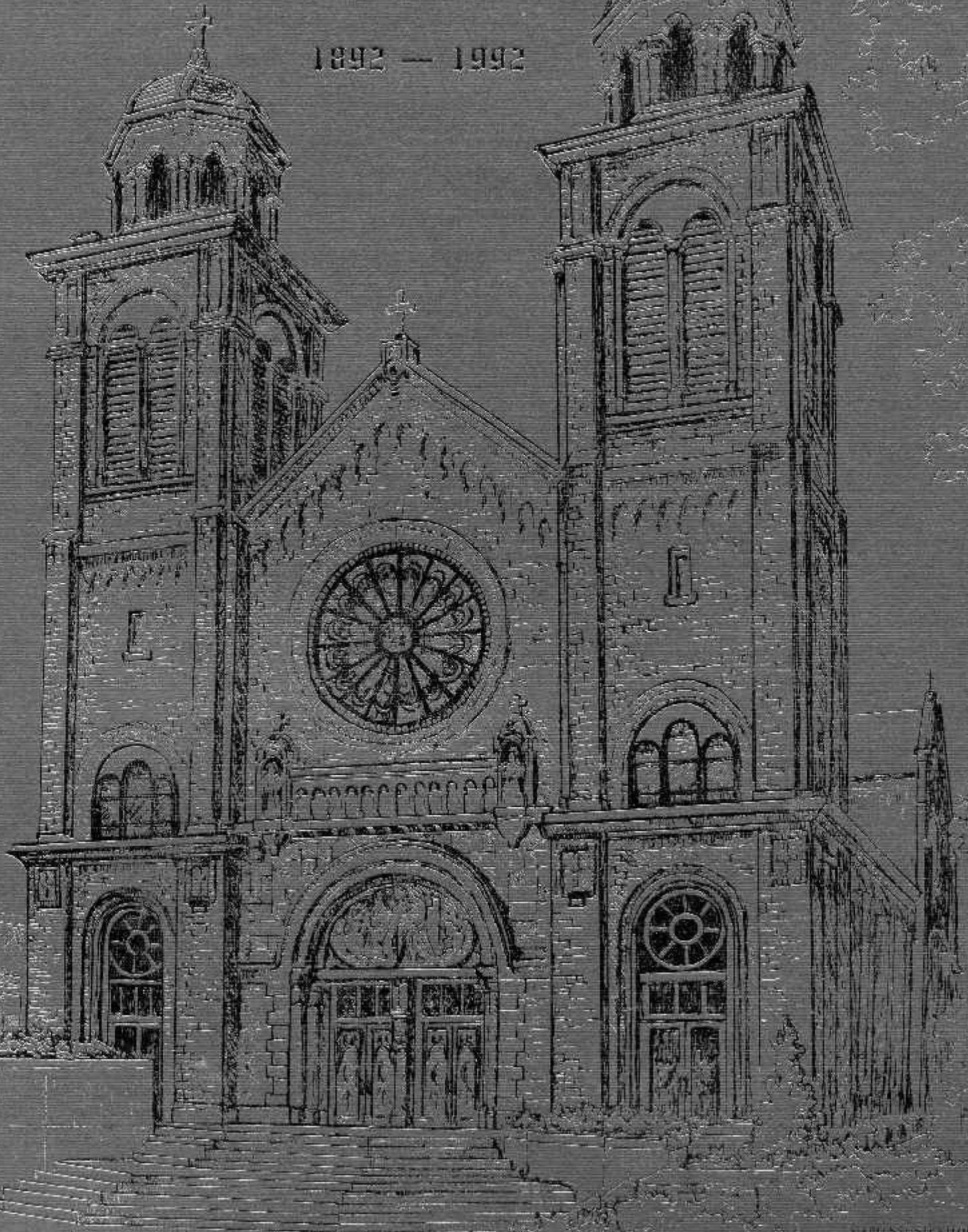
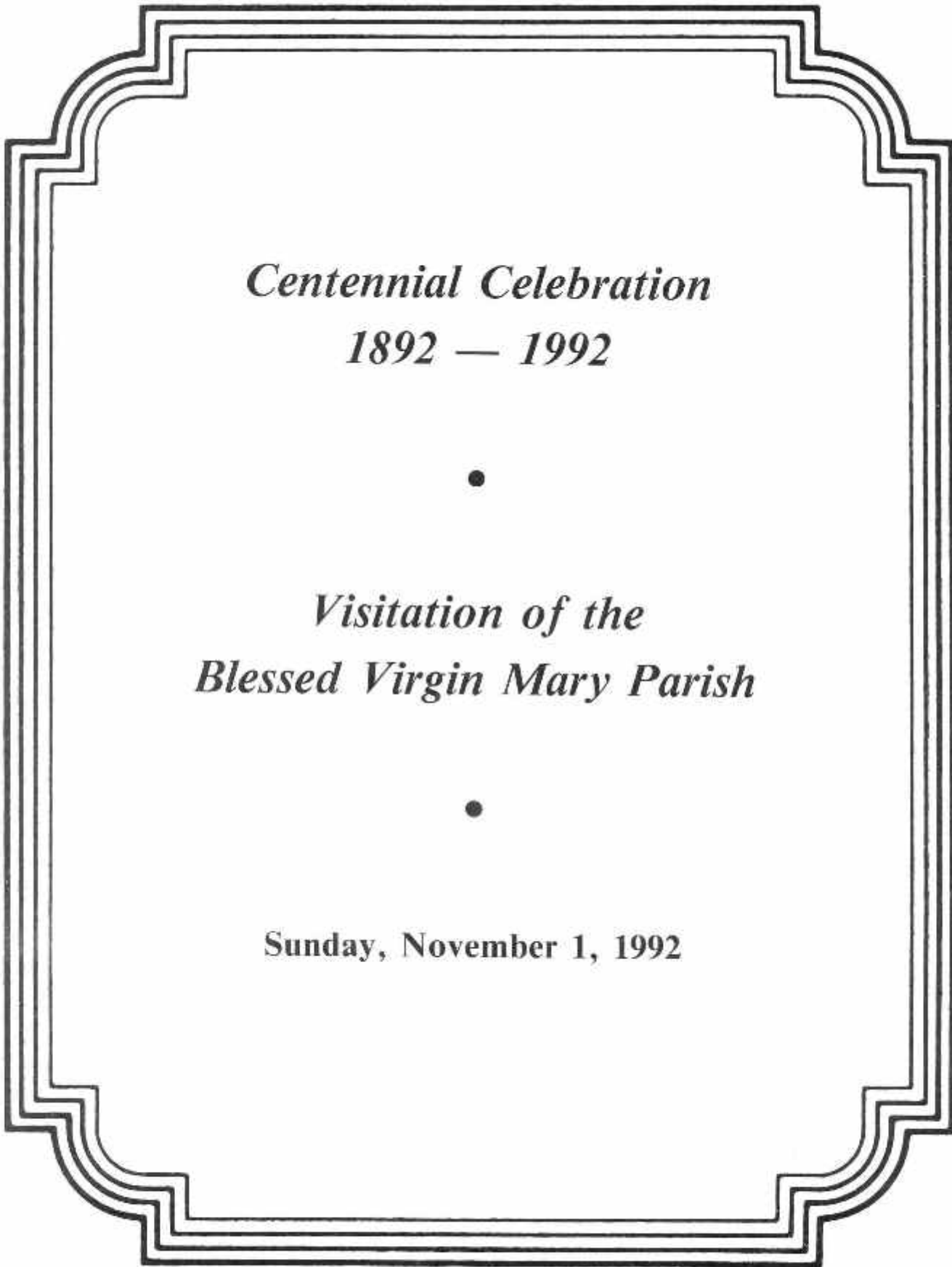


Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Dickson City, Pennsylvania

1892 — 1992



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Centennial Celebration
1892 — 1992



Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

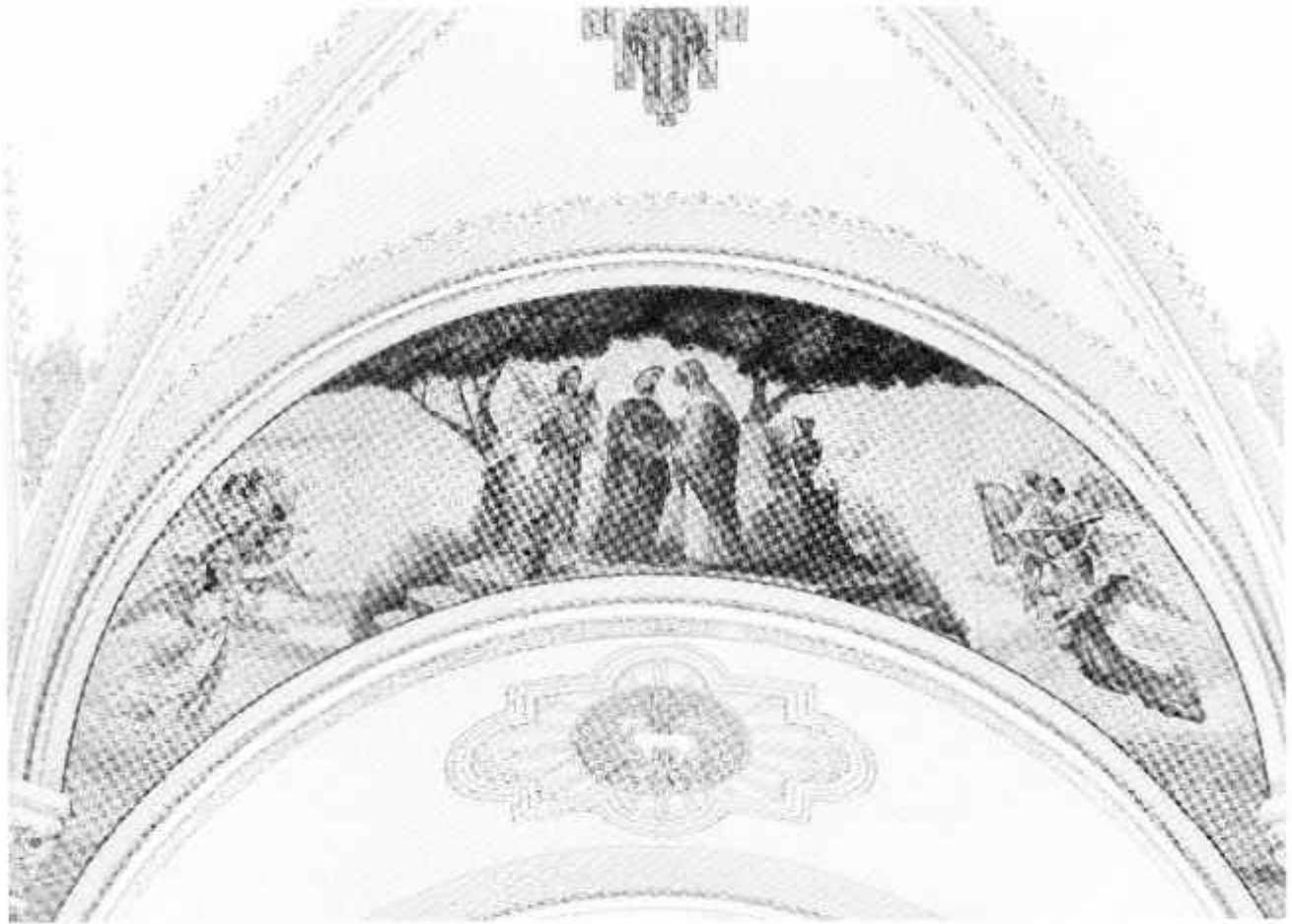


Sunday, November 1, 1992



ST. MARY'S VISITATION CHURCH
1911

Reverend Joseph Dudkiewicz, Pastor



DEDICATION

It is said that any journey undertaken begins with the first step. Our forefathers took that first step on a journey of faith in 1892, when St. Mary's Visitation Parish was established.

The hard work, sacrifices, and dedication of these selfless people during difficult times, and their children in succeeding years, have given us a parish community which is a source of inspiration and pride today. Our magnificent church, school, and all of the parish properties are the fulfillment of a commitment our people made to acknowledge the importance of God in our community.

This book is dedicated to all of our predecessors: the clergy and religious who guided them, and the bold men, women and children, whose love of God and trust in His help, dared to pursue a journey of faith that has left a legacy to be cherished by us today and by generations to come.

**Mass of Thanksgiving
Feast of All Saints**

Principal Celebrant

His Excellency, The Most Reverend James C. Timlin, D.D.
Bishop of Scranton

Concelebrants

Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski, *Pastor*
Reverend Patrick Albert, *Parochial Vicar*
Reverend Stefan Krawontka, *Parochial Vicar*
Reverend Juan San Sebastian, *Weekend Assistant*
Reverend James Mielechowski, O.M.C.
Reverend Thomas Zalewski, O. Carm.

Homilist

Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski, *Pastor*

Master of Ceremonies

Monsignor Neil J. Van Loon, *Chancellor*

Lectors

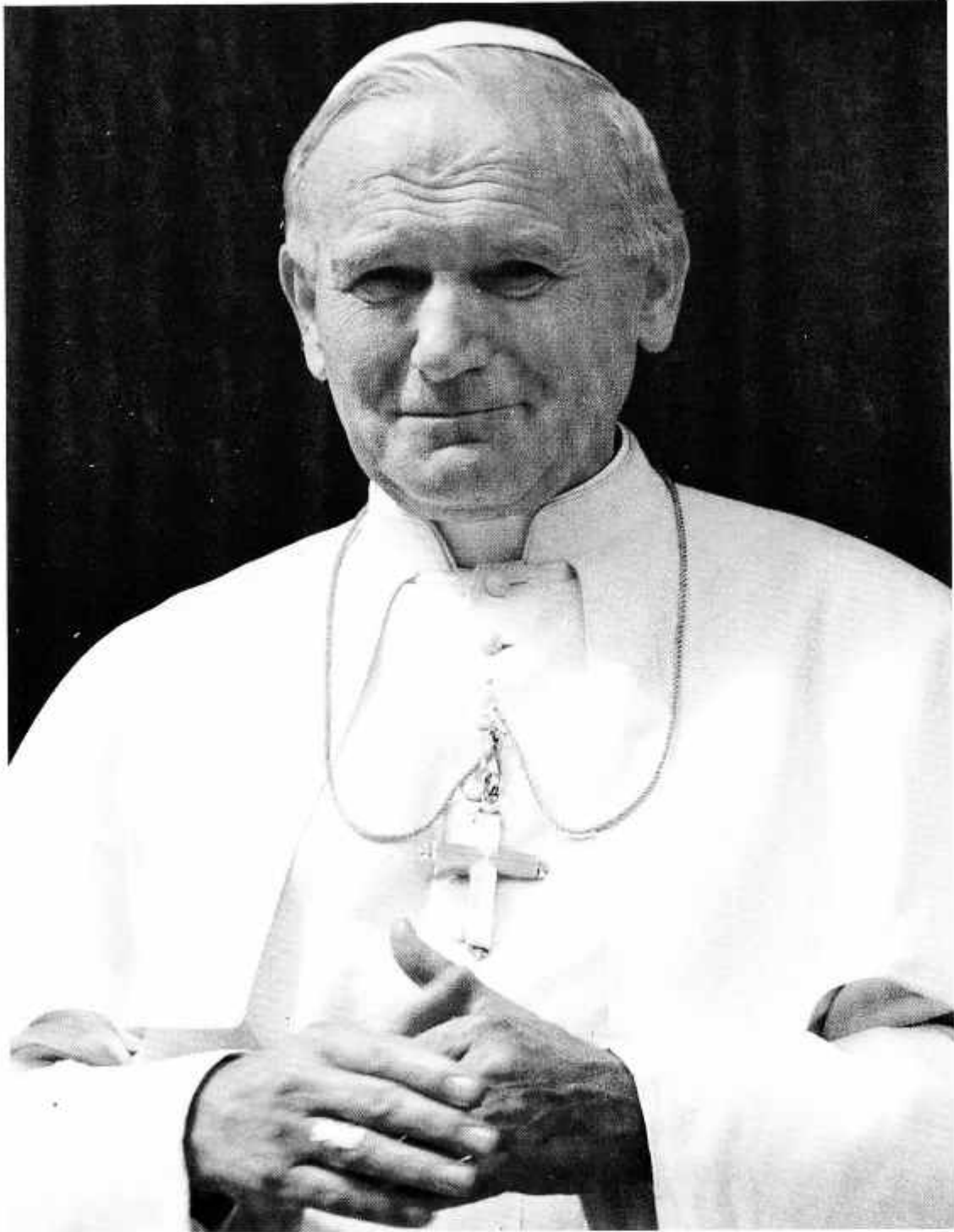
Marion Badyrka
James J. Kisel

Servers

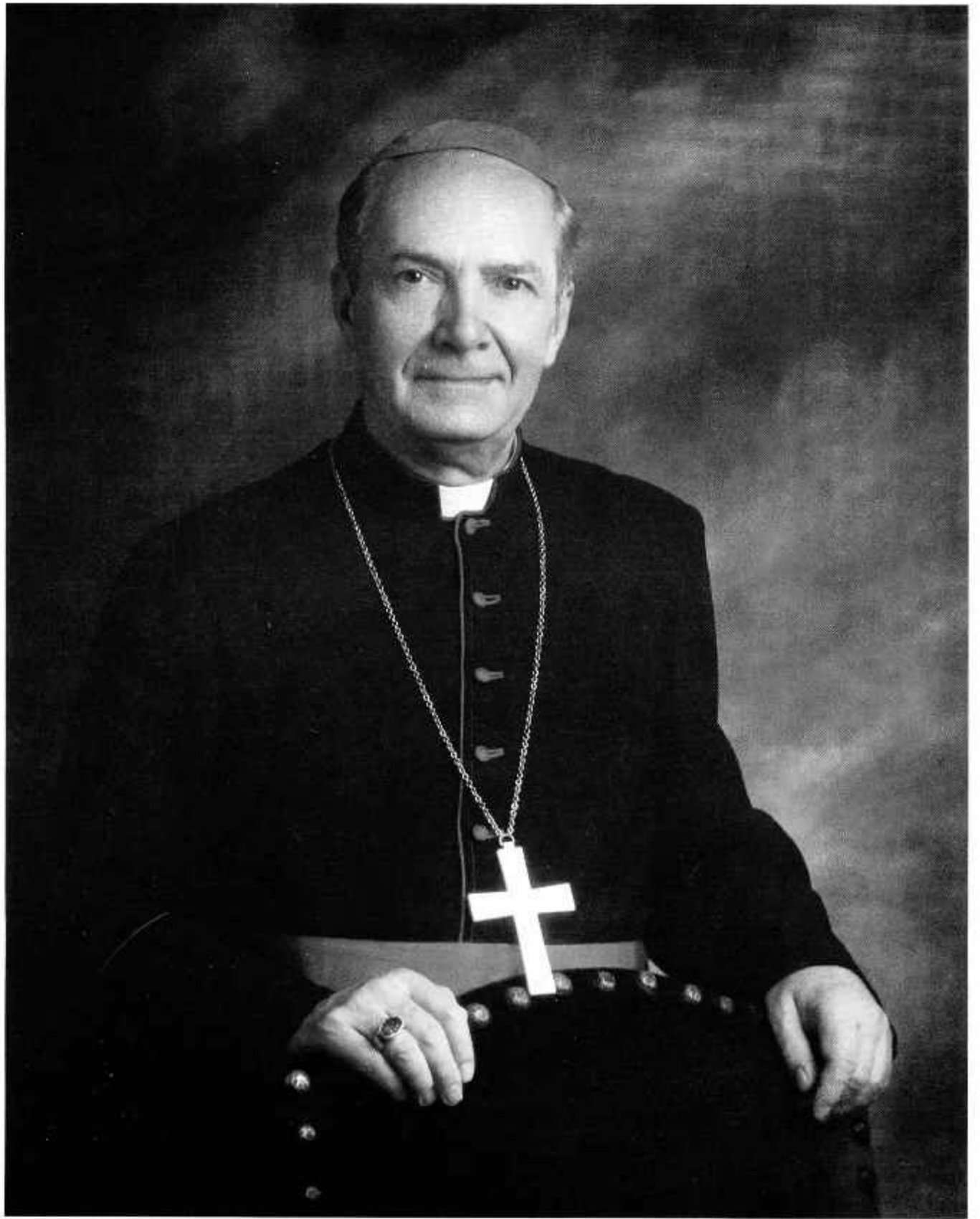
Brian Gable — John Luchansky
Matthew Horvath — John Salva
James Kanton — Joseph Salva

Director of Music and Organist

Lorraine Kowrach Hutchens, A.A.G.O.



POPE JOHN PAUL II



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

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

September 23, 1992

Dear Monsignor Piorkowski:

On the happy occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City, Pennsylvania, it is my distinct privilege to convey to the entire parish community the heartfelt congratulations and prayerful good wishes of His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

It is the hope of the Holy Father that this celebration will awaken in the faithful of the parish a renewed consciousness of their Christian dignity and mission, arising from their love for Christ and His Church. As baptized and confirmed Catholics, they have been called to build up the Kingdom of God by deepening their own interior lives, by rendering generous service to those in spiritual or material need, and by giving authentic witness to the truth of the gospel.

With particular fervor, the Holy Father recommends that this parish jubilee be a time of recommitment to Catholic education for the young, and that it prompt the youth of the community to consider a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

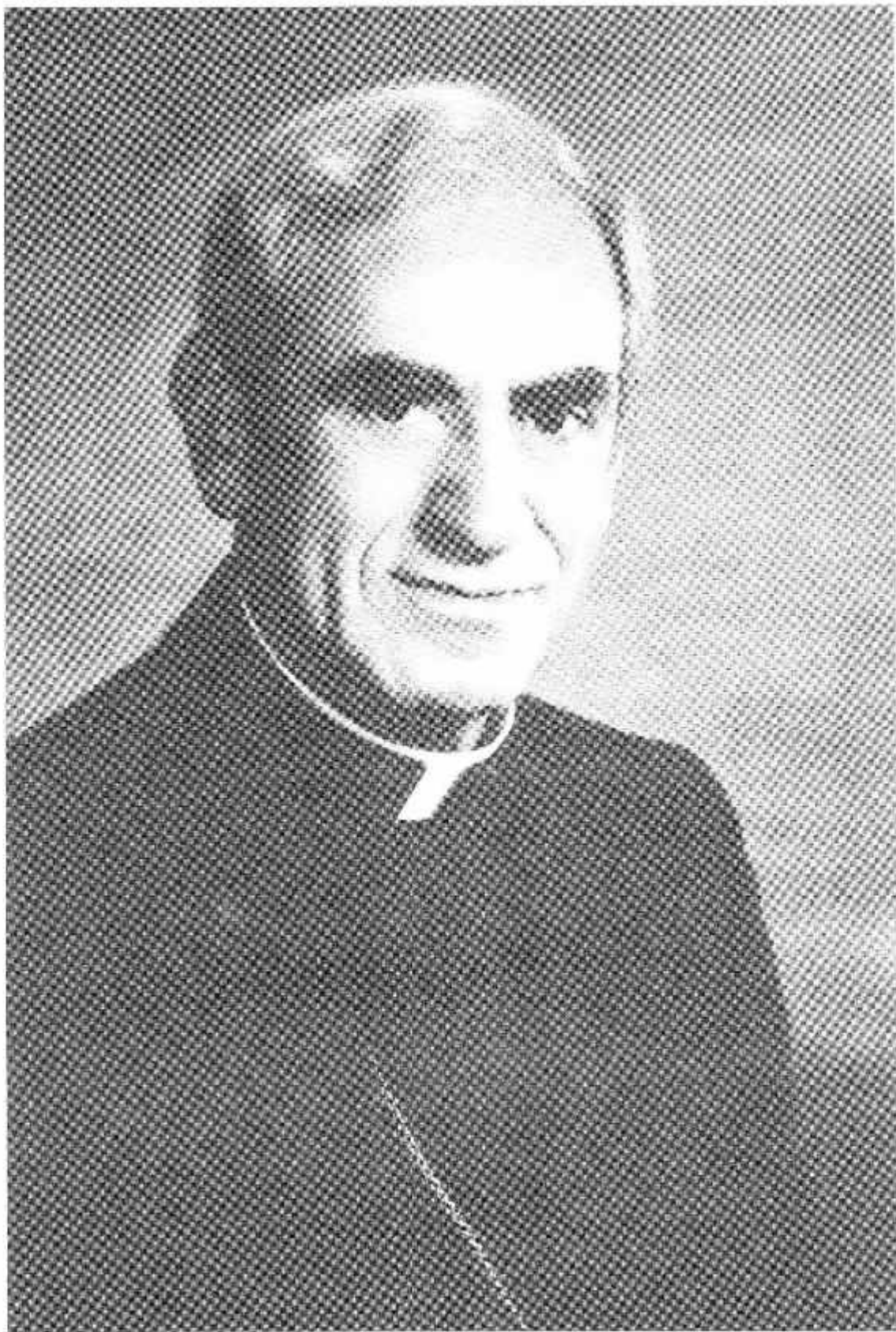
His Holiness desires to unite with the entire parish family in thanking God for the blessings of the past one hundred years, while entrusting the future into the loving hands of Mary, Mother of the Church.

As a sign of his spiritual esteem and solidarity, Pope John Paul II imparts to all the parish his Apostolic Blessing, granted through the intercession of Mary Immaculate. To the sentiments of the Holy Father, allow me to add my own regards.

Sincerely in Christ,


Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio

Reverend Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski, Pastor
100th Anniversary of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
Dickson City, Pennsylvania





Office of the Cardinal
222 N. 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1799

September 25, 1992

Reverend Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Saint Mary's Square
P.O. Box 9038
Dickson City, PA 18519

Dear Monsignor Piorkowski:

On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, I wish to extend to you and your parishioners my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

The observance of this milestone in the life of your Parish Community provides you with a fitting occasion to give thanks and praise to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon you. Throughout the years the people of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish have experienced the love and saving grace of the Lord. I join you in giving praise and thanks to God for all His goodness to your Parish.

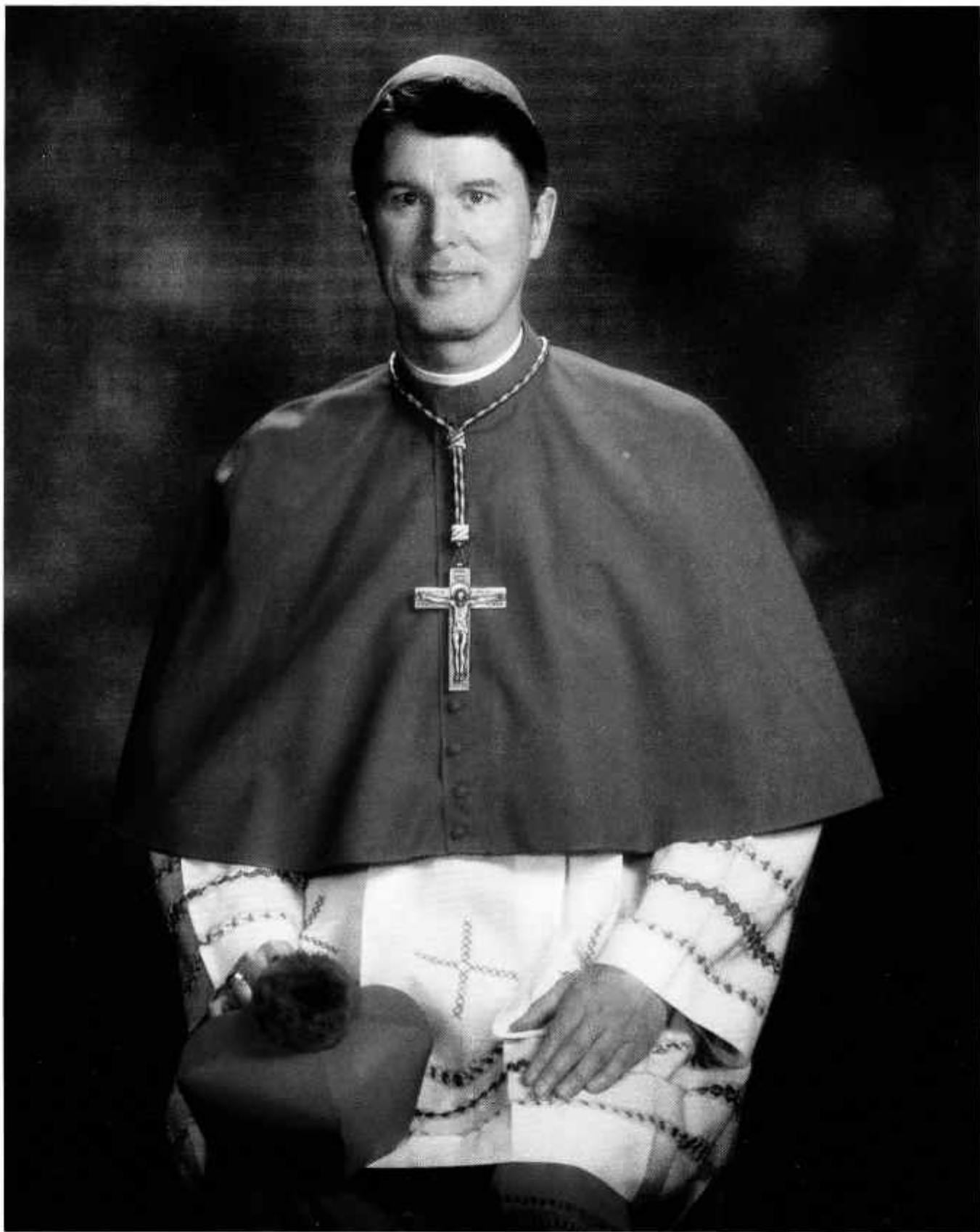
I am grateful for the way the people of your Parish have continually responded to God over these past 100 years. They have been faithful and generous members of the Church and have witnessed to Christ and the Church by the example of their lives. Permit me to borrow the words of Saint Paul who wrote to the Philippians, "I give thanks to my God every time I think of you." (Phil. 1:3)

As you celebrate your 100th Anniversary, please be assured that you and your people have a special remembrance in my prayers. May the Lord bless all the members of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish with renewed faith, hope and love.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Anthony Cardinal Devine
Archbishop of Philadelphia





Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503-1279

November 1, 1992

Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Saint Mary's Square
Dickson City, Pennsylvania 18519

Dear Monsignor Piorkowski,

On the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Dickson City, Pennsylvania, I am pleased to extend to you and your parishioners my sincere congratulations and best wishes.

