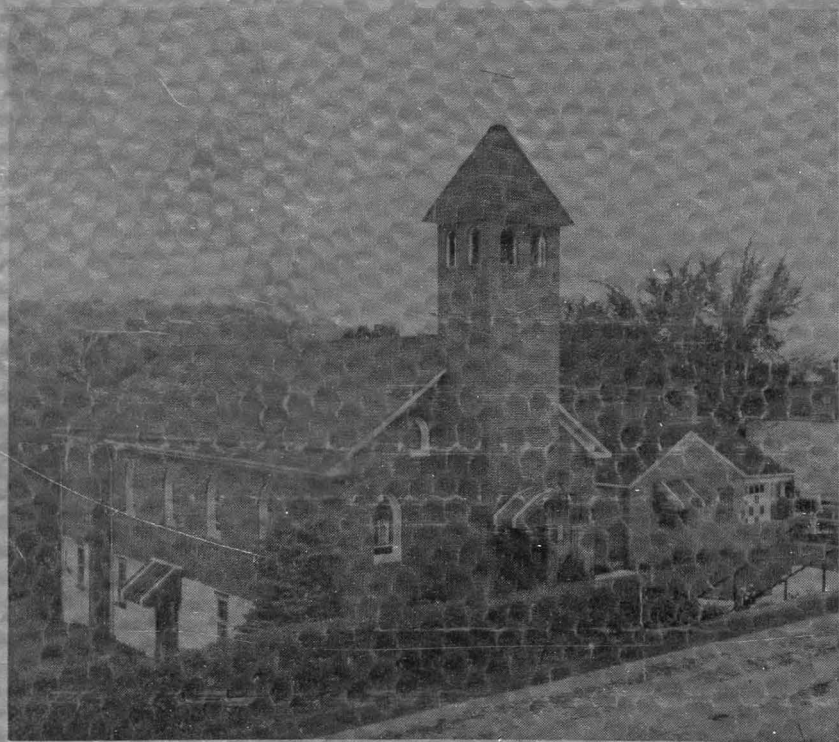

50TH ANNIVERSARY

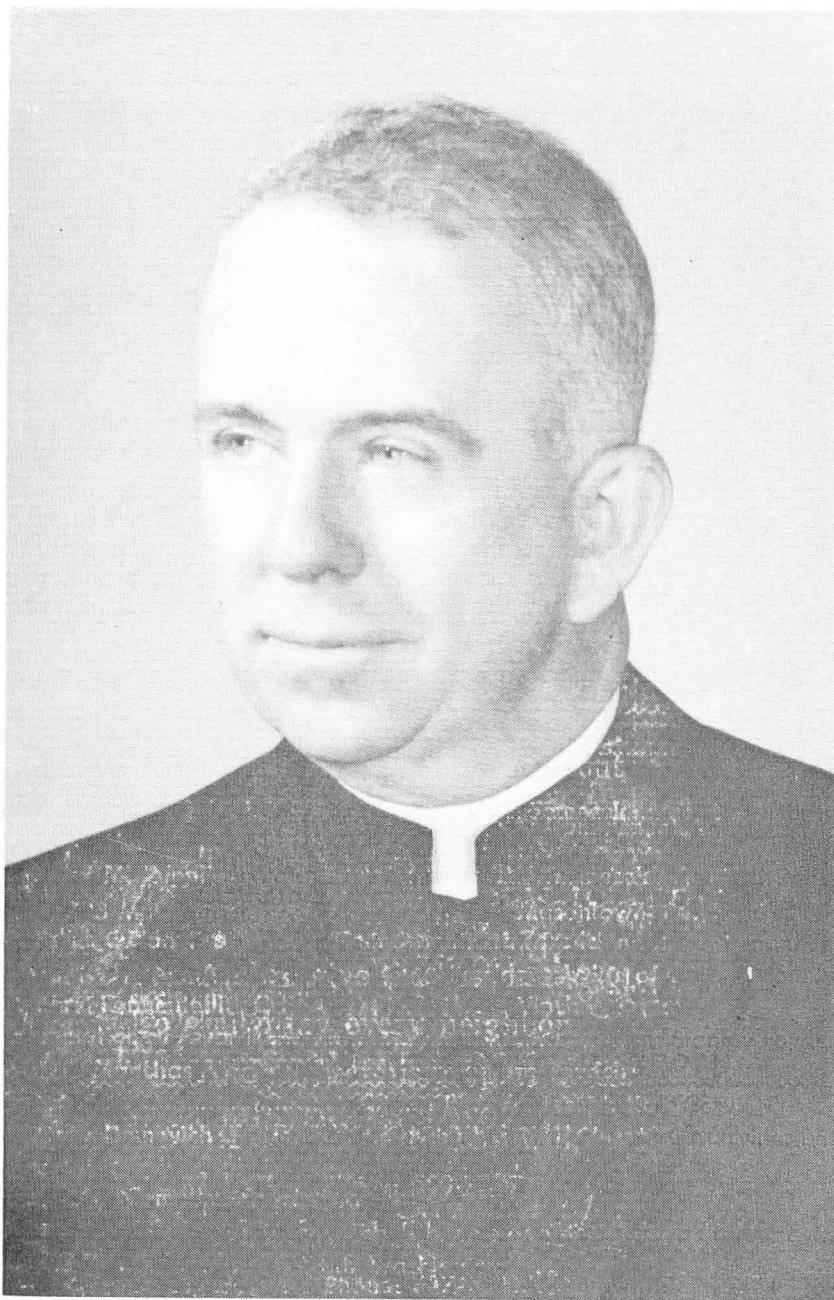


ST. ALBERT CHURCH

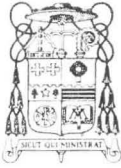
Palmer, Pennsylvania



POPE PAUL VI



THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM G. CONNARE
Bishop of Greensburg



DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

723 E. PITTSBURGH ST. • GREENSBURG, PENNA. 15601

September 13, 1976

Reverend Apolinary Murawski
Saint Albert Church
Box 295
Adah, Pennsylvania 15410

Dear Father Murawski:

The joy of fifty fruitful years in the life of your Parish is being celebrated by you and your wonderful people. I join in prayerful congratulations for this recognition of the Lord's goodness to your people. I know the heart of your Jubilee Observance is the Mass of Thanksgiving in which parishioners, old as well as new, will join with many friends.

History dates the beginning of Saint Albert's Parish in 1922. The name of Father Majk figures prominently in the beginnings. He engineered the work of the Missionary Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, which founded so many missions in Western Pennsylvania which eventually assumed the proportions of parishes. Your Parish is part of this glorious history of the triumph of the Faith in this area.

In an amazingly short period of time the present Parish Church was built and dedicated by July of 1925. Father Theodore Schultz, the first resident pastor, is responsible for this achievement. Literally it marked the coming true of the dream of many.

