

989

75TH ANNIVERSARY

1906-1981



ST. MARY'S CHURCH
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

GATES, PENNSYLVANIA



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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

August 26, 1981

Dear Father Murawski:

On the occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of St. Mary's parish in Gates Mine, Pennsylvania, to be celebrated on November 15, 1981, it is my privilege to inform you that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, conveys his Apostolic Blessing.

In an address to the people at the Eucharistic Congress of Lourdes this year, the Holy Father emphasized the saving of St. Paul that the Christian people are a "priestly people."

"Your baptism makes you a 'priestly people.' Thanks to this title, each of you is called to present himself as a generous offering, accepted by the Father in Christ. It is up to you to give your eucharistic participation the same meaning as that Christ gave to his Sacrifice. He did not die in order to disappear, but to rise again, in order that the mission received from the Father may be completed with the power of the Spirit. His members are called to freedom, according to the Spirit and to initiative; the way to faith and unity is open, the norms of the new humanity are proclaimed. Christ expects from his priestly people the courage to advance and to undertake, along the way of charity, to suffer and die again, indeed like the martyrs, but believing like them in the success obtained by sacrifice."

Permit me to join my personal greetings and best wishes to those of the Holy Father. May Mary, Mother of the Church, help all to bring before the Holy Spirit their needs and their desires, their hopes and their willingness for sacrifice. May this deepening of faith help bring Christ's message to today's world.

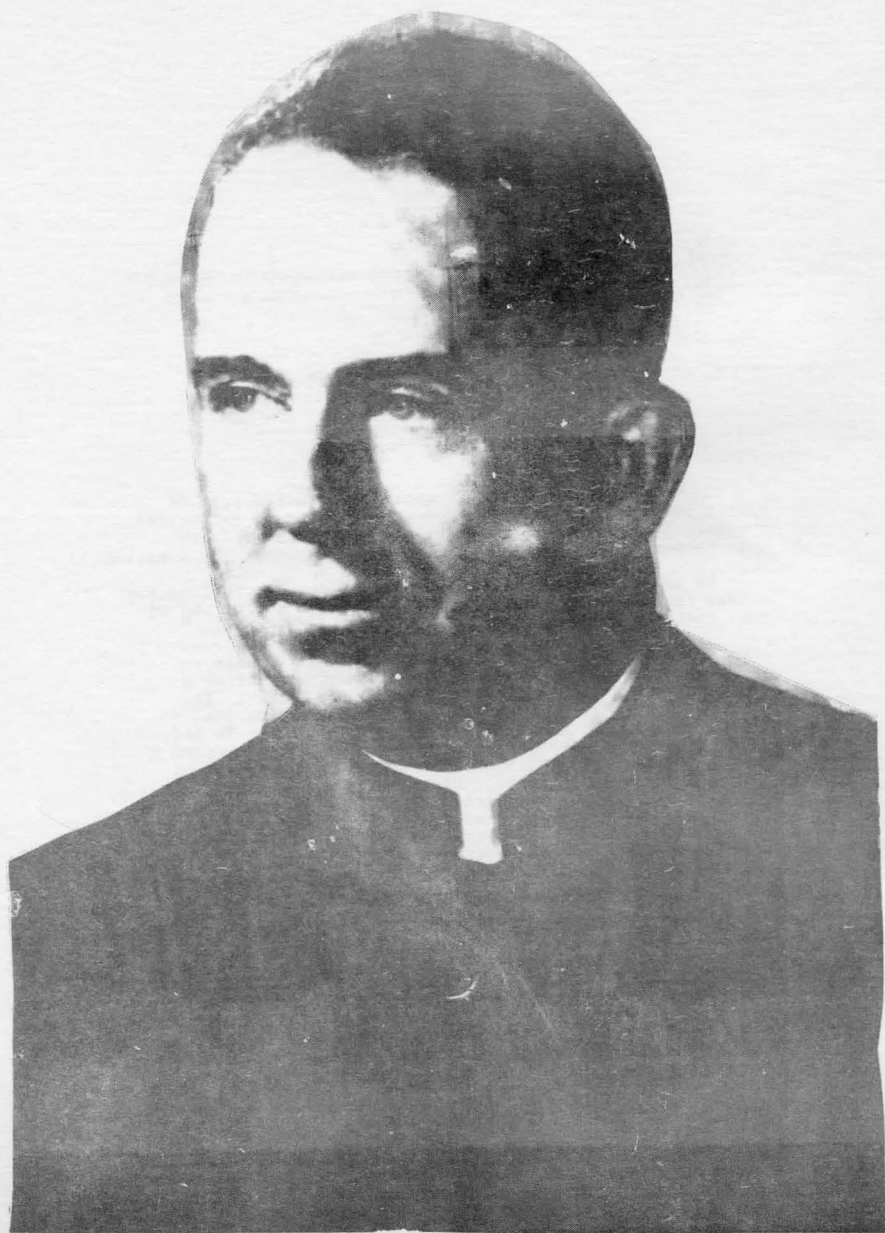
With cordial regards, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Apostolic Delegate