In the New Testament, we read: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart also be." Luke 12, 32. The Polish immigrants considered their Catholic faith as their greatest treasure. Determined to preserve this heritage, each generation has sacrificed to support a magnificent church, as well as a rectory, school and convent. God has richly rewarded the parishioners during the past century and your congregation is one of the largest and most active in the Diocese of Scranton.

In Dickson City, evangelization is a priority and Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish is recognized as a Welcoming Church. You and your faith community share the Eucharistic Liturgy, personal prayer, time, talents and resources to manifest the Gospel values and to proclaim the "Good News" of your Catholic Faith.

A Centennial Celebration is a time for reminiscing; it is a time to remember the priests, Sisters and parishioners who have contributed generously to the proud history and continuous growth of the parish. It is also a moment to rejoice in ten decades of a cherished covenant with God, as well as an opportunity to plan for the national and global concerns of the new millennium.

Asking God's blessings on you as a parish family while assuring you of my prayers, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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





Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503-1279

Office of the Vicar General

October 27, 1992

Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski, Pastor
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Saint Mary's Square
Dickson City, Pennsylvania 18519

Dear Monsignor Piorkowski,

May I take this opportunity to send to you and to the good people of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church my heartfelt congratulations as you celebrate that church's centennial year, a wonderful occasion for the pastor, assistant pastors, religious and parishioners alike.

The impressive church in Dickson City and its surrounding parish structures are a living tribute to your forebears who worked so hard and sacrificed so much to establish a church community in a new land where they could worship their God in a familial setting. They brought with them time-honored customs many of which, I know, are still observed today in your traditional ceremonies. It is to your credit that their efforts are not lost with the passage of time but, rather, are being enhanced. Remember them in your prayers, together with the priests and religious who served in your parish during the past one hundred years.

In today's world with its many challenges and diverse problems, a strong church family is vital to the well-being of all. I commend you for keeping sacred those values instilled in you by your parents and grandparents. My prayer is that you will always remain faithful to God and His Church, and that you will continue to cherish the precious heritage so lovingly handed down to you by past generations.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our heavenly mother and your patroness, protect and keep you in her tender care as together you strive to gain the promises of her Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

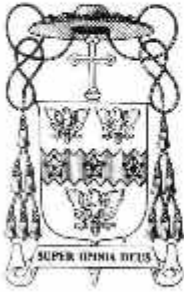
Again with congratulations and personal best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

+ Francis X. Di Lorenzo

Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo, D.D., V.G.
Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton





300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

October 9, 1992

Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski
Pastor
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Dickson City, Pennsylvania

Dear Monsignor Piorkowski,

Knowing that your parish will celebrate its hundredth anniversary on November 1st next, I wish to offer you, your Assistants and your people my congratulations and best wishes as you mark this important milestone.

In successive generations, the priests and parishioners of your parish have made many sacrifices in order to give God the glory that is due Him and over the past ten decades have faithfully fulfilled their religious duties in such a way as to be a good example to others. As a result, God has blessed the parish and it has prospered.

The centennial celebration brings back many memories of past graces and spiritual favors bestowed by Almighty God through the parish church. Hence it is a time for deep joy and gratitude. In the years that lie ahead, may your parish continue to be a center where all are inspired to greater love and devotion to Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

With every good wish and sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick, D.D.
Former Bishop of Scranton



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

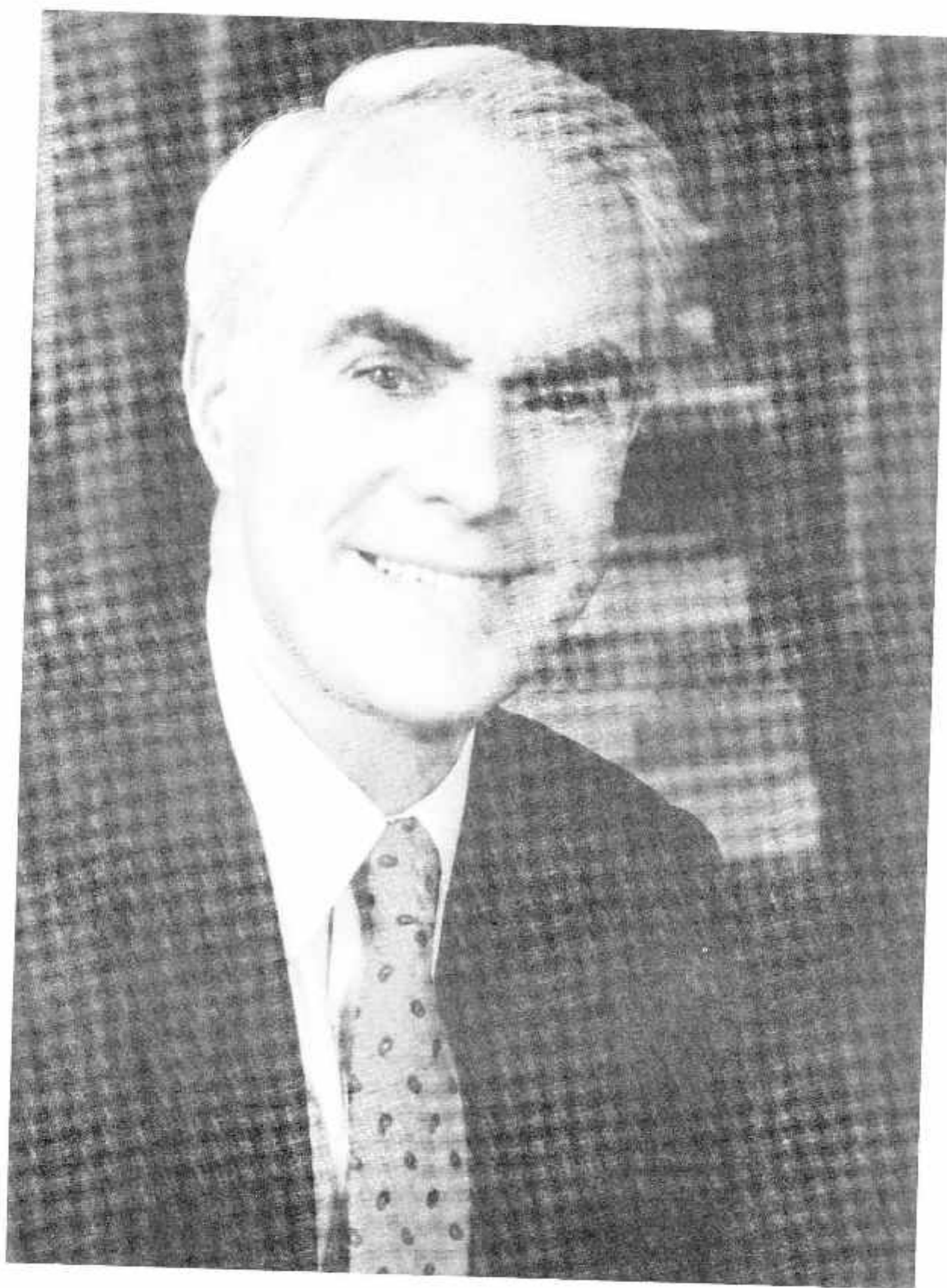
October 15, 1992

Barbara and I are delighted to send greetings to all those who are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Dickson City. Congratulations on this milestone.

We can all rejoice in what your house of worship has meant to its members. A place of prayer, fellowship, reflection, and renewal, it has also been the focal point for many acts of generosity and service to others. Indeed, because the faith and values nurtured within its walls are the foundation of strong families and communities, your Church has been a source of strength for our entire country.

You have our best wishes for a joyous celebration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Bush".



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

GREETINGS:

I am pleased to send warmest regards to the congregation of the Church of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary as you gather to celebrate your 100th anniversary.

The spiritual health of Pennsylvania relies on the strength and sense of community found in its places of worship. The church offers a foundation upon which people can build their lives.

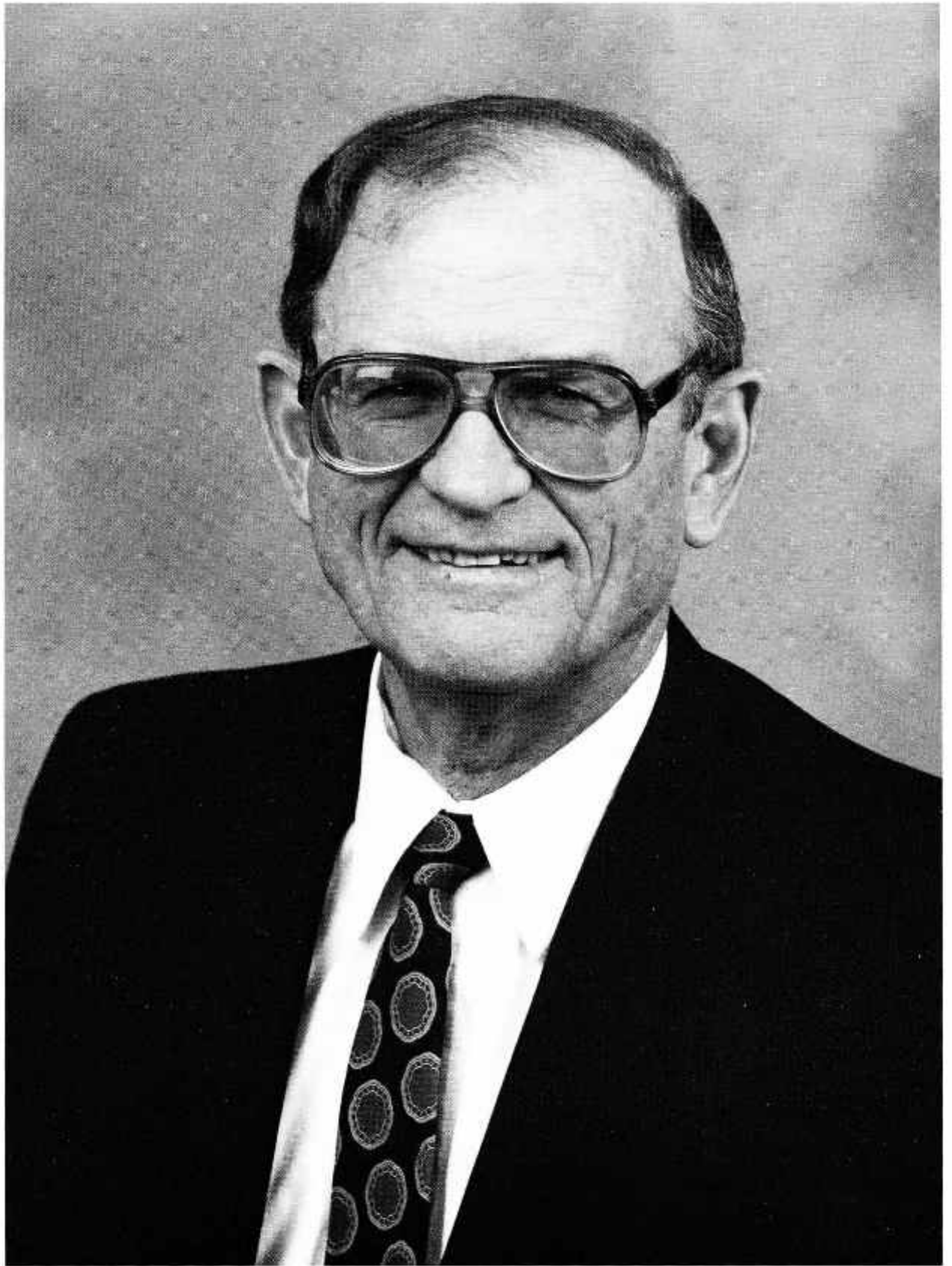
For the past century, your church has helped those in need, cared for the elderly, educated children and assisted those struggling to find their goals. The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church has been a strong part of the Dickson City community and an important part of countless lives.

As you celebrate this very special and historic milestone, I extend best wishes to you all. May you enjoy continued spiritual growth and strength.



Robert P. Casey

Robert P. Casey
Governor
November 1, 1992



Vincent P. Wiercinski

Office of the Mayor

Dickson City Municipal Building
Boulevard Avenue
Dickson City, Pa. 18519



Phone: 717-489-4758

November 1, 1992

Dear Monsignor Piorkowski & Parishioners of St. Mary's,

I am honored to recognize St. Mary's Visitation Church on this, our 100 year anniversary and a century of spiritual presence to the individuals of Dickson City. The spirit of this church has been present throughout this community since we were first known as Priceburg and has ignited our spiritual and moral development throughout the years. St. Mary's has been our spiritual family by educating our children, uniting our couples, consoling our weary and comforting us in life and death. All this has been done with the intent of bringing us closer to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

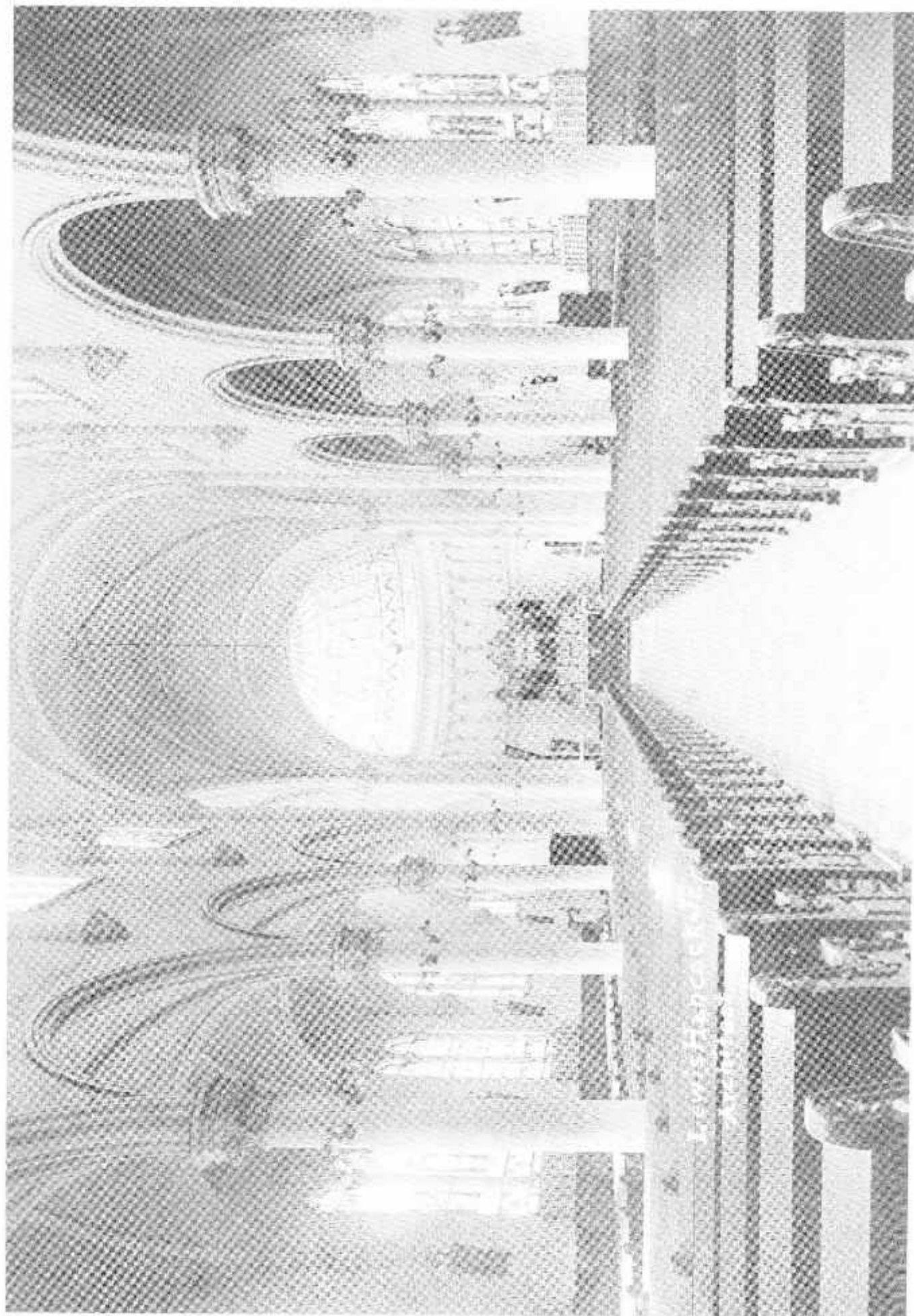
Though the architecture of the building itself is magnificent, the spirit and generosity of the individuals who make up the church is extraordinary. The dual steeples of the physical structure can be seen for miles, but more importantly, the spiritual structure has acted as a landmark for our souls. As the citizens of this community look toward a new century, we will be faced with a changing world with many moral and complex issues. As in the past 100 years, we can be assured that St. Mary's Visitation Church will be here to help guide us in the pursuit of our ultimate goal...union with our God.

May God Bless all of you.

Sincerely,



Vincent P. Wiercinski
Mayor

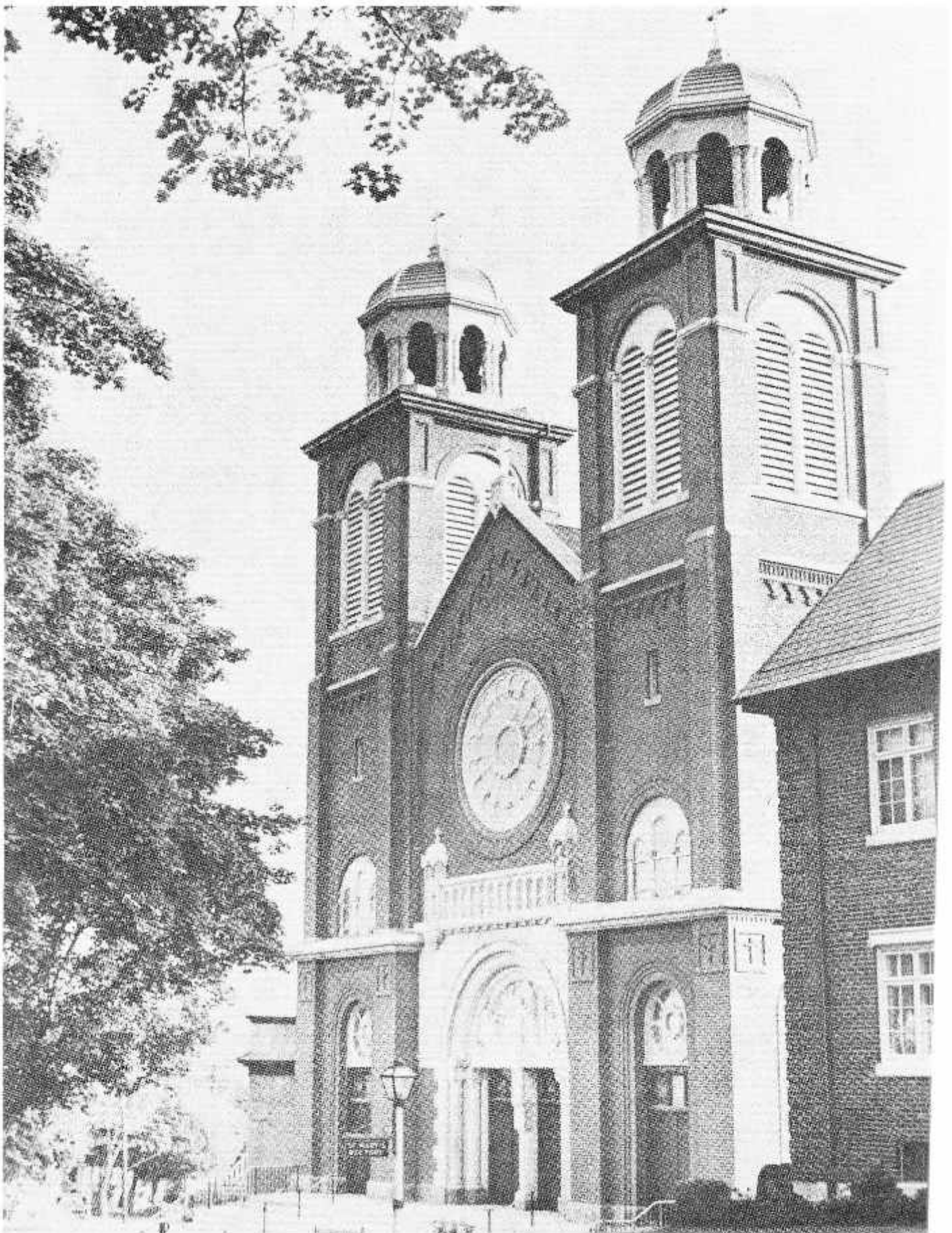


Interior of the Basilica of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Crestedmont, California © 1911



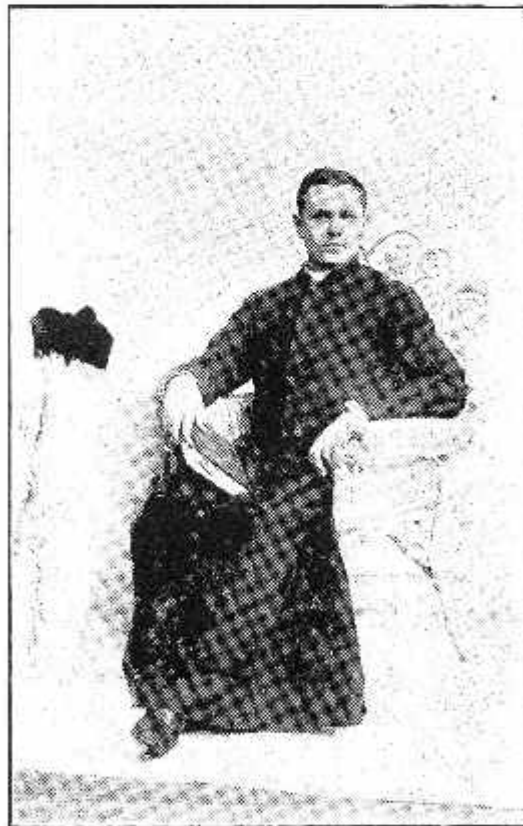
Church Interior by 1920



Saint Mary's Visitation Church — 1961
Rt. Reverend Monsignor Peter P. Niebrzydowski, Pastor

REVEREND BRUNO GRAMLEWICZ

Rev. Bruno Gramlewicz was pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Nanticoke, Pa. and traveled to the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish twice each month to service approximately 40 families until 1892.



REVEREND BRONISLAUS IWANOWSKI

Rev. Bronislaus Iwanowski became the first resident pastor of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish on July 4, 1892. He remained in this parish until 1899. Fr. Iwanowski is credited with completing the interior of the first parish church.



Reverend Joseph Dudkiewicz
Pastor of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish
1899 - 1917

REVEREND JOSEPH DUDKIEWICZ

Born: 1852 in Kielce, Poland

Elementary Education: Kielce Local Schools

College and Seminary Education: Kielce University, University of
Innsbruck

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood: July 13, 1873

Pastorates: Kielce Parish — Kielce, Poland 1873-1896

Holy Trinity — Nanticoke, Pa. 1896-1899

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Dickson City, Pa.
1899-1917

Died: February 17, 1917



Very Reverend Monsignor Stanislaus E. Szpotanski
Pastor — 1917 - 1943

VERY REV. MSGR. STANISLAUS E. SZPOTANSKI

Born: Nov. 1, 1873 in Blossburg, Pa.

Parents: Martin and Michaeline Szpotanski

Elementary Education: Blossburg Public School

College and Seminary Education: Holy Ghost College, Dusquesne University, St. Vincent's Seminary-Beatty, Pa.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood: Oct. 23, 1897 by The Most Reverend Bishop Michael J. Hoban, D.D.

Assistant Pastor: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church — Dickson City, Pa. 1897

Pastorates: St. John the Baptist—Antrim, Pa. 1897

St. Joseph's—Hudson, Pa. 1898

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Dickson City, Pa. 1917-1943

Elevated to the Rank of Papal Chamberlain: Feb. 21, 1930

Died: March 10, 1943



Reverend Francis Xavier Dominiak
Pastor — 1943 - 1957

REVEREND FRANCIS XAVIER DOMINIAK

Born: November 11, 1892, Scranton, Pa.

Parents: Francis X. Dominiak and Mary Cholewszczynska

Elementary Education: Scranton Local Schools

High School Education: St. Stanislaus High School, Chicago, Illinois

College and Seminary Education: St. Bonaventure College, St.
Bonaventure, N.Y.
St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N.Y.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood: Dec. 21, 1916 by The Most Reverend
Bishop Michael J. Hoban, D.D.

Assistant Pastor: Nativity of Our Blessed Mother, Plymouth, Pa. 1916
Administrator of Holy Cross, Buttonwood, Pa. 1916
Chaplain in the Polish Army, 1916-1918
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Dickson City, Pa. 1918

Pastorates: St. Stanislaus, Austin Heights, Pa. 1919-1922
Ogdensburg Diocese, 1922-1925
St. Mary's, Blossburg, Pa. 1925-1927
Transfiguration, West Hazleton, Pa. 1927-1943
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Dickson City, Pa.
1943-1957

Died: Sept. 1, 1957



Right Reverend Monsignor Peter P. Niebrzydowski
Pastor — 1957 - 1965

RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR PETER P. NIEBRZYDOWSKI

Born: June 7, 1896, Forest City, Pa.

Parents: Matthew Niebrzydowski and Victoria Skrocki

Elementary Education: Forest City Public School

High School Education: St. Stanislaus, Chicago, Illinois
St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, N.Y.
St. Bonaventure Seminary, St. Bonaventure, N.Y.

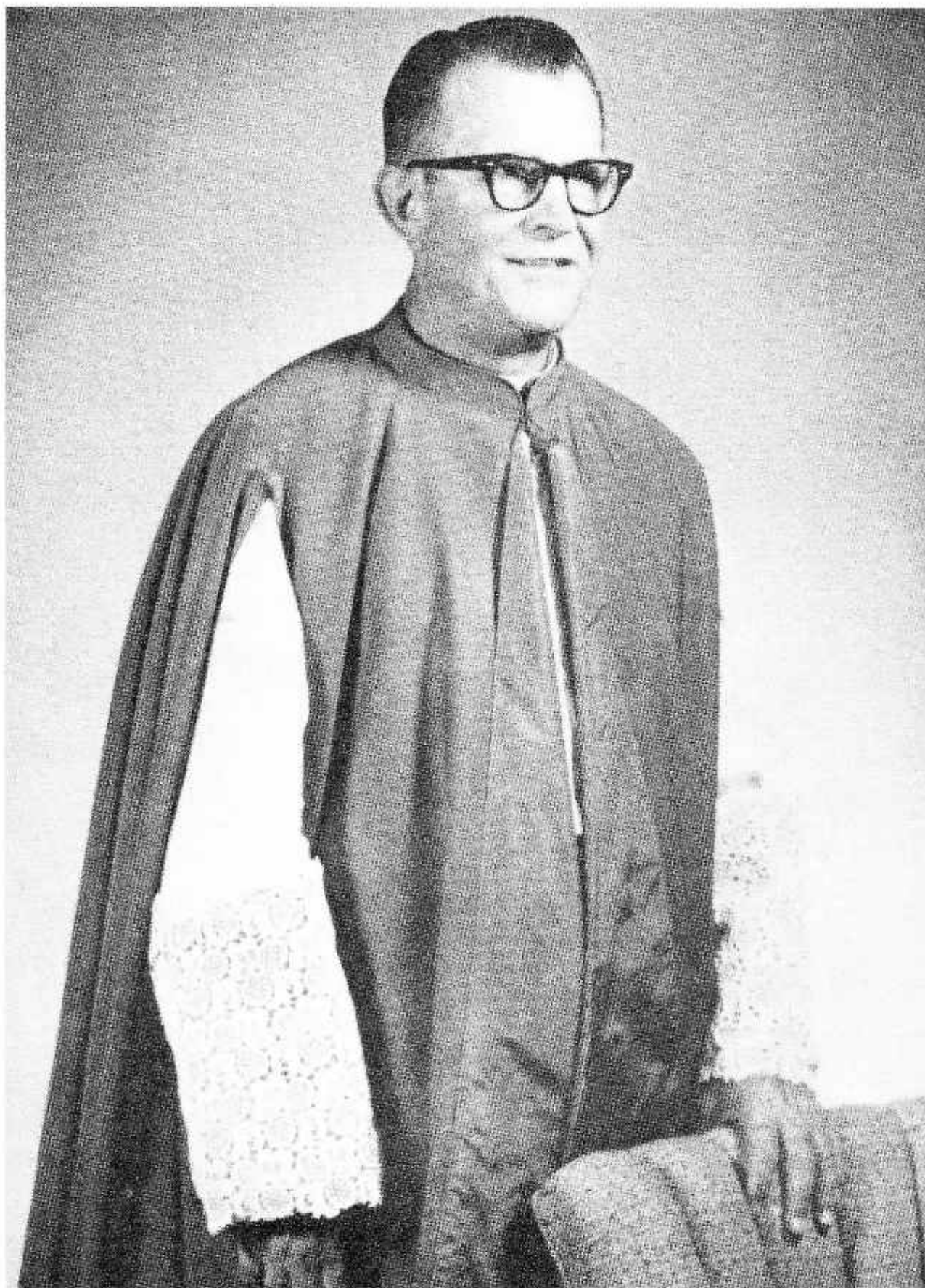
Ordained to the Holy Priesthood: Nov. 6, 1921 by The Most Reverend
Michael J. Hoban, D.D.