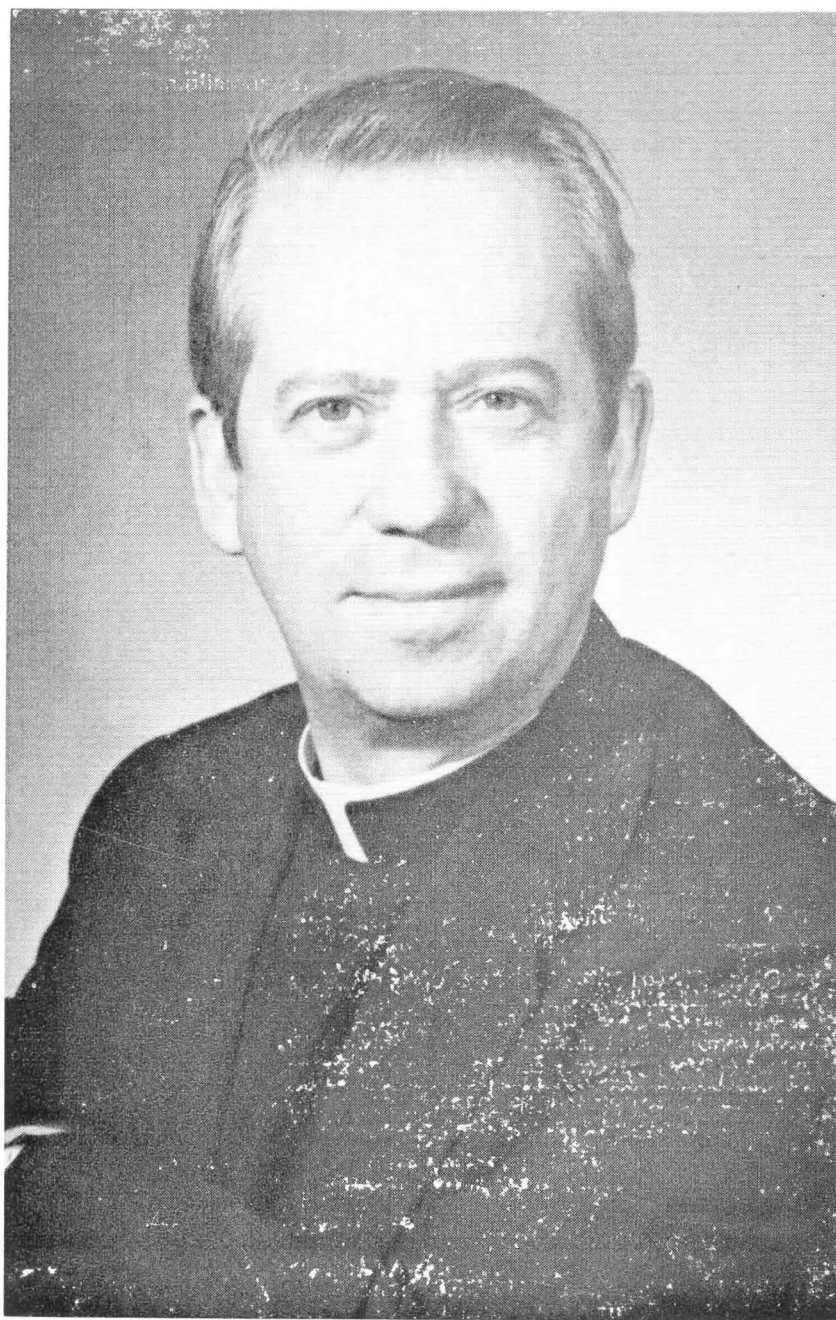
A long line of pastors have served the needs of the people faithfully during this past half century. They have watched the rise and fall, and now the rise again of the mining industry. They knew and respected the spirit of sacrifice in the people who earned their living in this dangerous and difficult industry. They ministered well, as is evident from the life of the Faith here today.

You and your people can take pride in being children dedicated to the Lord under the patronage of Saint Albert. This holy man was both a saint and a scholar, the teacher of the illustrious Saint Thomas Aquinas. They were both members of the famed Dominican Order. They loved the Faith and taught clearly its demands upon the people. His life spanned almost the whole of the thirteenth century (1200-1280), an age in which the Church reached a glorious peak in her history. May this holy patron encourage you and your good people to fulfill completely the demands the Lord makes of you.

Sincerely and prayerfully wishing for you and your parishioners, past as well as present, every grace and blessing, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Greensburg



Most Rev. Norbert F. Gaughan, D.D., V.G., Ph.D

Auxiliary Bishop of Greensburg



SISTER MARY MAGDALENE LOVRICH, O.S.F.