Reverend Apollinary Murawski
Pastor: St. Mary's Church
Gates Mine, Pennsylvania

ST. MARY'S CHURCH



MOST REV WM G CONNARE



DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

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

September 28, 1981

Reverend Apollinary Murawski
Saint Mary, Gates Mine
Box 295
Adah, Pennsylvania 15410

Dear Father Murawski:

I welcome the opportunity to congratulate you and your people in celebrating 75 years of parochial life in Gates Mine. Responsibility for your Mission has moved around a bit over the years. Footedale, Leckrone and now Palmer have served successively as the Mother Parish. In each connection your Mission Parish has contributed substantially to the spiritual life of the total Parish.

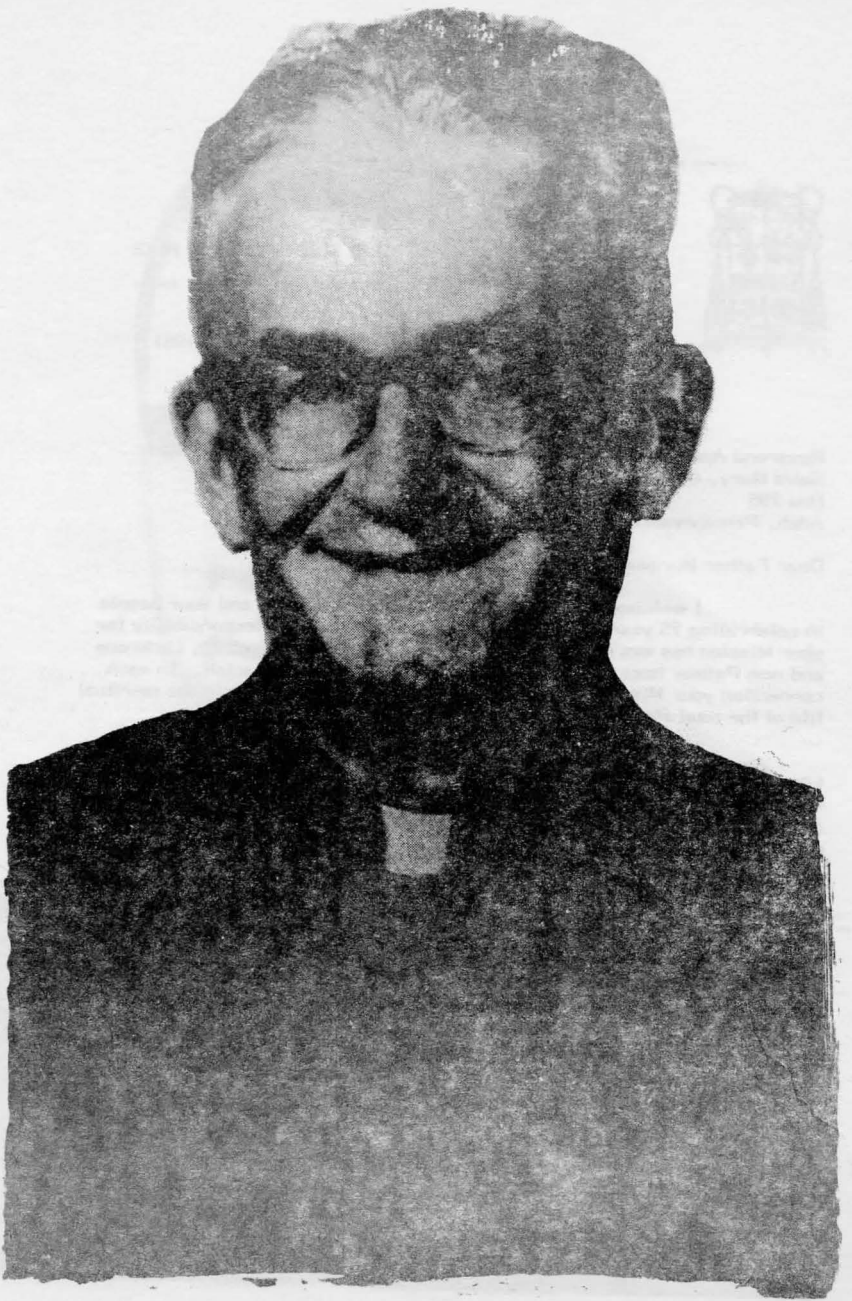
I have always enjoyed the intimacy of offering Mass in your little Church. I recognize it as an accommodation of a family dwelling in the neighborhood. This has the possibility of making participation in the offering of Mass a very real experience. It has the added advantage of keeping the parishioners very closely united in all they do.

