



History of St. Adalbert Parish.

The First Hundred Years 1883-1983 St. Adalbert Church, Pittsburgh, PA, p. 14-44. CAP at Orchard Lake.

Prologue

Pittsburgh was the heart of the iron and steel industry in America by the mid-nineteenth century. Factories and mills were in need of cheap labor. Carnegie and Frick sent representatives to Europe to recruit men to work in their American factories. By 1900, Polish, Austrian and Hungarian immigrants numbered over 114,000.

Many of the early Polish immigrants settled in Pittsburgh along Penn Avenue (the "Strip" District and Lawrenceville). A man seeking employment was hired to work in the mill within two days of arriving in the city. He worked for 12 cents an hour, ten or more hours per day. By age thirty-five, his strength had declined and he was well past his prime.

As the city's population grew, many Poles moved cross-town to the city's South Side already heavily populated with Germans, Irish, and Welsh. Since the Polish were predominately Catholic, they attended the Catholic Church located nearest to them. The first Polish priest to serve the needs of the Polish immigrants was Reverend Stanislaus Parzyka, co-founder of the Passionist Monastery in Pittsburgh. He conducted Mass every Sunday for area Poles in the basement of Saint Michael Church, Pius Street. He encouraged the Polish Catholics of Pittsburgh to form a parish of their own. So in 1874, they purchased a Presbyterian Church on Penn Avenue for \$12,500 and called it Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church.

Unfortunately, disharmony and distrust developed among the parishioners. The parish divided into three groups. One group fell away from Roman Catholicism and joined the Polish National Church. A second group resumed membership in the local churches in their area. The third group remained loyal to Saint Stanislaus despite its difficulties.

The Polish population on the South Side continued to grow. Was it possible to form another Polish Catholic Church in Pittsburgh? The celebration of a centennial is proof of this accomplishment!

Saint Adalbert Church was the first offspring of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, the matriarch of every Polish parish in the city of Pittsburgh. Saint Stanislaus Parish was experiencing rapid growth after its organization in 1874. The church's location, the long and difficult trip from the South Side to the heart of the city, and the desire to discontinue attending the neighboring churches of Saint Michael and Saint John the Evangelist, prompted the Polish Catholics residing on the South Side to form a parish of their own under the patronage of Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr.

Ladislaus Szewczuga, Ignatius Zjawinski, Carl Zulawski, Victor Mulka, Valentine Kuchcinski, and John Blaszak organized themselves into the Saint Adalbert Society in 1880 and declared their intention of forming a parish to the Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The official date of the organization of the parish, according to Pittsburgh Chancery records, was May, 1883.

Father Victor Zareczny was appointed the first pastor of Saint Adalbert Church by Bishop John Tuigg in February, 1884. In May of that same year, Father Zareczny and his parishioners purchased property of \$11,000. This parcel of land was located on an elevation between 15th and 16th Streets near the railroad and became the site of the first church building. Twelve thousand dollars was collected to construct this first church. A house already standing on the property was converted into a rectory. Until construction of their new church was completed, the parishioners of Saint Adalbert's congregated regularly on Sunday morning at 11:00 A.M. at Saint John the Evangelist Church, 14th Street. These arrangements were made between the acting pastor of Saint Adalbert's and Father Pollard, pastor of Saint John's.

Father Zareczny served the Parish for only a few months, from February to June, 1884. Pastoral care of the flock was then entrusted to a series of priests for short periods of time: Father Hyacinth Lane, O.S.B., a Benedictine Father from Latrobe (June to July, 1884); Father Francis Cizek (July, 1884 to March, 1885); Father Stanislaus Parzyka, a Passionist, and Father Anthony Jaworski, C.S.Sp. shared pastoral duties from March, 1885 to August 22, 1885.

Parish Development Under Reverend Miskiewicz

WORSHIP

Father Ladislaus Miskiewicz, a young Polish Roman Catholic priest, arrived at Saint Adalbert Church to assume responsibilities as pastor on August 22, 1885.

