



DIAMOND JUBILEE
Saint Joseph's R.C. Church

WYOMING, PENNSYLVANIA

1914 - 1989



Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

August 14, 1989

Dear Father Skiba and Parishioners of St. Joseph's Church:

It is with great pleasure that I convey best wishes as you celebrate the 75th Anniversary of St. Joseph's in Wyoming, Pennsylvania.

It is clear that over these many years the grace of God has been active in the hearts of the faithful. Through the fidelity of its priests and people, St. Joseph's Parish has seen God's word take root in the community and for decades men, women and children have come to a better understanding of the great mystery of Christ and His Church. May this joyous occasion be for all a time of genuine thanksgiving for God's numerous blessings.

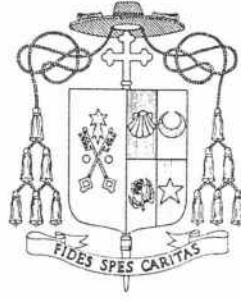
His Holiness commends you to Mary, the Mother of Christ our Lord, asking her to sustain you. And, as a pledge of strength he imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With my own prayerful good wishes, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

Apostolic Pro-Nuncio

Reverend Walter F. Skiba
Pastor, Saint Joseph's Church
Wyoming, Pennsylvania



Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

October 1, 1989

Reverend Walter F. Skiba
Saint Joseph's Retory
97 East 6th Street
Wyoming, Pennsylvania 18644-2045

Dear Father Skiba,

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Joseph's Church, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, I am pleased to extend to you and your parishioners my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

More than three generations ago, faith-filled, Polish immigrants in Wyoming sacrificed to build Saint Joseph's Church as a place of worship, a source of sacramental life and a bulwark of Catholic community. For the past seven and a half decades, the parishioners of Saint Joseph's Church have lived the two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This is the second, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Mk. 12: 30, 31.

Saint Joseph's Parish is recognized for the faith of its people, their devotion to mass and the sacraments, their respect for marriage and family life, and their support of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Under your leadership, Father Skiba, and the continued support of your people, God's truth that has come to us through the Apostles is kept alive and preserved for future generations.

Asking God's blessing on you and your parish family, while assuring you of my prayers, I am,

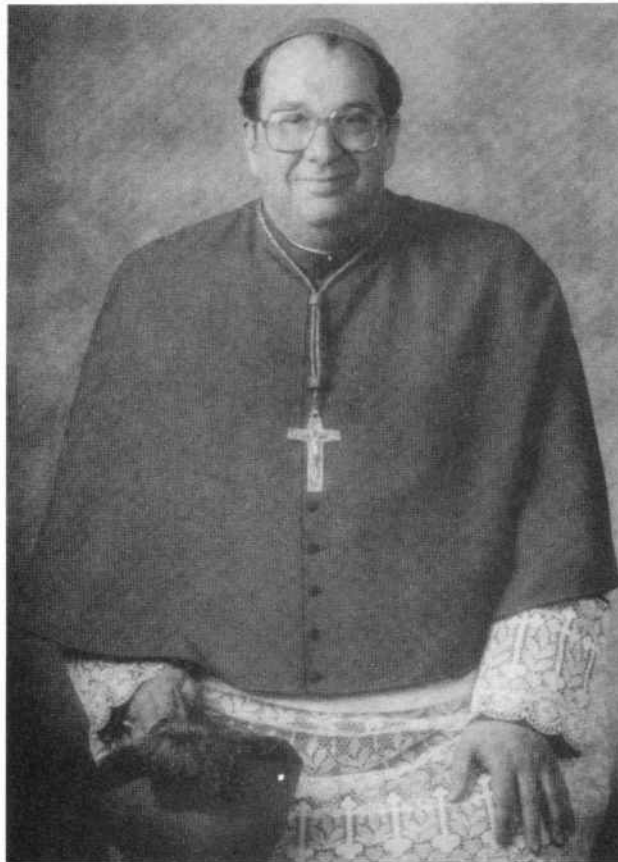
Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ James C. Timlin

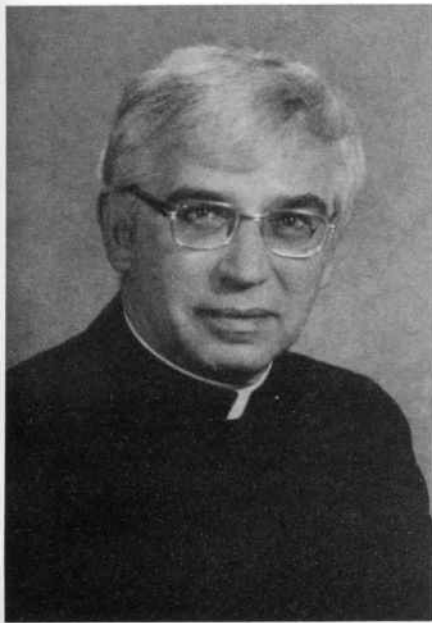
Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D.
Bishop of Scranton



MOST REVEREND J. CARROLL McCORMICK, D.D.
Former Bishop of Scranton



MOST REVEREND FRANCIS X. DiLORENZO, D.D., V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton



Saint Joseph's Church
97 East Sixth Street
Wyoming, Pa. 18644

Dear Parishioners:

1989 is a milestone year in the existence of St. Joseph's Parish. It marks Seventy-five Years since the foundation of our Parish. For seventy-five years the people of St. Joseph's have endeavored to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to serve His Church faithfully. Only God Himself knows the many sacrifices, the depth of the love and the inspiring generosity of His people in this Parish. As we join in this Celebration, we remember the faithful servants who gave generously to God and have received a well deserved reward for their faith and service.

We, who are still here to Celebrate this Diamond Jubilee, have our eyes constantly fixed on Christ, as we journey through life. For us St. Joseph's is a quiet harbor, a refreshing well spring and a place of rest and consolation. In it, we experience God's forgiveness and Christ's healing power. Here, we pause to be nourished and strengthened in soul as we make are difficult journey.