Your strength has been in your dedication to Our Lady. She has carefully watched over the development of the Mission during these past 75 years. I know that individually your people and your families have been truly her children. There is much consolation in this fact, as we know that those devoted to her have never been abandoned.

Sincerely and prayerfully wishing for all of you the Lord's choicest blessings on this joyous occasion, I am

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Bishop of Greensburg



REV FATHER APOLINARY MURAWSKI
Pastor

Phone: (412) 737-67

ST. ALBERT PARISH

BOX 295

ADAM, PENNSYLVANIA 15410

November 15, 1981

Dear Parishioners:

Seventy five years ago you have chosen the Blessed Mother as your Patroness. Her statue is in the window of your church. Blessed Mother is watching through the window; like a good and loving mother, she is watching her children.

Really we are her spiritual children. Heavenly Mother is always watching, always ready to help us, to intercede for us by Her Son.

No wonder, the Rosary Society of Gates has an inspiring custom to say rosary before the Mass, every Sunday.

On this very special occasion, The Diamond Jubilee of the parish, may the Blessed Mother give to all the parishioners of Gates- Her loving protection, peace and joy, now and in the years to come.

Your servant in Christ

Rev. Apolinary Murawski
Father Apolinary Murawski, Administrator

History of St Mary's-Gates

The history of St Mary's dates back to July 1906 when several Catholic families acquired a double dwelling which was donated by the H.C. Frick Coke Company. The Church was officially named, The Immaculate Heart Of Mary. It began as a mission church of St. Thomas', Footedale, Pennsylvania. The First mass was celebrated by Father Ignatius Ostaszewski, pastor of St. Thomas'.

In 1907, St Mary's became a mission church of St Mary's, Leckrone where Father Dramascene Francis Polivka served as pastor. Being a mission church there are very few historical records available. However, it is known that baptismal, marriage, and burial services date back to 1907.

In July 1908, Father John W. Kovalsky became the pastor of St. Mary's Leckrone and also served the mission church at Gates. In November 1910, Father John Blazic, a hard working and zealous priest, became the pastor of St Mary's Leckrone. He served the two parishes for the next sixteen years. Father Bernard McBride became pastor for a six months period in 1926-27.