Bishop Tuigg's choice of this young, Polish, immigrant priest as pastor of Saint Adalbert Church was judicious. He soon commanded the love and cooperation of his parishioners. Two years after his appointment, Father Miskiewicz bought a new plot of land for \$8,000. Located between 14th and 15th Street, it was to become the site of the present day church. The construction of this church began in 1889 at an estimated cost of \$80,000. The cornerstone was laid by Bishop Richard Phelan on the first Sunday of October, 1889, and was completed and dedicated one year later on the Feast of the Queen of the Holy Rosary. The new church was placed under the patronage of Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr. Diocesan representatives, countless priests, and people from all sectors of the city attended the ceremonies. Among the special guests was Father Wall, a well-known orator. He delivered the homily in English and extolled the faith and generous support of the Polish Catholics of the South Side.

The Church remains a magnificent, Romanesque structure — 130 feet long and 82 feet wide — and could seat over 1,000 people. Stained-glass windows enhanced the side walls and a rose window dominated the facade above the gallery. Originally two church spires, each 150 feet from ground to pinnacle, stood high above the Borough of Birmingham as witness to the faith of the Polish-Americans. Five harmonizing bells were installed in the belfries. Of the five, the largest was named "Ladislaus" and remains as a symbol of Father Miskiewicz's generosity.

The interior of the church was barrel-vaulted. Fresco paintings once covered the side walls and the ceilings. Among the paintings crowning the nave were representations of several Polish saints: the

martyrdom of Saint Stanislaus, patron of Poland, and the martyrdom of Saint Adalbert. The central vault carried an eagle, the emblem of Poland, and in the semi-dome of the apse, paintings of the Blessed Trinity and Coronation of the Virgin completed the interior.

Once the sacristies, and the small galleries above them, abutted onto the sanctuary to the right and to the left. At the entrance of the church, one niche enfolded the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows and another, Saint John the Baptist. A choir loft, with a new organ purchased for \$4,000 was located within the church above the entrance. Six tall stained-glass windows on each side of the building filled the church with a suffused, gentle light. These windows depicted the following saints: Queen Hedwig; Our Lady, Queen of the Holy Rosary; Saint Stanislaus; Saint Casimir; Saint Ladislaus; Saint Stanislaus Kostka; Saint Victoria; and Saint Valentine.

The original main altar was carved of wood and Gothic in style. It was a gift from Father Miskiewicz to the Parish. The right side altar was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. A wall fresco above the altar represented the Nativity of Our Lord. The left side altar had been contributed by the Saint Joseph Society and was dedicated to their patron saint. A fresco of the Resurrection was painted above this altar.

Building and expansion were prominent during Father Miskiewicz's administration. He found the priests' living quarters, between 15th and 16th Streets, old, and uncomfortable. So in 1894, Father Miskiewicz bought lots near the new church and built the existing rectory. Also during his administration, Father Miskiewicz purchased a plot of fifteen acres for \$12,000 to serve as the parish cemetery. The property was located near the South Side Cemetery along Brownsville Road and is the site of the present day cemetery.

The Parish flourished under the able management of Father Miskiewicz. When he arrived as pastor, only one organization existed in the parish - the Saint Adalbert Society - founded in 1880. During his first year as pastor, Father Miskiewicz organized the Holy Rosary Society (1885) which served to provide needed sanctuary vessels and vestments, flowers and candles. The Guild of Saint Ladislaus, also founded in 1885, performed honorary service at the high altar when, on Sunday, the members knelt in the sanctuaries with candles from the Consecration of the Mass to Holy Communion. Many of the organizations were social and charitable in character, and all of them offered their members the benefits of a fraternal organization: Saint Joseph Society (1885); the Knights of Saint Casimir (1886); Guards of Saint Martin (1889); Our Lady of Częstochowa Society (1901); and the Society of the Sacred Heart (1902). Every organization set goals for the perpetuation and growth of Polish culture in America. The Cadets of Saint Adalbert under the patronage of the Sacred Heart of Jesus formed a society in 1894 under the direction of Father Miskiewicz. Members were school boys and young men that reorganized in 1914 with the adoption of a strong athletic program.

On August 26, 1900, the parishioners of Saint Adalbert Church celebrated the 15th anniversary of Father Miskiewicz as pastor. The ceremony was a well-merited tribute expressed by his faithful flock. All members of the various parish organizations, some wearing uniforms, paraded through the streets of South Side. A congratulatory program presented by school children and adults followed solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For the times, it was a remarkable achievement for a Polish-American parish priest to have held a position as pastor for fifteen consecutive years. He was to persevere for six more years.