May God give to each one of us the grace to continue to love our Parish, to work for its growth, and to use it to come to our own eternal reward.

Walter F. Skiba

Father Walter F. Skiba
Pastor

Senate of Pennsylvania



HARRISBURG, PA.

Congratulations

In the Senate, June 30, 1989

Whereas, Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Wyoming, is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary on October 1, 1989; and

Whereas, Saint Joseph's parish was founded by men and women who came from Poland and settled in the Wyoming-West Wyoming area to work the coal mines and farm the land. It was a mission parish of Saint Mary's in Swyersville from January to November 1914, when plans were made for the construction of a church. Services were held in the basement of Saint Cecilia's in Exeter until the first church was completed in 1916. A new church was built in 1958 near the original site; and


Whereas, The church has been blessed with a succession of pastors to the present pastor, the Reverend Walter F. Skiba, whose leadership and guidance have helped it to grow and flourish for seventy-five years. The church community is also proud of the fact that two of its sons have been called by God to serve the holy priesthood and one of its daughters has been called to the religious life.

Now therefore, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania extends hearty congratulations to Saint Joseph Church on the momentous and joyous occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary; offers best wishes for many more years of service to God;

And directs that a copy of this document, sponsored by Senator Raphael G. Musto, be transmitted to Saint Joseph Church, 97 East Sixth Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania.



Attest:


Mark R. Corrigan, Secretary
Senate of Pennsylvania

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



The House of Representatives

Citation

Whereas, *St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Wyoming is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee on October 1, 1989; and*

Whereas, *Many of the Polish settlers who came to the Wyoming-West Wyoming area in the latter part of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century joined St. John the Baptist Church in Exeter, the nearest Roman Catholic Church in which their native tongue was spoken; and*

Whereas, *In 1913, a group of these people established a parish of their own, and they chose St. Joseph as their patron. Parishioners worshipped in the basement of St. Cecelia's Church in Exeter until construction of their church was completed in 1916. A new church was dedicated in 1958; and*

Whereas, *The church has been blessed with a succession of pastors whose leadership and guidance have helped it to grow and flourish through the years. The Reverend Walter F. Skiba is the present pastor of the congregation.*

Now therefore, *the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania extends congratulations to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on the joyous and momentous occasion of its Diamond Jubilee; wishes the best for its continued faithful service to God;*

And directs *that a copy of this citation, sponsored by the Honorable Scott Dieterick on June 26, 1989, be transmitted to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 97 East Sixth Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania 18644.*





Scott Dieterick, Sponsor



Speaker of the House of Representatives

Attest:



Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives

Former Pastors



Rev. Narcissus Sosnowski

1914 -1915



Rev. Dominic C. Tomkiewicz

1915 - 1916



Rev. Anthony Dudkiewicz

1917 - 1919



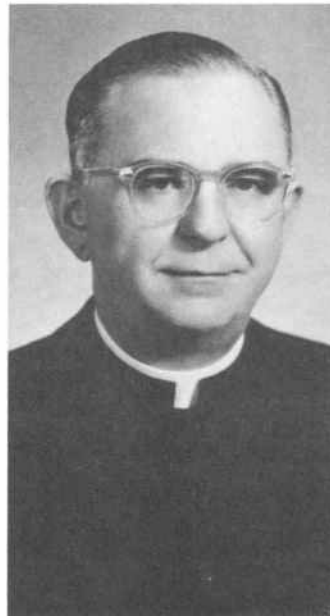
Rev. Joseph J. Losieniecki

1919 - 1942



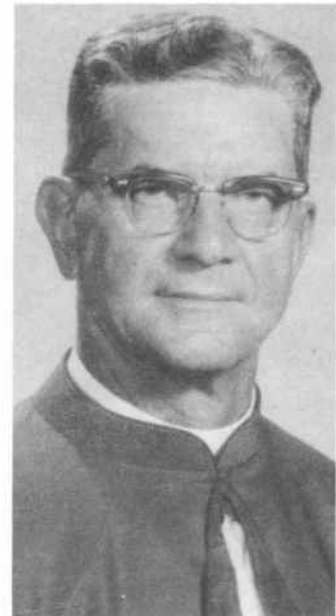
Rev. Stanislaus P. Gajewski

1942 - 1945



Msgr. Edward S. Manikowski

1945 - 1962



Msgr. Anthony B. Grauzlis

1962 - 1981

Assistant Pastors



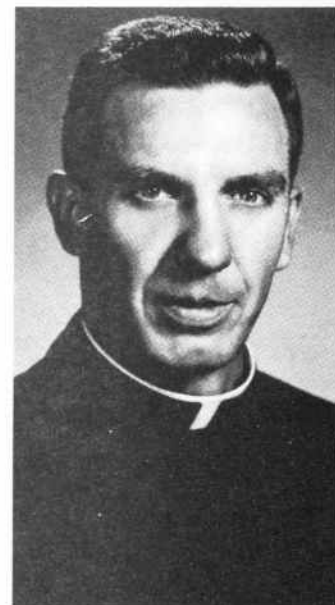
Rev. Stanley C. Stungis
October 1945 - June 1946



Rev. Andrew J. Krusinski
June 1946 - March 1951



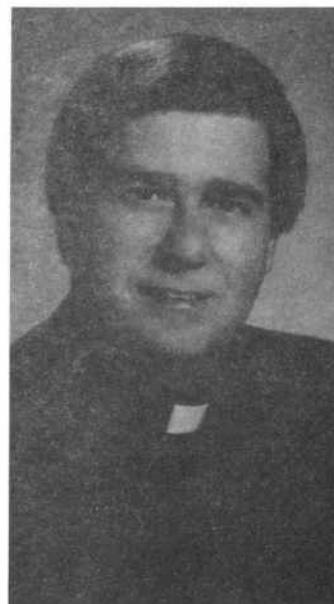
Rev. Aloysius A. Ziembra
March 1951 - October 1955