Father Fabian S. Kondria became pastor of St Mary's, Leckrone and Gates in May 1927. He was an excellent priest and a good community and spiritual leader who served both parishes for twenty-nine years. The mission church grew and prospered under his leadership. The children of Gates were given the opportunity to attend St Mary's Parochial School at Leckrone which was staffed by the Vincentian Sisters Of Charity. Bus service was provided to and from the newly opened school which began in 1928. During its forty-two years of existence, the school had a profound effect on the religious and spiritual lives of the residents of Leckrone and Gates. Eleven members of St. Mary's, Leckrone answered the call to vocations-five priests and six sisters.

It was during Father Kondria's tenure, as pastor, that the Rosary and Holy Name Societies became firmly established and the church membership greatly increased. Along with the spiritual uplift given the church, the societies provided many social activities. Much credit for the growth of the two organizations can be attributed to Father Andrew Charnoki, a former assistant pastor of St. Mary's, Leckrone and the present pastor of All Saints Church of Masontown.

In January 1956, Father Anthony G. Hardy assumed the pastorate of St. Mary's Leckrone and Gates. Father Hardy was a very capable priest with a fine sense of humor and the ability to secure the cooperation of the two parishes. During Father Hardy's tenure, the mission church received the services of the Franciscan Fathers from St. Anthony's Friary, Uniontown.

In June 1963, Father Joseph Hmelyar became pastor of St. Mary's, Leckrone and Gates. Father Hmelyar served the Gates Mission for a very short period. In early 1964, the Diocese transferred the church to the authority of St. Albert's, Palmer. Father Dominic G. Pozzuoli was pastor of St. Albert's. He worked diligently to ease the transition from St. Mary's, Leckrone to St. Albert's, Palmer.

Father Gino J. Rivi succeeded Father Pozzuoli as pastor in 1967. During his three years as pastor, one of his major accomplishments included the remodeling of the church's interior which was done with the help of the Rosary and Holy Name Societies.

In 1970, Father Henry Preneta became pastor of St. Albert's. Father Preneta did much to stimulate church attendance and sought to promote community involvement through church related activities. His personal interest in radio and television repairs aroused the interest of the youth of the parish.

Father Dennis Sweeney was assigned as pastor of St. Albert's and St. Mary's in 1973. Although his stay was of short duration, he succeeded in promoting many youth activities.

Father Apollinary Murawski, our present pastor, assumed his duties in February 1975. Father Paul, as he prefers to be called, has done much to uplift the spiritual needs of the parish. He was also instrumental in having the basement meeting room remodeled and the exterior of the church repaired. The celebration of this 75th anniversary can be attributed to his leadership.

Many fine and dedicated priests and assistant priests have served the parishoners of St. Mary's-Gates. The survival and success of the church is a tribute to the spiritual leadership which has been received from our religious leaders and the willingness of the parishoners to sacrifice and work cooperatively within the framework of our Diocese. We thank God for His many blessings and the privilege of having the opportunity to continue to worship in our own little community church.

Former Assistant Pastors

Benedictine Fathers	1907-46
Fr. Andrew J. Charnokl	1949-53
Fr. Anthony Raukauskas	1953-56
Francisoan Friars	1956-
Fr. Edward J. Boley	1956-61
Fr. Michael Blena	1961-63

75TH ANNIVERSARY MASS
St. Mary's Church, Gates, Pennsylvania
November 15, 1981
11:00 A. M.

Principal Celebrant **The Most Rev. William G. Connare**
Bishop - Diocese Of Greensburg

Master Of Ceremonies **Rev. Thomas J. Kilnzing,**
Assistant Chancellor

Concelebrants **Rev. Apollinary Murawski**
Rev. Henry Preneta

First Reading **Thomas Richnafsky**

Second Reading **Richard Zatlokovicz**

Organist **John Richnafsky**

75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER
November 15, 1981
V.F.W. Hall, Masontown, Pennsylvania
1:30 P.M.