EDUCATION

The education of the children of Polish immigrants was a matter of grave concern to Father Miskiewicz since his installation as pastor in 1885. A lack of funds checked his ambition to build a parish school. Instead, Father Miskiewicz formed a germinal school for children in the basement of the rectory. One hundred and twenty children received their education from Father Miskiewicz and Mr. John Bruchwalski, parish organist and former parishioner of Saint Stanislaus Church.

The following school year, 1886-1887, the children could no longer be accommodated in the rectory because of the increased enrollment. As a result, part of the original church building had been sectioned off by movable walls, and classrooms were formed. In time, four classrooms were created by arranging these portable screens. At this time, Father Miskiewicz was urging Mother Mary Monica Sybilska, Provincial Superior of the Felician Sisters in Detroit, Michigan, to send three religious teachers to Saint Adalbert Parish. Mother Monica conceded. Sister Mary Cajetan, designated as Principal and Superior, arrived in Pittsburgh with Sister Mary Margaret and Sister Marianne Pajzderska, a postulant, to teach at Saint Adalbert School for the fourth coming school year, 1888-1889. This established the roots of the Felician Sisters, not only in Pittsburgh, but in all of Western Pennsylvania. At first the sisters lived in a rented house. Then in 1894, because of the inadequate facilities and cramped living quarters, the sisters transferred to the abandoned rectory beside the railroad tracks where they resided until 1899. In 1899, the parish bought a house opposite the church to serve as a convent for the sisters. They lived there until 1907.

When construction on the new church was completed in 1890, the old basement church between 15th and 16th Streets was converted into a school. By 1898, the building was enlarged and furnished as a functional parish school. Arrangements had been made for four classrooms on the first floor and five classrooms on the second. A large hall was provided with a broad stage and was used for meetings, assemblies, and theatrical performances. In the basement beneath the classrooms, a gym, bowling alley, library and reading room were arranged. Since the school stood adjacent to the railroad, the persistent noise of locomotives was frequent and annoying.

The dedication of the school took place August 20, 1899 and numerous guests attended. Proud of the attainments of their parish, the Polish-American members of civil and religious organizations paraded through the South Side thoroughfares in full uniform bearing flags and banners. The school was blessed by Reverend E. H. Bush, Vice-General of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Salutations were delivered by Reverend C. Tomaszewski, pastor of Saint Stanislaus Church, and by Dr. A.J. Barchfeld, renowned citizen of Pittsburgh. Pastor Miskiewicz directed congratulatory remarks to his parishioners who, as he said, were characterized by a deep faith and by a sensitivity for the needs of the Polish nationals. He praised their generosity and resourcefulness which allowed them in a short period of time to provide a church and a school.

By 1901, there were six hundred children enrolled in Saint Adalbert School. The situation did ease when, in 1902, Saint Josaphat Parish School on Mission Street officially opened and recalled the children of families living within the boundaries of their new parish. By 1906, eight Felician Sisters taught in the parochial school. The Felician Sisters taught the school children religion, the Polish language and culture, English, American History and traditions. As a supplement to a heavy bilingual program, the girls practiced handiwork, and the boys, drawing. Given the facilities of an auditorium and stage, the teachers directed school children in programs presented to the general public. Reli-

gious, historical, cultural and literary programs were delivered by the children in Polish and English. Their repertoire included speeches, poetry, skits, marches, dances, tableaux dramas, songs and concerts. Ambitious immigrants and young Polish-Americans had no difficulty in learning English, and their children, having successfully completed the Polish elementary school, transferred to the public high school.

Parish Development Under Monsignor Gorzynski

WORSHIP

Following the death of Father Miskiewicz in April, 1906, Bishop Canevin named Reverend Michael Kozłowski, who was serving as an assistant at Saint Adalbert Church, as administrator and manager of the parish until October of that same year. Upon the appointment of Reverend John Gorzynski as the new pastor, Father Michael Kozłowski was transferred to Saint John Cantius Church, Sharpsburg. In 1909, he received an appointment to become pastor of Transfiguration Church in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania.