Assistant Pastor: Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dickson City,
Pa., Dec. 1, 1921 — Aug. 9, 1924

Pastorates: St. Stanislaus Church, Jessup, Pa. 1924-1926
Holy Rosary Church, Duryea, Pa. 1926-1957
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Dickson City, Pa.
1957-1965

Elevated to the Rank of Domestic Prelate: June 3, 1960

Died: December 31, 1965



Right Reverend Monsignor Clarence J. Sikorski
Pastor — 1966 - 1982

RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR CLARENCE J. SIKORSKI

Born: May 11, 1907, Scranton, Pa.

Parents: Joseph Sikorski and Elizabeth Gnabaszewski

Elementary Education: Scranton Public Schools

High School Education: Scranton Technical High School

College and Seminary Education: St. Michael's College, Toronto,
Ontario, Canada
St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N.Y.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood:

June 6, 1936 by The Most Reverend Bishop Thomas C. O'Reilly, D.D.

Assistant Pastor: Sacred Heart Church, Dupont, Pa. 1936
Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 1942
Assistant Director of the former St. Stanislaus Institute, Nanticoke,
Pa. 1944

Administrator Holy Child Parish, Nanticoke, Pa. 1944

Administrator Our Lady Help of Christians, Dorrance, Pa. 1944

Administrator Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Forest City, Pa. 1945

Pastorates: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Lake Silkworth, Pa.
1946-1957

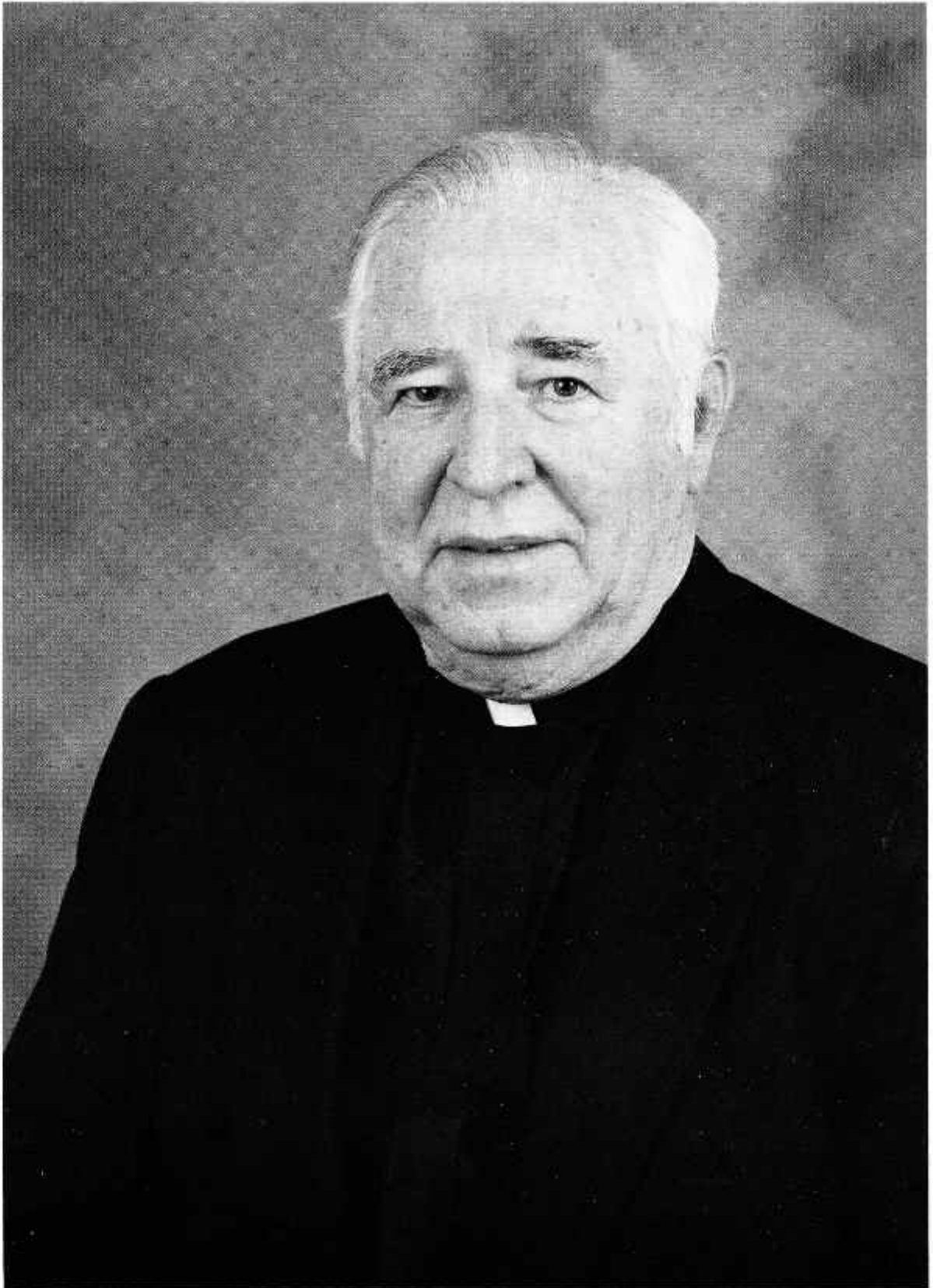
Holy Rosary Church, Duryea, Pa. 1957-1966

Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Dickson City, Pa.
1966-1982

Elevated to the Rank of Prelate of Honor: May 14, 1968

Retired: Pastor Emeritus, June 22, 1982

Died: October 11, 1986



Right Reverend Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski
Pastor — June 1982

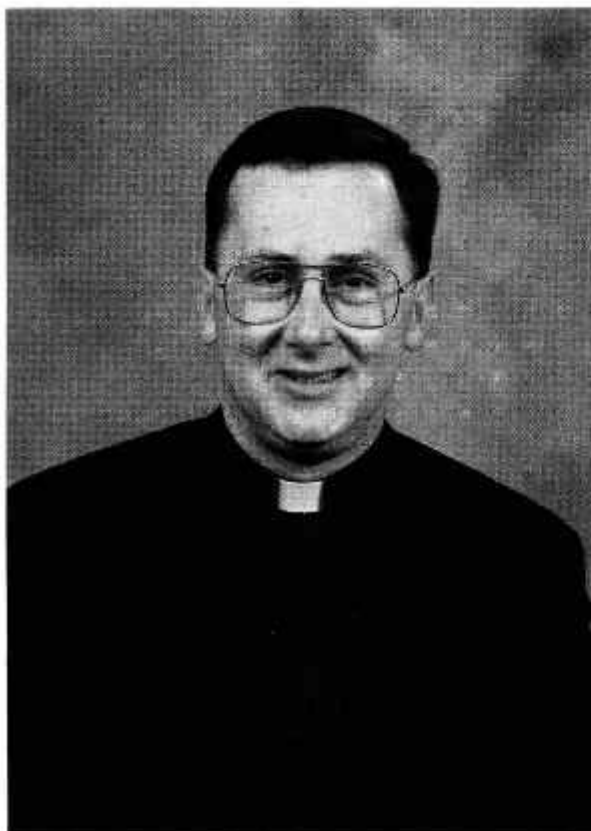
Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski was born in Forest City, Pennsylvania on August 2, 1923 to Anthony and Josephine Franckiewicz Piorkowski. His education began in the Forest City Elementary and High Schools where he graduated in 1941. For three years, he held jobs in a local garment factory and silk mill. On June 28, 1944, Monsignor Piorkowski entered St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan from which he received a B.A. in Philosophy "magna cum laude". In June 1947, he entered SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan and after completing his Theological Studies, was ordained for the Diocese of Scranton on May 19, 1951 by the late Bishop William J. Hafey.

His early assignments were to Lackawaxen Missions in Shohola, assistant pastor of St. Philomena's Parish (Queen of Peace) in Hawley and later to St. Francis Cabrini in Carverton. In January 1953, Monsignor was assigned assistant pastor to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Scranton. In March of that year, he was appointed administrator of St. Anthony's Parish in Throop for two weeks, returning to serve his former parish until June 1958. At that time he was appointed Registrar of the Orchard Lake Schools and also taught Latin in St. Mary's College. While holding both positions, he attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and obtained a Master's Degree in Classical Studies on January 30, 1960. In June 1960, he was appointed Principal of St. Mary's Preparatory School while continuing the position of Registrar of the Orchard Lake School. Since his cognate at the University of Michigan was Greek, Monsignor also taught both Latin and Greek in the College Department. He continued his studies at the University of Michigan and received a Master's Degree in Educational Administration with a cognate in Guidance and Counseling on June 8, 1963. Monsignor Piorkowski was relieved of his position as Registrar but continued teaching at the College Department. In June of 1972 he was appointed Principal-Dean of St. Mary's Preparatory School. He continued his studies in theology at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary and received a Master of Divinity Degree.

Returning to the Diocese of Scranton, Monsignor was next assigned in September 1975 as Pastor of All Saints Parish in Dunmore by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick. One year later, in September 1976, he was appointed Pro-Synodal Judge of the Diocesan Tribunal. Monsignor was next assigned in January 1977 as Pastor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Plymouth and was instrumental in renovating both the church and rectory. At the same time, he also served as Chaplain of the Polish American Congress in Luzerne County.

In September 1978, he was named Prelate of Honor by His Holiness, the late Pope John Paul I, through the kindness of His Excellency, Bishop J. Carroll McCormick.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Dickson City welcomed Monsignor Piorkowski as their new Pastor in June of 1982. While Pastor here, he also served as a member of the Diocesan Board of Consultors and the Council of Priests. During his years in this Parish, Monsignor has played a vital role in shepherding the parishioners and through his leadership, the Parish continues to thrive. His most recent projects include extensive renovations to the parish rectory, convent, and school. Most impressive to date is the major renovation of the church for the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Parish which took place November 1, 1992.



REVEREND PATRICK ALBERT

Born: Scranton, Pa., April 27, 1953

Parents; Francis Albert and the late Anne T. Gibbons

Elementary Education: Woodrow Wilson School,
Scranton, Pa.
South Scranton Junior High School, Scranton, Pa.

High School Education: Scranton Technical High School,
Scranton, Pa.

College and Seminary Education:
University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa. 1988
St. Pius X Seminary, Dalton, Pa. 1988
Mary Immaculate Seminary, Northampton, Pa. 1990
Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, N.J.
1992

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood: June 27, 1992 by the Most
Reverend Bishop James C. Timlin, D.D. in
Scranton, Pa.

Assistant Pastor:
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church,
Dickson City, Pa. July 7, 1992

REVEREND STEFAN KRAWONKA

Born: Lapsze, Poland, March 27, 1950

Parents: John Krawontka and Julia Nowobilski

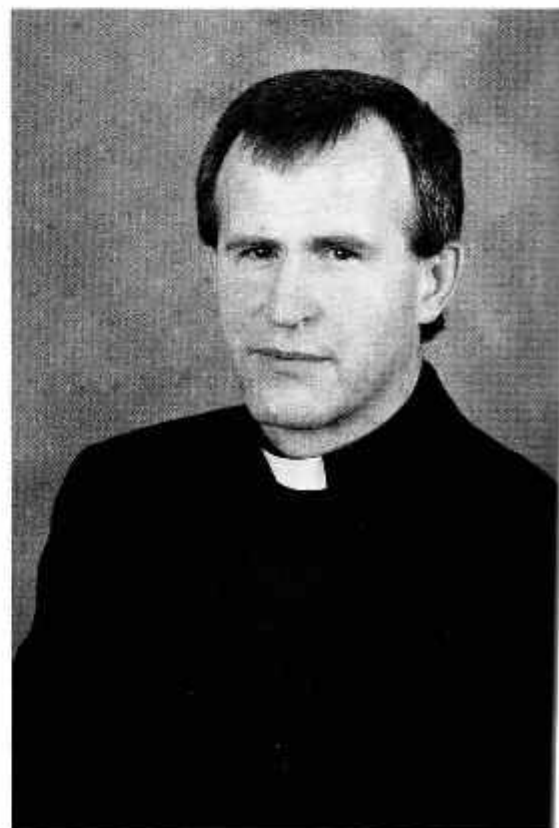
Elementary Education: Zakopane Schools, Poland

High School Education: Zakopane Schools, Zakopane,
Poland

College and Seminary Education: Papal Faculty of
Theology, University of Krakow, 1971-1977
Seminary of Krakow, Krakow, Poland

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood: May 22, 1977 by
Karol Cardinal Wojtyła, in Krakow, Poland

Assistant Pastor: St. Lawrence, Regulice, Poland
St. Adalbert, Jaworzno, Poland
St. Nicholas, Chrzanow, Poland
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Dickson
City, Pa. July 9, 1990



REVEREND JUAN SAN SEBASTIAN AYERZA

Weekend Assistant

Born: April 5, 1927 in Villabona, Euskadi

Ordained: July 30, 1956 by Cardinal Sin in the Basilica of Loyola, Euskadi

TRIBUTE

Spirits of illustrious men and women walk in an endless procession of time having their contributions to mankind praised, probed, and studied to the ends of the earth! Poets for their reticent verses, scientists for their mind-boggling discoveries and presidents, leaders of countries, for their economic and peacemaking efforts are but a few. Add to these the discoverers, artists, authors, doctors, lawyers and builders of dreams. We extol workers, families and the tillers of the land for their productivity, their togetherness and their abundant supplies of greenery.

There is one whose words are more reticent and more powerful than those of a poet or president because his words can bless, absolve, comfort, anoint and bring the Son of God to the earth everyday. He is a discoverer of God's image in every person, an artist that can mold spirits and minds for good, a doctor that can cure the soul and a lawyer interceding before the throne of God for all those he serves.

A builder of dreams is he, in wanting the house of his God to be the best. . . sturdy and radiant with beauty. He champions the cause of faith with conviction, vigorously glorifies the importance of compassion for the unborn, the young and the aged and tenderly fosters devotion to his heavenly Mother.

This man may carry within the deep recesses of his mind and heart the hurts, the criticisms, the unkindnesses and the disrespect he has felt and prays that he may not be affected by them. . . that he can make decisions, that are not always popular, because he knows they are right. Appreciation for friendliness and kindness shown him, comes easily as does his fidelity to the troubled, poor and oppressed.

This is but a partial portrait of one who sees things with his heart. This is a portrait of a priest. . . a pastor. . . a portrait of Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski. Thank you for being all of these things and a friend to all as well. . .

PRIESTHOOD VOCATIONS

From Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

Rev. Michael Hricko, S.J.
Rev. James Mielechowski, O.F.M.C.
Rev. Jeffrey Paulish
Rev. Marcel Sokalski, O.F.M.C.
Rev. Joseph Tylenda, S.J.
Rev. Thomas Zaleski, Carmelite Order

DECEASED

Rev. Anthony Drogowski
Rev. Stanislaus Kolucki
Rev. John Lipinski
Rev. Clarence Stankiewicz

CANDIDATE FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

James T. Stachacz

BERNARDINE SISTERS VOCATIONS

from Dickson City, Pa.

Sr. M. Andrea	(Michalczyk)	Sr. M. Liberata	(Kukulka)
Sr. M. Annela	(Babinski)	Sr. M. Manuelita	(Jankowski)
Sr. M. Armella	(Bakinowski)	Sr. M. Rose Ellen	(Dzwielewski)
Sr. M. Aurelian	(Zebrowski)	Sr. M. Sulpicia	(Nowakowski)
Sr. M. Celestine	(Zebro)	Sr. M. Symphorian	(Ostrowski)
Sr. M. Emeritian	(Bednarz)	Sr. M. Tolentine	(Kuczynski)
Sr. M. Immaculata	(Gurtatowski)		

DECEASED BERNARDINES

Sr. M. Alfreda	(Szymanski)	Sr. M. Leonard	(Milun)
Sr. M. Angelica	(Srebro)	Sr. M. Liboria	(Stawicki)
Sr. M. Asteria	(Safinowski)	Sr. M. Lucille	(Kukulka)
Sr. M. Berard	(Zebrowski)	Sr. M. Lydia	(Jezierski)
Sr. M. Blanche	(Kowalski)	Sr. M. Mansuetta	(Kuczynski)
Sr. M. Dulcine	(Andruszewska)	Sr. M. Mariella	(Romanczyk)
Sr. M. Florence	(Bednarz)	Sr. M. Maximilia	(Rzepecki)
Sr. M. Frederick	(Harvin)	Sr. M. Monica	(Brewinski)
Sr. M. Gervase	(Bucinski)	Sr. M. Nepomucene	(Gieda)
Sr. M. Gratian	(Januszewski)	Sr. M. Otilia	(Rutkowski)
Sr. M. Gregory	(Srebro)	Sr. M. Petronia	(Barszczewski)
Sr. M. Imelda	(Niemiec)	Sr. M. Stefanilla	(Aponski)
Sr. M. Laurine	(Mruk)	Sr. M. Sylvia	(Kruszynski)

KUNEGUNDA ORDER

Sr. M. Purissima (Babinski)

FELICIAN ORDER

Sr. M. Hiltrudis (Walko)
Sr. M. Jolanta (Bartkowski)
Sr. M. Wladzimiera (Rolka)-deceased

HOLY GHOST ORDER

Sr. M. Loretta (Michalczyk)
Sr. M. Philomena (Michalczyk)

STATISTICS

Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary Parish 1892 — 1992

BAPTISMS:	11,502
CONFIRMATIONS:	11,708
WEDDINGS:	2,895
BURIALS:	5,760

First recorded baptisms in the parish were in January 1892:
Stanley Bagnik of Peckville and Helen Bulnik of Eynon

First recorded marriage in the parish was in 1892:
Constantin Modzielewski and Emilia Dyczewski

Newest members of Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary Parish as of November 1, 1992



FELICIA RZESZEWSKI WITH
PARENTS JOSETTE AND MARK
AND MSGR. STANLEY PIORKOWSKI



MIA MARIE VENO WITH
DONNA AND ANTHONY
AND REV. PATRICK ALBERT

Among the oldest living members of Visitation of the Blessed Mary Parish as of November 1, 1992 are:



JOSEPHINE KOWALSKI
100 Years

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

ALBINA PRUSHKO
99½ Years



WALTER S. ANESKO
99 Years



MARY M. JACOBI
97 Years

Oldest Living Members (Continued)



MARY CZARNECKI
95 Years



HELEN LISOWSKI
95 Years



MARTILA YAROSH
94 Years

NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

HELEN PRZYBYLKOWSKI
94 Years



GENEVIEVE JAWOROWSKI
93 Years



HELEN BENO
91 Years



LOTTIE TADEUS
90 Years

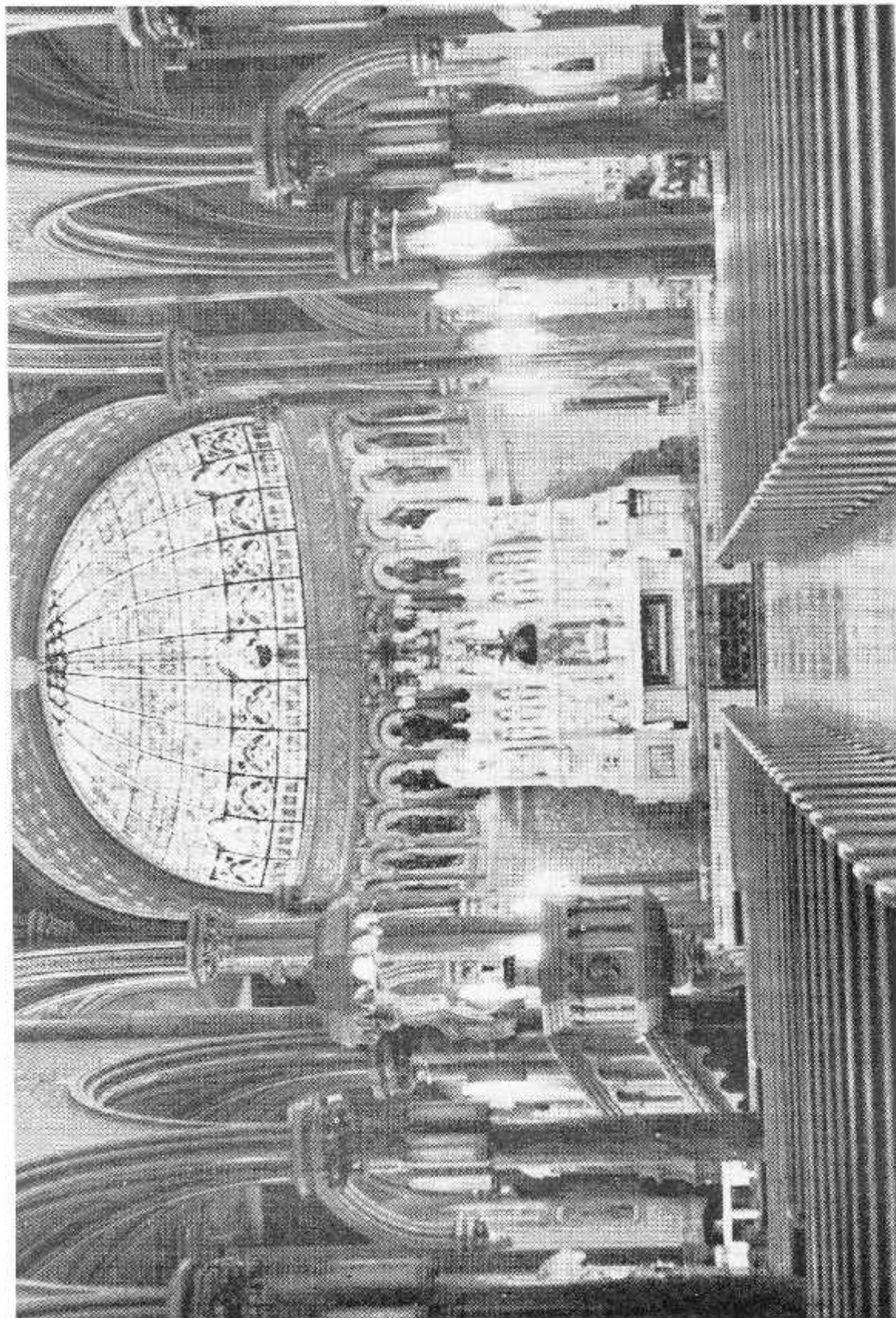


SOPHIE PARUZYSKI
90 Years



PEARL PATCHOFSKI
90 Years

Church Renovations . . . 1961



CHURCH INTERIOR VIEW



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60

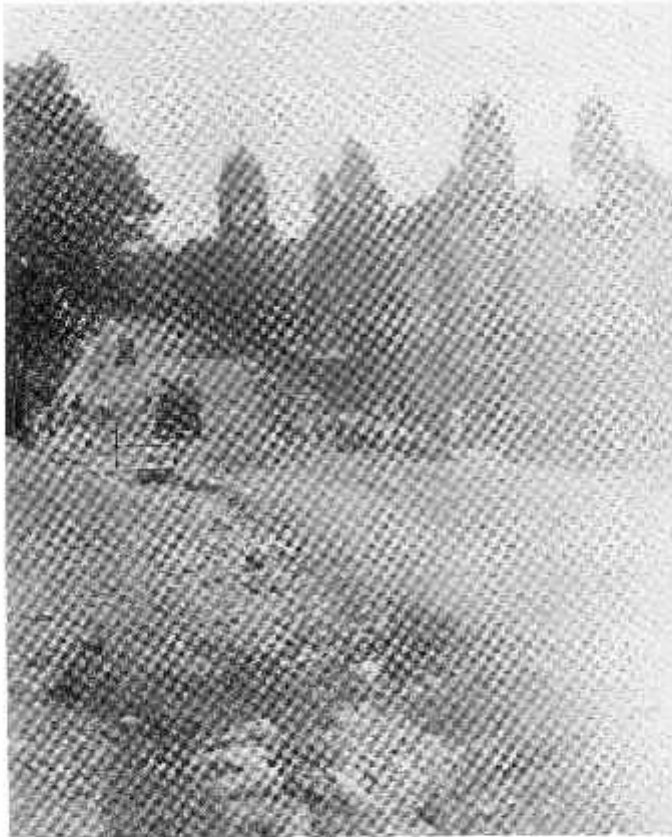


HOFSKY
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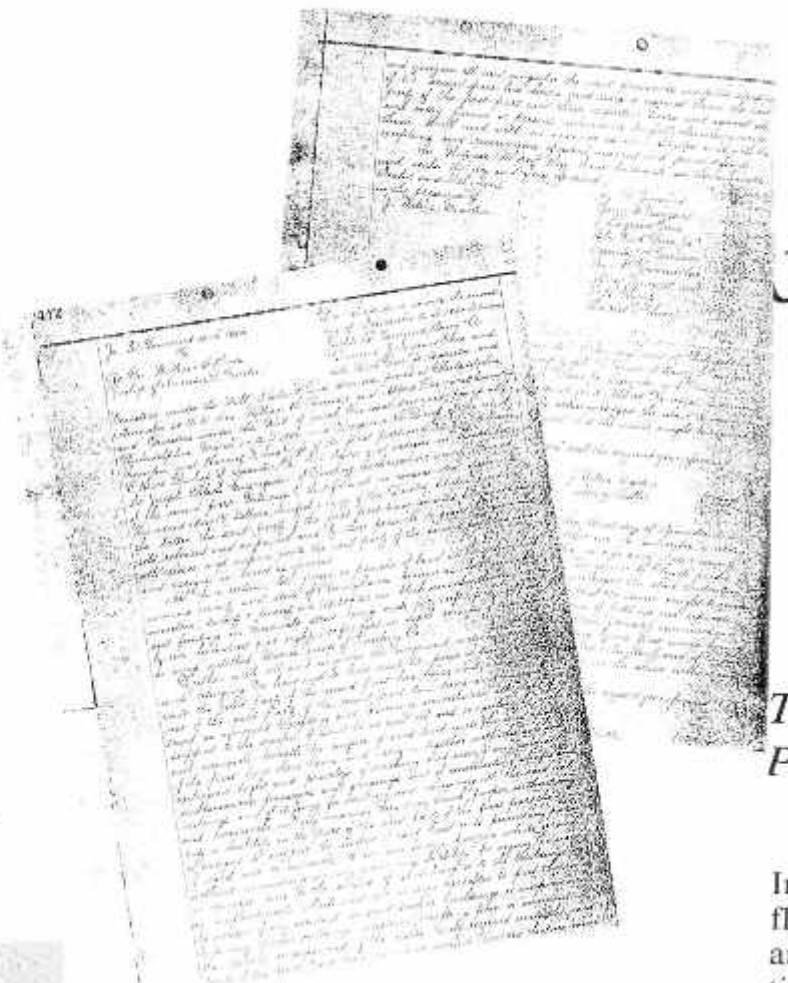
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish has been altered with the passage of time . . .

Step by Step . . . it began with a deed for land in 1890

Built with bare hands, a humble structure in 1890 . . .



to a magnificent edifice in 1911



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Under the guidance of our Lady of Czestochowa,



*the journey of faith
began in Poland, spanned the Atlantic, extended
into Northeastern Pennsylvania and*

*THE HISTORY OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
PARISH *b e g a n**

In the late 1800's, tens of thousands of immigrants flocked to the shores of the United States. Misled and enticed by over optimistic newspaper advertisements distributed throughout Europe by unscrupulous factory and mine owners, scores of anxious people crossed the Atlantic, hoping to attain fame and fortune. Political unrest and religious intolerance were among the motives that prompted these people to seek refuge in a new land.

Immigrants came from almost every corner of Europe. . . from every walk of life, and settled in all parts of the United States. Some, coming from Poland, found their way to the small village of Priceburg in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The lure and enticement in the Scranton area was in the work that was readily available in the anthracite coal fields. Therefore the region became saturated with cheap European labor.

Handicapped by the inability to speak and understand the English language, the people were often exploited and were given menial tasks to perform in the mines. These jobs involved long hours and hard work which were dangerous and dirty. They faced epidemics and mine disasters. Yet, they were able to sustain themselves by their ethnic pride and their deep faith in God and His Blessed Mother. For these Poles, the fulfillment of their religious obligations was a very dynamic and motivating factor. They first walked to a church in North Scranton and later to Holy Ghost Church in Olyphant to fulfill their Sunday and Holy Day obligations,

which to them was a matter of grave concern. Despite many adversities, the need for having a church became their priority. No obstacle would stand in their way. Once these God-fearing people decided they needed to build a church, that's exactly what they did. With the help and advice of Father Hlebig of Holy Ghost and Father Snigorski of The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish in South Scranton, they embarked on their divine mission.

