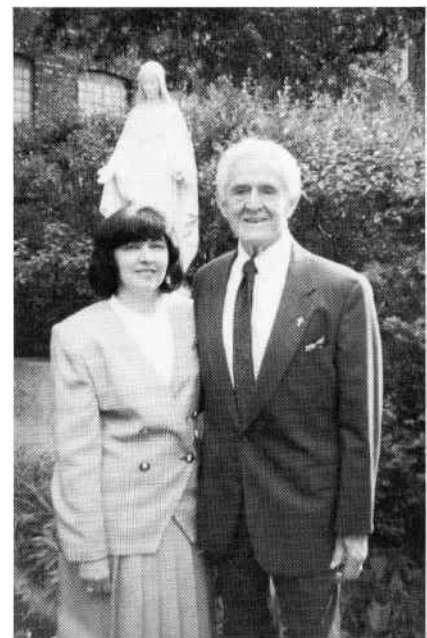
Church Ushers



Holy Name Society



Altar and Rosary Society



Pro-Life Prayer Group



Top, left: Senior Altar servers Ed Funk, Stanley Kisielowski, and Joseph Raskey prepare to serve a Funeral Liturgy.

Top, right: Sister Margaret Eder, a Eucharistic Minister, distributes Holy Communion to Joseph Pienta at the Centennial Mass.

Middle, left: A fine representative group of high school servers assist at the Christmas Eve Liturgy. Pictured are (Back row): Luis Barrera, Dan Vazquez, Christopher Brady, Francisco Martinez. (Front row); Max Malinowski, John Paul Estrada, Rafael Martinez, and Joshua Del Pinal.

Middle, right: John Baran, Eugene Kasprovicz, and Ed Kasprovicz assist as altar servers or ushers.

Right: Altar servers pose for a picture. (Back row): Dan Consentino, Carlos Villela. (Front row): Carlos Chavez, Andres Villela.



Different Gifts ... Different Ministries



Joseph and Regina Raskey carry up the Gifts of Bread and Wine at the liturgical celebration of their Fifty-fifth Wedding Anniversary in 1995.



Members of SS. Peter and Paul Church prepare to board the bus to attend an annual Holy Name Liturgy.



Susan Gonerka, a Lector, reads the Word of the Lord at a Sunday Liturgy.



Carolyn Kasprovicz encourages parishioners Bernice Lyzniak, Edward Lesinski, and John Skwarek to participate in the monthly Holy Name Booster Raffle.



Top: Organist Stanley Poremba and choir members of the late 1940's: Richard Tryba, Ed Gliwa, Steve Adamczyk, Joe Mallek, Ed Biel, Rose Piorowski, Jean Kamien, Lottie Bialczak, Helen Helfert, Helen Matraj, and Virginia Gliwa.

Middle, left: Organist Steve Adamczyk and several members of the Children's Choir of 1994. (Standing): Evelyn Sosa, Erika Mendoza, AnaMaria Velazquez, Patty Rangel, Dana Cosentino, Vanessa Medrano, Susana Martinez, and Elizabeth Medina. (Sitting): Sarah Vazquez, Lucia Vazquez, and Ashley Atkus.

Middle, right: Music Director Steve Adamczyk and Organist Dr. Robert M. Bara confer at a parish liturgy.



Bottom: Organist Steve Adamczyk and Senior Choir members in 1994: Ed Gliwa, Max Kawa, Sr., Joyce Fornek, Sophie Grice, Cecilia Tryba, Christine Pudlo, Dolores Gunia, Therese Berkowicz, Jean Bara, Therese Vazquez, Catherine Sereda, Virginia Rzasa, Sophie Serva, Cathy Paholski, and Bernice Block.