In 1907 the first major project that Father Gorzynski undertook was to build a convent and chapel for the Felician Sisters on South 15th Street. Father also added an ornamental gate to the entrance of the cemetery on Brownsville Road.

In 1911, major renovations were begun on the church at a cost of \$22,000. The walls had spread apart at their base under the weight of the vaulting. Time had taken its toll on the plaster, brickwork, and roofing. The ceilings were repaired and supported by arches that would carry the weight of the vaulting to six pillars set into the nave. Interior walls were painted and the exterior walls were refinished with more durable materials and strengthened with iron clamps. The roof was repaired and shingled and new crosses were placed on the spires. This work took more than a year to complete.

Always sensitive to liturgical propriety and beauty, Monsignor Gorzynski procured three marble altars to replace the wooden ones. The altars cost \$40,000 and with the cooperation of the parishioners, Monsignor insured payment within one year (it was never his policy to borrow money and circumstances never obliged him to change his policy). The altars were consecrated on November 29, 1923 by Archbishop Regis Canevin; Hugh C. Boyle, Bishop of Pittsburgh; and Bishop J. Swint of Wheeling, West Virginia.

In 1927, Monsignor Gorzynski and a joyful parish celebrated his thirty-third anniversary to the priesthood. For this occasion, the school children presented a religious and cultural Polish play entitled "Krolowa Jadwiga." The Polish Consul General Ocetkiewicz attended the celebration and congratulated Monsignor and his parishioners for the years of support and service they spent in an attempt to sustain the national spirit and culture.

In preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the parish, Monsignor paid \$20,000 to have the interior church walls refinished and murals painted by the world-famous artist, Schmalz of Monachjum. He also provided the new candleholders, candelabra, and Stations of the Cross. In 1932, a program of external renovation of the parish buildings took place and included sandblasting and the removal of the old and dangerous church spires.

The 50th Anniversary of the Founding of Saint Adalbert Church was scheduled for May 30, 31 and June 1, 1933. A committee comprised of Dr. Felix Nowakowski, Theodosia Gorniak, and Alexandra

Z. Bednarko was credited with the three-day celebration-filled program. Special Masses were said each day, and a play followed by a dance were all well attended. A Pontifical Mass commemorating the Golden Anniversary was celebrated on May 30, 1933 by Bishop Hugh C. Boyle. The Confirmation of 600 youths and adults also took place at this Mass.

Monsignor Gorzynski's health began to fail soon after the parish jubilee. He died on October 27, 1935, and was mourned by all. At the time of his death, Monsignor Gorzynski had accumulated \$100,000 in the parish treasury. In addition, he left the parochial buildings and the cemetery in prime condition with a total worth estimated at a few hundred thousand dollars. This fact, plus the fact that Saint Adalbert Church never needed to draw a loan, was directly accountable for Monsignor Gorzynski's reputation as a master financial manager.

Monsignor John Gorzynski accomplished many pastoral achievements and was also considered a benefactor of the Felician sisters. By his mediation and financial planning, he arranged for the sisters to acquire property for their provisional, transitional, and permanent provincial homes. Upon his death, "Polonia" of the South Side lost one of its strongest champions. He defended his people, assured them of a brighter future, and encouraged social mobility while maintaining a strong attachment to Polish customs and traditions.

EDUCATION

After 1907, the parish school was comprised of twelve classrooms and six grades. The number of teaching sisters increased with the growth in enrollment. In the school year 1911-1912, there were thirteen teaching sisters. This increased to fourteen teaching sisters for the school year 1912-1913. In 1913-1914, seventeen Felician sisters resided in the convent. A parochial school was opened in the newly-organized Guardian Angels Parish in the West End of Pittsburgh and some of these sisters commuted there daily by trolley.

In Saint Adalbert School, the system of discipline and competition promoted an enthusiasm for learning. Parish priests visited the children at school and encouraged conscientious daily work. Polish stage plays and "Jaselka" performed by the school children drew many parishioners to the school hall and strengthened the bond of culture which identified them as Polish-Americans.