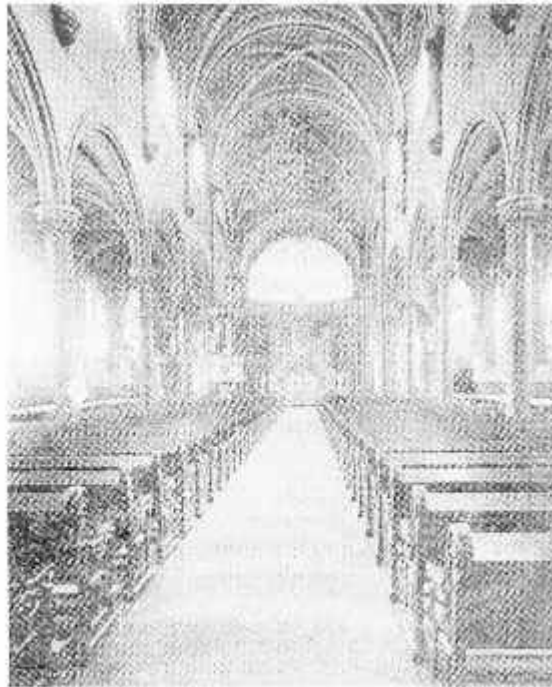
The future parishioners of St. Mary's church literally built their house of worship with their bare hands. This they did in their "spare time". . . often after a long shift in the mines. Barely stopping for a quick cup of coffee, the miners would proceed to the building site, and would work until they were restricted by the oncoming darkness.

In 1890, they purchased three parcels of land with lot numbers nineteen, twenty and twenty-one from Eli K. Price, Jr., et al conveyed to Right Reverend William O'Hara, Bishop of Scranton, in trust for St. Joseph's Polish Congregation of Priceburg, which was later changed to the Polish Roman Catholic Congregation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1922, for the sum of \$400.00. These parcels of land, fronting on Carmalt Street, were each fifty feet in front and one hundred eighty feet in depth according to a plan or map entitled Moore's map of Priceburg, Pennsylvania. They then cleared an area of stumps and stones with dynamite that was donated by one of the mine owners. The founda-

First . . . rear Carmalt St. rectory



*to Dundaff St.
from 1916 to 1951*



*. . . by 1920 . . . inner
church is complete
with altars, pulpit, and paintings*



*Lower Pancoast St. Cemetery
from approximately 1871*



*Upper Pancoast St. New Cemetery
. . . to present time*

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tion work was supervised by two professional masons, Jan Gierulski and Roman Matuszewski. Nothing was wasted, for the rocks, that were on the building site, were used to reinforce the foundation.

The result of their sweat, tears, hard work and sacrifice, was a church that seated 200 people, cost \$4,000.00, and stood at the sight of the present rectory garage on Carmalt Street. It was capped off with a large majestic steeple, and had a basement which served as the first elementary school. Jan Soboniewski became the first sexton of this new building. These immigrants would spare no pain, no effort nor what little money they had to secure a religious education to guide their children. They also intended to retain their rich Polish heritage. In this early beginning, the school had but three teachers.

Father Bruno Gramlewicz, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish in Nanticoke, traveled to Priceburg twice a month to satisfy the needs of approximately forty families.

On July 4, 1890, the first church was consecrated by Bishop William O'Hara. One can only speculate that the special love and devotion that Polish people carried in their hearts for the Blessed Virgin Mary and the fact that their church was consecrated close to the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary reflected itself in the name chosen for the new church.

Father Bronislaus Iwanowski became the first resident pastor of St. Mary's on July 4, 1892 and resided with the Thomas Krajnik family on the Carbondale Plank Road and Turnpike, today's Main Street. The brother of Father Iwanowski, Constanty, a professional sculptor and carpenter, sculpted the altars in the church. A small bell, with a diameter of twenty one inches and weighing one hundred seventy five pounds, donated by Vincent Smarowski, a recreation hall owner, was placed in the large steeple of the structure.

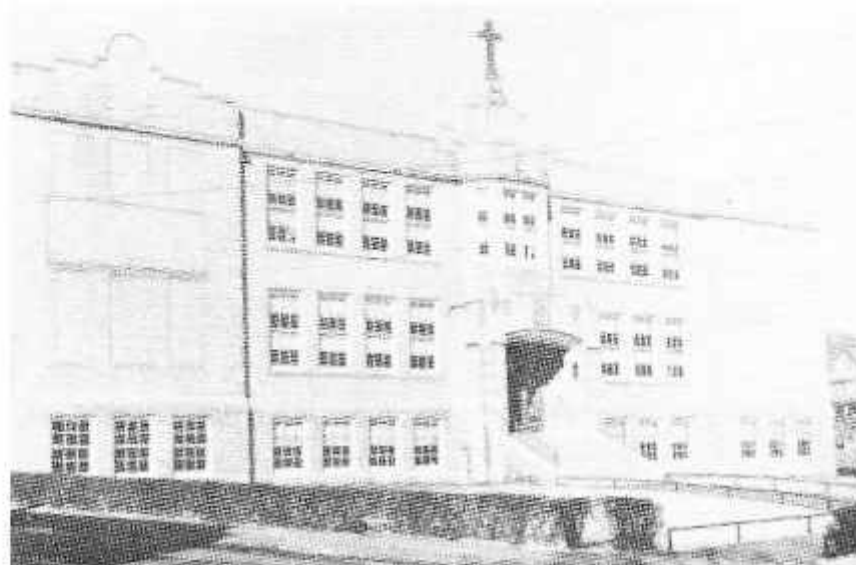
It was in the year 1899 that Father Joseph Dudkiewicz, coming from Holy Trinity Church in Nanticoke, became pastor of St. Mary's. He understood the plight of his parishioners because he himself came from Kielce, Poland in 1896. During this time, the influx of immigrants continued and the parish grew. Both pastor and parishioners realized that the church was becoming inadequate and the idea of building a new edifice was planted like a seed that began growing. In the meantime, an additional \$4,000.00 was spent to beautify the existing church. In 1903, three additional bells were purchased from the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, Maryland. The largest bell weighed 1500 pounds,

had a diameter of 41 inches and was named Maria. This bell had to be recast January 1, 1939. The second bell weighed 750 pounds, had a diameter of 32 inches and was named Joseph. The third bell, named Michael, was 26½ inches in diameter and weighed 450 pounds. When the new church was built in 1911, these bells were transferred to its towers. To this present day, Maria, with an F# sound, Joseph in B^b, Michael in C# and the smallest, nameless bell, with an F musical note, ring in that order.

As the dire need for a larger church increased, the dedication to this idea grew, and again, as in the past, the strong unyielding character of the Polish people displayed itself. The Fraternal Society of St. Joseph, made up of both men and women, sacrificed their time and energy by walking as far as Forest City to solicit funds. Most of the early ethnic groups felt compelled to unite to get things accomplished. So it was that Societies began to emerge in this new and struggling parish. St. Stanislaus Kostka, Dzieci Marji (Children of Mary), St. Michael the Archangel, and the Bartoszcz Glowacki Societies were among the first. In subsequent years, St. Marcina's, St. Hedwig's, St. Theresa's, St. Anne's, the Third Order of St. Francis, the Men's Retreat League and the Tarcisians were also included on this list.

In 1909, plans for a new church, drawn up by the Firm of Hancock Architects, were studied, somewhat modified, and approved by Father Dudkiewicz and the Church Committee. The Skyes Construction Firm submitted the lowest bid and undertook the construction of the new church on Dundaff Street which stands today as a proud testimonial to the sacrifices of these early pioneers. The sculptured figures of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary prominently adorned the front of the church. The massive building was six times the size of the original church boasting a magnificent Romanesque style architecture. The cost of the church construction was hard work, sacrifice and \$48,000.00. The sum of the construction was financed with a low interest rate mortgage by the Polish Union. The first Polish Union branch of Priceburg was established by Jan Prorok in 1913. The church was dedicated by the Most Reverend Bishop Michael Hoban, Bishop of Scranton, on November 26, 1911. The new edifice served as a beacon of faith for the growing population that was ever expanding within the area. In fact, St. Mary's became the Mother Church of fledgling parishes that were beginning to arise in the Midvalley area; St. Mary's Czestochowa in Eynon, St. Anthony's in Throop, St. Michael's in Olyphant, Sacred Heart in Mayfield and St. Stanislaus in Jessup.

Beautiful New School 1925



Polonia Park acquired in 1930's



*for
parish
picnics*

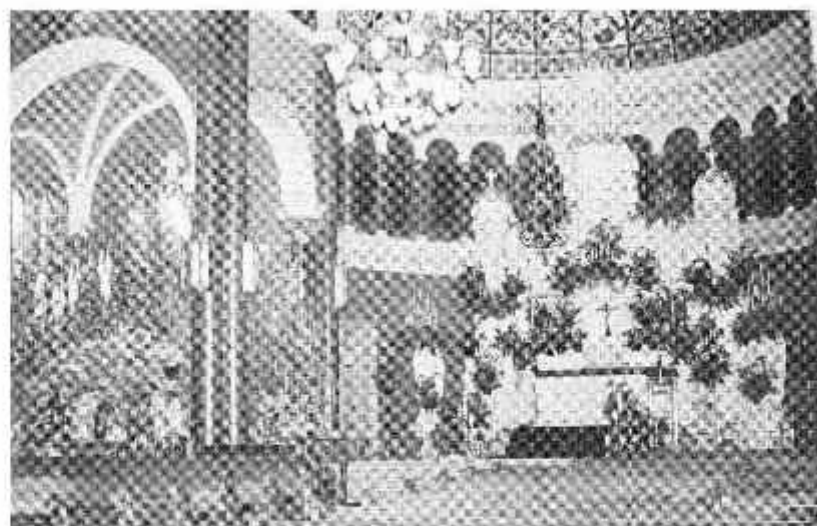
1949 — 1951 Building Expansion



New Convent



New Rectory



*Church Interior
by 1958*

*... sanctuary was
enlarged, new tile,
and new lights*

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The entire old church building became St. Mary's parochial school. Both floors were used because the number of children was increasing with each passing year. There were no classrooms so pupils were grouped in various places within the two large rooms.

The expansion of parish property included a piece of land on the lower left side of Pancoast Street which had been purchased much earlier and used as a cemetery. Tombstones in this cemetery date back to 1871, late 1800's and the very early 1900's. Father Dudkiewicz would eventually be laid to rest there.

Even though the major construction of the church was completed, the interior was an ongoing project for a number of years since the lack of funds remained an obstacle.

The stately white building located on the corner of Carmalt Street and Scott Road was occupied by the priests of the parish. In 1916, the Bernardine Sisters of St. Francis came to staff the parish school. It was at this time that a home on Dundaff Street was purchased from Katie and Walenty Kolecki for the sum of \$2,000.00 with Rt. Reverend Michael J. Hoban, as the trustee of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. As the number of Sisters increased, the priests and Sisters changed dwellings. In 1917, two notable events occurred. The United States entered World War I and the spiritual leader of St. Mary's, Father Joseph Dudkiewicz died. Due to poor economic conditions and the tremendous building project the parish had undergone, there was a \$25,000.00 insolvency. It was into this situation that Father Stanislaus Szpotanski, who served as assistant pastor for only two short months earlier, was appointed Father Dudkiewicz's successor by the Ordinary of the Diocese. He was one of the most influential organizers of the Polish Union in the United States and was its chaplain for a number of years.

Because of the seemingly consistent problem of the lack of money, the plans for the interior of the church had to be somewhat altered. Less expensive material had to be substituted so that a method of conserving money could be initiated. To make matters worse, the original tin roof had to be replaced by a new slate one. It was 1920 before the beautiful paintings, we admire and love as a part of our church, were added. These included the Visitation, Immaculate Conception, Assumption, the Resurrection and Ascension which were placed above the sanctuary area for all to see. These and other paintings were done at a cost of \$7,000.00. After all was said and done, the estimated cost at the interior's completion was over \$125,000.00.

There now existed inadequate conditions for the growing number of children in the school. Due to the planning of Father Szpotanski and the low interest loan from the Polish Union, the enormous task of building a new school began in the summer of 1924. The cornerstone was blessed by Rt. Reverend Andrew Brennan and the school was occupied in September of 1925. The school was dedicated by Rt. Reverend Thomas O'Reilly, three years later, on October 28, 1928. It was in this same year that our Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, lauded St. Mary's for having a Confirmation class of 1900. The school building cost was \$225,000.00.

A seven acre, plot of land, 800 feet above the existing cemetery, was given to the parish through the generosity of Paul and Catherine Prorok to be used as a new cemetery. This piece of land was blessed on the same day as the school cornerstone was blessed in 1925.

Father Szpotanski was a man of tremendous insight and so to insure the safety of all parish buildings from mine subsidence, he purchased the coal rights thus preventing the mining of coal from under the buildings. Purchasing these rights from the Hudson Coal Company was a costly venture but a very wise one.

St. Mary's became one of the largest and most prestigious parishes in the Scranton Diocese. As the parish grew, so did its responsibilities. Missions at Archbald and Clemo were established as well as spiritual visits to the Home in Blakely for the aged and indigent.

Because of his diligent leadership and his impressive spiritual accomplishments, on February 21, 1930, Father Szpotanski was elevated to the rank of Papal Chamberlain by Pope Paul XI. Monsignor Szpotanski was well liked and respected by his parishioners as well. Outings at Polonia Park were well attended, and his friendly disposition was recognized even by those outside of the parish. In March of 1943, after serving St. Mary's well for 26 years, Monsignor Stanislaus Szpotanski was laid to rest in the new cemetery.

The great depression of 1929 and an exodus of people from this distressed area to the larger cities over a period of time had a devastating effect upon the parish. While in the midst of World War II, Father Francis X. Dominiak accepted this pastoral responsibility in 1943. The debt that had accrued was a staggering \$176,000.00. The choice of a pastor made by the Most Reverend William J. Hafey for St. Mary's proved to be a match made in heaven. The enthusiasm and genuine concern of this giant of a man, slowly guided the parish into a new era of spirituality and renewed self-esteem. His steady in-

MILESTONE OF PARISH — 1961 GOLDEN JUBILEE

gala celebration . . . procession



Newly renovated church . . .



*Solemn
Mass*



*Enjoyable
conversation
and
memories*



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terest in the spiritual and material welfare of his parishioners won the cooperation and whole hearted devotion of friends and loyal supporters. Over a period of three years, the debt was dissolved. To commemorate this monumental occasion, the mortgage was ceremoniously burnt on April 15, 1946 as a part of the celebration at the school. In the ensuing years, the parish began to expand and prosper. New needs were realized resulting in the establishment of new goals. With their usual hard work and determination, the people rallied to the challenge and realized their first goal of building a new convent.

On May 6, 1948, ground breaking took place for the construction of a newer and larger convent. The dedication and laying of the cornerstone took place July 24, 1949, and was presided over by the Most Reverend Bishop William J. Hafey.

In 1950, the building expansion project continued when work was started on a new rectory. Father Henry Korpusik, with the help of the Holy Name Society razed the old structure at the corner of Carmalt Street and Scott Road. They worked tirelessly to clear the land and ready the foundation for construction of the new building. Frequently, Father Korpusik could be seen pushing cement filled wheel barrows, putting up and welding fences in front of the school as well as the rectory. The work was completed a year later, on May 4, and four happy priests took up residence in the new and modern, two story, brick structure. This new building replaced an older, inadequate one that was located at 604 Dundaff Street. This property was sold in December of 1951 to Helen and Joseph Dworzak through the Most Reverend William J. Hafey, trustee of St. Mary's, for the sum of \$10,210.00.

With the completion of the new rectory, the building program came to an end. The buildings erected within a span of forty years added a certain elegance to that particular part of town. They made an impressive sight. . . so much so that the name of St. Mary's Square was instituted to describe it by the Dickson City Borough Council.

During the tenure of Father Dominiak many improvements were made to the church. The sanctuary was enlarged, the church pews were refinished and new confessionals were installed. New lights, stained glass windows in the clearstory together with a rubberized floor tile improved the appearance of the interior. A new sound system and a new heating plant were also installed for convenience at the cost of \$24,000.00. Exterior improvements were also made. Stainless steel towers replaced galvanized ones and parts of the exterior were repointed and waterproofed. In addition, the cement steps in front of

the church were removed and replaced with granite and a new side exit was built. Father Dominiak purchased Polonia Park from five societies to be used for parish picnics. St. Stanislaus of Priceburg, St. Joseph's Beneficial Polish Catholic Society of Dickson City, Society of Holy Cross of Priceburg, Polish Sons of America of Priceburg, and the John Sobeski III Beneficial Association purchased five lots from George D. Brown in 1905, from Marcel and Antonia Zgleniecki in 1916 and 1934, and from Miller Auto Services Inc. in 1934.

Fathers Dominiak and Korpusik, in 1956, invited a representative of the Eagle Hose Department for a meeting to formulate plans for getting an ambulance for the community of Dickson City. In 1959, after much discussion and planning, that first ambulance was purchased for this community.

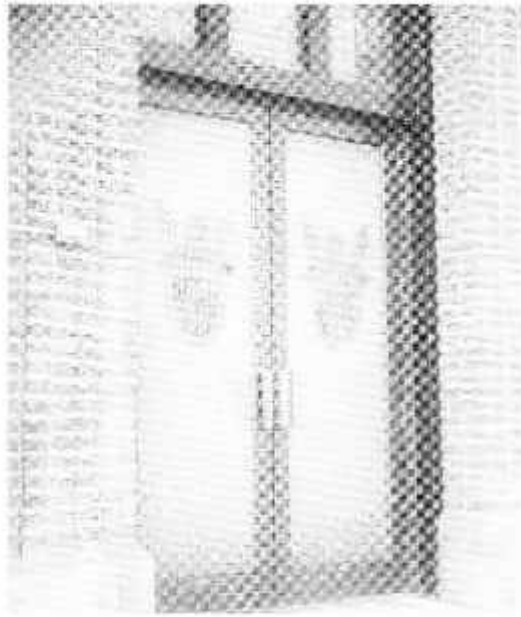
On September 1, 1957, the people of St. Mary's were devastated by the death of Father Francis X. Dominiak. In his 14 years as leader and friend, he truly left his mark and legacy on not only the buildings but in the hearts of all his parishioners. Each pastor guides his flock through a continuous journey of faith. So it was with Reverend Peter Niebrzydowski, also a former assistant pastor at St. Mary's from 1921 to 1924. He was appointed by the Most Reverend Jerome D. Hannon, on October 9, 1957. By January of 1958, the parish once again was proud to proclaim itself financially solvent. The prosperity continued to swell and by the year 1959, the parish could boast a total of 1065 families.

On June 3, 1960, Pope John XXIII elevated the Reverend P. Niebrzydowski to the rank of Domestic Prelate. He was honored by an impressive number of parishioners at a testimonial banquet held in the school on September 18th.

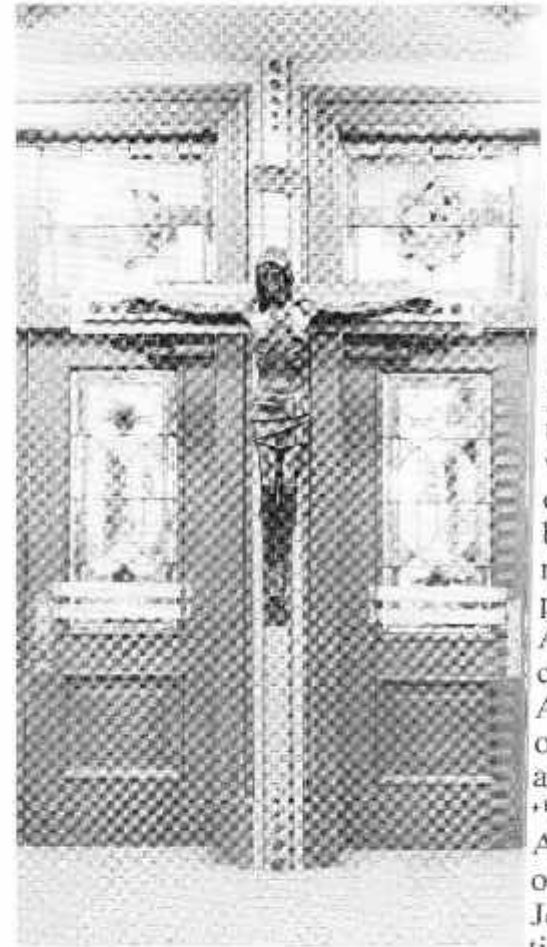
Through the earnest efforts of former pastors, all parish properties were maintained and cared for. The cemeteries were now in need of some attention. The old cemetery was cleaned and perpetual care was established for the new cemetery. The lawn would be cut and graves would be kept tidy to add beauty to the resting place of loved ones buried there. As a culmination, a white marble crucifixion group with an altar for services, was placed in the center of the cemetery. In front of this monument were the resting places of two of our notable shepherds, Monsignor Szpotanski and Reverend Francis X. Dominiak. This monument serves as a reminder to all that Jesus is our Resurrection and Life.

As a preparation for the Golden Jubilee Year of the church, plans for its renovation were initiated. Before the interior remodeling could be done, a number of projects needed to be taken care of. The

Entrance doors of 1911 . . . were replaced . . .



a symbol

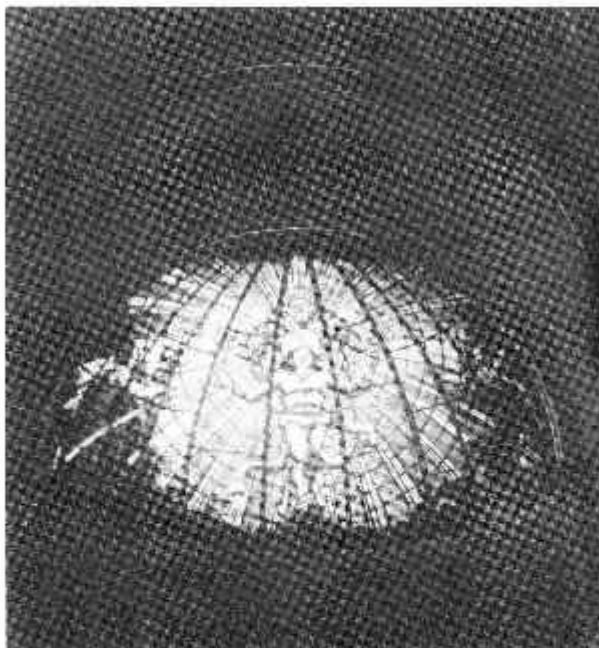


D. C. Centennial Celebration . . . 1975



Br-ushers

of love and mercy




Dome 1984



Belles of Saint Mary's

*One of a kind . . . Biblical rendition
 . . . 300 square feet in area, 33 feet
 in diameter, 75 panels*

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creek, at the side of the church was covered with reinforced concrete. A new asbestos roof and a stainless steel drainage system were installed. The interior of the church was now being prepared for extensive renovations. To solidly support more weight, the wooden floor in the sanctuary was replaced by reinforced concrete so that the sanctuary could be enlarged. The boiler was fireproofed and more storage was provided in the basement. Victor Zucchi and Son, Church Decorators and Artists were given the contract to beautify the church. The main altar was encompassed by a marble altar and tabernacle. In the center of the marble altar was placed an attractive mosaic last supper and above the tabernacle a Holy Spirit. Marble wainscoating was placed along the wall. The sanctuary was finally covered with new carpeting and set off by new marble communion rails. Tile was set throughout the rest of the church. Weldwood wainscoating was placed along the walls and new pews were added. A new organ and elevated seating refurbished the choir loft.

All was in readiness for the celebration. The pride of the people reflected itself in the new beautiful appearance of their house of worship. The cost of this remodeling exceeded \$170,000.00.

A Solemn Pontifical Mass was held at 11:00 A.M. on November 19, 1961, with the Most Reverend Jerome D. Hannon, D.D., presiding. The celebration continued that evening with a testimonial dinner which took place in the school auditorium.

The glory of that celebration lost its appeal when Monsignor Peter Niebrzydowski died four years later on December 31, 1965. He was interred in the parish cemetery. During an interim of nine months the parish rested well in the able hands of an administrator, Father Clement Markowski, until a new pastor would be assigned. In that short span of time, he highlighted the sanctuary by a new arrangement of the altar of sacrifice to conform to directives of the Second Vatican Council. The Celebrant now faced the congregation during the Sacrifice of the Mass.

A certain amount of apprehension accompanies a change in pastorship especially in a parish as large and active as St. Mary's. The fears were soon dispelled with the appointment of Father Clarence Sikorski by the Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormack on September 14, 1966. The church having undergone renovations just years before, posed no problem for the new pastor in the first few years. Father was named a Prelate of Honor by His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, on May 19, 1968. On September 8th, His Excellency The Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick presided over his solemn in-

vestiture at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. A testimonial dinner was held in his honor by the parishioners on September 15th in the school auditorium.

Monsignor Sikorski was a very quiet and unassuming person. His kindness and compassion were realized by very many of his parishioners. He was a chaplain to the Catholic Boy Scouts of America in Wilkes Barre and was named a parish priest consultant by the diocese in 1969.

A steady maintenance of all parish buildings proceeded with little or no fanfare:

- New gas fired boilers and water heaters were purchased for the convent and rectory.
- granite steps in front and on the side of the church were sealed.
- the deck and all metal under the steps were painted.
- there was caulking and masonry restoration done.

All exterior repairs and waterproofing cost \$25,869.30. In 1974, the vestibule of the church was in need of repairs, painting and carpeting. A striking anodized aluminum and mosaic cross was installed in a prominent place in the back of the church for all to revere as they left the church.

The centennial of Dickson City was celebrated in 1975. St. Mary's Br-ushers and Belles together with Monsignor Sikorski and Father Walter Ferret became part of that festivity. On August 9th, at 3:45 P.M. all churches in the community pealed their bells as a symbol of unity.

Under the supervision and hard work of Father Ferret, the Holy Name Society leveled the old cemetery, raised tombstones and cut down trees and shrubs. The result of their efforts can be appreciated to this day. Perpetual care was also instituted by Monsignor Sikorski in the old cemetery.

Among Monsignor's best known accomplishments were those made in the school and the painting of the convent chapel.

The original heavy wooden doors in the church had deteriorated to the point of replacement. New aluminum doors with metal art glass panel inserts were installed in the front and the sides of the building. The glass panels were designed by Baul Studios.

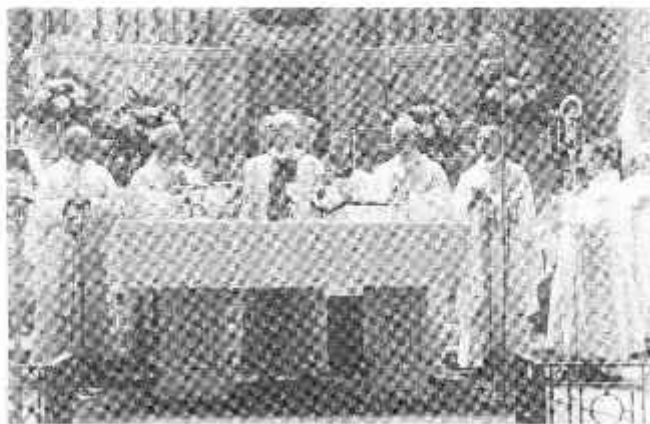
In 1981, Monsignor Sikorski had the dome inspected because of the severe leakage and water damage to the plaster and paint above the main altar. Due to the failing health of Monsignor, this enormous task would have to be undertaken at a later time. In June of 1982, as a fitting reward for his years of dedicated service, Monsignor Sikorski was named Pastor Emeritus and took up residence at Villa St. Joseph

Faces change . . .



. . . canopy and ramp

John Cardinal Krol — August 1990



Cardinal Glemp — October 1991



front steps . . . walkway . . . landscaping

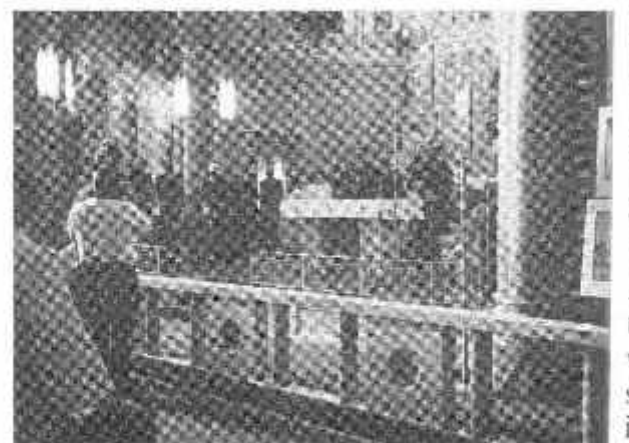


. . . produce a majestic appearance

Polish Union Centenary



Primate of Poland



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in Dunmore. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated Sunday July 18th, at 4:30 P.M. A testimonial dinner took place at Genetti's Manor to honor the Pastor Emeritus and Father Ferret for his many years of service to the parish.

God gave him four years of retirement before calling Monsignor Sikorski to his final reward October 11, 1986. Bishop James C. Timlin was principal celebrant of a Pontifical Concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary's on October 15, at 11:00 A.M.