The Sounds of Music Intensify Our Prayer

The SS. Peter and Paul Senior Choir could very well be the oldest organization in the parish. Joseph Daniel was the first organist at the original church on Charlton Street. Upon the transfer of the church to its present location, the position of organist was held by Alexander Karczynski, one of the foremost of Polish composers. One of the choir's most significant contributions to the treasure of archdiocesan music was its participation in the thousand voice choir for the Mass of Thanksgiving on the observance of Poland's Millenium of Christianity at Soldier Field in Chicago on August 22, 1966. Dr. Robert M. Bara D.D.S. serves as assistant organist and Steve Adamczyk has become the Music Director Emeritus. Steve Adamczyk has served as master keyboard artist and pillar of SS. Peter and Paul for a great part of its history. Steve's dedication and devotion to SS. Peter and Paul Church is phenomenal. When Steve Adamczyk became the Music Director Emeritus, Sheila M. McAndrews became the first female Music Director at SS. Peter and Paul. Under Sheila's direction, the existing music program became enhanced with three new choirs: Festival, Handbell, and Cherub, as well as a Cantor Program.



Above, left: Choir members sing at the first Mass of the Fall Season in 1995: (Top row): Vanessa Medrano, Carolina Martinez, Dana Cosentino, Patty Rangel, Erika Mendoza. (Bottom row): Lauren Rzasa, Sarah Vazquez, Susana Martinez, Lucia Vazquez, and Daisy Urenda.

Above, right: The Cherub Choir made their debut at a Thanksgiving Day Mass, November 23, 1995. Members of the Choir are pictured singing "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

Bottom: Ms. Sheila McAndrews and the Children and Cherub Choirs are joined by a guest Cantor and guest musician.

*"The
favors
of the
Lord
I will
sing
forever ...*





*... through all
generations
my mouth
shall
proclaim
your
faithfulness."*

Psalm 89:1



*"I will
perpetuate
your
memory ...*



SS. Peter and Paul children braved record-breaking temperatures on December 9, 1995 to attend a Christmas Liturgy rehearsal.



The Chet and Dolores Schafer radio show, "Polonia Today with Father Bob Roll," aired from 1991 to 1993. Pictured with Father Roll are Steve Adamczyk and Chet and Dolores Schafer.



Steve Adamczyk became the first recipient of the SS. Peter and Paul Award in 1989. He is pictured with his wife Jeannette.



Michelle (Dehmer) Folino won a city wide contest sponsored by Illinois Bell in designing the Chicago Telephone Book for 1978. She stands beside her winning entry with Jacqueline (Serva) O'Neill.



Four generations at prayer: Great-granddaughter - Ashley Atkus; Granddaughter-in-law - Camille Atkus, Mother - Helen Atkus; Daughter - Lorraine Specha.

*... through
all
generations."*

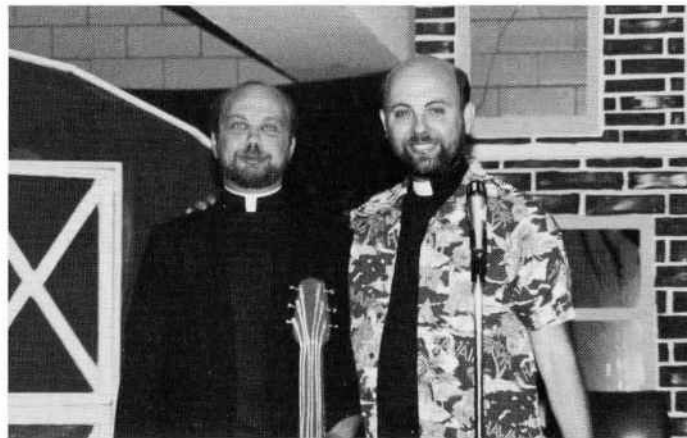
Psalm 45:17



The SS. Peter and Paul All-Star Band performed at Steve Adamczyk's Seventy-fifth Birthday celebration on April 25, 1993 and also at the Taste of Paulina.



A parish picnic and outdoor Mass sponsored by the Holy Name Society and Baseball Club in 1987 took place at McKinley Park.



Father Bob Roll posed with his "parish twin" Dennis Klapacz in 1988. (Guess which one is the "real pastor!")