School Sisters of St. Francis, Mount Assisi Convent, Bellevue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

First Profession - August 7, 1940

B.A. - Carlow College

M.A. - Duquesne University

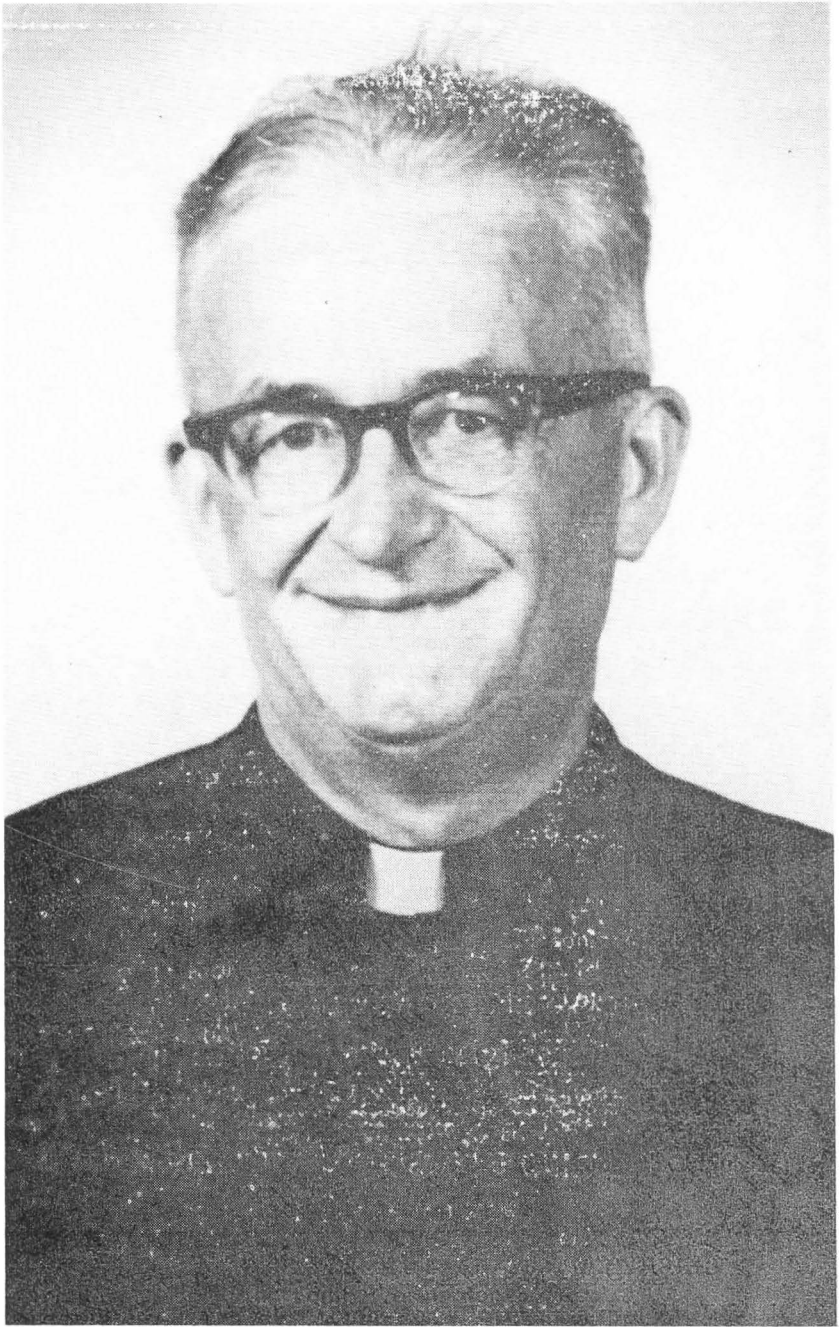
Taught at: St. Mark School, McKees Rocks, Pa.
Allentown Central Catholic H. S., Allentown, Pa.
Mount Assisi Academy, Bellevue, Pittsburgh, Pa.
(Principal for 16 yrs.)
Monongahela Valley Catholic H. S., Monongahela, Pa.