For nine decades, the shepherds of St. Mary's Parish have come and gone doing their utmost to provide for the spiritual needs of their people. Many of them have etched their characters and greatness in the existing brick structures, mindful of their responsibilities to build, renovate and maintain these properties for the greater honor and glory of God and our Patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In June of 1982, Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski was assigned by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick to join the distinguished rank of pastors in the Dickson City Church. From humble beginnings in Forest City, to his ordination and beyond, he was proud of his Polish ancestry and the parental influence that fostered his love for God, the church and the Blessed Virgin Mary above all things. As assistant pastor, Father contributed his services to several parishes in the Scranton Diocese before he was appointed to administrative and teaching positions in St. Mary's, Orchard Lake, Michigan. Upon returning to Scranton in 1975, Father Piorkowski was given the first of his two prior pastorates, All Saints Parish in Dunmore, and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Plymouth where he undertook the task of renovating the church and rectory. In 1978, he was named Prelate of Honor by His Holiness Pope John Paul I through the intercession of Bishop J. Carroll McCormick.

When assuming the St. Mary's Visitation pastorate, like those who preceded him, he inherited not only an enormous responsibility but also a sacred trust passed down through the generations. Monsignor readily accepted the challenge that came with this position. His reputation as a capable administrator with a diverse background of experience was soon to become evident.

As with any complex of buildings, the work is never truly completed. Time and use demand constant vigilance and care. Over a span of three decades and since the improvements were made in 1960, weathering, wear and time created a number of problems. One of the first and major tasks that faced Monsignor and the parishioners was one of monumental proportions. This involved the decay and ero-

sion that the dome sustained through the many years due to the elements. Leakage became a severe problem and demanded immediate attention. . . .but this was not an easy decision to make. Thus in May of 1983, plans were drafted for repairs and the replacement of the glass panels. Initial barriers were swept aside when Gerhardt Baut, a world renowned artist, agreed to create the glass work depicting the Bible rendition of the Transfiguration of Jesus and the Architects of Philip and Gripp were engaged to execute the project.

The dome covers 300 square feet in area and 33 feet in diameter and consists of 75 panels held in place by aluminum supports. The figure of Jesus stands 12½ feet high. It is overshadowed by God, the Father and Holy Spirit with the Transfigured Jesus as its focal point. Moses and Elijah are found on the left and right sides in the Transfiguration. To further extend the dome's longevity, it is protected by a lexan plastic shell which is used for bullet-proofing. This protective covering is 18 inches above the glass dome, and the space in between, is designed to generate solar heat for the church. It is described as the largest glass dome of its type constructed in this century in the United States and probably in the world. By April 15, 1984, the new dome was in place. The total cost of this endeavor was \$116,000.00.

Being a very perceptive and thorough person, Monsignor knew before the interior of the church, which was in need of plastering and painting, could be taken care of, all the windows throughout the church, including those of the clearstory, had to be restored due to deterioration and instability. From 1984 to 1986, all the stained glass was restored, storm glass was added to the exterior for protection and was held together by new aluminum sashes. Symbols of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary were chosen to set off the upper part of the large windows on both sides of the church. Window restoration was totaled at \$137,000.00.

Gradually over a number of years, the home of our priests experienced an overdue facelift. The kitchen and dining areas were remodeled, and the priest's bedrooms were repainted and recarpeted. The parish office was equipped with large desks and a computer to facilitate the clerical work of a large parish. A new entrance room was added to make guests comfortable as they waited to have business taken care of. An outdoor canopy and ramp, along with a handrail altered the appearance of the front of the rectory on the Carmalt Street side.

The living quarters of the Sisters were also a part of Monsignor's renovation plans. Small bedrooms were enlarged and made comfortable as new win-

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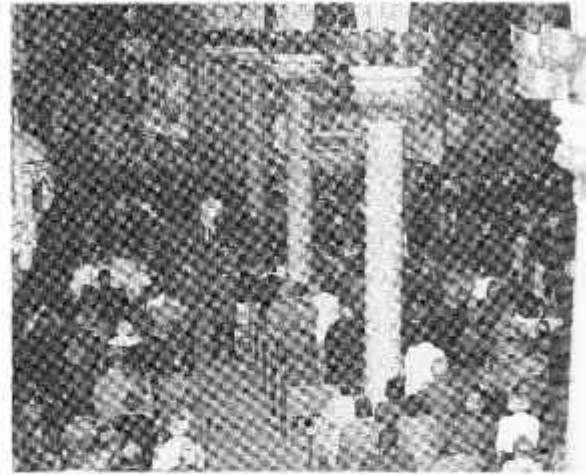


*Another MILESTONE not soon to be forgotten
1892 — 1992 Centennial Celebration*

. . . procession



. . . crowded church

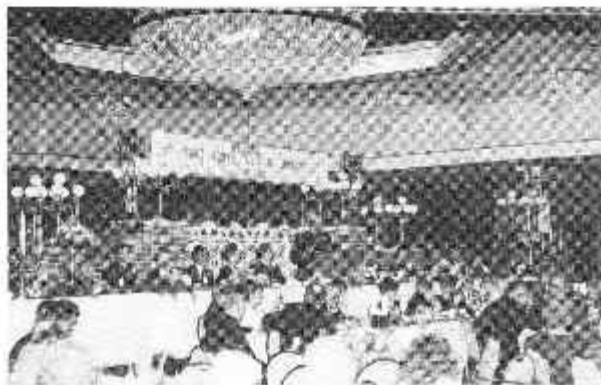


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Dining and remembering . . .



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dows, rugs and furniture were added. The chapel, offices, common room and entrance were carpeted and beautified with the supportive generosity of the Holy Name Society and the women who make pierogi for various functions of the parish.

The rectory was the last of the buildings to receive the new windows. All windows in the convent and rectory were replaced by the maintenance staff as was much of the other work. To protect the parish buildings, new security systems were installed.

In 1990, it was suggested by the insurance company that the front steps of the church were in need of reconstruction. Sections of granite were pulling away from each other and the supporting wall on the left side of the steps was buckling. Considering future plans for the building of a spacious hall under the church for social functions, the provision for a front entrance was essential. Heavy machinery soon moved in and the transition from the old to the new began. The result of many months of planning and labor was a front entrance leading to the basement of the church which immediately opened up to an enlarged area containing storage and bathroom facilities. Carefully measured and placed granite steps changed the face of the magnificently constructed church. A convenient walkway, adjacent to a prayer area which eventually will display a statue of Pope John Paul II, led from the front sidewalk directly to the church entrance. Planters and the landscaping added an esthetic appearance to the majestic face of the church on Dundaff Street. In the midst of all the restoration projects that Monsignor Piorkowski was engaged in, the parishioners of St. Mary's Church were honored by the visit of John Cardinal Krol, who was an inspiration to the people of the parish because of their proud Polish heritage. On August 26, 1990, at noon, the Cardinal celebrated a special mass to commemorate the Centennial of the Polish Union which was instrumental in earlier building projects of the parish. Bishop James C. Timlin graced the occasion with his presence.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland made a historic visit to the United States in 1991. He received a warm welcome by the Bishops, priests and Polish Americans in the diocese. Monsignor Piorkowski was a concelebrant at a special Polish Mass celebrated by the Cardinal at St. Peter's Cathedral and a companion to him during his brief stay. The Primate honored our parish with a visit on October 2nd, the feast of the Holy Angels. He was greeted by the school children and a throng of parishioners. Although his visit was short, it will always be remembered as an inspirational and historical visit.

With the impending Centennial celebration year fast approaching plans for the renovation of the interior of the church were discussed and approved by Monsignor and the parish council. A parish appeal was agreed on to cover the \$450,000.00 cost of the extensive work that would be undertaken by Baut Studios, under the direction and supervision of artist, Gerhardt Baut, Joseph Dotzel of H. A. Smith Co., Quality Wood Products and Ziman Floor Coverings.

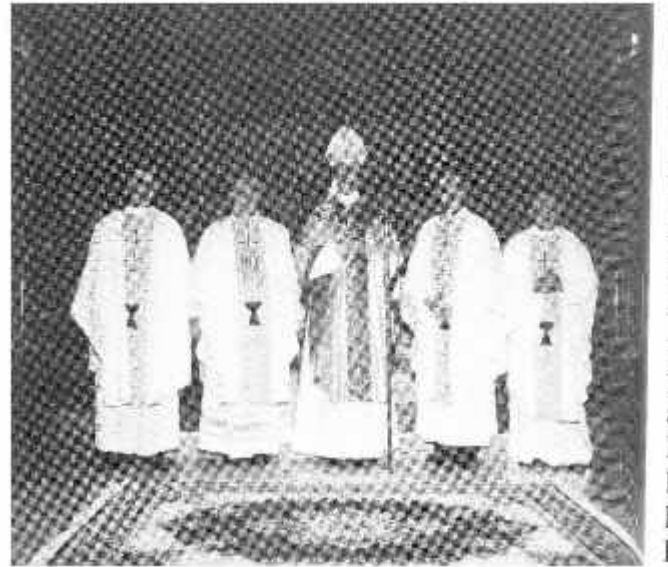
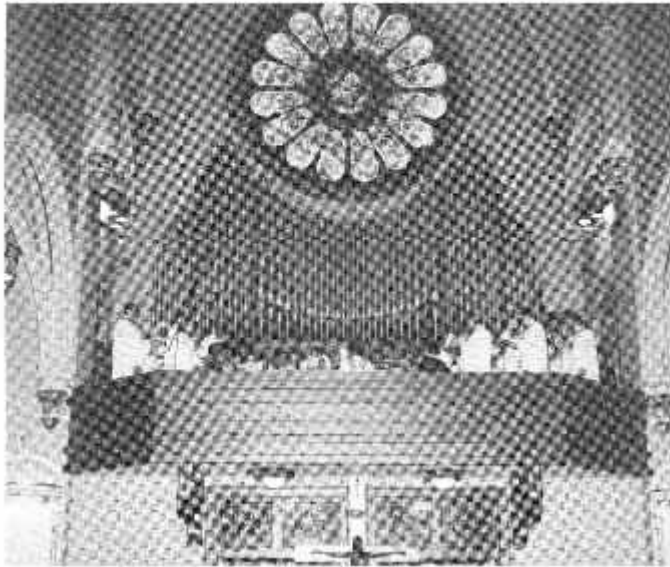
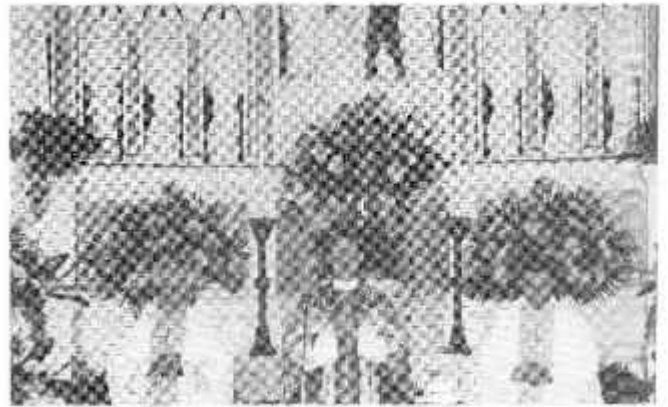
The work began with a newly replaced gas boiler and then proceeded steadily to give the interior a new look as parishioners and visitors alike marveled at the beauty. The ceilings, walls and altars were repaired and painted, pews were refinished, paintings and statues were restored all under the watchful and knowledgeable supervision of Monsignor. New vinyl floor coverings were placed beneath the pews and carpeting was laid in the aisles. The sanctuary was enlarged and set over with imported marble and a new sacrificial altar, faced with the mosaic last supper, was placed at its center. The entire church was highlighted by customized light fixtures, designed by Gerhardt Baut, accenting the rich Romanesque architecture.

In the near future, there will be a new marble pulpit, a baptismal font, presidential chair and a beautifully adorned elevated tabernacle.

Amidst all the activity in the parish, the announcement was released by Bishop James C. Timlin that St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 633 Main Street, Dickson City, was to be merged with St. Mary's effective September 11, 1992. As a result of the merger, Monsignor Piorkowski assumed the administrative and pastoral duties at St. Thomas Church. Reverend Stefan Krawontka and Reverend Patrick Albert would also assist in the responsibility of caring for the added 429 parishioners. Welcome St. Thomas parishioners.

On Sunday, November 1, 1992, after much anticipation and preparation, the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its founding. A Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Reverend Bishop James C. Timlin at 4:00 P.M. The concelebrating priests were Monsignor Piorkowski, pastor of St. Mary's, Reverend Patrick Albert and Reverend Stefan Krawontka, assistant pastors. Monsignor Piorkowski delivered an eloquent homily extolling the sacrifices and insights of our Polish ancestors in constructing such a magnificent church. His deliverance was so skillful and effective in generating emotion, that the congregation responded with a standing ovation. The beautiful music was rendered by the parish choir under the superior

Picture this . . . years from now



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direction of Lorraine Kowrach Hutchins. Dignitaries, parishioners, school children and friends will hold the solemnity and beauty of that special day in their hearts, for many years to come, tucked away among their most precious memories.

Continuing the festivities, a dinner was held at Genetti's Manor in Dickson City at 5:45 P.M. Mayor Vincent Wiercinski was toastmaster, Attorney E. V. Pieski was the principal speaker and Monsignor Piorkowski offered remarks.

A special celebration for the children of the parish took place on Sunday, November 29th at 4:00 P.M. The Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo was principal celebrant and homilist at a Mass of Thanksgiving. The priests of the parish were concelebrants and Reverend Richard Cirba was Master of Ceremonies. The choristers, under the direction of Lorraine Kowrach Hutchins, provided the singing. A party was held for the children in the school cafeteria followed by a dance. Children from St. Mary's and St. Thomas the Apostle Parishes were invited to attend.

The success of the Centennial Celebration can be attributed to the encouragement and excitement Monsignor Piorkowski instilled in the parishioners and in his own tireless love and dedication to St. Mary's Parish.

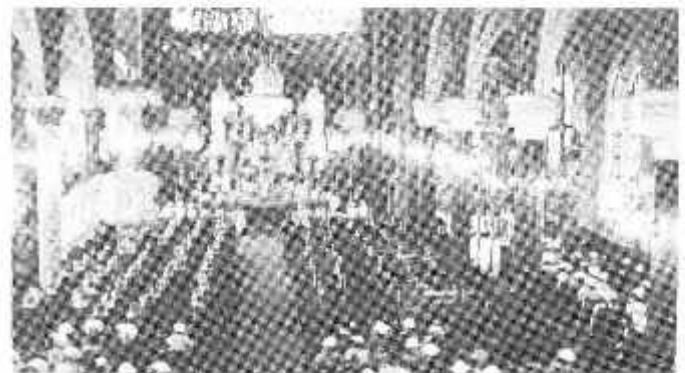
The success of a parish cannot be measured by its material accomplishments alone. Success is mirrored through sacrifice, dedication, service and participation of its members in the many organizations and programs in the parish community. Currently there are a number of active organizations, including the Parish Council, Boy Scout Troop 21, Cub Scout Pack 21, Christian Mothers, Holy Name Society, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Boys, People's Eucharistic League, Eucharistic Ministers, Polish Women's Alliance, Gr. 528, St. Ann's Society, Pro-Life Committee, Sacred Heart Enthronement Chapter, Youth Group, St. Mary's Athletic Association, Senior Choir and Choristers, Cafeteria Mothers, Bingo Workers, Quilters, Pierogi Group, Harvest Festival Committee, and School Picnic Committee. A number of programs also exist to aid persons to better understand the practice of their religion: CCD, Renew, RCIA, Pre-Cana and Pre-Baptismal programs. A Holy Hour of Reparation is conducted every Saturday morning at 7:00 A.M. and Marian Devotions is held on every second Tuesday at 7:00 P.M.

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish has been altered permanently with the passage of time. Time that has been a witness to struggling and sacrifice, to growth and dedication, to prosperity

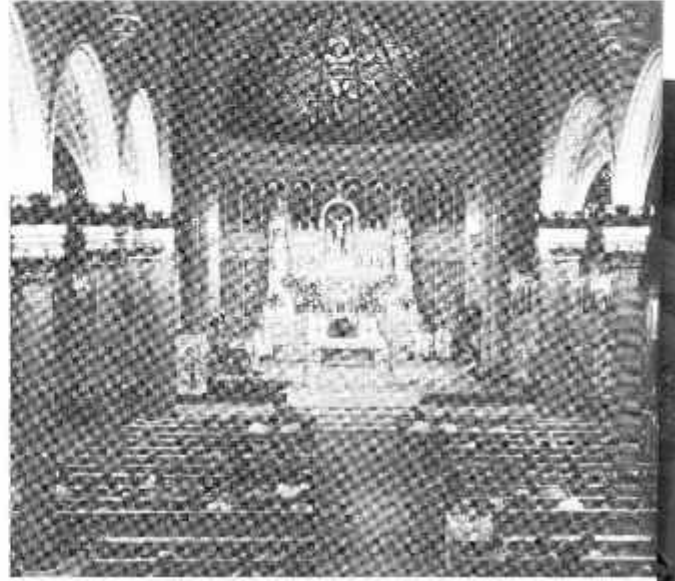
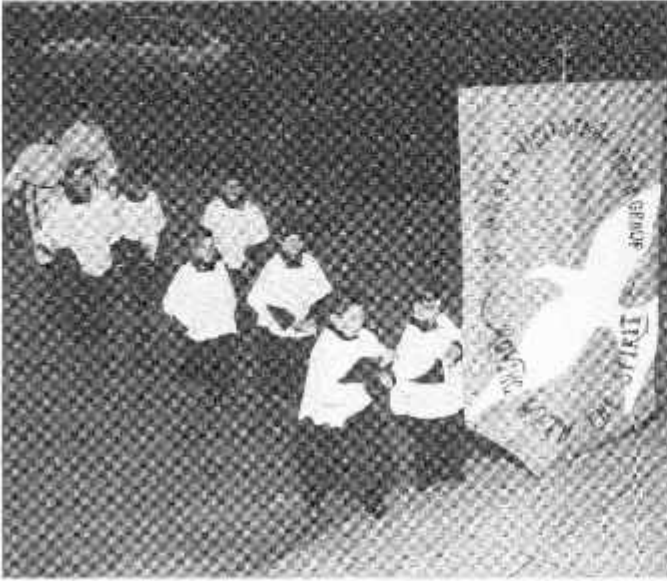
and pride. Many footsteps have been taken along the journey of faith during the last one hundred years. From the humble beginnings of the original church to the majestic grandeur of our present edifice, the zeal, the hard work and the love of God has always been evident. Our history has been a long and proud one despite many pitfalls strewn along the way. Many changes have taken place in the course of a century but the changes were physical and structural in nature. The positive and optimistic attitudes that were sown in 1892 are still alive and well today. Each generation had their own spiritual, educational and social needs, that through the grace of God, were fulfilled by the solicitous guidance of able predecessors through religious education in the parish school and the administration of the sacraments. To all the Bernardine Sisters and teachers, past and present, who have walked the halls of St. Mary's School, we say THANK YOU! To all our pastors and assistant pastors, past and present, who have administered to all generations of parishioners, we will always REMEMBER YOU WITH FONDNESS!

Through the magnificent spires and arches of our beautiful church echoes the fervor and spirit of our ancestors exhorting us to embark courageously on our second one hundred years. We do so with the same faith and determination. Our church has steadfastly been a beacon of hope and guidance and through the grace of God, it will continue to assume that role in the future. The same torch of faith entrusted to us will be passed on for generations to come. Today our church reaches out to all of those who wish to be comforted and long to hear the word of God.

As in the case of our great nation, our parish, in effect, has become somewhat of a melting pot. St. Mary's has outstretched her arms to enfold many people of all ethnic persuasions. THE LEGACY that was left to us by our fathers. . . is also theirs to have and enjoy. The people of our parish have come a long way since our simple and humble beginnings. They have always expressed their love for God and His Blessed Mother in simple but beautiful ways. Ageless traditions that were born in Poland were perpetuated in our own community. Customs such as blessing flowers on the feast of the Assumption, the Gorkie Zale services during Lent, the blessing of food baskets for Easter, and the blessing of homes at Christmas are still an inherent part of our lives. Hopefully, they will never be forgotten. Looking to the future, we fondly pray that the same faith and love will perpetuate itself for another hundred years. To this we make a toast and say "STO LAT".



More . . . More . . . Celebration



*Remember . . . before renovations
Christmas of 1991*



*Remember . . . before renovations
Easter of 1992*

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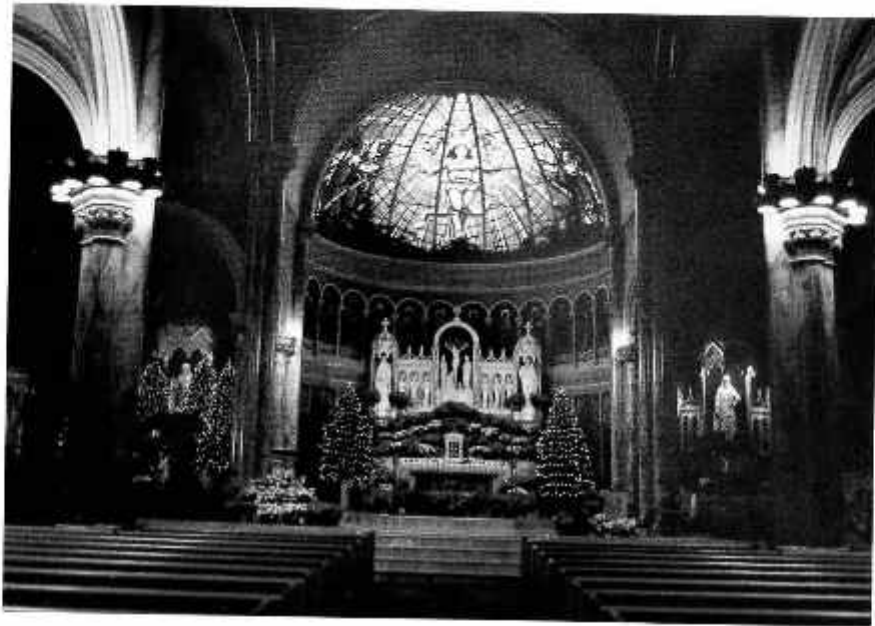
Good Friday

Easter Sunday



*Admire . . . after renovations
Christmas of 1992*

*Glory
To
God
in
the
Highest*



*Peace
to
Men
of
Good Will!*



*. . . Oh, Come
let us adore
Him . . . Christ
the Lord, . . .*



Chteric



Church Interior

*The Lord is surrounded with beauty . . .
Renovations . . . 1992*



The Blessed Virgin Mary Shrine

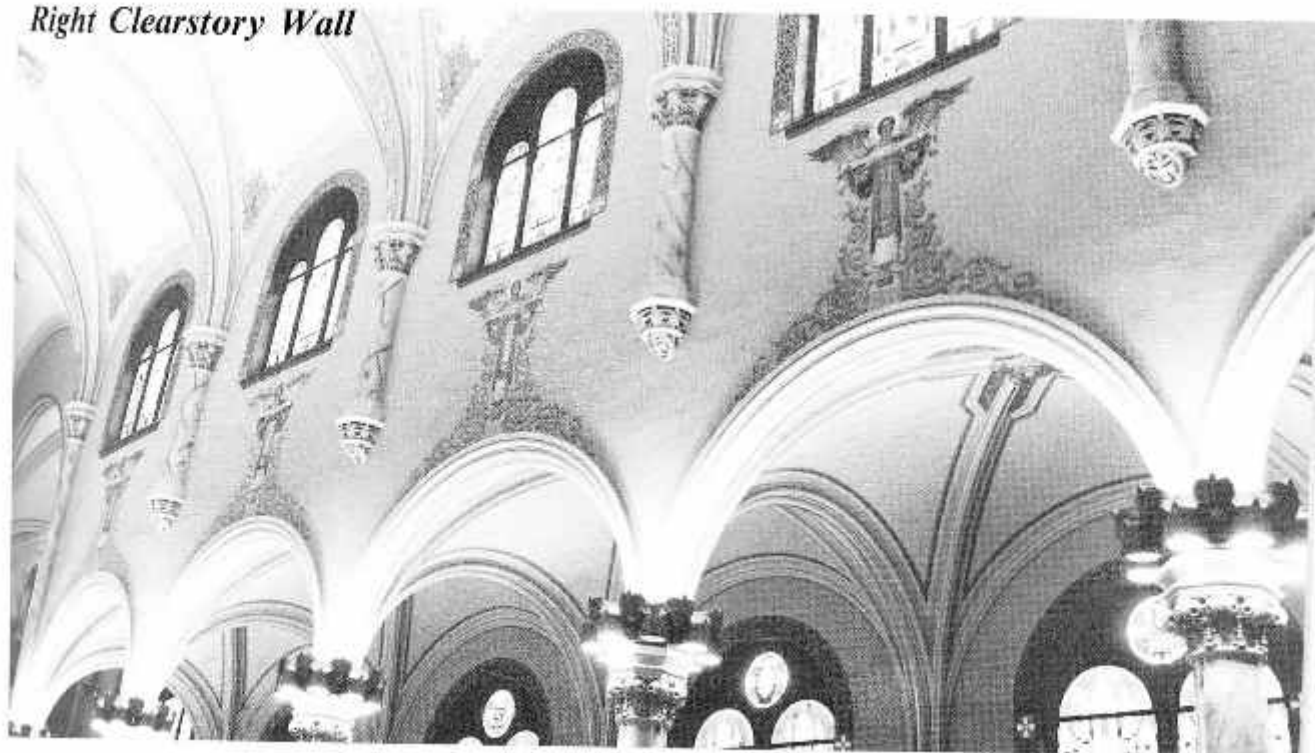


Left Aisle approaching the Blessed Virgin Mary Shrine



The Sacred Heart Shrine

Right Clearstory Wall



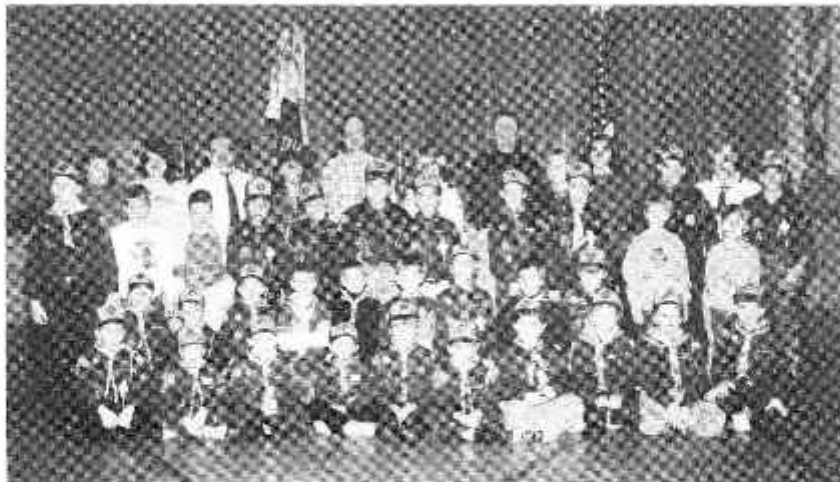


Magnificent Romanesque Architecture



Rear View of the Interior

*Flashbacks . . . serving God and country.
. . . first boy scout troop was organized in 1927
by Chester Golinski
. . . one of the first groups of eagle scouts*



Cub Scouts 1992



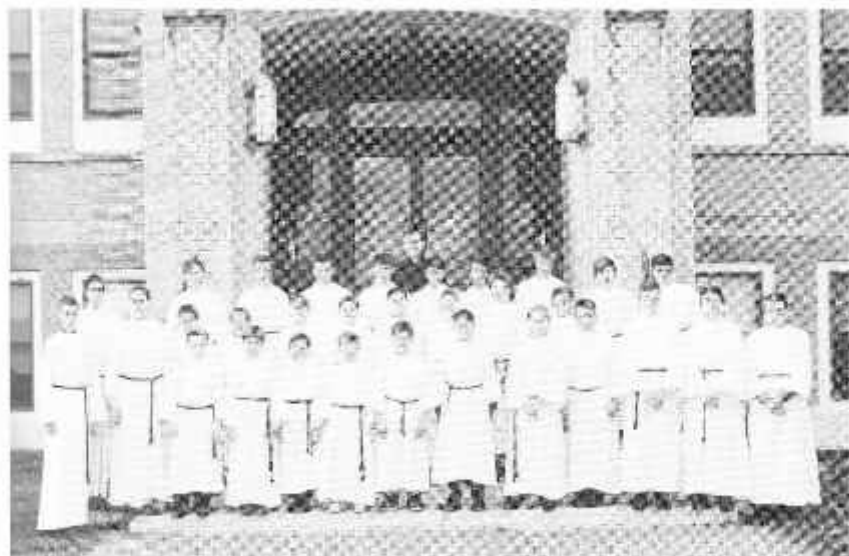
Boy Scouts 1992

Faithful & dedicated altar servers . . .



. . . approximate year 1922

*Newly inducted
altar boys 1992 . . .*



*St. Mary's altar boys
1992*

*Like Saint Theresa's
Society in 1961 . . .*



dedication continues in 1992 to their church . . .