Rev. Joseph E. Papka
October 1955 - September 1965



Rev. Theodore Obaza
September 1965 - May 1966

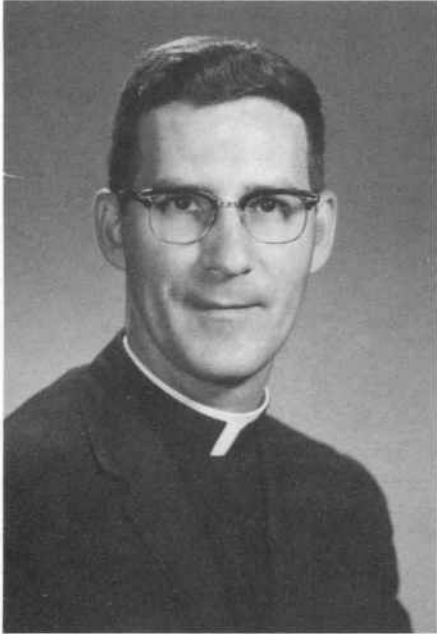


Rev. David Rosh
May 1966 - December 1967

Rev. Thomas Skotek
December 1967 - January 1969

(Picture Not Available)

Vocations From St. Joseph's



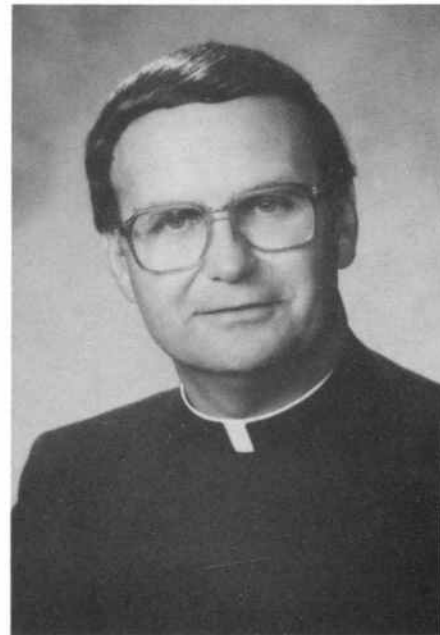
Rev. Stanislaus J. Duda



Rev. Richard A. Zavacki



Sister M. Mercylle, C.S.B.



Rev. Joseph A. Greskiewicz

HISTORY OF SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH

Our Heritage

"The reign of God is like a mustard seed.... It is the smallest seed of all, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants...." (Matt. 13:31, 32)

During the year 1913, a small company of citizenry from the Wyoming-West Wyoming area sensed the need to establish a new parish community. Previously, early settlers to the region walked to St. John the Baptist Parish, Exeter, Pa. to worship, where their native Polish language was spoken. Therefore, in April 1913, a small assembly of dedicated nationals entrusted the formation of a new parish to the guidance of St. Joseph, the Worker.

On January 1, 1914, the community of St. Joseph's Parish was formally established as a mission community under the administration of Reverend Chester Duzynski, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Swoyersville, Pa. He served as adjunct pastor until November 1914.

Provisions were immediately made for the acquisition of land and the erection of a building. Volunteer help in excavation began in the Spring of 1914. However, unfortunate delays in construction, principally due to the contractor's negligence, postponed early completion. Undaunted by this setback, the founders compromised their original objective and decided to build a temporary basement church with the remaining funds. Construction was finally completed in 1916.

The first pastor officially assigned to St. Joseph's Church was Reverend Narcissus Sosnowski. He served from December 8, 1914, to September 19, 1915, and provided sound spiritual and temporal guidance during the difficult formative years. It was during his tenure that the second contract for building the church was made. Prior to completion of the church building, liturgical services and instruction were held in the basement of St. Cecelia's Church in Exeter, Pa.

Following a short interim from September 20, 1915, to February 25, 1916, when St. Joseph's Parish was under the pastorage of Reverend Dominic Tomkiewicz, Father Sosnowski returned as pastor until March 4, 1917. Since there was no rectory, the pioneer clergy rented living quarters near the new church site.

The mustard seed was firmly implanted, and its roots took firm hold of the soil. With nourishment and cultivation new sprigs began to emerge. New growth became visible.

With the advent of Reverend Anthony J. Dudkiewicz in March 1917, St. Joseph's began to expand physically. In 1917 the congregation purchased cemetery property in West Wyoming, and in the following year, 1918, they added a parcel of land and a house adjacent to the new church. After extensive repairs to the house, it served as the rectory until April 24, 1966. Part of the land eventually became the site of the present church edifice, which was erected in 1958. Within the short span of five years, the founders firmly established a community of the faithful, called to be St. Joseph's Parish.

Father Dudkiewicz was succeeded by Reverend Joseph J. Losieniecki on August 15, 1919. Father Losieniecki has been the longest serving pastor, and his leadership touched the people of St. Joseph's in four decades measuring from 1919 to 1942.

During Father Losieniecki's administration parish membership grew significantly. An increase in parishioners necessitated physical expansion. Hence, in 1931 the congregation erected a combination garage and meeting hall. The building served as both a learning center for Catechism and as a school for instruction in the Polish language. Under Father Losieniecki's guidance, genuine interest in the construction of a new church arose. Because of the imminent danger of mine subsidence, any immediate preparation was suspended. A new church became the hope of the future.

In October 1942, during the height of World War II, Reverend Stanislaus Gajewski was assigned to St. Joseph's. It was during his pastorage that the Confraternity of Christian Mothers was organized. After a brief term Father Gajewski was transferred, and on September 18, 1945, the parishioners welcomed Father Edward S. Manikowski as pastor.