Served as: Delegate to the Congregation's General Chapter
in Rome Provincial Secretary

Currently: Mathematics teacher at Monongahela Valley
Catholic High School
Provincial Councilor

Daughter of Agnes Lovrich & the late Thomas Lovrich

(First and Only Vocation from the Parish)



REV. FATHER APOLINARY MURAWSKI
Pastor

Phone: (412) 737-6720

ST. ALBERT PARISH

BOX 295
ADAH, PENNSYLVANIA 15410

September 15, 1976

Dear Friends,

I feel honored and happy to present you this Golden Anniversary Booklet. On this occasion I express my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to all the parishioners of St. Albert Church, Palmer.

To all the past parishioners and priests who have given us the example of so many sacrifices, we ask of Almighty God to grant eternal reward to the dead and continual blessing to the living.

I express also my appreciation to those who contributed to this booklet, making possible for us to publish this Memorial Souvenir.

Please, pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Sisterhood.

May God shower down His blessing upon you all.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Father Apolinary Murawski

Father Apolinary Murawski

HISTORY OF ST. ALBERT'S R. C. CHURCH Palmer, Pennsylvania — 1925-1976

St. Albert's Church was founded as a mission church to All Saints Church of Masontown with Rev. Francis J. Kolb as pastor. The first Mass was celebrated on May 21, 1922 by Rev. Victor G. Majka. The Mass was held in the Old Dance Hall. On this occasion eight children received their First Holy Communion. During these early times Mass was celebrated every two months because of the lack of suitable facilities.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Maher were the early community leaders who took an active interest in the building of St. Albert's. One of the first Masses was conducted in the Maher home with Louis Kaduk serving as altar boy. Mr. Maher was the superintendent of the Palmer Mine and gave generously of his time and money to encourage the people to undertake the building of a Church. Through his efforts, the parishioners were able to attend Mass for two years in House # 280, known as "The Doctors Row".

On July 29, 1924 Rev. Thaddeus J. Shultz was appointed pastor and charged with the responsibility of building a church in Palmer. Prior to Father Shultz's assignment, Rev. Francis Kruk served as temporary pastor. The people responded to Father Shultz's call and contributed most generously and within a few months the cornerstone of St. Albert's was blessed July 12, 1925. Dedication ceremonies were held September 27, 1925. The Church was erected on land donated by the H. C. Frick Coke Company. The site being located between the Palmer Elementary School and the "company store", known as the Union Supply Store. Through the generosity of the people and the contribution of \$2500.00 by the coke company the dream of Father Shultz became a reality.

First Marriage - John Carp and Mary Kososkey, September 28, 1925.

First Baptism - October 4, 1925, Father Shultz baptized Thomas Edward Hughes, the son of James Hughes and Ellen Reagen who was born in Palmer, September 9, 1925.

First Burial - Eligio Urano buried October 10, 1925.

First Confirmation by Most Rev. Hugh C. Boyle, D.D. on July 8, 1926
- 27 were confirmed.

Father Shultz served the Church for a period of two years, 1924-26. During this time he worked diligently with the congregation to reduce the debt of several thousand dollars by conducting many weekly parish activities.

In July of 1926 Rev. Julian S. Lachendro was appointed pastor of St. Albert's. He also served as pastor for the mission churches of St. Julian's Isabella and churches at Rices Landing and Crucible. During his twelve year stay, Father Lachendro saw the parish and the mission churches make good spiritual progress. He was not able to do much financially because of the "Depression Years". Through his physical efforts, the beautiful trees, hedges, and shrubbery were planted. Shortly after his transfer from St. Albert's, Father Lachendro died at the age of 40.