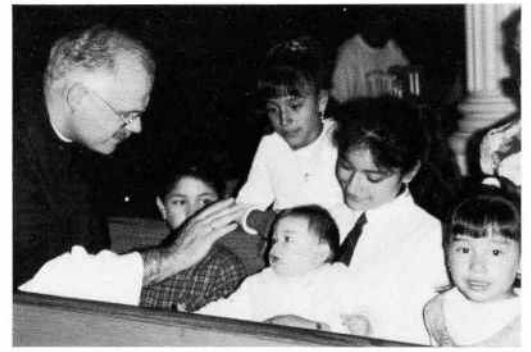
Dedication of the New McKinley Park Library took place on June 6, 1994. Reverend Robert J. Roll and the Children's Choir under the direction of Mr. Steve E. Adamczyk and Reverend Stephan E. Bauer participated in the dedication services.



The long awaited departure for the Pilgrimage to Poland and Rome had arrived! The pilgrimage began on July 10, 1995 and ended on July 22, 1995.









The Centennial Angel appeared on the scene,
Remembering the vision, remembering the dreams,
Of myriads of angels assigned to the Church,
On whose arches and columns, they'd often perch,
As they watched and they listened as people would pray,
For God's strength and His guidance to show the way.
For the founders, the builder of the Church of Peter and Paul,
Knew vision, saw mission, and answered God's call,
To build a Church that people would call home,
No matter how far or wherever they would roam.

So Centennial Angel turned the pages of the 1995 year,
And saw the eloquent unfolding of celebrations held so dear:
The Centennial Meetings of planning and staging,
The fundraising projects of timing and gauging.
The skilled efforts of cleaning, painting and staining,
The artistic touches of decal and candle training.
The Family Masses where children's voices encouraged us to be,
The best "Peter and Paul Dandies" that we could be.
The commitment of all who wanted to be a part,
Of the Church of Peter and Paul, they hold dear to their heart.

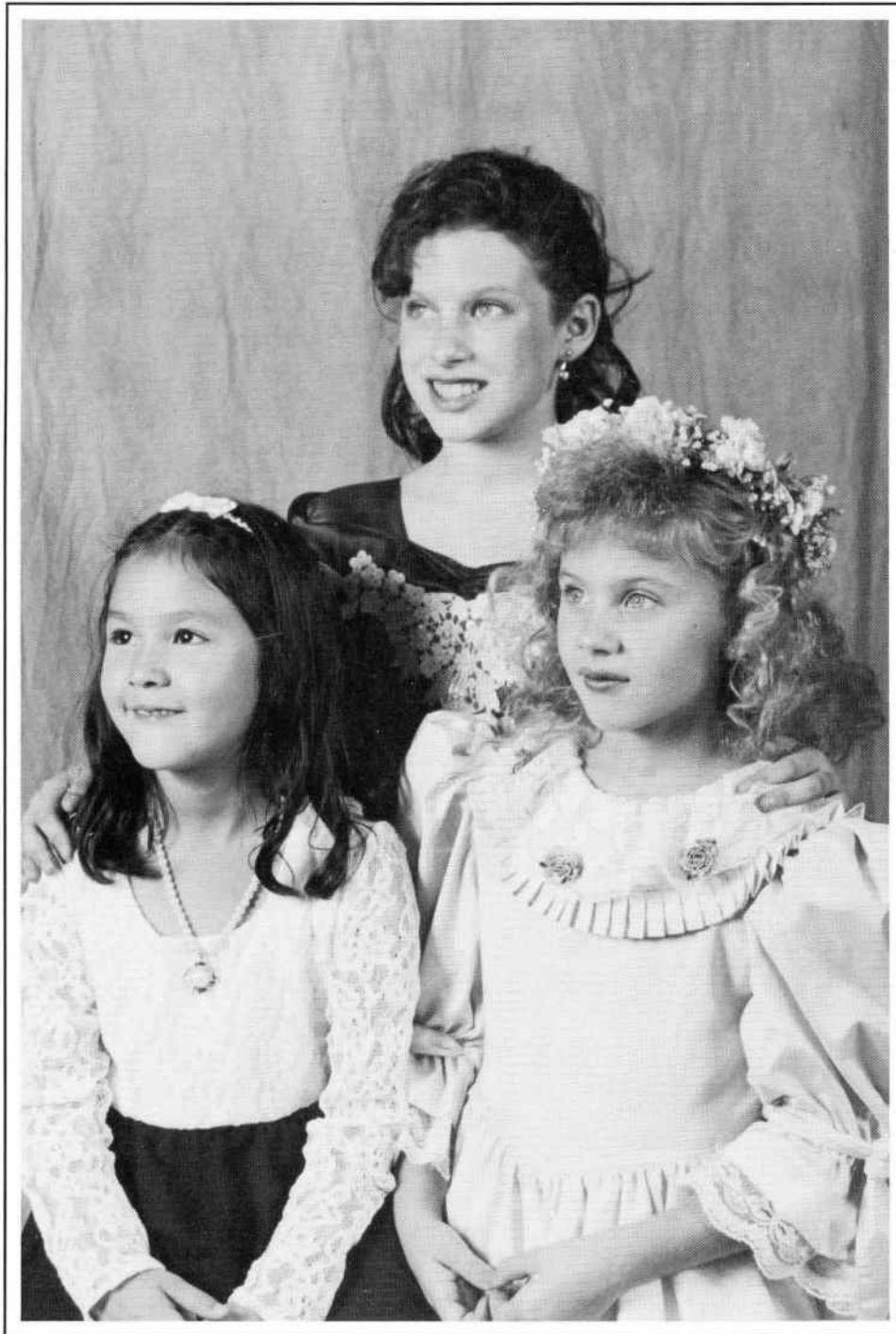
Centennial Angel was joy-filled, and happy to be,
A part of the Church of Peter and Paul's history.
She knelt down and began to give God praise
For his infinite blessings through this century of days.
And as she prayed, God seemed to agree,
That the "Centennial Spirit" must live and be set free,
To build, to create, to carry out the vision,
Of the God of Love, who gave us the mission:
To have hope for the future, reverence for the past,
And to do what is good, right, and will eternally last.