*St. Ann's Society, organized in 1943,
honors the Mother of Mary
and contributes spiritually and . . .*

1961



*. . . monetarily toward the maintenance
of their parish in 1992*



*The men in the Holy Name Society, a large organization,
are the pillars of the church and contribute
to the parish in numerous ways . . .*

1961



*. . . including the convent and church renovations
Officers - 1992*

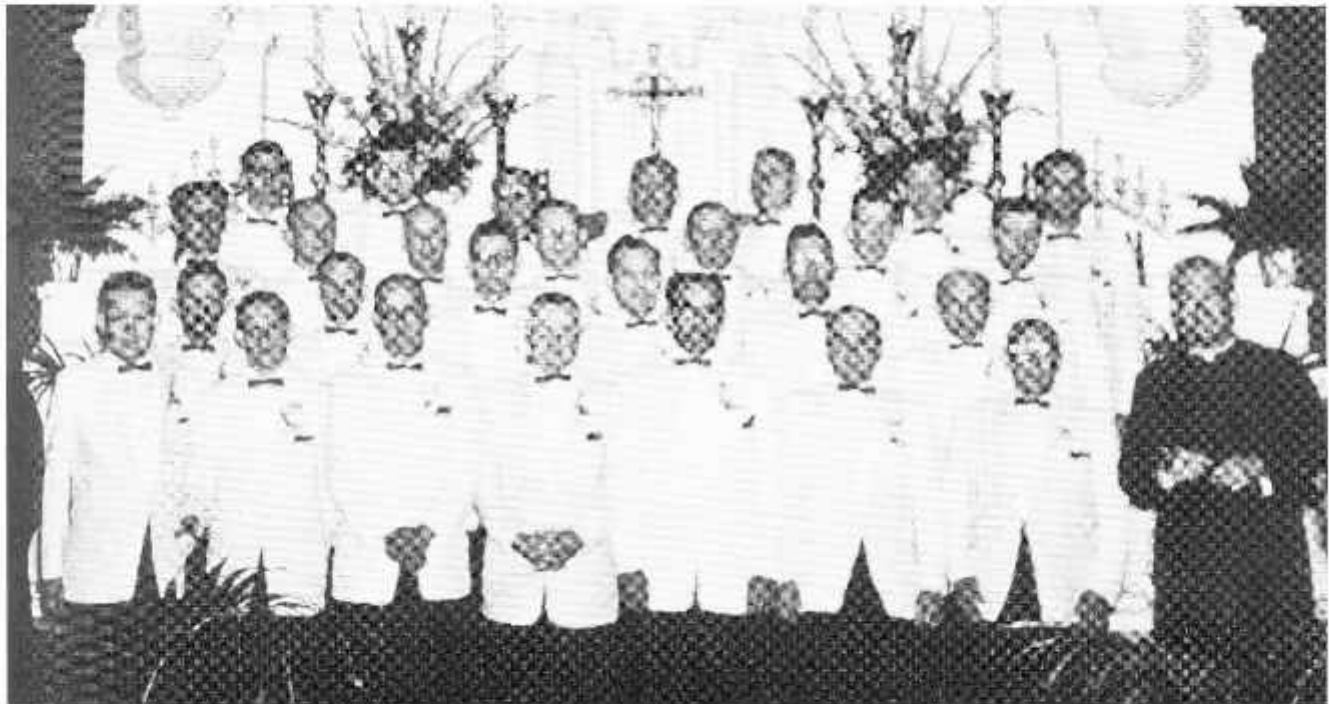


A prominent Men's Society,

St. Mary's Ushers pledge

*"To fulfill my duties to my God and our parishioners
in a fervent and cheerful manner . . .*

1961



*. . . by my conduct and frequent reception of the
sacraments, and to be a faithful servant of Christ"*

1992



*The Eucharistic League organized in 1960,
honors Jesus Christ in the most Blessed Sacrament . . .*

1961



*. . . and sanctify themselves through the graces
of the Eucharist*

1992



*Love of the Sacred Heart . . .
devotions and home enthrone-
ment to the
Sacred Heart are special . . .*



1992

*devoted
women
who are
proud
to
be
P
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*. . . Polish
Women's
Alliance*

*Help to service . . .
by distributing communion during mass . . .*



1992

*. . . and consoling the sick by
carrying the Eucharist to homes and hospitals*



*The "Word of God"
read by Lectors whose aim is to help evangelize
by their contribution to the Liturgy . . .*



1992

*Speaking of evangelization . . . renew groups
witness with their groups and then witness
within their parish community*



Actions speak louder than words . . .

people whose principles are strong . . .

They get involved in activities that are Pro-Life . . .



1992

Youth who care by participating in many charitable activities . . .

They love our Lord and their parish.

“Suffer the little ones to come to Me”



CHOIR

Singing praises to the Lord has always been an integral part of our Parish history. The first Church had a pump organ played by Mr. Jan Nadolny during masses and other liturgical services. Over the years members of the parish, both young and old, volunteered their talents and love of music in the choir.

Our most memorable directors were:

Professor Kozik
Sidney Grabowski
John Krajewski
Sister Chrysostom
Sister Sienna
Fr. Korpusik
Edward Kabacinski
Barbara Martyska
Lorraine Kowrach Hutchins

The choir's renditions of both Polish and English hymns have always enhanced the liturgies and various special occasions such as Forty Hours. Our present director, Lorraine Kowrach Hutchins, assembled the choristers from the school children and they sing at liturgies conducted for the youth of the parish.

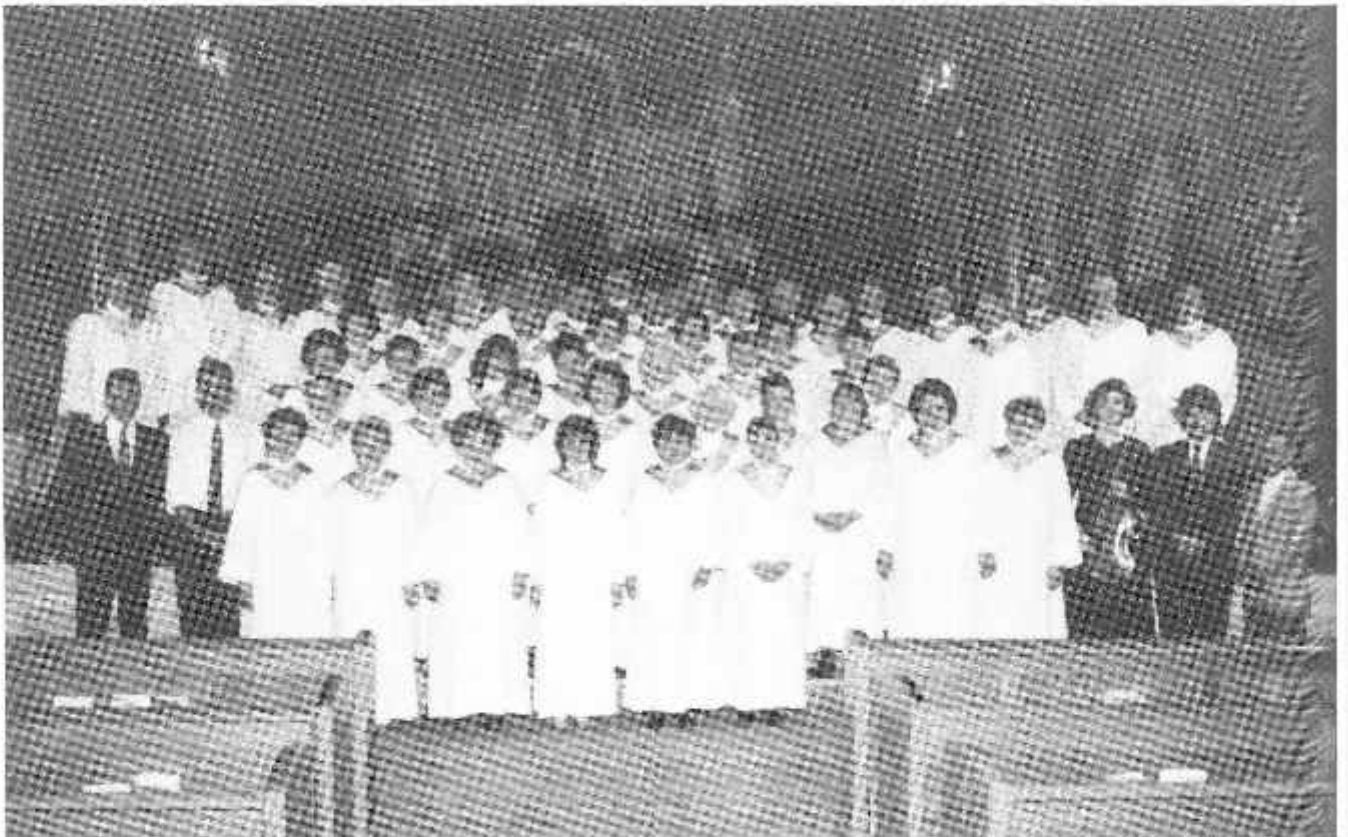
Mrs. Hutchins also directs the adult choir that sings at our High Mass each Sunday, Midnight Mass, The Easter Holydays, and other special events during the year.

The choir, whose talent is known throughout the diocese, is often invited to sing at the Cathedral and other parishes.

Choir — Circa 1920



Choir — 1992



*Beautiful young voices . . . praising God
Junior Choir 1961*

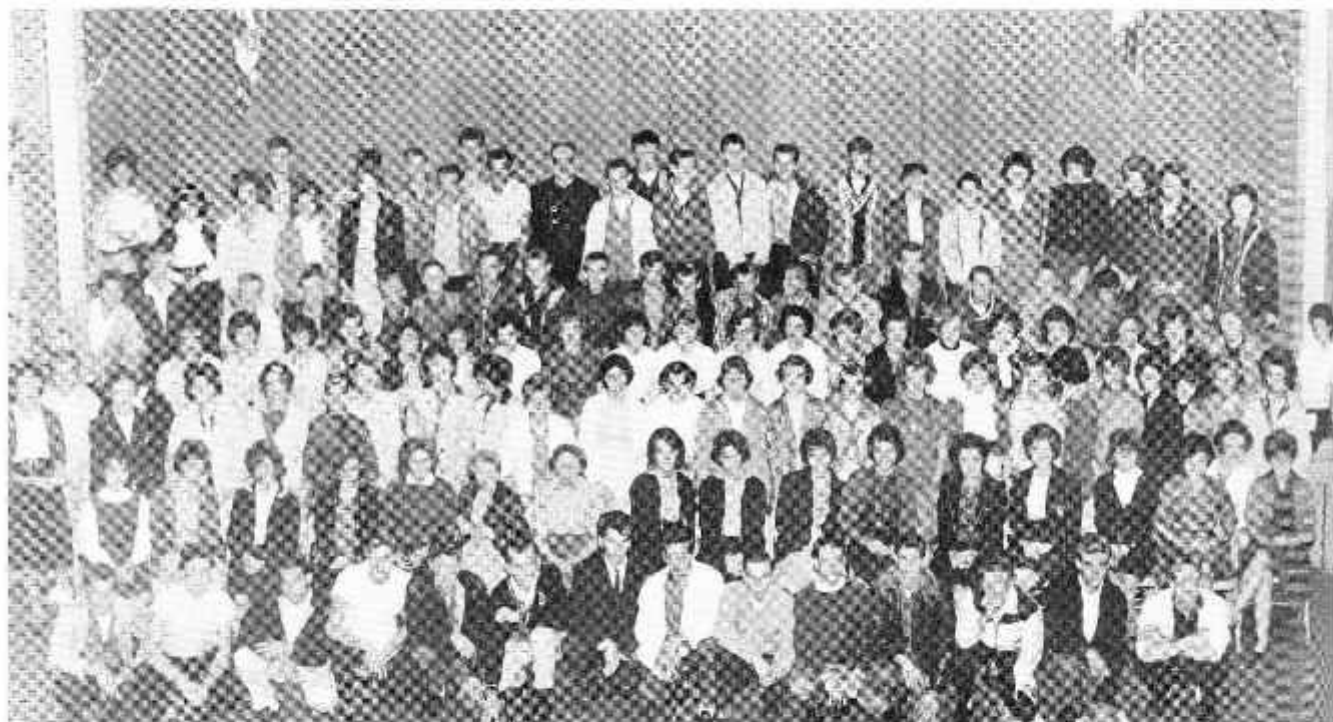


Choristers 1992

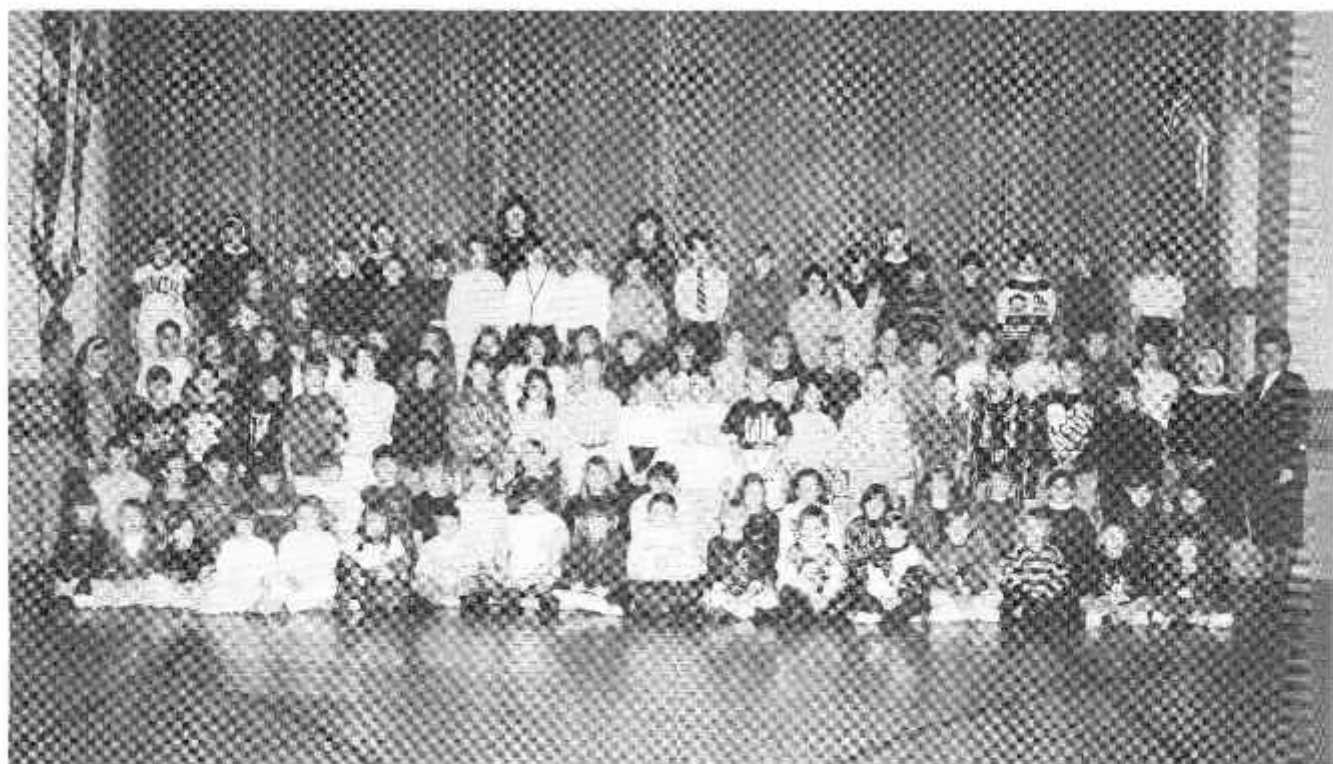


*Confraternity of Christian Doctrine . . .
. . . organized in 1957 and provides religious
education for those not in catholic schools . . .*

1961



. . . today including pre-schoolers — 1992



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*To insure the smooth and efficient running of a parish
as large as St. Mary's, a reliable staff is necessary
Rectory Office Secretaries*

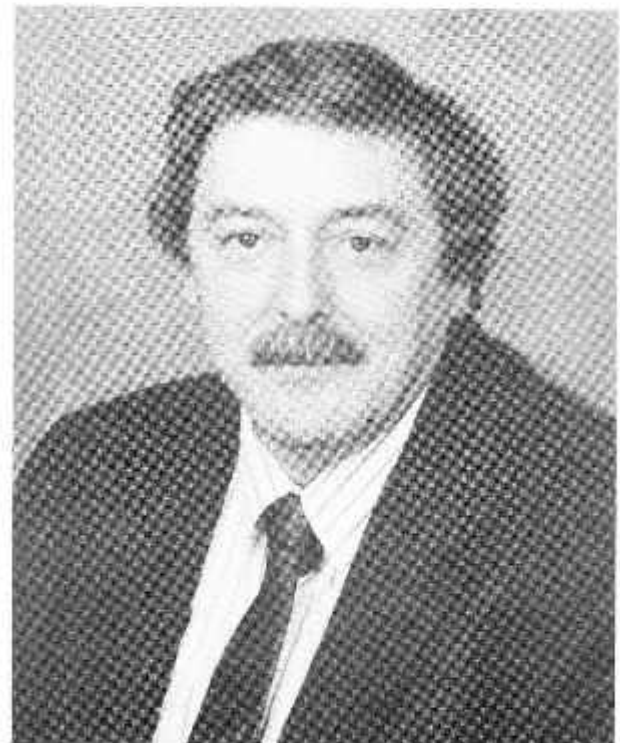


Marge Bednarczyk



Sharon Kanton

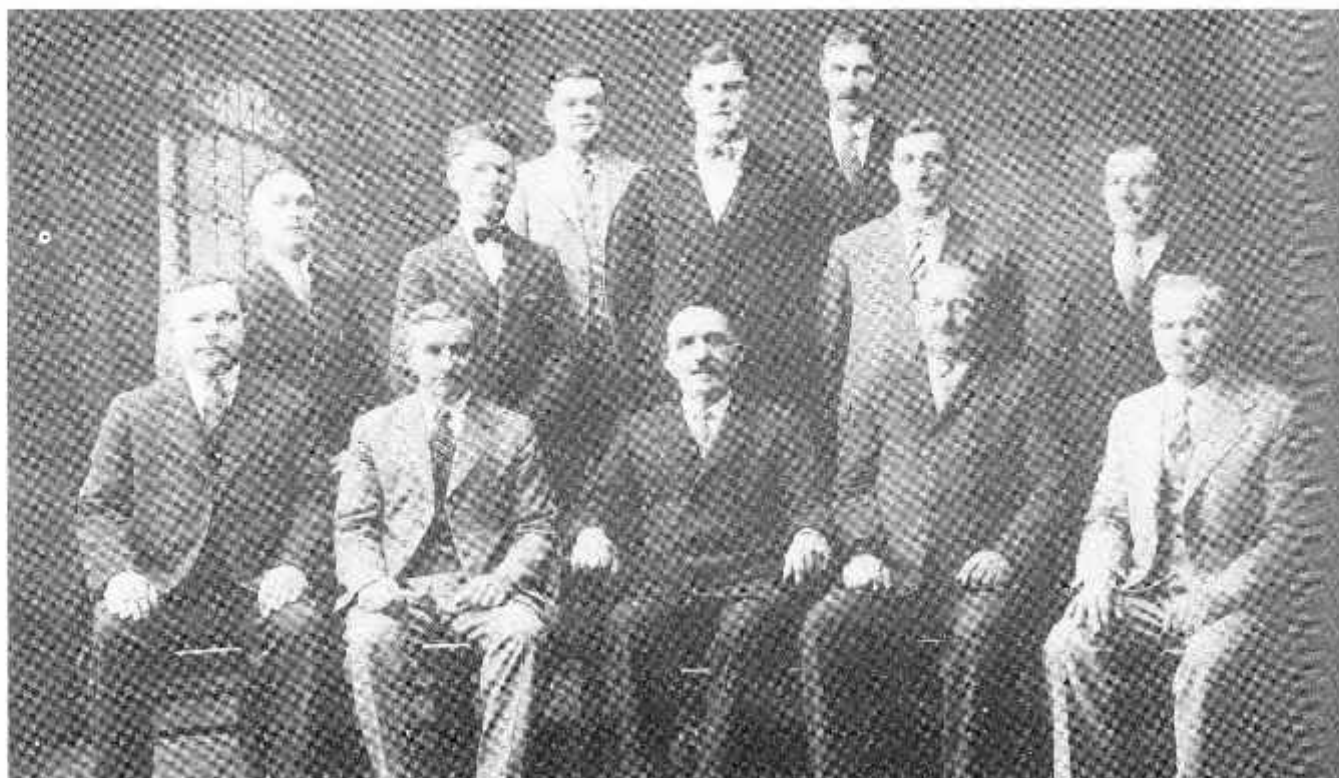
Each of us in our lifetime, has known individuals who work with their whole heart and soul seeking no praise or recognition for themselves. Such individuals are so engrossed in their love for God, that each task they perform is a labor of love. Such a person has tended our church for many a year! LUCILLE WYSZYNSKI has cleaned, tended to the sanctuary and beautified St. Mary's, making it a pleasure for all to admire. Thank You, Lucille, from all of us, for such beautiful and dedicated care.



*James Kanton
Maintenance . . .*

*Committee's have played major roles in the establishment of
St. Mary's parish and the construction of its buildings . . .*

Parish Committee 1928



Parish Council 1992



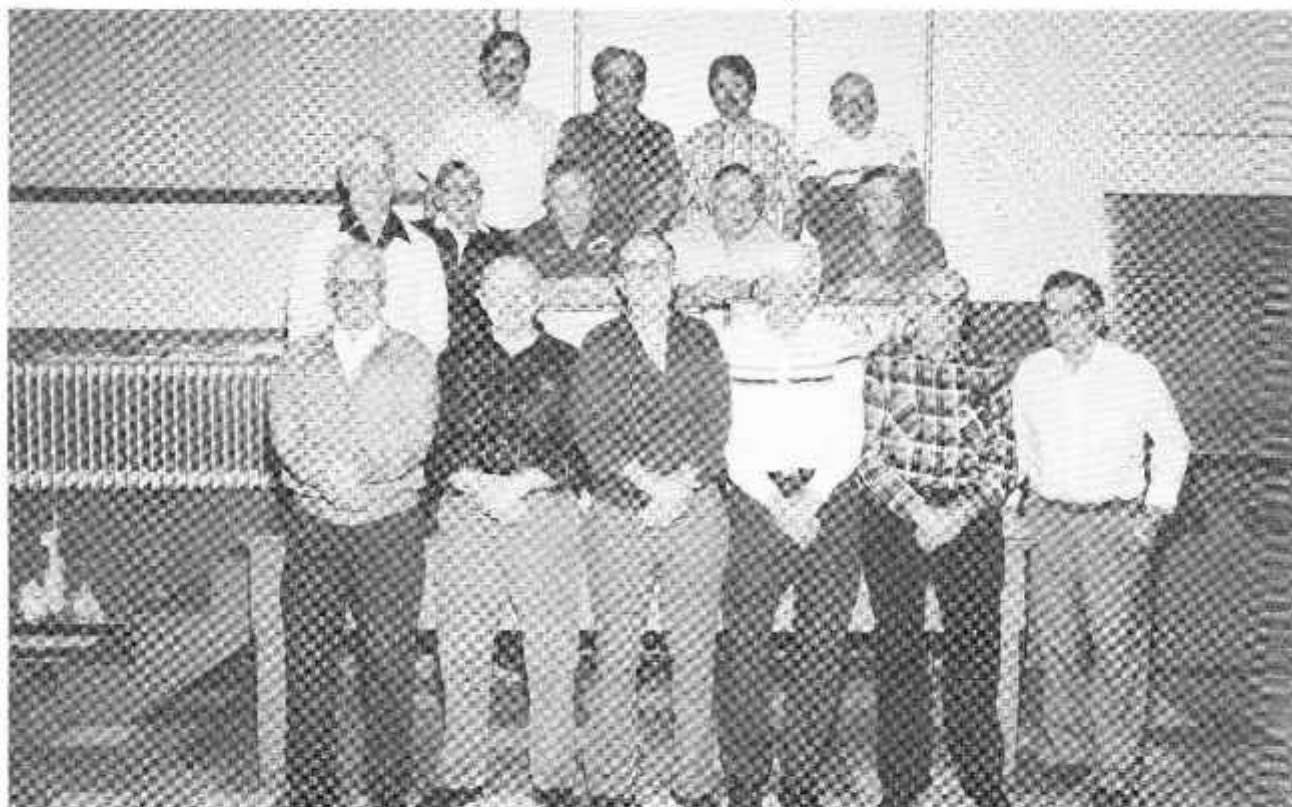
Delicious . . . smaczne . . . heavenly smells come from the school cafeteria during Advent and Lent! ! Men and Women spend many hours making pierogi to help finance many parish projects . . .



We are most grateful to all church organizations for giving of their time, effort and unselfish love for the greater honor and glory of God, for the good of others and their parish.

We salute those who enrich the parish financially and spiritually by their committment to become involved in supporting all projects undertaken and participating in all church services and celebrations.

Faithful, hard working and willing to give their time weekly for their parish are the Bingo Workers . . .



1992

The beautiful work of these Quilters . . . the happy disposition of these cheerful givers radiate great love for their parish . . .



FOOTSTEPS ALONG THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

Of the 72 miners that were killed in the infamous Pancoast Mine Disaster in Throop, Pennsylvania in 1911, at least 15 were from St. Mary's Church.

In it's early days St. Mary's once imposed a "pew tax."

Most of the church's early parishioners came from eastern Poland. (the Russian section)

The most common Gubernias (Counties) from which most of the earlier parishioners came were Grodno, Vilno, Polsk, Sumalka, and Galicia.

When the miners built the original church in 1892, their average pay was approximately \$400 a year and salary cuts were frequent.

In the 1880's a mine worker's pay was about five cents an hour.

Almost from the beginning of its history, Dickson City was a village of immigrants . . . the first coming from Germany.

In 1888 there were 781 Polish miners in Lackawanna County twenty years later the number rose to 7,739.

The Catholic Encyclopedia of 1910 credited the Poles in America with having the greatest number of church-going men then any other nationality.

To supplement the simple fare of their tables, the early members of the parish began the practice of planting and tending vegetable gardens.

A nationwide Polish Fraternal Organization known as the Democratic Society of Polish Exiles became renowned in the 1850's and 1860's for its opposition to slavery.

One of the initial Fraternal Organizations established at St. Mary's was the "Son's of Poland" organization established on the 7th of February 1892.

Many of the Fraternal Organizations served as "guards of honor" in the old church commencing with its completion . . . especially on Holy Saturday when they stood guard at the bier of Christ.



SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH FR. DUTKIEWICZ 1908



THE OLD CHURCH CONVERTED INTO THE PARISH SCHOOL (PHOTO TAKEN DURING DEMOLITION CIRCA 1925)



FIRST GRADUATING CLASS 1924

SCHOOL HISTORY

Our forefathers realized the importance of a Catholic Education and thus established a parish school in the basement of the first church in 1892. There were three lay teachers: Jan Nadolny, Jan Suchodołski and Anastasia Gorczynynski.

Upon completion of the new church in 1911, during the pastorate of Father Dudkiewicz, the old church building was converted to a larger school with classrooms.

In 1916, the Bernardine Sisters came to staff the school with Sr. M. Bronislawa as the first principal and two nuns and a postulant as teachers. The school also served as a meeting place for church organizations.

The school continued in this capacity for fourteen years and, in 1924, the need for a new school building became urgent as parents were concerned about the poor conditions of the existing building which had no heating system or sanitation facilities. Even though the parish was in debt at this time because of the construction of the new Church, it was decided to purchase the triangle of land at Dundaff and Scott Streets from the Snyder (Schneider) Estate for the school.

Alexander Prawdzika, a Polish architect, drew up the plans and they were presented to the Bishop and approved in the spring of 1924. Ferma Service Construction Company of Wilkes-Barre was the general contractor and construction began in the summer of 1924.

The cost of construction was approximately \$225,000 with loans financed by the Polish Union. A door to door solicitation for funds took place to raise money for the school building.

The new school, which was built to accommodate 1300 children, not only contained classrooms, but also an auditorium, a balcony, and a kitchen. Construction was completed in 1925 and Bishop Brennan blessed the cornerstone. Rt. Reverend Michael J. Hoban died the night before the official dedication ceremony and the festivities were postponed until 1928, with Bishop Thomas O'Reilly presiding. St. Mary's School was lauded as one of the largest parochial schools in the area.

Pope Pius XI sent a special blessing to all priests, parishioners and children of the parish to laud their piety and their extraordinary faithfulness to the Church upon hearing that the confirmation class of 1928 had 1900 participants. This enormous group had to be confirmed in two separate sessions.

During the ensuing years, the school continued to flourish under the guidance of Msgr. Stanislaus Szpotanski and the good Sisters of the parish.

In 1943, 606 children were taught by 16 Bernardine Sisters with Sr. Chrysostom as Principal. School activities included sports, dramatics, a glee club, a choral club, a debating team, and a student council. Religious education was always emphasized and, after receiving First Holy Communion every child was enrolled in the Blessed Virgin Sodality.

The boys and girls of St. Mary's had always been eager to make their contribution to the parish. The "Juniors" of St. Mary's conducted weekly 10 cent record dances in the school hall. The children also conducted musical events, theatrical performances and other festivals. They saved their pennies and when they reached \$800, purchased the beautiful gold vases which are still used today on the altar for special occasions.

Each class also sent one or two packages to Poland per month, depending upon how much money they were able to save. During the Second World War, many children belonged to the Jr. Red Cross and sent packages to our soldiers. A school newspaper, "St. Mary's Rambler", was introduced and the name was subsequently changed to "Bells of St. Mary's". A \$500 Victory Bond was presented to the pastor, The Rev. Francis X. Dominiak, during the Christmas Holidays.