In 1938 Rev. Stanislaus Dembinski assumed the pastorate of St. Albert's. During his four and one half years, he made many repairs and improvements to the Church and reduced it's debt. Through his initiative, a new roof was put on the Church, a new boiler was installed and a number of smaller repairs were made. He also stressed attendance of the Catechetical Instruction Classes.

Rev. Anthony J. Politowski was appointed pastor in February of 1945. During his time a considerable amount of the mortgage was paid by imposing a direct assesment of twenty dollars on each family. Most members of the parish responded generously and met their obligations. Father Politowski's stay at St. Albert's was a relatively short one. he was replaced by Rev. Francis B. Filip in the summer of 1945. It was during his time that a great milestone was reached in the history of St. Albert's. In September 1945 the debt, which had existed since the beginning of the Church in 1925, was liquidated. On Sunday, November 18, 1945, the Church celebrated the burning of the Parish Mortgage and the Twentieth Anniversary of the parish with a High Mass. In the afternoon a fine banquet was held in the Parish Auditorium.

During the period 1945 to the present, many changes took place in the Church. New physical facilities were added and the congregation grew steadily until the late fifties when the Church and community experienced a gradual decline in employment and population. Annual Baptisms decreased from a peak of forty-three in 1947 to the present three to five Baptisms each year. The same statistical results are reflected in the num-

ber of marriages during this time period. Ethnic representation in the parish includes many families of Slovak, Italian, and Polish descent.

In 1964 the mission church of St. Julian's was transferred to St. James Parish at LaBelle and St. Mary's Gates became the mission church to St. Albert's, having been reassigned from St. Mary's Leckrone.

Many good and dedicated priests have served St. Albert's and its missions St. Julian's and later St. Mary's, Gates. Their fine spiritual leadership and the many parish improvements will be remembered by members of both parishes. The priests with their major contributions to the parish are listed in chronological order of service.

Rev. Henry A. Podowski served the parish from 1946-1953. His many accomplishments being the construction of the present rectory, the construction of the retaining wall adjacent to the church and the planning of a grotto.

Rev. Thaddeus Wisniewski became pastor of St. Albert's in 1953 and continued to serve until 1956. Father Ted, as he was called, completed the retaining wall and grotto and had a new oil furnace installed.

Rev. Henry J. Murphy served as pastor from 1956 until 1962. Father Murphy reactivated many church activities and church organizations. Through his efforts and with the help of the church societies, a fine church organ was purchased.

Rev. Kolman Nemeth assumed the pastorate in 1962. Father Nemeth will be remembered as a "cultured priest" who brought the "arts" to Palmer. Because of his intense interest in painting, he proceeded to beautify the Church and the church grounds with his artistry. He had the Church painted an original mural on the interior of the church ceiling and erected several statues.

Rev. Dominic Puzzuoli served as pastor of St. Albert's from 1963 until 1967. Father Puzzuoli was the first pastor to serve the new mission church of St. Mary's, Gates. He worked diligently to develop a harmonious relationship between the two parishes. He was also responsible for paving the driveway, renovating the kitchen and installing new pews.

Rev. Gino Rivi succeeded Rev. Puzzuoli as pastor in 1967. Father Rivi took an active interest in trying to increase church attendance by the promotion of various church activities. During his three years, one of his major accomplishments included the remodeling of the interior of St. Mary's, Gates which was done with the help of the Rosary and Holy Name Societies.

Rev. Henry Prenetta who succeeded Rev. Rivi in 1970 continued the work of stimulating church attendance by seeking community involvement and the establishment of hobby classes along with CCD Instruction. His personal interest radio and television repair aroused the interest of some of the youth. Father Prenetta, with the help of the parish men, enlarged the parking lot, constructed a "Cry Room" in the Church and installed the air conditioning system.