*May the Centennial Spirit of the Church of Peter and Paul
always remain in your heart!*



*Reverence for the Past ...
... Hope for the Future!*



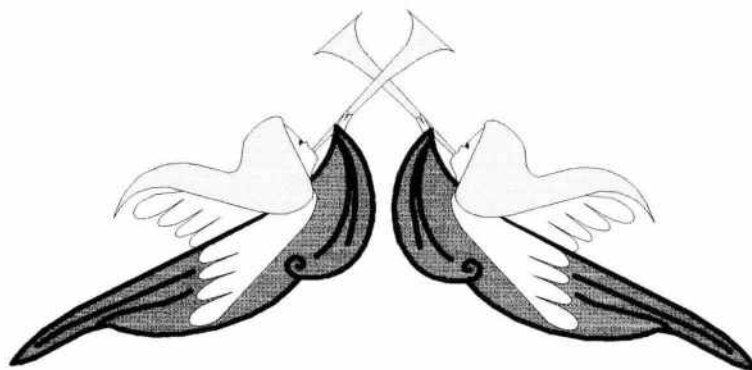
*"We
give
thanks
to
our
God
every
time
we
think
of
you."*

Philippians 1:3

SERAPHIM

Joanne & The Late Salvatore "Sam" Amedeo

Cecelia D. Tryba



CHERUBIM

Sharon Baldwin

Evelyn Di Domenico

Ed & Bernice Funk

Bill & Marge Machota

Sharon L. Matuszak

Rev. Robert J. Roll

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Jim & Vivian Curran

Barbara A. Czachor

Jim & Arlene Foreman

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Edward F. Gliwa

Bernie & George Gomolka

Sophie M. Klimala

Frank & Mary Kosmider

Susan Marshall

Helen Matraj

Christopher, Jacqueline and Christopher Jr. O'Neill

Josephine Oskvarek

Chester & Cecelia Owca-Swierkowski

Owca/Kabala Family

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Joseph & Mamie Polikowski

Alice Pudlo

Frank, Raylene & Lauren Rzas

Catherine A. Samples

Dolores & Chet Schafer

Sophie Serva

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SS. Peter & Paul Parish Baseball Club

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Friendship Club

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Holy Name Society

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Ministry of Care

SS. Peter & Paul Parish Ushers

St. Barbara Society Gr 35 P.W.A.

Star of the Sea #310

Julia Swiatek

Tow. Ks. Aug. Kordeckiego - Gr. #353 Z.N.P.