It was Father Manikowski's desire to build a new church, and almost immediately he resurrected the hope for the erection of a new building. Again, mine settlement in the area postponed any immediate prospect for construction. Civil and diocesan authorities recommended that the parish suspend any construction activity for a period of ten years. Almost exactly ten years later on April 18, 1955, permission was granted by the Diocese of Scranton. The culmination of a long standing dream occurred with the dedication of the new church on October 5, 1958, by His Excellency Most Reverend Jerome D. Hannan D.D., Bishop of the Scranton Diocese.

With major construction centered around the parish complex on Sixth Street essentially intact, attention was directed toward the cemetery property. On May 1, 1983, Father Skiba placed before the congregation a program of cemetery perpetual care. Lot owners would pay a stipulated amount, which would be placed into a trust fund. The immediate cemetery needs would be maintained from the interest payments that the trust fund accrues. The fund has amassed approximately \$60,000.00, and it has proven to be a very successful program.

On the evening of October 29, 1984, the first Halloween Mass was held at St. Joseph's. The Mass, under the theme, "You Never Hide Behind a Mask," was sponsored by the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. With the cooperation of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, this joint effort shed light on the religious significance of the holiday. The initial response was mixed though enthusiastic. Another holiday, which has effectively been incorporated into the Christian Doctrine calendar, is the Thanksgiving Mass. Originally celebrated on Thanksgiving morning, the Mass is held on Thanksgiving Eve, where the high school C.C.D. students actively participate. Food provisions collected are distributed to charitable organizations active in Wyoming Valley.

The year 1985 marked the centennial celebration of Wyoming Borough. On May 19, 1985, the combined choirs of the four Wyoming Churches presented a program of sacred music and patriotic hymns at St. Joseph's Church. The concert was the beginning of a week of activities, and it sounded the keynote for its celebration.

In December 1983 Bishop John J. O'Connor announced that the diocese would hold a synod. It would be a meeting of the Bishops, Priests, Religious, and Laity of the Diocese to draw up policies and directives that would assist the Bishop in the administration of the Scranton Diocese. Hearings were held on all aspects of parish life, and the results submitted to the diocese for evaluation. After two years a final convocation of the Scranton Diocese Synod II was held on November 17, 1985. One of the concerns, which emerged from the Synod, was the layman's participation in the religious life of the parish. As a result a program of "Renew" was introduced and in July 1988, St. Joseph's adopted the program. It is a 2½ year agenda focusing upon spiritual growth in the Church of our times.

During its formative years, St. Joseph's has been ably served by assistant pastors. They brought with them a certain vigor and youthful enthusiasm, which contributed significantly to the growth of the parish community.

The following clergy have served as Assistant Pastors at St. Joseph's Parish:

Rev. Stanley C. Stungis	- October 3, 1945 to June 28, 1946;
Rev. Andrew J. Krusinski	- June 28, 1946 to March 28, 1951;
Rev. Aloysius A. Ziemba	- March 28, 1951 to October 5, 1955;
Rev. Joseph E. Papka	- October 5, 1955 to September 20, 1965;
Rev. Theodore Obaza	- September 20, 1965 to May 1966;
Rev. David Rosh	- May 1966 to December 1967;
Rev. Thomas Skotek	- December 1967 to January 1969.

With his transfer to St. Mary of the Mount Parish in Mount Pocono, Father Skotek was the last Assistant Pastor assigned to St. Joseph's.

Over the years certain members of the community faithful responded to the call of Almighty God to serve His people in the religious life. The Reverend Stanislaus J. Duda has served in the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, for over 40 years. Reverend Richard A. Zavacki is presently pastor of St. Hedwig's Church in Kingston. Sister M. Mercylle C.S.B. (the former Helen Grzeszkiewicz) is Chairperson of the Music Department at Alvernia College in Reading, Pa. Reverend Joseph A. Greskiewicz was ordained on May 24, 1969, and celebrated his First Mass at St. Joseph's the following day, Sunday, May 25, 1969. He is presently pastor of St. Casimir's Church in Freeland, Pa.

During the formative years, when virtually all religious and social activities evolved around the Church, societies flourished. However, many organizations, which have completed their stated purpose, have ceased to exist.

Since its inception in 1943, however, the Confraternity of Christian Mothers has survived. The organization has been faithful to its charter and steadfast in its service to the needs of the parish. Their activities cover a range from the secular to the spiritual. Some of their activities include the sponsorship of the Halloween Mass, the Christmas Social for C.C.D., First Communion Breakfast, preparation and distribution of Lenten meals, responsibility for the kitchen during the Harvest Festival, and monthly corporate Holy Communion and Devotion. During the years that the Holy Name Society was active, the Christian Mothers prepared and served the Annual Father and Son Banquet. More recently during the Sanctuary renovations in the Fall of 1988, they contributed \$9,000, to the Altar of Sacrifice. The Christian Mothers have been the nucleus upon which the parish community depends.

The old church building was not abandoned. Father Manikowski, with the diligent help of his assistant pastor, Reverend Joseph E. Papka, and the support of the faithful, converted the basement church into a parish center for social and civic activities in addition to religious instruction. It has served as a valuable complement to the needs of the parishioners as St. Joseph's prepared to face the second half of the Twentieth Century.

At the time, Father Manikowski was the second longest serving pastor before his transfer to Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Wilkes-Barre, where he eventually received the rank of Monsignor. On September 18, 1962, shortly before the parish was to observe its Golden Jubilee, Reverend Anthony B. Grauzlis was appointed pastor.

Following the dedication of the new church, a heavy financial burden lay upon the parish. The motto, "Remember our goal - out of debt by '64 - the year of our Golden Parish Jubilee," was adopted. As the year 1964 approached, general appeals for extended effort to liquidate the debt were made through such activities as the Bazaar and Lawn Social. With the purpose and direction the goal was achieved and the mortgage was retired on November 8, 1964. It was an appropriate tribute to the legacy of initiative, perseverance and faithfulness displayed by the founders and their successors during the first half-century of St. Joseph's heritage.