Because the school was situated adjacent to the railroad, teachers and pupils suffered from the incessant passage of hooting and thundering locomotives. Higher enrollments contributed to congested classrooms. In 1911, Father Gorzynski bought property next to the church where he intended to build a spacious and solid new school. However, the plans for building had to be cancelled due to the lack of funds.

The crowded classroom conditions prompted one hundred parish children to be sent to the public school. Although this occurred with the Bishop's permission, the parishioners began to offer generous donations in a concerted effort to build a new school. In June 1914, at a pre-registration session, school children collected \$300 and presented it to the pastor as a small contribution toward the building fund. The Cadets of Saint Adalbert, a performing arts group, charged admission for all performances they sponsored and allocated this money to the school budget. Hopes were destroyed, however, and the new school was not built.

The rapid growth of the school and the serious overcrowding in the primary grades reached a breaking point during the 1925-1926 school year. Some parents took offense at the congested quarters in

the school and removed their children to the public schools. When this was brought to the attention of Monsignor Gorzynski, he ordered the construction of eight more portable classrooms known to many as the "chicken coops." He ordered the return of all children to Saint Adalbert School for the 1927-1928 school year. The enrollment was 1200 children and the school engaged the services of twenty-three Felician Sisters.

A disaster struck Saint Adalbert School on February 17, 1929. A fire of unknown origin broke out at 2:00 A.M. and completely destroyed eleven classrooms of the school building. Within one day, the very resourceful Principal, Sister Mary Egidia Mrowka reorganized the school day into two half-day sessions to accommodate all the children: one from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, and the other from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 P.M. The process of restoring the damaged building was promptly initiated so that by September, the children were housed in new classrooms.

Throughout the school year, children participated in religious, patriotic, and cultural celebrations. In 1931, in a city parade, the children won First Place for their float which was representing the Polish-American hero Casimir Pulaski, enacted by a school lad seated on a stallion and surrounded by the youth of Saint Adalbert School.

Social pressures were Americanizing the children. The students of Saint Adalbert School were performing well on high school entrance exams structured by the Diocese and required by the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education to identify students who qualified for further education.

In 1933, nine hundred and thirty-six children were instructed in eighteen classes by eighteen Sisters. The parish school had already nurtured many local priests, and hundreds of Felician Sisters, and an army of civic, business, and professional leaders.

Under Reverend Frania

EDUCATION

In January, 1938, "Pittsburchzanin" (Polish weekly newspaper) at the bequest of the Central Cultural Polish Organizations of Pittsburgh, supplied a new section in the weekly paper, directed to the interests of school children. This segment of the paper was called "Słoneczko". It was published by the witty and energetic Bronislaus Kamiński of Buffalo, New York, writing under the pseudonym of "Wujaszce Bronek" or "Uncle Bruno." By his arrangement, a "Pisanki" (egg decorating) contest was sponsored for Polish-American parish school children during the 1938 Easter season. A first prize and other lesser prizes were won by the boys and girls of Saint Adalbert School. A remarkable exhibition of decorated Easter eggs was released by Centrala for Exhibit at the International Gallery. "Słoneczko" was also arranging essay contests for children with the intent of preserving the Polish language and maintaining Polish culture.

Professor Liwacz of the Polish Consulate in Pittsburgh, visited the school in November, 1938 Columbian, instruction in manual and domestic science was given to seventh and eighth grade boys and girls of Saint Adalbert School at South Side High School.

The Diocesan School Board, directed by superintendent Reverend Paul Campbell, was issuing new school policies and requiring their enactment even in ethnic schools. The elaborate eighth grade graduation ceremony was eliminated; simple distribution of diplomas was advised. Education was no longer to be considered completed at the eighth grade level. Higher education for all became the objective.

The time allotted to study the Polish language and culture as a formal school subject was minimal. The Diocesan school program grew more cumbersome and complicated by new educational demands being placed on the teachers and the students. School files in the Office of the Principal of Saint Adalbert School, dated 1936 to 1937, reveal many letters of protest by young parents and parents of mixed marriages against the formal instruction of school children in the Polish language. Under those circumstances, the purism of Polish culture could scarcely be maintained.