The P.T.A. was organized in September 1945 for the "purpose of developing a closer relationship and understanding between parents and teachers" with dues set at fifty cents. The First President was Martha Wiczbicki and the first member was Frances Polkowski. A Christmas Party was held for the school children and the P.T.A. donated \$50 to the church for Christmas, \$25 was allocated for Easter, \$50 was given to the pastor for the burning of the mortgage, and \$15 was donated to the Sisters.

The funds for these contributions were raised from Bingo games, and weekly dances held every Monday in the school auditorium.

In 1946 St. Mary's was the only Polish Parochial Jr. High School in Lackawanna County. At this time many improvements were made to the school. The interior was painted, linoleum and tile were placed in several classrooms along with new secretarial desks and an inter-communication system was installed throughout the school building.

St. Mary's orchestra was organized under the direction of Professor Casey Trojanowski and made its first formal appearance at the graduation exercises in June of 1946. A boys and a girls choir was also organized and they sang at various affairs conducted by the parish.

In early 1951, the physical appearance of the school

**SR. BRONISLAWA, FIRST PRINCIPAL.
5th GRADE CLASS 1940**



GRADUATING CLASS 1932



SCHOOL BUS DEDICATION



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL 1992

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grounds was improved. The property around the school was paved and served a dual purpose: a fully equipped playground as well as a parking area. The P.T.A. continued to be very active and raised funds for the school by conducting Pillow Case Socials, Evening Tea Socials, Halloween and Christmas Parties, Bake Sales and Raffles.

Children residing in the rural areas were transported to St. Mary's School in the parish station wagon. With an increasing enrollment of students, it was necessary to purchase two school buses for transportation. This occurred during the tenure of Father Dominiak. John Saikowski drove "The Country Bus" for approximately 40 years. "The City Bus" which transported students residing in Dickson City and Blakely, was alternately driven by Father Korpusik, Joe "Jake" Boretsky, Mike Begey and Joe Swierbinski.

The beautiful statue which today graces the front of the school is a symbol of Jesus' invitation for all children "To come unto Him." It was placed and dedicated in 1956.

In order to establish a more formal dress code, school uniforms of blue jumpers with white blouses were introduced for girls in 1957.

The school auditorium, under the supervision of Msgr. Niebrzydowski, was renovated and redecorated. The corridors were retiled and modern kitchen appliances were installed.

The school continued to be staffed by the Bernadine Sisters but in the late 1950's, lay teachers joined the faculty.

On October 25, 1959 the P.T.A. was formally changed to The Confraternity of Christian Mothers with 200 members. The objectives of the organization were for an increase in spirituality and personal sanctification. To accomplish these objectives, mothers received Holy Communion with their children at the Sunday Mass designated for the particular classes. Grade Mothers were appointed and requested to cooperate with the classroom Sister or teacher.

The school saw its last 9th grade graduating class in 1964.

After Father Sikorski became pastor in 1966, more renovations were undertaken. Classrooms were painted, blackboards resurfaced, new bulletin boards were installed, a new communications system

introduced, and television equipment was placed in classrooms. Religious mosaic tiles were placed in the front entrance of the school. The kitchen was relocated in the basement, a new floor was laid in the auditorium and a new library and audio/visual instruction room replaced the old balcony area.

Msgr. Sikorski outlined plans in 1967 for a new cafeteria which would have a paid chef and volunteers in charge. Various fundraisers were held during 1968 to defray expenses of the new cafeteria. Due to rising costs it became necessary to charge tuition in the 1976-1977 school year. The fees were: \$5 per month for the first child, \$2.50 for the second and all others were free.

In 1979 the 1st issue of St. Mary's Newsletter carried the title "Blue and White Press."

Since Msgr. Piorkowski became pastor in 1982, the school building has been repainted, new insulated windows installed, offices were renovated for the secretary and principal, a computer network system for the students was introduced, a security system was installed, and carpeting laid in the classrooms. The school was accepted into the Middle States Accreditation Program. This was no small feat as an enormous amount of preparation and very strict guidelines had to be followed to qualify. This Accreditation has confirmed a commitment to excellence demonstrated by the school faculty.

The Athletic Committee was established in 1983 and 48 boys "signed up" to play basketball and 35 girls signed on as cheerleaders.

St. Mary's Advisory Board was formed to provide for parent-teacher participation in school affairs and in so doing provide for the general welfare of our students.

One hundred years ago, parents wanted a better education for their children and over the years, constantly met the challenges necessary to accomplish this end. The school has always been an integral part of our parish and the dedication of the Sisters, Teachers, and Confraternity of Christian Mothers is to be commended for continuing this tradition today.

In 1992, our parents are still concerned about quality education. St. Mary's School gives our children a dual advantage. The opportunity to excel scholastically, while providing an environment for spiritual growth.

Bernardine Sisters

Who Have Served at St. Mary's Visitation Parish

Sr. M. Accursia	Sr. M. Clementissima	Sr. M. Gregory	Sr. M. Michelle
Sr. M. Adelaide	Sr. M. Cleopha	Sr. M. Gualberta	Sr. M. Marie Modest
Sr. M. Aegidia	Sr. M. Clotilde	Sr. M. Helene	Sr. M. Nativitas
Sr. M. Agnes	Sr. M. Colette	Sr. M. Stanislaus Helene	Sr. M. Neomisia
Sr. M. Aileen	Sr. M. Conradine	Sr. M. Herculane	Sr. M. Norberta
Sr. M. Alacoque	Sr. M. Consolata	Sr. M. Herman Joseph	Sr. M. Octavian
Sr. M. Albertine	Sr. M. Constance	Sr. M. Hilda	Sr. M. Ollveria
Sr. M. Albinette	Sr. M. Constantine	Sr. M. Hildegarde	Sr. M. Olivette
Sr. M. Aldonna	Sr. M. Corelle	Sr. M. Humiliana	Sr. M. Olympia
Sr. M. Alfreda	Sr. M. Cornelia	Sr. M. Ignatia	Sr. M. Ottona
Sr. M. Alfredine	Sr. M. Cortona	Sr. M. Idephonse	Sr. M. Pacelli
Sr. M. Alice	Sr. M. Crescentiana	Sr. M. Illuminata	Sr. M. Pachomia
Sr. M. Alodia	Sr. M. Cuperine	Sr. M. Immacule	Sr. M. Pacifica
Sr. M. Aloysiana	Sr. M. Cynthia	Sr. M. Inviolata	Sr. M. Paschaline
Sr. M. Amalia	Sr. M. Cyrille	Sr. M. Irene	Sr. M. Paulita
Sr. M. Amandine	Sr. M. d'Arc	Sr. M. Irmine	Sr. M. Pelagia
Sr. M. Amata	Sr. M. Davidica	Sr. M. Jacqueline	Sr. M. Petrine
Sr. M. Ambrose	Sr. M. Demetria	Sr. M. Jadwinette	Sr. M. Petronella
Sr. M. Amaclete	Sr. M. Denise	Sr. M. Januaria	Sr. M. Phillip
Sr. M. Ancilla	Sr. M. dePaul	Sr. M. Joangela	Sr. M. Presentation
Sr. M. Andrea	Sr. M. diPadua	Sr. M. Joanita	Sr. M. Protasia
Sr. M. Aniela	Sr. M. Dolores	Sr. M. Josepha	Sr. M. Providentia
Sr. M. Felicia Ann	Sr. M. Dolorosa	Sr. M. Ann Joseph	Sr. M. Prudentian
Sr. M. Roberta Ann	Sr. M. Donatilla	Sr. M. Josephite	Sr. M. Romona
Sr. M. Stella Ann	Sr. M. Doris	Sr. M. Josine	Sr. M. Raymond
Sr. M. Annette	Sr. M. Duclane	Sr. M. Jude Marie	Sr. M. Rayneria
Sr. M. Antoinille	Sr. M. Dulceda	Sr. M. Judith	Sr. M. Reginald
Sr. M. Appollinaria	Sr. M. Dulceline	Sr. M. Juniper	Sr. M. Regina Marie
Sr. M. Arcadia	Sr. M. Dulcissima	Sr. M. Justinian	Sr. M. Rita
Sr. M. Archangela	Sr. M. Eberharda	Sr. M. Kateri	Sr. M. Roger
Sr. M. Arnold	Sr. M. Edith	Sr. M. Killan	Sr. M. Rosuuld
Sr. M. Aselle	Sr. M. Edward	Sr. M. Kunegunda	Sr. M. Rosaire
Sr. M. Axisa	Sr. M. Edwinalda	Sr. M. Lamberta	Sr. M. Rosalie
Sr. M. Assumpta	Sr. M. Eileen	Sr. M. Laudette	Sr. M. Rosanne
Sr. M. Assumptian	Sr. M. Electa	Sr. M. Laura	Sr. M. Ruth
Sr. M. Asteria	Sr. M. Eleanor	Sr. M. Lauretane	Sr. M. Salomea
Sr. M. Augusta	Sr. M. Eligia	Sr. M. Laurentia	Sr. M. Salvator
Sr. M. Augustian	Sr. M. John Ellen	Sr. M. Leocadiu	Sr. M. Kathleen Serafin
Sr. M. Austin	Sr. M. Theresa Ellen	Sr. M. Leonette	Sr. M. Seraphia
Sr. M. Auxilia	Sr. M. Emerentia	Sr. M. Leonille	Sr. M. Sidonia
Sr. M. Balbina	Sr. M. Emilia	Sr. M. Leonisse	Sr. M. Siena
Sr. M. Beata	Sr. M. Emillana	Sr. M. Leonita	Sr. M. Sienette
Sr. M. Beatrice	Sr. M. Emmanuel	Sr. M. Leopoldine	Sr. M. Silvester
Sr. M. Benedict	Sr. M. Erasma	Sr. M. Loretelle	Sr. M. Simeon
Sr. M. Benigna	Sr. M. Ernestine	Sr. M. S. Loretta	Sr. M. Simplicia
Sr. M. Benjamita	Sr. M. Ermelline	Sr. M. Loyolla	Sr. M. Simpliciana
Sr. M. Bernadette	Sr. M. Eugenia	Sr. M. Luchesia	Sr. M. Sixtus
Sr. M. Bernardita	Sr. M. Euphemia	Sr. M. Lucretia	Sr. M. Solaine
Sr. M. Blondine	Sr. M. Eustochia	Sr. M. Ludgarde	Sr. M. Sponsa
Sr. M. Boniface	Sr. M. Evangelette	Sr. M. Luella	Sr. M. Sponsoria
Sr. M. Bonita	Sr. M. Evarist	Sr. M. Ludmilla	Sr. M. Stephanilla
Sr. M. Callista	Sr. M. Febronia	Sr. M. Ludwina	Sr. M. Symphoria
Sr. M. Camilla	Sr. M. Felixia	Sr. M. Magnifica	Sr. M. Symphronia
Sr. M. Candida	Sr. M. Fides	Sr. M. Marcelline	Sr. M. Sylva
Sr. M. Canisia	Sr. M. Flaventia	Sr. M. Margaruite	Sr. M. Telexphore
Sr. M. Caritas	Sr. M. Floriana	Sr. M. Mariana	Sr. M. Terenita
Sr. M. Carmencita	Sr. M. Florentian	Sr. M. Marie Dominica	Sr. M. Theodore
Sr. M. Caroline	Sr. M. Florentine	Sr. M. Marion	Sr. M. Teophane
Sr. M. Casimir	Sr. M. Francella	Sr. M. Maristella	Sr. M. Theresa Immaculate
Sr. M. Cassiana	Sr. M. Francis	Sr. M. Marlene	Sr. M. Thomas
Sr. M. Marie Cecile	Sr. M. Fulgence	Sr. M. Joseph Mary	Sr. M. Thoma
Sr. M. Celeste	Sr. M. Fulginette	Sr. M. Matea	Sr. M. Valeria
Sr. M. Celestian	Sr. M. Gabriel	Sr. M. Materna	Sr. M. Valenria
Sr. M. Charlotte	Sr. M. Gaudiosa	Sr. M. Matilda	Sr. M. Veronica
Sr. M. Christian	Sr. M. Genesia	Sr. M. Matthew	Sr. M. Veronice
Sr. M. Christine	Sr. M. Genevieve	Sr. M. Maura	Sr. M. Violanta
Sr. M. Chrispine	Sr. M. Georgine	Sr. M. Maurycja	Sr. M. Virginia
Sr. M. Chrysanthine	Sr. M. Gerald	Sr. M. Maximilia	Sr. M. Vitalia
Sr. M. Claudette	Sr. M. Geraldine	Sr. M. Mechtilde	Sr. M. Viterbia
Sr. M. Claudia	Sr. M. Gervace	Sr. M. Melania	Sr. M. Vivian
Sr. M. Claudian	Sr. M. Grace	Sr. M. Melita	Sr. M. Wlaburgha
			Sr. M. Wenceslaus

School Principals

1916-17	SR. M. BRONISLAWA
1917-23	SR. M. SALOMEA
1923-24	SR. M. GERTRUDE
1924-25	SR. M. JULIANA SR. M. EUFEMIA
1925-31	SR. M. SALOMEA
1931-32	SR. M. EMANUEL
1933-38	SR. M. SALOMEA
1938-40	SR. M. DUCLANE
1941-42	SR. M. FILIPINA
1942-43	SR. M. EUFEMIA
1943-52	SR. M. CHRYSOSTOM
1952-54	SR. M. CLEMENTIAN
1955-60	SR. M. EVANGELINE
1961-63	SR. M. THARSILLA
1964-65	SR. M. HERCULANE
1965-69	SR. M. IGNATIA
1970-75	SR. JOAN IRENE
1976-86	SR. M. CHARITY
1986-87	SR. ROSE ANTOINETTE
1987-92	SR. KATHLEEN SERAFIN

Lay Teachers

*Josephine Shander
Joan Green
Mollie McNulty
Ann Toolan
Joseph Orloski
Christine Hopkins Alberigi
Linda Skierski*

*Theresa Larkin
Kathy Sosnowski
Cathy Byrne
Mary Pieski
Agnes Meehan
Daniel Glodek
Lorraine Hutchens*

*Judith Donaldson
Vincent Picciochi Kane
Marilyn White Miller
Mary Beth Kostawa
Laura Wallo
Christine Kowalek
Janet Nowogroski*



PRINCIPAL AND SECRETARY OF SCHOOL.

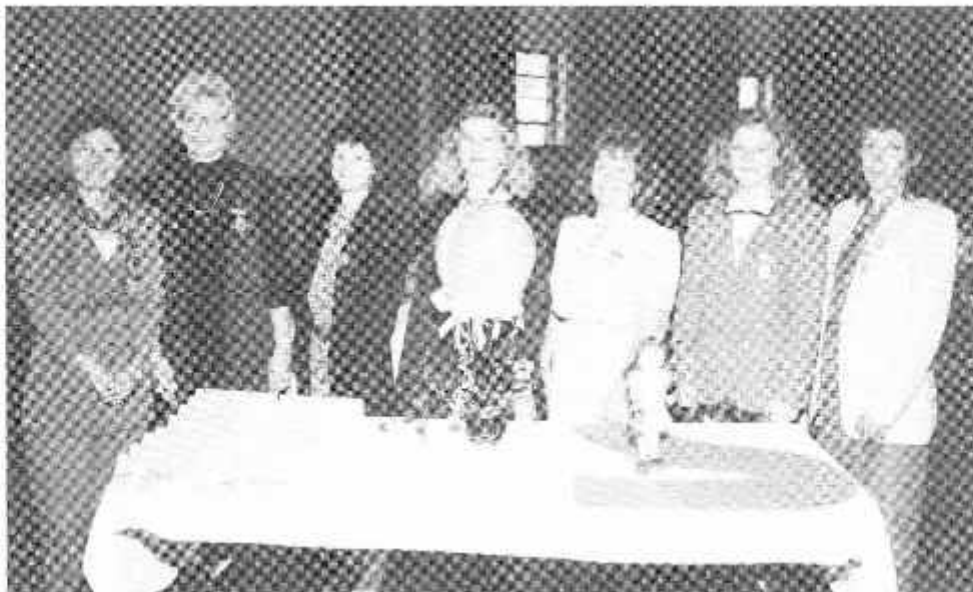


FACULTY 1992-1993



CAFETERIA PERSONNEL.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS



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THE CONVENT

In approximately 1946, the Sisters numbered 19 and were living in a family type building at Dundaff and Carmalt Sts.

The groundbreaking for a new convent on Carmalt St. took place on May 6, 1948. It was completed at a cost of \$135,000 and dedicated July 24, 1949 by Bishop Hafey of Scranton. The new convent was designed to house 19 sisters and contained 20 cubicles, a suite of rooms for Mother Superior, a Music Room, Chapel, two reception rooms, modern laundry room and a completely equipped kitchen.

Three picnics were held at Polonia Park on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th, August 13th, 14th and 15th as well as on September 3rd, 4th and 5th of 1949 to help pay off the convent debt.

In 1987-1988, under Msgr. Piorkowski's direction, a major renovation of the convent took place. Sixty-seven windows were replaced, bedrooms were enlarged, carpeting was installed throughout the convent, the community room was enlarged and recliners purchased for each sister's room.



SISTERS AT CONVENT



BASEBALL TEAM 1940



GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM 1926



BOWLING TEAM CHAMPIONS 1966

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ATHLETICS

As our parish grew in size and flourished spiritually, the 1930's brought out the athletic abilities in our men and boys. Encouraged by a clergy that believed in the adage "A strong body makes a strong mind," baseball and basketball teams were organized.

With the blessings and approval of Msgr. Stanley Szpotanski, a basketball team was formed in 1929, and had successful seasons for the next thirteen years, losing only two games. After World War II started in 1941, almost all of the players were drafted or enlisted in the armed services. When the war ended, St. Mary's Catholic War Veterans Basketball Team organized and joined the County Catholic War Veterans League. Jack Koniszewski served as team coach and Sylvester Kazmerski was named captain. The team completed an undefeated season by winning the Brooks Tournament at the Scranton Y.M.C.A., ending with a 25-0 record. St. Mary's Baseball team was formed in 1934, and was enrolled in the County Diamond League. The players ran weekly dances at the Parish hall and the proceeds were used to purchase attractive uniforms and equipment. The team was gifted with talent and dedication, and went on to win championships in the Diamond, International, and County Leagues. Sylvester "Cy" Kazmerski, John Nuzback, and Edward "Zat" Zitterman served as managers during these winning seasons. It was not uncommon for the players to meet in the school before a big game

to recite the rosary and other prayers. Sunday home games were played at the Crystal Gardens field which was located on Main Street in the area of Miles Plot. The games were attended by thousands of cheering fans. The team reaped a lot of publicity locally and sports banquets were held in their honor.

In 1948, assistant pastor Rev. Henry B. Korpusik invited "Cy" Kazmerski to organize and coach the parish school basketball team. Boys from grades 5 through 9 were invited to join and participate. The response was great and more than 50 students enrolled. Teams were divided into two classes: 5th to 7th grades and 8th and 9th grades. Practices were held at the school auditorium two or three nights a week by Coach Kazmerski, who not only trained the boys in all the fundamentals of the game, but also stressed discipline and high ideals in the youngsters.

A cheerleading squad was formed by the girls to support and encourage the teams. Games were organized with other parochial and public schools and the team spirit ran high resulting in many successful seasons with very few losses. Some of the boys became outstanding players and went on to be valued athletes in high school and college.

Two of our athletes who achieved professional status were Joe Glenn, who became a catcher for the New York Yankees, and Jack Koniszewski, who was a tackle for the Washington Redskins.



COACH
CY KAZMERSKI



VARISTY BASKETBALL TEAM 1948

SPORTS



CHEERLEADERS



SOCCER TEAMS

Centenary Anniversary Dinner Program

- Welcome Richard Bednarczyk
Centenary Chairman
President, Parish Council
- National Anthem Assembly
- Invocation Reverend Patrick L. Albert
Parochial Vicar
Visitation B.V.M. Church
- Toast *Richard Bednarczyk*
Centenary Chairman

Dinner

- Introduction of Toastmaster Richard Bednarczyk
Centenary Chairman
- Toastmaster Vincent P. Wiercinski
Mayor of Dickson City

Introduction of Head Table and Identification of Oldest Parish Members

- Address Atty. John E. V. Pieski
- Musical Presentation Lorraine Hutchens
Director, St. Mary's Adult Choir
Ronald Rzeszewski, Dorothy Butkiewicz
Carol Visbisky, Stacey Bishop,
Phyllis Lavetsky, Cherie Ann Lisowski
- Acknowledgement Reverend Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski
Pastor
- Benediction* *Reverend Stefan Krawontka*
Parochial Vicar
Visitation B.V.M. Church

BOŻE COŚ POLSKE

VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH, DICKSON CITY CENTENNIAL ADDRESS ATTORNEY JOHN E. V. PIESKI, DISTRICT JUSTICE

Monsignor Stanley Piorkowski,
Reverend Fathers, Venerable Sisters,
Mayor,
Mr. Chairman,
My Wife, Sharon,

Brother and Sister Parishioners,
All Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for being here together.

And a special thank you to everyone on the committees for your splendid efforts with outstanding results. God bless you.

"When the son of man comes in His glory, ... all nations will be gathered in His presence, ...

And then He will say

For I was hungry, and you gave me food; thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you brought me home; naked, and you clothed me; sick and you cared for me; a prisoner, and you came to me.

Whereupon the just will answer, Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry, and fed you, or thirsty, and gave your drink? When was it that we saw you a stranger, and brought you home, or naked, and clothed you? When was it that we saw you sick or in prison and came to you?

And the Lord will answer them, believe me, when you did it to one of these the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

We should meditate upon these words in our recollection of the history and works of our Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, because they imbued a deeper meaning into what has been done and is being done.

When a school is built and children are educated, those who help also help our Lord.

When an offering is given at Mass, an offering is also made to our Lord.

When comfort is given to our neighbors who are in difficulty, comfort is also given to our Lord.

When someone who has turned his back on our Lord is embraced, our Lord is also embraced.

We should also reflect upon our history as a light, which we must search, not only to know, but by which to learn, so that what we give today, may help another give tomorrow.

Dickson City, in which our parish is centered, was first settled by a war worn veteran of the American Revolution, Timothy Stevens, in 1786, who moved his family from New York.

A decade later others settled here, forming a community of pioneers in relative solitude who lived off the earth.

In 1859, an event occurred which would change our community forever.

That was the year, a coal mining drift, in a hillside west of what later became Storr's Colliery, and a shaft and a breaker were first opened.

In 1880, John Jermyn sank the Johnson Mine Shaft, near the meadow where the first settlers had lived, which began a rapid industrial development and population increase.

Coal, for better and for worse, changed the earth and

the people.

It was the magnet that brought the Polish, Slovania, Russian, Irish, English, German, Italian and other immigrants here from across the Atlantic Ocean.

I say for better and for worse, because the industry that brought our ancestors here, gave many on the one hand freedom and a new homeland, but on the other hand shackled many to the mines and misery.

When there was a death in the mines the body of the miner was discarded on the porch of the widow, without food without sympathy.

The orphaned children were not sent to schools, but to the mines, to have their limbs and bodies also crushed, their lungs diseased, their minds wasted, their spirits suffocated.

In the midst of prosperity, the greed of those who owned the coal brought horror.

These widows and orphans had nowhere to turn for help, except the church, not only for the life of their souls, but for the life of their bodies.

It is in these trying circumstances that we must consider the extremely difficult ministry of our first priests.

The amazing courage of our ancestors to not only survive but to grow,

And the wondrous grace of God and his mother that made it all possible.

It is through our priests, that

We are welcomed in baptism,

We receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation,

Our spirits and bodies are healed in reconciliation and the anointing of the ill,

The body and blood of Christ is offered to us,

Some of us are united in matrimony,

And we work together as a parish doing unto our Lord and all of his brethren.

Each priest has been called by the first priest who said "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men ... as the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

We have been fortunate in Saint Mary's to have had such fishers of men who have done their utmost to follow this charge.

Before we had a church, our ancestors had to walk to Scranton, and later to the Holy Ghost Church in Olyphant, often through frozen ice and snow to attend mass, and partake of the sacraments.

Reverend Bruno Gramlewicz, who resided in Nanticoke also traveled here to minister to the 40 Polish Catholic families.

Father Hlebig advised as to the building of the first church.

On July 4, 1890 Bishop William O'Hara consecrated our first church on Carmalt Street, in the progressive village of Priceburg. It seated 200 people on the site of the present garage between the rectory and the sister's home.

Even at that time the spiritual and mental education of their children was at the pinnacle of their concerns, as proven by the fact that the first school, with three teachers, was in the basement of the church.

January 4th, he designated Father Bronislaus Ivanowski, as our first resident pastor. Without a rectory he resided on Main Street with the Thomas Krajnik family. His brother completed the altars in the church.

The parish and church were named in honor of Mary, to whom the Polish people have always had a special devotion.

They choose to emphasize a very beautiful moment of her life by the name "Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary".

"... Mary rose up and went with all haste to a town of Juda, ... and ther entering in she gave Elizabeth greeting. No sooner had Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, than the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth herself was filled with the Holy Spirit; so that she cried out with a loud voice, 'Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. How have I deserved to be thus visited by the Mother of my Lord? Why, as soon as ever the voice of thy greeting sounded in my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed art thou for thy believing; the message that was brought to thee from the Lord shall have fulfillment'.

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord; my spirit has found joy in God, who is my Saviour, because he has looked graciously upon the lowliness of his handmaid. Behold, from this day forward generations will count me blessed; because he who is mighty, he whose name is holy has wrought for me his wonders. He has mercy upon those who fear him, from generation to generation ..."

It took hard work, faith, hope, love, and this mercy of our Father in heaven, to build a church such as we have, in the midst of the dawn to dusk daily work in the bowels of the earth.

But they did it.

The second pastor was Father Joseph Dudkiewicz who because of the rapid growth was confronted with the task of constructing a new church 4 times the size of the existing one, with little funds. The fraternal society of Saint Joseph took up the challenge and began collecting donations door to door from as far away as Forest City.

Therefore the beginning of our church is also rooted in the love of our neighbors, beyond our parish, who also saw in us, Christ.

November 16, 1911 our new church was dedicated by Bishop Michael Hoban, and Saint Mary's became the Mother Church for other Polish churches in the surrounding towns.

The first church was then converted into a school.

Through the devotion of the Bernadine Sisters of Saint Francis, our school was fully staffed with teachers.

In 1916 Sister Mary Bronislawa became the first principal.

When the Reverend Stanislaus Szpotanski became our third pastor in 1917, we had a church, a school, and a cemetery, but the interior of the church was not complete.

A sturdy slate roof replaced a tin roof, and the interior of the church was completed including the beautiful paintings of the Visitation, Immaculate Conception, Resurrection, Ascension, and Assumption.

Showing foresight, he also bought the coal rights, under our property, to stop the mining companies from destroying what faith, love and hope had built, and purchased land for the new cemetery.

In 1927, the new school was dedicated, opening up to one thousand two hundred children, a new life, and a new future.

Not only did our parents and their parents see Christ in our children, but also in the aged and the poor, as a ministry was undertaken to those who resided at what was known as the Blakely Home. Additional missions were also established in other towns.

But all of this required physical growth had its toll as the debt mounted to \$176,000.00, at the time a depression devastated our area.

The Reverend Francis X. Dominiak, became our fourth pastor in 1943.

It is he, of whom I, and many others here, have our earliest remembrance.

At that time Sister Mary Chrysostom was principal of our school, with an enrollment reduced by then to half of what it first was. Many of us also remember her guidance during our school years.

Father Dominiak did not stand still, but went forward. With the help our patroness, he began a new era of spiritual and material growth, intertwined as that before.

In three short years, in a dramatic ceremony, in 1946, the mortgage was burned, demonstrating an end to that milestone debt.

Father Dominiak built a much needed new convent for the Sisters upon whom we so much depend. In 1948 and 1949,

a new home, the present rectory, was completed for our 4 priests in 1951.

The Polonia Park was purchased from five societies. Massive improvements and repairs were made.

The parish grounds were officially designated as Saint Mary's Square by Dickson City Council.

The Statue memorializing the call of the little children unto Christ was placed in front of our school in 1956.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, to expand the teaching of the word of God, was organized in 1957 by Father Clement Markowski.

I remember September 2, 1957 I was in church for mass and heard the bells begin to toll, so sadly, so softly. Soon we all knew why.

Father Dominiak had died, the day before.

Again our shepherd changed, as God took him, but the blessings and zeal carried on.

Reverend Peter Niebrzydowski became our fifth pastor in 1957. He was soon elevated to Domestic Prelate, an honor not only to him, but to our parish.

He instituted perpetual care of the cemetery in respect for our loved ones, who have gone to their eternal life with God.

He also directed extensive renovations and repairs to our church and school, including the new altar, tabernacle, and Last Supper mosaic.

As a visible remembrance during each mass, of the day Christ offered His body and blood in the first mass.

What is little known about Monsignor Niebrzydowski is the extensive financial help he gave to those in need, from his personal funds, especially those who could not afford an education they justly deserved.

Reverend Clarence Sikorski became our sixth pastor, in 1965. We also were honored by his elevation to a Monsignor.

He was a kind and compassionate shepherd who accomplished his leadership in a quiet manner.

Among his improvements was a larger modern school kitchen to help feed our students, an audio-visual instruc-

tion room with a new school library to help nourish their minds, and a beautiful crucifix of our Lord, giving His life for us, at the church entrance to help elevate our souls.

Our seventh pastor has been with us one decade, Monsignor Stanley W. Piorkowski.

Again, through the intercession of our patron saint, the most blessed among all women, we have been blessed with a Christ-like shepherd to help us through the unique demands of our present time.