Current Times

"The reign of God is like yeast.... Eventually the whole mass of dough began to rise." (Matt. 13:33)

The only remaining structure, which required immediate attention, was the rectory. Borrowing from the virtues of their ancestors, the parish completed plans for work to begin on new living quarters shortly after Easter. On April 24, 1966, Father Grauzlis and his assistant, Father Rosh, moved into temporary residence on Wyoming Avenue. A mobile office trailer was situated at the rear of the church, from which the daily affairs of the parish were conducted. After an interim of over a year, they moved into the new rectory during the week of July 2, 1967.

Maintaining the colonial style decor established with the church construction, the new rectory became a striking representation. Its elegant presence contributed significantly to the restoration and beautification of parish property.

For more than half the Twentieth Century, individual parish development was the practice. Each parish drew upon the human, emotional, and spiritual resources of the immediate ethnic community. The collective support of each parish framed a distinct character. This unique character, this personality, reflected itself in the common life of the parish community. A clear ethnic flavor emerged in all social and religious practices. The strength of each parish was nourished by this nationality image. Although unified under the authority of the diocesan head, the Bishop, each church community assumed direct responsibility for their own development and growth.

However, a new Spirit was introduced into the life of the Catholic Church with the convocation of the Second Vatican Council. Widespread changes began to affect the conduct of local parishes. Gradually, parishioners of St. Joseph's began to experience changes in the Liturgy. On the First Sunday of Lent in 1965, the English Language was introduced into the Low Mass. Additionally, a communicant was now allowed to fast from solid food only one hour before receiving Holy Communion.

Subsequent Advent and Lenten Seasons brought more sweeping changes. During the Easter Season of 1966, the strict Lenten fast and abstinence was modified. On Passion Sunday, 1966, more English was added to the Low Mass, and new missalettes were provided for use by the congregation. In September of the same year, a portable altar was placed in the middle of the sanctuary so that the celebrant could face the people. The following month, October, communicants were instructed to approach the sanctuary by way of the main aisle and return to their pews by the side aisle. On the First Sunday of Advent, 1966, the church laws of abstinence were again altered. One was now permitted to consume meat on all Fridays of the year except those in the Lenten Season. In May 1969 it was no longer mandatory for a woman to wear a head covering upon entering the church. The following year a new rite was introduced. Commentators were first used in St. Joseph's on April 5, 1970. Later the same year, in September, the Saturday evening Mass practice was adopted by the parish. During this five year period of change, the congregation was continually urged to strengthen their faith through a course of more voluntary prayer and sacrifice.

"The reign of God is like yeast...." Its subtle action infiltrates the entire batter, and a new form of growth takes place.

Vatican II attempted to make people aware of a new definition of Church, a new manner of growth. It tried to inform the faithful about the Church at large, and to be responsive to the needs of all its people.

In the light of that spirit, Bishop J. Carroll McCormick introduced Project Expansion. This was the first diocesan wide appeal expressly for the well being and benefit of the people of the Scranton Diocese. Father Grauzlis was appointed chairman of the West Side Deanery and was responsible for the success not only for St. Joseph's but many other parishes. St. Joseph's share of the eight million dollar diocesan campaign was \$32,000. The parishioners of St. Joseph's met this new challenge and pledged \$41,450, which far exceeded its goal. The diocesan response reached over ten million dollars.

Because of the diligent and indefatigable work for the success of this diocesan campaign, many regional chairmen were distinctly honored. The Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, had graciously deigned to confer papal honor on our pastor. The honor conferred gave our pastor the title of Rt. Reverend Msgr. Anthony B. Grauzlis. A testimonial dinner was held on September 22, 1968, on the occasion of his investiture as Prelate of Honor to Pope Paul VI.

The Summer of 1972 challenged the Wyoming Valley and the people of St. Joseph's to a new dimension of Christian awareness. Following the devastation by the flood, people of St. Joseph's, along with parishioners throughout the diocese, were asked to contribute to a general fund for assistance to flood victims. Over ¼ million dollars was raised for this purpose. Again, the apostleship of reaching out beyond one's own parish community invited the congregation to practice faith in action.

The year 1975 was not only important in St. Joseph's history, but also in the History of the Church. It was the Jubilee Church Year. In preparation for this Holy Year Celebration, all parishes were encouraged to make a pilgrimage to their Cathedral, where services would be conducted. Unlike past Jubilee Years in which activities were centered in Rome, the 1975 celebration encouraged spiritual reconciliation services to be carried out in local parishes throughout the world. In preparation for the Holy Year, reconciliation services were conducted for seven days at St. Joseph's Church. On June 2, 1974, a caravan of parishioners made a Holy Year Pilgrimage to St. Peter's Cathedral, where a liturgical celebration was conducted by Msgr. Grauzlis.

When the new church was built, it was designed to accommodate a pipe organ. Because the additional expenditure was prohibitive at the time, the Hammond electric organ was transferred from the basement church. By 1972 it became apparent that a new instrument was needed. The St. Joseph's Choir took the initiative and assumed responsibility for the funding of the organ. Over a period of seven years, numerous dances and social affairs were sponsored by the choir to accumulate enough capital. Through their unrelenting efforts \$27,480.99 was raised. In June 1978 Msgr. Grauzlis contracted with Casavant Freres of Canada to manufacture a custom designed organ. In order to fully satisfy this indebtedness, Msgr. Grauzlis committed \$35,000. from the parish general fund. With this dual announcement, individual donations increased with weekly regularity. On the evening of December 2, 1979, the new instrument was dedicated with a blessing and organ recital.

A number of years after the new church was dedicated, the weekly Dollar Club was adopted as a visible "sign of sacrifice." As the value of money continued to erode, the Dollar Club listing became superfluous, and it was discontinued on April 22, 1979. Although the concept was later adjusted, the Dollar Club was a standard of the weekly bulletin for almost a generation.