Rev. Dennis Sweeney was assigned as pastor of St. Albert's in 1973. Although Father Sweeney's tenure was of short duration, he aroused the interest of the youth in the church and sponsored many youth activities. Under his direction, the basement and kitchen facilities of both churches were improved.

Rev. Apolinary Murawski, our present pastor, assumed his pastoral duties in February of 1975. Father Paul, as he prefers to be called, has done much to uplift the spiritual needs of the parish. He also had the interior of the Church and the rectory repainted. It was through his insistence that we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of St. Albert's during this Bicentennial Year.

Much of the continuing success of St. Albert's and the mission church of St. Mary's, Gates must be attributed to the generosity of the residents of Palmer and Gates and the dedicated priests who have served both parishes in the past. Much credit must also be given to the church committees, the Rosary Society, Christian Mothers, Holy Name Society, and the many altar boys and lectors who have served the Church. We pray that God will continue to shower his blessing on St. Albert's in the future.

9/15/76 G.J.P.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - MAY 1976



C.C.D. TEACHERS

Diane Butorac, Betty Garman, Rev. A. Murawski, Mary Karpency



PARISH COUNCIL

1st Row: Joe Karpency, Andy Shenal, Dom LeDonne
 2nd Row: Richard Zatlakoviz, Frances Plava, John Richnafsky
 3rd Row: Mike Tuskan, Rev. A. Murawski, Walter Tomecheck



CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

Left to Right: Mary Manchas; Helen Felio, Sec.; Ann Tuskan, Treas.;
 Rev. A. Murawski; Louise Manchas, V. Pres.; Sophia Tomecek; Sophio
 Sokol. 2nd Row: Mary Bobincheck; Sophia Lukachinsky; Anna Vinch;
 Mary Spenik; Ann Carrick. Margaret Tomecheck, Pres. was absent
 at the time picture was taken.

Golden Jubilee Program

St. Albert's Church, Palmer, Pa.

October 10, 1976

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY MASS

4:00 P.M.

MAIN CELEBRANT AND PREACHER:

MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CONNARE, D.D.

Bishop of Greensburg, Pennsylvania

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

REV. WILLIAM G. CHARNOKI,

Assistant Chancellor and Diocesan Secretary

FIRST READING:

MR. DOMINIC LeDONNE

SECOND READING:

SISTER MARY MAGDALENE

of St. Francis of Assisi Order, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Golden Jubilee Dinner

V.F.W. Hall, Masontown, Pa.

6:00 P.M.

INVOCATION:

FATHER FRANCIS B. FILIP,
Pastor of St. Adalbert Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MASTER OF THE CEREMONY:

MR. HARRY WELSH

SPEAKERS:

1. MSGR. ANDREW J. SCHNEIDER,
former Dean in Uniontown and
pastor of St. John Evangelist Church, Uniontown
2. MR. LOUIS KADUK,
first altarboy in St. Albert Church.

CHILDRENS' SONG.

WORD FROM HIS EXCELLENCY BISHOP CONNARE, D.D.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

MR. HARRY WELSH, Master of the Ceremony.

CLOSING REMARKS:

