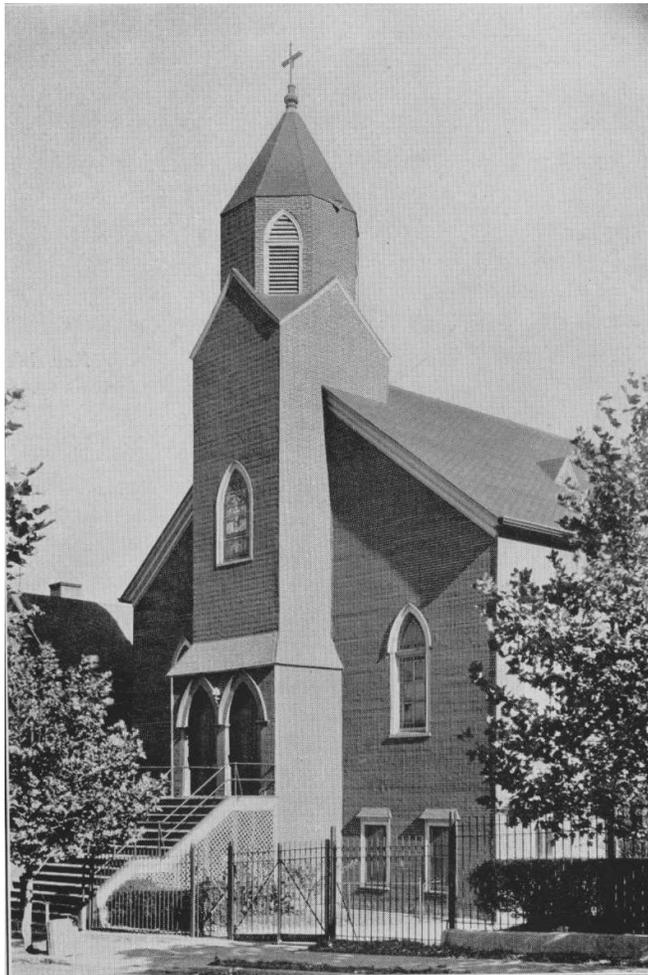


History of Saint Adalbert Parish

The Golden Jubilee St. Adalbert Parish, Elmhurst, NY, p. 16, 18-19, 25



St. Adalbert BM Parish, Founded Nov. 13, 1892

Fifty years ago, a handful of humble, devout Catholic men gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the parish of Saint Mary in Winfield, L. I., N. Y. These men were the pioneers who, with their leader, Rev. Joseph Fyda, organized and founded our parish of Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr.

A few months before, in December of the year 1891, at the urgent request of the Most Rev. Joseph Loughlin, then Bishop of Brooklyn, the Rev. Fyda had undertaken the task of organizing a new Polish parish, the first of its kind on Long Island. On March 1, 1892, the nucleus of this parish was formed when these men banded themselves in a society under the patronage of Saint Adalbert. They numbered about fifty, a mere handful in comparison to the present strength of the parish, but their efforts gave rise to a monument which shall stand in solemn testimony of their work and devotion for all times.

With the aid of this newly-founded society, Rev. Fyda raised sufficient funds to purchase ten lots of real estate from Julia Bernheimer for the sum of \$1500.00 and, in the following

year, six additional lots for the sum of \$1800.00. These became the site of the present parish buildings. Almost immediately work was begun on the church and rectory which were completed within the year at the cost of \$55,000.00. The new church was blessed by His Excellency, Charles McDonnell, the Bishop of Brooklyn, on November 13th, 1892.

As soon as the new church was completed, Polish families came from far and near to attend divine services. They came in ever increasing numbers not only from Elmhurst but from Maspeth, Flushing, Bayside, Blissville, Winfield, Jamaica, Floral Park, Hempstead, Mineola and other nearby towns and villages.

Ever mindful of their obligation toward their children, these pious people set about planning for a parochial school where their children might be taught in a religious atmosphere. They realized, as do all good Catholics, that all our gifts and talents must be used and cultivated; that a knowledge of many things is necessary in life and religion is not the least of these; that character is more important than culture. Temporarily however, the basement of the church had to suffice for school purposes and, accordingly, was partitioned into classrooms.

As the parish grew in number, various church societies and organizations were founded which, like so many bright stars, attested to the spiritual strength of the people. Beside the spiritual benefits which accrued to the parish through the religious activities of these societies, many material advantages were felt, chief of which was their full-hearted cooperation in solving the debts of the parish.

In the year 1896, Father Joseph Fyda resigned his pastor ship and was succeeded by Rev. Boleslaus Puchalski who has since received the title of Monsignor. Unfortunately, Rev. Monsignor Puchalski remained for but a short time. In 1896, Bishop McDonnell' invited the" Franciscan Fathers, Minor Conventuals, to his diocese and charged them with the care of Saint Adalbert Parish. The Friars have remained at the

Parish through all these years and, with the splendid cooperation of the good parishioners, have effected many progressive changes and improvements. The more important of these improvements have been the building of a new school in 1921; the enlargement and renovation of the Sisters' convent; the building of a new rectory in 192?; the improvement of the grounds and church. Within the past two years, under the pastor ship of the Rev. George Roskwitalski, the debt on the parish has been paid in full. Such cooperation on the part of the parishioners has encouraged Father George to petition the authorities for permission to erect a new church which shall conveniently meet the demands of our growing parish. The plans call for a community center with recreational facilities which shall be placed at the disposal of all the parishioners; a nursery, where our children may be properly cared for; the conversion of the present rectory into a suitable convent for the Sisters; the erection of a new church with an adjoining rectory—the pride of all. The fulfillment of these plans awaits only the cooperation of the parishioners, the permission of our beloved Bishop and, above all the grace of God.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE ENTERED THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OR PRIESTHOOD:

Rev. Theodore Kaczmarek, O.M.C.
Rev. Method Szymanski, O.M.C.
Rev. John Zielinski, O.M.C.
Rev. Marcel Szymanski, O.M.C.
Rev. Hilary Rakowski, O.M.C.
Rev. Rufus Wicelinski, O.M.C.
Rev. Modest Darwaszewski, O.M.C.
Rev. Ferdinand Cisek, O.M.C.
Rev. Sigismund Zajkowski

ADALBERTIANS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE ORDER OF THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH:

Sister M. Patientia Zarobinska
Sister M. Emerentianna Kaczmarek
Sister M. Ambrosia Krygier
Sister M. Concordia Krygier
Sister M. Benvenuta Bonczyk
Sister M. Halina Wisniewska
Sister M. Annette Zajkowska
Sister M. Alodia Schultz
Sister M. Innocenta Darwaszewska
Sister M. Eugeniana Szymanska \
Sister M. Alphiosa Brzeska
Sister M. Ernestine Spiegowska

OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE FRANCISCAN SISTER- HOOD:

Sister M. Cypriana Szymanska
Sister M. Celeste Szymanska