The beginning of 1980 witnessed the introduction of another diocesan program designed for the spread of Christian Unity. On March 25, 1980, a special Mass was celebrated for the success of the "Follow Christ Program." The impact of the program was strong, and some of the spiritual benefits continue today. During the month of May 1980, the Rosary was first recited every day as a preparation for the celebration of Mass. That same year, the Vacation Bible School began as an introduction for elementary school children into the narratives contained in the Bible. Thirdly, May 1980 brought the initiation of the St. Joseph's Prayer Group. It was the first devotional activity set apart from the church proper.

The entire parish was overcome with deep sadness with the death of Msgr. Grauzlis in November 1981. He served St. Joseph's Parish in the example of the Good Shepherd for nineteen years. Msgr. Anthony B. Grauzlis was the first priest to die in residence at St. Joseph's. His Funeral Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, D.D. on November 9, 1981.

Following the funeral St. Joseph's Parish was serviced by guest clergy until Reverend Walter F. Skiba was appointed pastor on December 2, 1981.

After a long absence of summer lawn socials, Father Skiba initiated the Harvest Festival. The first Fall event, held on October 3, 1982, was warmly welcomed by the parishioners with cooperative enthusiasm. Over the years the Harvest Festival has become the social highlight of the season and a fitting farewell to the outdoor activities of the Summer.

The longest standing canonical society in the service to St. Joseph's is the Altar and Rosary Society. Initially founded during the years when St. Joseph parishioners journeyed to Exeter for religious services, the society's origin concurred with the inception of St. Joseph's Parish 75 years ago. The Altar and Rosary Society is committed to daily Marian devotion for spiritual benefits for its membership and parish community.

In recent years the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has undergone restructuring. With a Coordinator and a full complement of teachers, St. Joseph's is one of the few parishes that offers a complete program of religious education from elementary through high school. Their presence is most evident through participation in the monthly Family Liturgy and other special Liturgies.

The success of St. Joseph's can be attributed to a deep seeded belief in Almighty God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and a trust in the leadership the Lord has called to serve His people. Coming together in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is a celebration of that relationship, which the parish community experiences. Hence, the uplifting of voice and spirit through music has played a vital role in both weekly and special Eucharistic Liturgies. The Senior Choir, under the musical direction of Ms. Justina Charney, has inspired the hearts of the faithful for over 39 years. Christmas and Easter Eucharistic Liturgies have been preceded by a recital of both ethnic and contemporary devotional music. This tradition has richly enhanced the worship services.

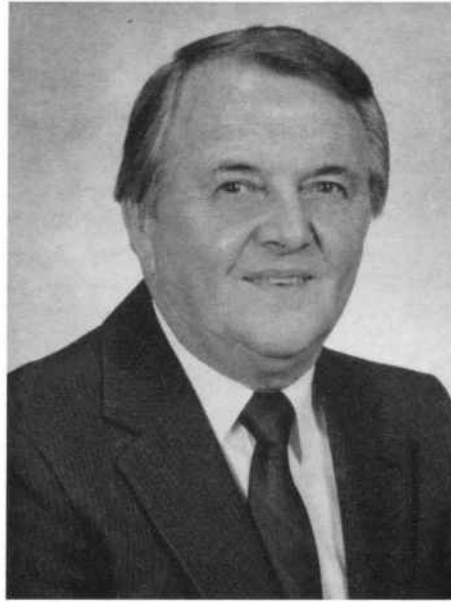
For the first time since its dedication in 1958, St. Joseph's Church had undergone extensive internal refurbishing in the Fall of 1988. Under the direction of Father Skiba, this latest renovation was begun to update the Church for the Diamond Anniversary. In addition to the removal of the altar rail and re-carpeting of the entire church, the sanctuary was made liturgically proper. The Presidential Chair of the celebrant was given a permanently prominent position. Additionally, a genuine marble altar was built for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Extraneous materials were removed from the back altar and focus centered upon the Tabernacle.

In addition to his duties as Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Father Skiba has also been conferred with administrative responsibility in the Catholic School System. In July 1986, Rev. Walter F. Skiba accepted the post of President of the Board of Pastors for Seton Catholic High School in Pittston. He is now serving his second term. With the beginning of the Fall School term in 1989, Father Skiba will also be President of the Board of Pastors for the new Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter.

For 75 years the people, who have been called to be members of a community named St. Joseph's Church, have faced each age with unwavering faith and deep devotion. It is a fitting legacy to bequeath to future generations.

"It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit...." (John 15:16)

DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE



Joseph Olesky
Chairman



1st Row - Left to Right: L. Wilski, C. Yurek, E. Zekoski, B. Gawlas, Rev. Walter F. Skiba, T. Pawloski, P. Podwika, R. Collins, Sr. A. Zendian and L. Hergan.
2nd Row - Left to Right: J. Rygiel, J. Kopko, D. Kopko, H. Mashinski, M. Rubino, P. Williamson, F. Zekoski, E. Seneski, J. Yurek, S. Shishilla, S. Yarmey, A. Benowski and Eve Shursky.
3rd Row - Left to Right: F. Poluske, H. Napkora, L. Condo, J. Wilski, M. Simko, J. Lipski, F. Tomsak, S. Yarmey, M. Ostrowski, J. Greszkiewicz and C. Skalski.

Absent from Photo: J. Charney, J. D'Alessandro, G. Endrusick, N. Kubasko, R. Kubasko, J. Lisiewski, F. Lisiewski, H. Ostrowski, P. Ostrowski, E. Sidorowicz, J. Sklarosky, A. Skolnick, P. Wrazien and V. Zarzecki.

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JUBILEE PHOTOGRAPHY

John Rygiel

JUBILEE HISTORY

Paul Wrazien

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2nd Row - Left to Right: Joseph Sklarosky, Esq.; Raymond Condo, Stephen Olah, Theodore Pawloski, Walter Bednar, John Lipski, John Rygiel.