- Invocation Rev. Walter Iwanicki, Pastor
Transfiguration Church,
Mt. Pleasant, PA
- Welcome Mrs. George Hatalla, President
St. Mary's Rosary Society
- Master of Ceremonies George J. Piava

Introduction of Guests

- Speakers: Rev. Andrew J. Charnoki, Pastor
All Saints Church, Masontown, PA
Reflections of Gates
George J. Piava
- Remarks The Most Rev. William G. Connor
Bishop - Diocese of Greensburg

Recognition of Former Parishoners

- Closing Remarks Rev. Apollinary Murawski, Pastor
St. Albert's & St. Mary's
- Benediction Rev. Stan J. Walczak, Pastor
St. Mary's, Leckrone, PA



Mary Holva
Offer Flowers



Alter Boys
Gary & Stovon Stuck



Church Organist
John Richnafsky



Rosary Society Group



**Agnes Nalepka-Sec, Cecelia Mesich-V Pres, Marie Hatalla-Pres,
Alice Richnafsky-Sick Com Chm, Jean Santella-Tres**



Church Lector

Thomas Richnafsky

Rich Zatiokovicz



Parish Council

**Front Row l-r Frances Plava, Nancy Zatiokovicz, Ann Tuskan,
Fr. Murawski, Irene Shottis**

**Back Row l-r Andrew Shenal, Daniel Hatalla, Vincent DiCarlo,
Thomas Richnafsky, Diane Butorac**



Anniversary Committee

**Front Row l-r Agnes Nalepka, Alice Richnafsky, Fr Murawski
Jean Santella, Marie Hatalla**

**Back Row l-r Cecelia Mesich, John Richnafsky, Frances Piava
George Piava**

Thank You

Father Murawski and the Anniversary Committee wish to express their thanks and appreciation to all who helped make this Diamond Anniversary a success. We especially wish to thank The Most Reverend William G. Connare for celebrating the Mass of Thanksgiving and for his presence at our banquet.

God bless our friends and former parishoners who joined with us in celebrating this special day, may they take with them many fond memories.

May the Lord continue to shower his blessings on our little parish church St. Mary's, Gates.

MEMBERSHIP

St. Mary's - Gates

Androsik, Mrs. Katherine
Ball, Mr. & Mrs. Gary
Ballas, Mr. & Mrs. Sam
Benco, Mrs. Emily
Borek, Mrs. Anna
Brown, Mrs. Getrude
Derov, Mr. & Mrs. George
Ezar, Mr. & Mrs. Steve
Habrat, Edward
Hatalla, Daniel
Hatalla, Mr. & Mrs. George
Holva, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard
Holva, Mrs. Mary
Hower, Mrs. Velma
Jervinsky, Mr. & Mrs. Albert
Lisko, Mrs. Anna
Lopez, Michael
McCloskey, Jennifer
Mesich, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew
Nalepka, Mr. & Mrs. Edward, Sr.
Nalepka, Mr. & Mrs. Edward, Jr.
Pascla, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph, Sr.
Patituci, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph, Jr.
Patsko, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph
Plava, Dr. W. Donald
Plava, Mr. & Mrs. George
Petcheny, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald
Richnafskey, Mrs. Elizabeth
Richnafskey, Mr. & Mrs. John, Sr.
Richnafskey, John Jr.
Richnafskey, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
Ritenour, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert
Santella, Adrian
Santells, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred
Santella, Leonard
Sargent, Mr. & Mrs. John
Sargent, John Jr.
Mrs. Velma Sefcik
Sholtis, Miss Irene
Sholtis, Mr. & Mrs. John
Sholtis, Mrs. Lucy
Smodic, Gregory
Smodic, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Spirnak, Mr. & Mrs. Michael
Stuck, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Williams, Mr. Carl
Wilson, Mrs. Sophia
Yankulic, Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Zatlokovicz, Mr. Joseph
Zatlokovicz, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Zvolenski, Mr. & Mrs. Gene