Monsignor Piorkowski upon his arrival to our parish, saw something many of us did not. The ravages of the elements had caused structural weaknesses in our church, the third largest in the diocese, which if not repaired at once, would have caused severe damage to that which years of sacrifice had built.

He immediately began making these essential improvements in the structure of our church, as he also began his efforts to make improvements in the structure of our spiritual lives.

With a solid foundation, neither the spiritual nor the physical can survive, let alone grow.

Monsignor Piorkowski then renewed that which visibly had been slowly deteriorating, the beauty of our church.

But rather than merely restore our church, he has increased its magnificence.

Although this task has been formidable, it has not diminished his efforts to renew our spirits, which over time are drawn to become complacent. But again, rather than merely help us renew our spirits, he has also helped increase our spiritual growth.

It is a new look, both outside and inside.

When I come into our church, I not only see the new, I feel that I am back from where I came.

The past years become one with the present.

There is a sense of an eternal constant in a changing world.

A renewal, and growth.

This year, 1992, Saint Mary's was united with Saint

Thomas the Apostle Church, and Monsignor Piorkowski became pastor of both.

Our past does not end.

It is the foundation of our present.

Our present is not soon gone. It is the beginning of our future.

We look forward to the future of our parish and our people, those of us who remain, and those of us who have left.

Many of our children, as my daughter Lynn Marie and my son Johnny, have either gone or may be going to the far corners of this nation and this earth.

This often brings sadness and concern for the future, but I am reminded that Christ kept not his apostles in Jerusalem. He sent them to the far corners of the nation and the earth.

It is our hope that our children will take with them, and plant, the seeds of the love that grow here, the seeds that our mothers and fathers sowed, and those before, those who reached from across an ocean, to come to this far corner of the earth.

The words of Christ are eternal, but the faces of those in whom he dwells changes.

In what new faces shall we look and see our Lord?

What new challenges confront us and shall confront our children?

And the Lord will say,

I was homeless, and you said we must build booms.

I was hungry, and you said I lived too far away.

I was thirsty, and you poisoned my waters.

I was lost, and you turned away, when they tried to corrupt my body.

I was ignorant, and you said morality must be taken from my education.

I was old and ill, and you said I have the right to die.

I was naked, and you said I have no right to be born.

Shall we ask, when?

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SEATING COMMITTEE



DECORATING COMMITTEE

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES



DINNER COMMITTEE



RECEPTION COMMITTEE

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES



HISTORIAN & CENTENARY BOOK COMMITTEE



AD COMMITTEE

*"Now I will praise those godly men, our ancestors, each
in his own time:
The abounding glory of the Most High's portion, his
own part, since the days of old.
Subduers of the land in kingly fashion men of renown
for their might,
Or counselors in their prudence, or seers of all things in
prophecy;
Resolute princes of the folk, and governors with their
staves;
Authors skilled in composition, and forgers of epigrams
with their spikes;
Composers of melodious psalms, or discoursers on lyric
themes;
Stalwart men, solidly established and at peace in their
own estates —
All these were glorious in their time, each illustrious in
his day.
Some of them have left behind a name and men recount
their praiseworthy deeds;
But of others there is no memory, for when they ceased,
they ceased.
And they are as though they had not lived, they and
their children after them;
Yet these also were godly men whose virtues have not
been forgotten;
Their wealth remains in their families, their heritage
with their descendants;
Through God's covenant with them their family endures,
their posterity for their sake.
And for all time their progeny will endure, their glory
will never be blotted out;
Their bodies are peacefully laid away, but their name
lives on and on.
At gatherings their wisdom is retold and the assembly
proclaims their praise.*

Sirach 44:1-15

MEMORIALS

Altar of Sacrifice	Rosemary Krzyna
Baptismal Font	Holy Name Society
Pulpit	Ann Lapinski
Main Altar	Frances Bushinski
Sacred Heart Altar	Dorothy & Bernard Plevyak
Blessed Mother Altar	Frances Swartz & Marion Badyrka
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Picture	Lottie & Mariella Selvenis
Our Lady of Czestochowa Picture	Lena Jezierski

WINDOW MEMORIALS

Symbol Window	Yadzik Family
St. Joseph Window	Yadzik Family
Symbol Window	Mrs. Elizabeth Rutkowski Family & Yadzik Family
St. Vincent Window	Mrs. Elizabeth Rutkowski & Carol & Thomas Doherty
Emblem Choir Window	Adele Rydzewski & Family
Sacristy Window	Theresa Warholc & Sons
Sanctuary Window	Lottie Goltak

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

1st Station	Paul Kobierecki	9th Station	In memory of Bernice Bielinski
2nd Station	Irene Luchansky & Sons & Grandsons	10th Station	Alice Staniszewski & Jean Zielinski
3rd Station	Joseph & Pearl Obst	11th Station	James & Geraldine Miskowski
4th Station	Catherine Adamski	12th Station	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wiercinski
5th Station	Mary Ann Kowaleski	13th Station	John & Marie Slaboda & Irene Prorock
6th Station	Leo David	14th Station	Rosemary Krzyna
7th Station	Anonymous		
8th Station	Irene Czarnecki		

WINDOWS

Transcept Window - Faith, Hope and Charity — Verna Taraszkiwicz
Immaculate Conception — Parents & Grandparents of Brian John Thomas
St. Anne — Ron, Joan & Brian Thomas
St. Francis of Assisi — Mrs. Helen Johnson
Our Lady of the Rosary — Mrs. Helen Johnson
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St. Bridget — Charles & Josephine Shander
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St. Catherine — Lottie Smith, Daughter
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When I am gone release me, let me go. . .
I have so many things to see and do.
You must not tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love. You can only guess
how much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you have shown
But—now it's time I traveled on alone.*

*So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must.
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It's only for a while that we must part.
So bless the memories that lie within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
all of my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then when you must come this way alone. . .
I'll greet you with a smile and "welcome home."*

Author Unknown

Remembering husband and father

ANTHONY SWARTZ



for the love and service

he gave to his church

with love

FRANCES & MARION

In Loving Memory of

**ANTONI & WLADYSLAWA WISNIEWSKI
JAKUB & KATARZYNA MYSKOSKI**

Parents of

**Karol Wisniewski &
Jadwiga Myskowski Wisniewski**

Grand-Parents of

**Carl Anthony — Richard Lawrence
Anthony Carl — Barbara Ann
Paul Robert**

DECEASED MEMBERS
OF

ORBISH
MARCINKEVICZ
FAMILIES



JOHN J. KRAJEWSKI

Former Organist and Choir Director

of

St. Mary's Visitation Church

1927 — 1943

In Loving Memory

Wife

Catherine

In Memory of

**MICHAEL & APOLONIA
PAWLOWSKI FAMILY**

Son Edward & Grandson Stephen

•

**STANLEY & MARTHA
(PAWLOWSKI) VISBISKY**

**ZIGMOND & PEARL (PAWLOWSKI)
DOBRENIECKI & FAMILY
& SON — EDWARD**

In loving memory



of parents
John and Amelia Kolucki



and brother
Rev. Stanislaus J. Kolucki

by
daughter and sister
FLORENCE
and husband
FRANK WIERCINSKI & FAMILY

In Loving Memory
of a Kind &
Devoted Husband
GEORGE TUROCK

by
Wife, Anastasia



In Memory of

JOSEPH V. SIOCK

by Wife, Children & Grandchildren

In Loving Memory and in Living Tribute to
A Founding Family of
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Jan Soboniewski, Father 1866-1947
Maria Soboniewski, Mother 1863-1946
Joanna S. Soboniewski, Daughter 1898-1987
Bella S. Soboniewski, Daughter 1902-1987

On this Memorable Occasion
We Hold Dear the Memories of Yesterday

By Son
SIGMOND SOBONIEWSKI

In loving memory of the
Deceased members
of the
ZALESKI FAMILY
Francis & Mary, Grandparents
Anthony & Bella, Parents
Leonard & Dennis, Sons

Offered by
MADGE ZALESKI MIKULSKI
BERNARDINE ZALESKI

In memory of
Parents
JOHN & MARTHA BEIN

from
Children
MARTIN BEIN
&
MARIA SMITH

In Memory of
Our Parents
**ROMAN & HELEN
PILCH**

love,
Children &
Grandchildren



In Memory of my Parents
ALEXANDER & HELEN KOMAR

by Daughter
Helen Komar Dominik

In Memory of Our Loved Ones
JOSEPH & MARY ANN ZIELINSKI

by
Alice Staniszewski
and
Jean Zielinski

In Memory of Our Loved Ones

**JOSEPH & JOSEPHINE
PIETREWICZ
AND THEIR CHILDREN:**

Apolonia Pietrewicz
Joseph Pietrewicz, Jr.
Stanley Pietrewicz
Frank Pietrewicz
Edward Pietrewicz
Chester Pietrewicz
Joseph (Pietrewicz) Sniegocki

In Memory of
**GEORGE & MARY
TRANOVICH**

Parents of
Gene Tranovich
R.R. #1
Jermyn, PA 18433

In memory of
**JOHN & SOPHIE GUZEK
& FAMILY**

By
Mary Bosak

In memory of
Son
WILLIAM SPEGAR, JR.
and Father
EDWARD PIETREWICZ

In Loving Memory of:
**Andrzej, Katarzyna, Stanley
Blanche, Leon, and Andrew
Ciolek**
Michael, Pauline, Walter
and Genevieve Kita

Relatives of
Frank and Rosalie Kita

In memory of
**KARMOL, MISKOWSKI
& KANTON
FAMILIES**

In Memory of



FELIX V. PATCHOFSKY



EDWARD M. PATCHOFSKY



FELIX C. PATCHOFSKY

by
Wife and Mother
Pearl H. Patchofsky

In memory of

PEARL ANTENORI

by
Ginader, Jones & Co.

In memory of

MR. JOSEPH SIERACKI
AND HIS SON
DR. JOSEPH C. SIERACKI

by
Ann Sieracki & Family

In Memory of
the Families of
KATO & HANICHAK

by
Michael & Pauline Kato

In Loving Memory
**STANISLAW & ANIELA
BEDNARZ**

by Daughter
**Josephine
and
Joseph Swierbenki**

In Memory of
**MOM & DAD,
FRANK & ANNA HOLEVA
and
BROTHER JOSEPH**

by Daughters
**Theresa Warholic &
Eleanor Barcola
and Sons
Frank, Bernard, John
Leonard & Lawrence**

In Memory of the
**NIEMERSKI
&
STANISHEFSKI
FAMILY**

by
Family

In loving memory of our beloved
Mother, Grandmother
and Great Grandmother
THE SELVENIS FAMILY

Daughter: Lottie
Grandchildren: Mariella, Joseph,
David & Anthony
Great Grandchildren: Gregory,
Rebecca, Michael,
Jennifer and Anthony J.



MARY ROMANCZYK KANASZKA
Feb. 13, 1900 — Feb. 16, 1991



ANTHONY D. SELVENIS
May 11, 1911 — May 28, 1981

In loving memory of our beloved
Husband, Father and Grandfather
THE SELVENIS FAMILY

Wife: Lottie
Children: Mariella, Joseph,
David & Anthony
Grandchildren: Gregory,
Rebecca, Michael,
Jennifer and Anthony J.

In Memory of
**ANTHONY & MARIANNE
YAZDZIK**

by
Children

In memory of
PHILLIP ROMANCZYK

by wife
Mary Romanczyk

In Memory of
Husband
JOSEPH MASLANKOSKI

Parents:
**MARTIN & PELAGA
MASLANKOSKI
JOHN & MARY
SLESINSKI**

by
Stephania Maslankoski

In Loving Memory of
**JOSEPHINE & JOHN
OLSHEFSKI**

from your
Grandchildren
John, Greg & Kara

In Memory of
**STEMPNIAK
&
LUKASIEWICZ
FAMILIES**

by
Lorraine & Carl
Stempniak

In Memory of
**JOSEPH MIELECHOWSKI
and
ANDREW & MARY ANN
TOMCZYK**

by
Anna Mielechowski

In Memory of
**CHARLES & MARY
LUKASIEWICZ
&
KUCHWARA
FAMILY**

by
Tessie Lukasiewicz
&
Eleanor Kuchwara

In Memory of
**MR. & MRS.
ANGELO MARRA
ANGELO MARRA, JR.
ANTHONY MARRA
FRANK "CHIC" MARRA**

In Memory of Our Parents
**CHARLES & VIOLA
SWENSKI**

from their children
Genevieve
John
Elizabeth
Charles
Irene
Marcella

In Memory of
STANLEY KILLIAN

by
Wife, Elizabeth
& Children

In Memory of
Parents
**ALBERT & MARYANN
KARMOLINSKI**

by Daughters
Victoria & Elizabeth

In Memory of
Deceased Members of

**JAKACKI — KILLIAN
FAMILY**

by
Phyllis DeRosa

In Loving Memory of
**ANTHONY & URSULA
LAPINSKI**
**STANLEY & EDWARD
LAPINSKI**
ANNA ANSLAVAGE
and
HELEN MURA

by
Ann Lapinski

In Loving Memory of
Husband
Chester
Son,
Ronald

by
**Wife & Mother
Ann Lapinski**

In Loving Memory of
Parents
**ANTHONY & MARY
CHWASCIEWSKI**
Brothers
Joseph & Stanley

by
Edward Chwasciewski

In Loving Memory of
ANTHONY KILLIAN
Parents, Brother and Sister

by
Helen Hyduk

In Loving Memory
**MICHAEL & MARYANNA
MICHALCZYK**

by
Daughter
Monica Michalczyk

In Loving Memory of
my dear Husband

MICHAEL BEGEY
and my dear Parents
**FRANK (SR.) & ANNA
SREBRO**

by
Sophie Begey

In Memory of Our Loved Ones
by

Dr. & Mrs. Frank Kolucki, Sr.
Barbara Kolucki
Mary Kolucki Menzel
Theresa Kolucki Cornell
Dr. Frank Kolucki, Jr

In Memory of
Deceased Members

of the
LIBUDZIEWSKI FAMILY
and
WASILISIN FAMILY

In Memory of
JOHN HALENDA
From Wife, Jean Halenda
Sons, Robert & Thomas
and
Son & Daughter-in-law
Dr. & Mrs. J. Ronald Halenda

In memory of the
**KALINOWSKI & BADYRKA
FAMILIES**
by
Mr. & Mrs. Telesfore Kalinowski

**JOSEPH SREBRO
&
BORKOWSKI FAMILY**
By: Wife, Helen
•
**JOHN DANIELEWICZ
&
ISABELLE MAZUR**
By: James & Joyce Danielewicz

In Loving Memory of
Parents and Grandparents
VALENTINE & EVA KUNAT
by
Frank, Lorraine,
Frank Jr., & Steven Klassner

In Memory of
Beloved Husband
JOSEPH A. RYDZEWSKI

by Wife — Adele
and Family

In memory of

**PEARL
YAROSHESKI**

In memory of
BENEDICT HOLEVA

by
His Family

In Loving Memory
of
**WALTER & JOSEPHINE
KOVALESKI**

by
The Family

IN LOVING MEMORY

List of Deceased

*On the day of their baptism, they put on Christ.
In the day of Christ's coming, may they be clothed with glory.*

PAST PASTORS

Rev. Joseph Dudkiewicz — 1899-1917
Msgr. Stanislaus E. Szpotanski — 1917-1943
Rev. Francis X. Dominiak — 1943-1957
Msgr. Peter P. Niebrzydowski — 1957-1966
Msgr. Clarence Sikorski — 1966-1982

Walter Adronovicz	Bertha Fetko
Stella O.Andrews	Anthony Fonfara
Ann Bogdanowicz	Maryann Fonfara
Desmond Bogdanowicz	MaryAnn Gasiorek
Henry Bogdanowicz	Catherine Gensiak
William Bogdanowicz	Bronislawa Glodek
Andrew Broskey	Jan Glodek
Peter Joseph Butkiewicz	Mieczyslaw Glodek
Rose Butkiewicz	Chester Goldyn
Frank and Mary Chrzan	Francis Goldyn
Cichocki Family	William Goldyn
Alfred M. Cicilioni	Stanley Gorczyk, Sr.
Stella Connelly	Stanley Grzybowski
Chester Czarnecki	Hall Family
Joseph Czarnecki	Josef Holeva
Walter Czarnecki	Joseph R. Holeva
Phyllis David	Magdalena Holeva
Gerald Donnelly	Jean Homish
Albert Ferguson	Anthony Homitz, Sr.
Adam Fetko	Staff Sgt. Henry A. Jacukowicz

IN LOVING MEMORY

List of Deceased

Alfred Benjamin Jarosinski

John S. Jezierski

Leocadia M. Jezierski

Stanley W. Jezierski

Apolonia Kanaszka

Bronislaw Kanaszka

Joseph Kanaszka Family

Stanley Karmolinski

Kerzaya Family

Andrew Kipikas and Family

Thomas Kohut

Louis Konior Family

Joseph Korczakowski

Frank Kowalski

Joseph Kowalski

Phil Kowalski

Veronia Kowalski

Walter Kowalski

Zigmond A. Kowalski

Joseph Kowrach

Victoria Kowrach

Frank Kozlosky

Veronica Kozlosky

Robert Kura

John Leonard Kychik

Mary Loretta Kychik

Mr. & Mrs. John Letkiewicz

Ann Libudziwski

Max Libudziwski

Estelle Lisowski

MaryAnn Lisowski

William Lisowski

Adeline Lulewicz

Joseph P. Lulewicz

Edward T. Macarski

Ceilia Mack

Francis Anthony Mack

Matilda Alexandra Mack

Paul Macknosky, Jr.

Karol Malinowski

Mary Malinowski

Theodore Malinowski

Marek Family

Andrew Michalczyk

Maryanna Michalczyk

Stanley Migacz

Mary Miklaszewski

Zigmund Miklaszewski

Mol Family

Edward Nowakowski

Mary Nowakowski

Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. O'Bara

Anthony Ofalt

Maryann Ofalt

IN LOVING MEMORY

List of Deceased

Stanley Ofalt	Joseph P. Sieracki
Frank and Peggy Olevnik	Benjamin Slesinski
Frank and Valeria Olevnik	Frank Slesinski
John Olevnik	John Slesinski
Constance Paczkowski	John Slesinski, Sr.
Helen Paczkowski	Joseph Slesinski
Joseph Paczkowski	Mary Slesinski
Roman Paczkowski	Edmund Smiegocki
Walter Pezanowski, Sr.	Walter and Mary Smiegocki
Frances Piechoski	Stanley Smola, Sr. Family
Frank Piechoski	Sophie Smolley
Caroline Pieski	Leonard Sochocki
John Pieski	Lottie Sochocki
Stanley Pietrewicz	Walter Sochocki
Aniela Plonski	Joseph Sosnowski
Felix Plonski	Josephine Striminsky
Matt Prorock, Sr.	William Striminsky
Paul and Catherine Prorock	Melanie Strong
Frank Remick	Frank Supinski
Joseph Francis Rempe	Mary Supinski
Phillip Romanchik	Catherine Surdick
Stanley Romanczyk Family	Stanley Surdick
Joseph A. Rydzewski	Clemons Swenski
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Sadowski	Francis D. Szescila, Jr.
Adam Shymanski	Frank W. Szescila, Sr.
Apolonia Shymanski	Florence Szmyczinski
Dr. Joseph C. Sieracki	Michael Terry

IN LOVING MEMORY

List of Deceased

Peter Valtos and Family

Chester J. Walega

James G. Walsh

Theodora Wontroski

Frank Wontroski

Mary Wontroski

John Wrobel

Louise Wrobel

Fabian Wyszynski

Shirley Wyszynski

Henry Yarosh

Carol Ann Zawacki

Walter Zdzipko

Veronica and Boleslaw Zielinski

John Zygar



BAPTISMS

Ruthann Kychik Amico

Julia Patyk Casarella

Stanley Grzybowski

Nicholas Kalinowski

Matthew Kalinowski

Pamela Kalinowski

Edward J. Matistic, Sr.

Stephen Matthews

Helen Matyjewicz

Marlene Nash

Barbara Ann Negvesky

Norman David Nuzback

Ashley Obst

Joseph Obst, Sr.

Joseph Obst, Jr.

Pearl Obst

Felicia Rzeszewski

Margaret (Matyjewicz) Sokoloski

Charles P. Valonis

Theresa Warholic

Timothy Warholic

**Congratulations to St. Mary's Visitation Parish
on 100 years of continuous blessings
bestowed on our mothers and children.**

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

DEBORAH SWEENEY — President
DONNA TRATTHEN — 1st Vice President
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JUDI WIKTOR — Secretary
PATRICIA DODGSON — Treasurer
MARY ANN LISOWSKI — Historian
ROSEANN ROMANCZYK — Publicity

*"All the sacrifices of time, money and work, all the holy masses and prayers
said, have but this one intention, To obtain for the children the grace
of a truly Christian education, of a virtuous life and a happy death."*

MOTHER OF SORROWS
PRAY FOR US



Mary, please help me to be a better mother

*Confraternity
of
Christian Mothers*

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Saint Mary's Visitation Church

Dickson City, PA

*As we celebrate this, the 100th Anniversary of
Saint Mary's Visitation Parish,
The Holy Name Society and their families
join our fellow Parishioners
in offering congratulations and
best wishes for the future.*

•

Moderator — MONSIGNOR STANLEY W. PIORKOWSKI
President — ANDREW STEFURSKY
Vice President — JOHN BUKOWSKI
Secretary — JOHN MORRIS
Treasurer — FRANK KITA

•

Parish Coordinators
RAYMOND CALLIS
MICHAEL KULA
JOHN MAZA
JOSEPH SWIERBENSKI
LEON YAZINSKI

ST. ANN'S SOCIETY

President — Ann Karmol
Treasurer — Eleanor Moreiko
Fin. Secretary — Stella Buza

Congratulations on you 100th Anniversary

MAY GOD BLESS

AND

GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE
CENTURY TO COME!

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Secretary — Mrs. Jean Smiegocki

**ST. MARY'S
PARISH CHAPTER
OF THE
ENTHRONEMENT
IN THE
HOME**

**ST MARY'S
VISITATION
PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE**

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bednarczyk
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Novack
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Stachacz
Monica Michalczyk

*God our Father — You have shown us
the orderliness of your creation, your
magnificent activity of Love portrayed in
the beauty that surrounds us. We struggle,
heavenly creator, in our care for your
world as we envision it with your intent
for the sacredness of all life.*

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& Best Wishes
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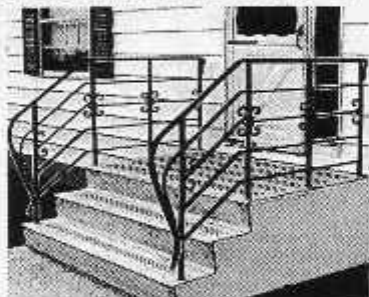
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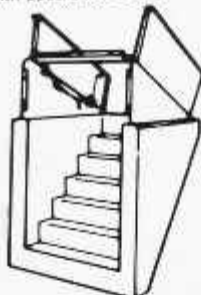


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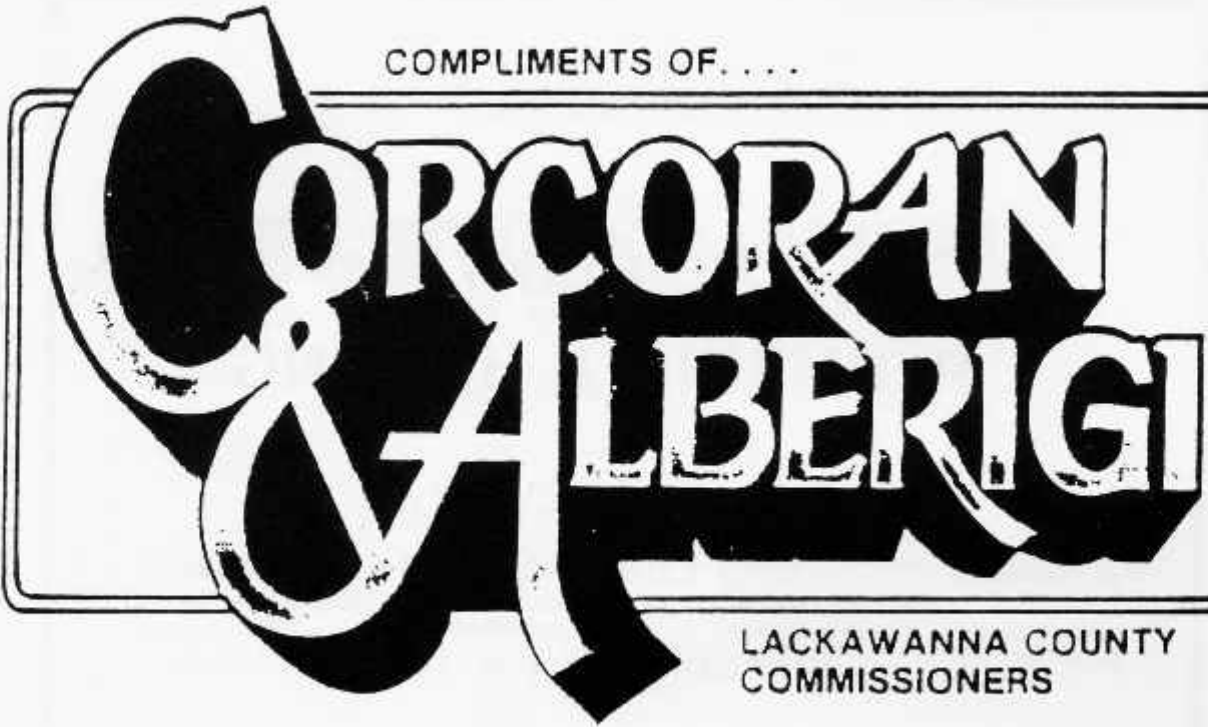
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Debbie Bozym — Vice President

Nancy McHugh — Recording Secretary

Jean Byron — Financial Secretary

Rich Byron — Treasurer

Paul Locker — Sergeant at Arms

Heartiest Congratulations
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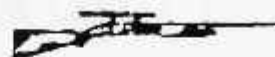
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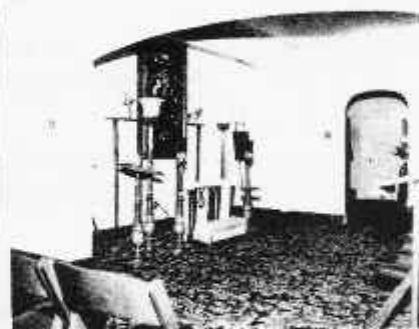
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102nd YEAR OF FAITH OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH*

IN APPRECIATION

Our Centennial Celebration has been a most glorious and joyful occasion for all who in any way have participated in it. The celebration of 100 Years as a Parish could only come about because of the love for God and His Church. To the forefathers, for their sacrifices, their dedication and their immense love for God, we express our thanks. We pray that they are with God in Heaven and continue to look down upon the parishioners of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish so that they may continue to carry on the work entrusted to them by our forefathers who have founded the parish and who later on have built an edifice of such beauty and splendor to the honor and glory of God. Our thanks to all who have followed them and carried on the task entrusted to them and who today are also with God. "This is the Day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad." Yes it was the day which the Lord has made because He has given to this parish such dedicated, God-loving and God-fearing people, who throughout the years, have shared with the Church their God-given gifts, material and spiritual. Their participation in this celebration enhanced the beauty and the glory of this day-November 1, 1992. To all who have participated in the PARISH APPEAL for the beautification of the church for this great celebration, we say, "may God bless you and continue to enrich you with His gifts so that God's Generosity and Goodness may continue to grow in this parish by your kindness and gifts to the Parish. What can we say about the music and singing? Best described by one of the parishioners, "I thought I was in heaven." To our devoted Choir Director, Lorraine Hutchens, and to all the members of the choir, our thanks and appreciation. The floral decorations, both in church and at the banquet hall were the gifts of one anonymous donor who also spent hours of time with her assistants in the decoration of the church for this great celebration. Our Ushers, who have assisted in the seating and the order which was so evident, are also to be commended. Our children, who so

beautifully formed an honor guard together with the ushers and Holy Name members, added so much toward the beauty and glory of the celebration. Thank you. To the Bernardine Sisters and the Sisters from other congregations, we say "Thank you." Your presence has indeed brought much joy and happiness to all in attendance. Where would we have been without the dedicated and remarkable service given at the Centennial Mass by our Altar Servers. We were very proud of them because they had indeed done a great service to God and to the Parish. May they be blessed and continue in their love for God and His Church.

The period of preparation for this great and glorious celebration of 100 Years of Faith was a long and demanding period to which many had given both time, talent and self. To all of those who in any way contributed toward the celebration of this day we say, "Thank you and may God bless you." Our Parish Council, under the direction of our Chairman, Richard Bednarczyk, had given hours of time in meetings to plan and to execute the plans for this great event in the history of the Parish. A picture of the members of the council is found in this Book. If you do have the occasion to meet with any of them say "Thank you." Without their many days of meeting, their input, their supervision, the celebration would not have been the great success that it was. May they continue to give of their talent, their time, and dedication in the future so that the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish may continue to flourish and give forth God-loving and God-fearing people to the Church and to this Community of ours.

For the priests of the Parish, Father Patrick Albert and Father Stefan Krawontka, for their role and their untiring dedication in attending the meetings, carrying out their roles, and their participation, we ask God's blessings. May their service to the people of this community and this parish continue to strengthen the faith so that CHRIST MAY REIGN IN THE HEARTS AND SOULS OF ALL.