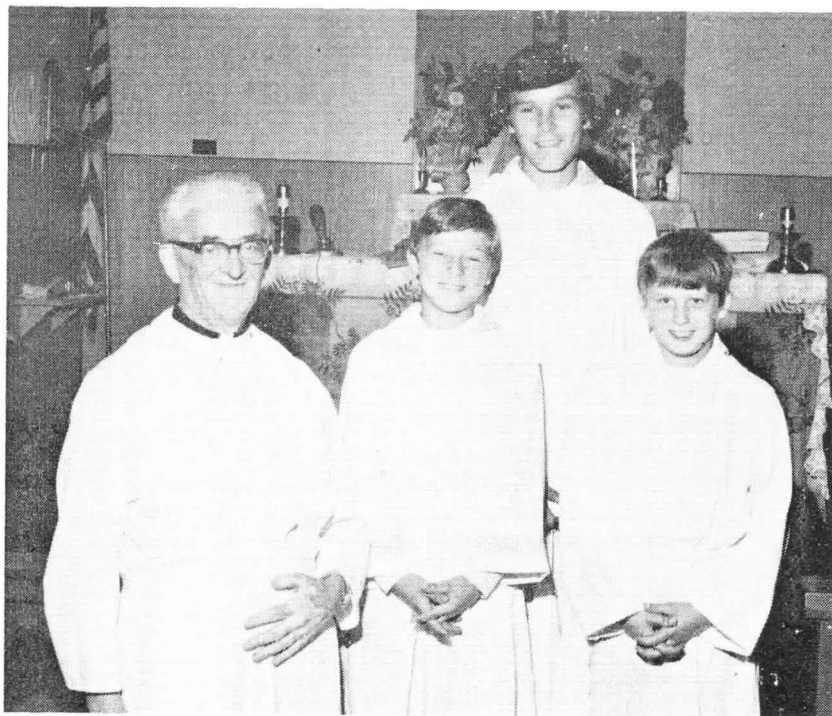
FATHER APOLINARY MURAWSKI.

BENEDICTION:

FATHER DENNIS R. SWEENEY.



INSIDE OF CHURCH



ALTAR BOYS

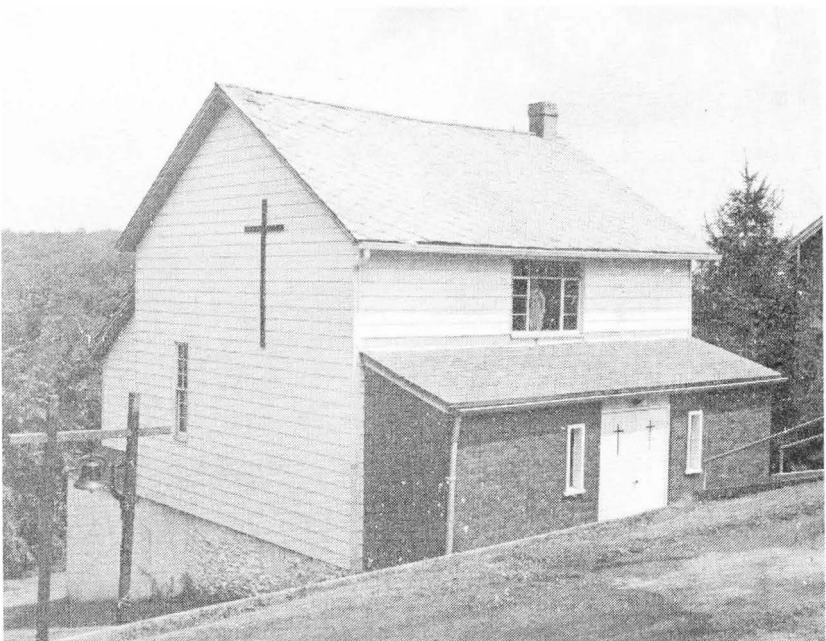
Rev. A. Murawski, Tom Romcn, Gary Stuck, (back) Tom Butorac



CHOIR

Organist: Annette Tate

Standing: Kathy Bobincheck, Dom LeDonne, Frances Bobincheck



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, GATES

IN MEMORIAM

Charles Ziska

Frank Lukachinsky

Charles Sass

John Sokol, Sr.

Michael Hustosky

John Sokol, Jr.

George & Anna Ezar

Lydia Korintus

Linda L. Hoon, R.N.

Marie Tomecek

Gary M. Rupnik

Cyrill J. Tomecek

Frank Julian Kroll

Mary Zoretic

Faust Formentelli

Louis Vinch

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Basich

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Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Zatlkovicz

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Mr. & Mrs. Domenick LeDonne	Dennis Bailey & Daughter
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bailey	Mr. & Mrs. Edward J. Pleban