Lottie C. Wojtas

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 Edward & Elizabeth Piwowar
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Star of the Sea Gr. #310
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Ray Swiatek Family
Mrs. Celia Syrovatka
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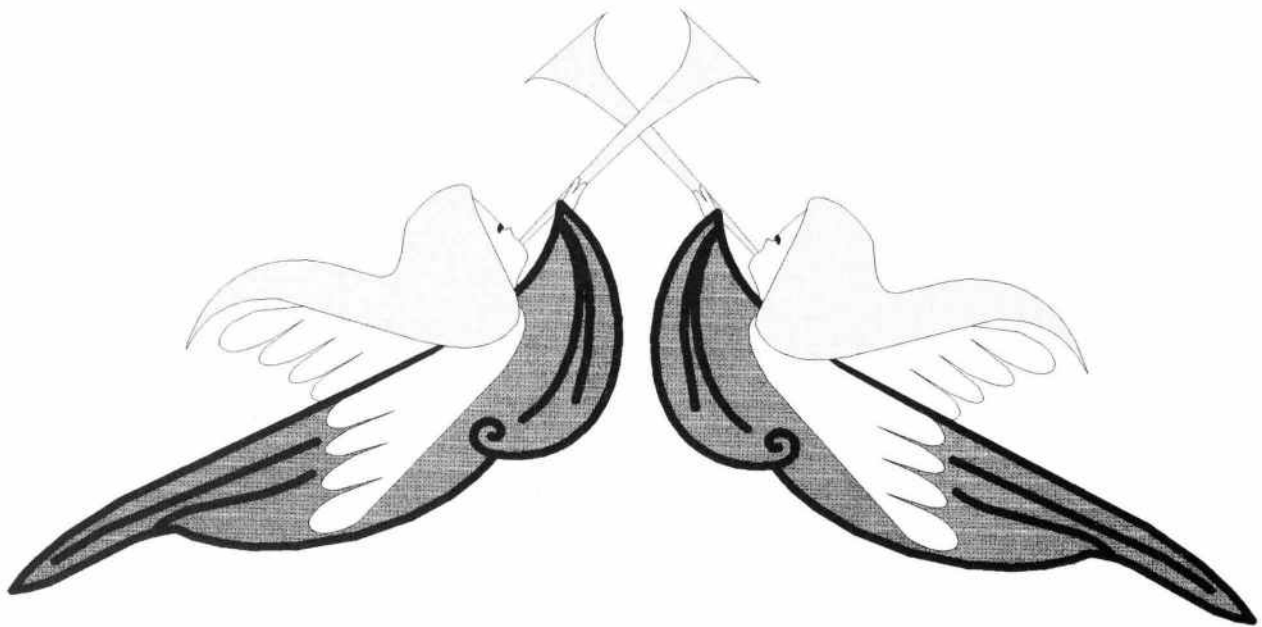
Florence Tencza
Frank J. Tokarz

Sally Ulanowski
Robert & Virginia Unger

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& Roger Valentino Valdez
Janet & Anastasia Vasilenko
Josephine Vodicka

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Joseph Piwowar
Marie Piwowar
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Frances Plaza
Louis & Eva Plaza
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Peter & Mary Podolak Family
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Posluszny & Witek Families
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Franciszek & Victoria Pudlo Family

George Radzik Family
Victor Rak
Stanley & Virginia Rak
Jacob & Felicia Rak Family
Brother Ronald Rak, M.M.
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Anna Rusin
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Wojciech & Anna Rzasas
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Stanley & Julia Siwec
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Snuzik Family
Walenty Snuzik Family
Alexander Sparkiewicz
Stella Sparkiewicz
Stella Splawski
Joseph Splawski Jr.
Joseph Splawski Sr.
Vincent T. Stafford
Casimer Stajszczak
Mary & Joseph Stanaszek
Milton Swiatek
Joseph & Maryann Swiatek Family

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Joseph & Katherine Szudy

Jean Taber
Stanley (Buck) Tencza
Frank Tomaszewski Family
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Michael & Antoinette Wantroba
Catherine Wantroba
Franciszek & Katarzyna Wantroba
Dolores Rybicki Welch
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Valeria Wilk
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