Absent at time of picture: Karen Lipka, David Zarzecki, Bernard Gawlas.

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2nd Row - Left to Right: Clem Zekoski, Leonard Butera, Thomas Kufra, Richard Polinsky, Charles Cupani, Robert Ostrowski.
3rd Row - Left to Right: Theodore Pawloski, John Laskos, George Konopka, Frank Rutski, Joseph Sova

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1st Row - Left to Right: Crystal Partash, Nancy Asklar.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Anne Zendian, Religious Co-ordinator; Beckie Lipski, Robert Thompson, Christy Dreabit.

Absent at time of picture: Valerie Prothero, Vickie Podwika, Frank Galli.

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2nd Row - Left to Right: Anna Castellani, Louise Workoski, Faustine Zekoski, Nellie Korpusik, Helen Ostrowski, Edith Kolesky, Margaret Yurish, Agnes Podwika, Sera Yurek, Betty Skibinski.
3rd Row - Left to Right: Aldona Skowronski, Bernadine Pitcavage, Eleanor Seneski, Helen Mashinski, Marie Supczynsky, Antoinette Kucharski, Jean Yurek, Anna Kopko, Stella Shishilla, Mary Pietruch, Barbara Lipka, Victoria Dziezdzic.
4th Row - Left to Right: Sally Yarmey, Erma Cicon, Bernadine Bednar, Frances Poluske, Lorraine Condo, Valeria Zarzecki, Martha Gavlick, Olga Mizin, Helen Napkora, Elinor Yurek, Karen Storm.
5th Row - Left to Right: Rita Colondo, Frances Lisiewski, Deborah Kopko, Norene Kubasko, Jean Rizzo, Tina Wesser, Pat Sklarosky, JoAnne Rygiel, Veronica Dreabit, Mary Thomas Marie Baron.

Officers absent from picture are Irene Ales, Vice-President and Rose Gunsior, Publicity.

SODALITY



1st Row - Left to Right: Kristin Kopko, Mary Jo Lisiewski, Tanya Knight, Jennifer Gadomski, Cheryl Gadomski.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Rita Norton, Joelle Sharisky, Maria Sharisky, Nancy Asklar, Crystal Partash, Jill Ralston, Theresa Norton.
3rd Row - Left to Right: Missie Lipski, Prefect; Sharon McDonnell, Secretary; Michele Gunsior, Treasurer; Mrs. Millie Lipski, Co-ordinator; Jamie Rabel, Renee McDonnell, Christy Dreabit, Beckie Lipski.
Absent at time of picture: Lyn Stelacone, Vice-Prefect; Marita Wrazien, Vickie Podwika, Valerie Prothero, Jackie Prothero, Erin Brennan, Christa Burry, Jennifer Burry, Kristie Siracuse.

SENIOR CHOIR



1st Row - Left to Right: Jean Yurek, Anna Benowsky, Justina Charney, Organist and Choral Director; Victoria Cuba, Beverly McDonnell, Christine Condo.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Sharon Selena, Rita Selina, Natalie Mish, Magdaline Dixon, Carol Skalski, Barbara Korpusik, Anna Kolesar, JoAnne Rygiel.
3rd Row - Left to Right: Frank Rutski, Joseph Wilski, Robert Kubasko, John Rygiel.

Absent at time of picture: Ann Kichlinsky, Mary Thomas, Josephine Greszkiewicz, Lucille Condo, Barbara Wrazien, Karen Kamor, Peter Rutski, Benjamin Michalak, Steven Condo, Joseph Jasulewicz.

JUNIOR CHOIR



1st Row - Left to Right: Cheryl Gadomski, Kristin Kopko, Mary Jo Lisiewski, Jennifer Gadomski.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Rita Norton, Joelle Sharisky, Justina Charney, Organist and Choral Director; Maria Sharisky, Jill Ralston.

Absent at time of picture: Valerie Prothero, Jackie Prothero.

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY



1st Row (Top Picture) - Left to Right: Victoria Cuba, Monica Skolnick, Josephine Holub, Leona Klocko, Helen Mashinski, Louise Workoski, Frances Poluske, Betty Skibinski, Anna Kopko.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Ruth Truskowski, Josephine Gattuso, Helen Napkora, Marie Supczynsky, Helen Ostrowski, Stella Shishilla, Sera Yurek, Edith Kolesky, Margaret Yurish.
3rd Row - Left to Right: Genevieve Zendian, Barbara Lipka, Antoinette Kucharski, Valeria Zarzecki, Mary Pietruch, Victoria Dziedzic.

1st Row (Bottom Picture) - Left to Right: Caroline Dixon, Mary Charney, Victoria Cuba.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Anna Benowski, Irene Pascoe, Helen Chronowski.

ALTAR BOYS



1st Row - Left to Right: Jeffrey Tomsak, Shaun Connell, Michael Galli, Jason Tomsak, Michael Thompson, Kevin Smith.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Keith Williamson, Dean Williamson, Ronald Scavone, Rev. Walter F. Skiba, Pastor; August Bednar, Christopher Selena, Walter Storm, Carlyle Robinson.

Absent at time of picture: Derek Paskaitis, Matthew Podwika, Bryan Yaworski, Jason Dreabit, Ronald Hines, Jeremy Rokosz, Gerald Sworen, Jared Scavone.

C.C.D. TEACHERS



1st Row - Left to Right: Patrice Yurek, Carol Skalski, Anne Zendian, Religious Co-ordinator; Veronica Dreabit, Millie Lipski.
2nd Row - Left to Right: Martin Simko, Ruth Pascucci, Deborah Kopko, Rev. Walter F. Skiba, Pastor; Frances Lisiewski, Joseph Lisiewski.

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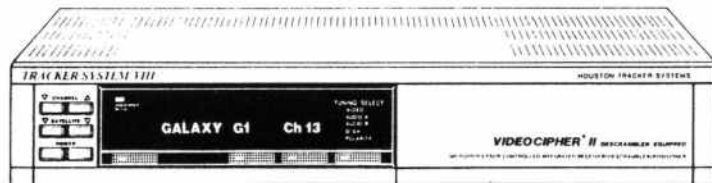
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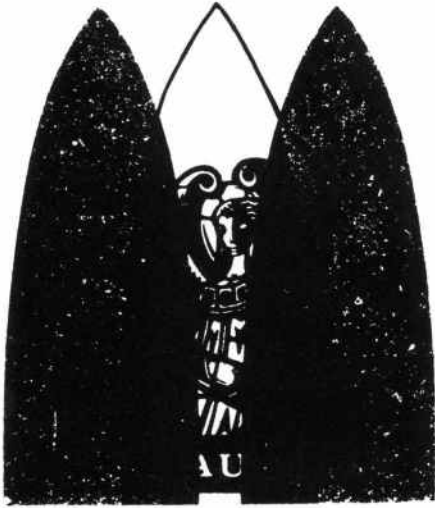
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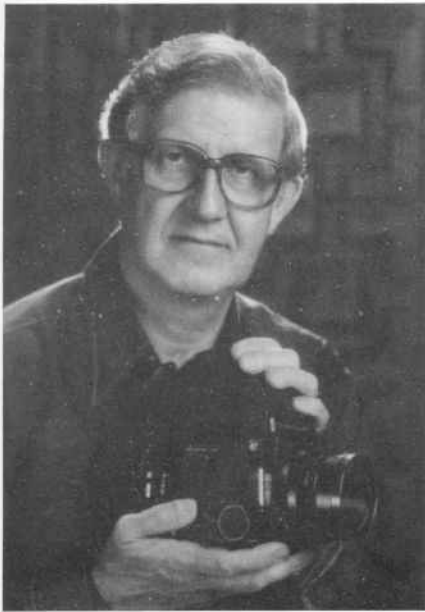
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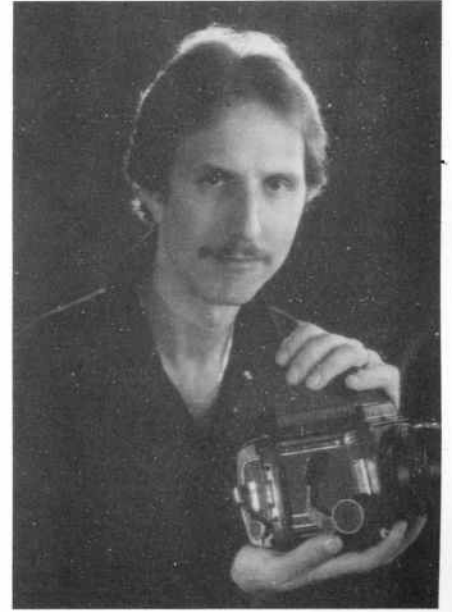
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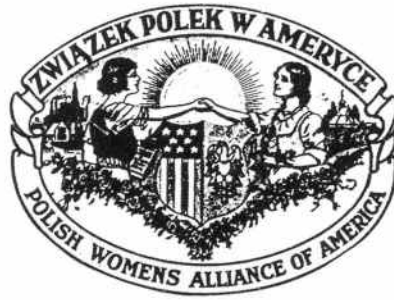
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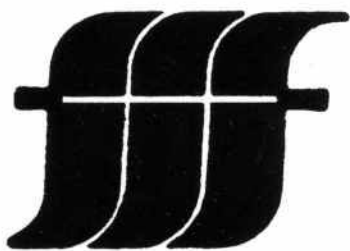
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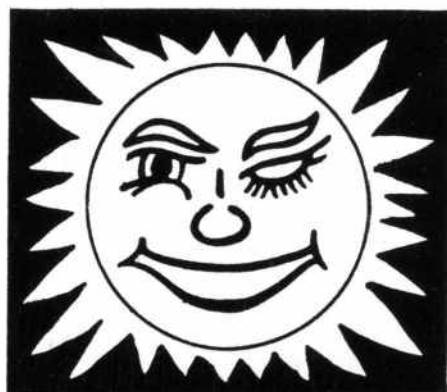
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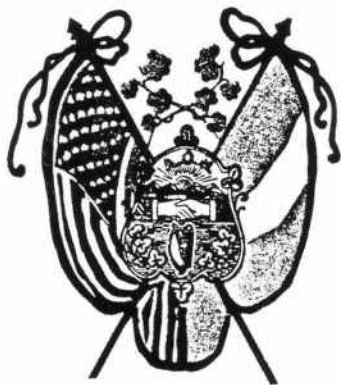
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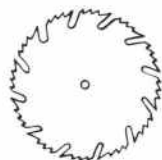
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APPRECIATION and DEDICATION

by Rev. Walter F. Skiba

The Celebration of a Diamond Jubilee is always an important event. It has special meaning when it marks the Anniversary of a Parish. We, the people of St. Joseph's Parish, join in this festive occasion to praise God in the Holy Trinity for the many blessings, that in His Infinite Love he has bestowed on St. Joseph's Parish during the past seventy-five years. We also thank Mary, the Mother of God, for her constant protection and solicitude, and her spouse St. Joseph, patron of our Parish, for his unending intercession.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to those gracious people who by their effort and sacrifice, made the Jubilee Celebration a memorable event. We thank our Chairman, the Committee Chairpersons and all the members of the various Committees who worked hard and unceasingly for this Jubilee Celebration. Our thanks is also extended to the generous people who are sponsors and patrons in this Jubilee Book.

We dedicate this Jubilee Book to all the people living and deceased of St. Joseph's Parish; who by their dedication, sacrifices and devotion, contributed so greatly to the establishment and growth of this parish. We also dedicate the book to the priests who served these people so well during the past Seventy-five years.

Autographs