Parish Development Under Reverend Schultz

WORSHIP

From April, 1939 to August, 1939 Reverend Joseph Stankiewicz, who served as an Assistant under Father Frania, acted as administrator of the Parish until the appointment of Reverend Theodore J. Schultz in August, 1939.

Father Schultz celebrated his first Mass at Saint Adalbert Church on September 3, 1939. Repulsed by the atrocities of war among nations, he admonished his people to live in fraternal harmony and peace. He was, after all, the spiritual shepherd of his flock and refused to capitulate to the anxieties related to the war. Under the sole direction of Father Schultz, one hundred and forty-five young women of the parish were inducted into the Sodality of Mary on December 8, 1939. School boys, upon receiving their First Holy Communion, were admitted as junior members of the Holy Name Society. As pastor, he promoted special devotions to the Virgin Mary. A court consisting of pages, ladies-in-waiting, First Communicants, and Sodalists participated in a procession and coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on May Day.

Grateful for the privilege granted by Bishop Hugh C. Boyle, Father Schultz exposed the Blessed Sacrament on the altar in the convent chapel every First Saturday of the month to encourage prayers for peace in the world. On the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Blessed Sacrament was brought to church with great ceremony and with a procession. Suggested by the Pastor and directed by Sister Mary Angelica, the drama "Pontius, A Story Of Our Lord's Passion," was performed for parishioners on Palm Sunday and on Holy Thursday. Sodality members comprised the cast, Memorial Masses, especially on All Soul's Day and Memorial Day, were frequently celebrated for servicemen and women killed in the war. The Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help was introduced as a weekly parish devotion and remains to this day.

In October, 1941, Father Schultz held a homecoming event at Saint Adalbert Church for his classmates from Saint Mary Seminary, Baltimore. The class congregated in the hall beneath the church. Music, songs, and speeches delivered by the school children made the occasion fitting and festive.

It was under Father Schultz's administration that the central crystal chandelier was removed. White marble walls in the sanctuary were replaced by the existing green marble ones. These were only two of the major renovations undertaken during his four years.

Fire, caused by a stray spark, broke out in the church after High Mass on January 5, 1941. The people, who quickly gathered about the building, carried out furnishings and vestments. Fortunately, the fire was immediately contained and rapidly extinguished. Damage was estimated at \$500. As part of the restoration, additional windows were set into the sanctuary walls to provide better illumination; the entrance of the church was repaired; and rooms under the church were remodeled.

EDUCATION

In school, attempts were made to honor significant Polish heroes and remember historical events. The anniversary of the May 3rd Constitution was celebrated regularly. Ignacy Paderewski, who died July 9, 1941, was sincerely mourned; many parishioners left signatures in the Book of Condolences accessible to the public at the Office of the Polish Consul General, Heliodor Sztark. On April 22, 1942, children and adults celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Father Joseph Dabrowski.

Changes in the parish school system were enacted by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Reverend Thomas J. Quigley became the School Superintendent on August 31, 1939. Author of a newly-published book, "Catholic Social Education," he underscored the human and social values in education and championed the private schools as a bulwark against the secularism of public institutions. He reorganized the total school system. From every school, department heads in the separate fields of religion, math, language, English, science, social studies, art, and music cooperated in joint sessions to revise course offerings and to initiate pilot programs. The ethnic parish school could no longer practice an isolationist policy. In view of an enriched Diocesan curriculum, time allotments for the study of the Polish culture and language were shortened.

To stem the tide of Nazism, Communism, and materialism, the Church stressed the need for training children in Catholic Action. Clubs were organized and classroom meetings were conducted according to parliamentary procedure. In May, 1941, children of area Catholic schools held a Catholic Action Rally at Saint Adalbert School and deliberated on how to best deploy their resources in social service. Sixty teachers proctored six hundred young delegates who assembled to discuss Catholic themes. In April, 1942, the second annual Catholic Action Rally met at Saint Adalbert School. Members probed the national theme, "The Catholic Press," to discover the moral advantages of selective reading. As a small part of the program, the Felician Sisters visited parish-ioners annually with "Oplatki" (christmas wafers), consoled the mourning, and cheered the sick.

Kindergarten programs were advised by the Superintendent for the parish elementary school. In September, 1940, with the permission of Father Schultz, fifty children registered for a kindergarten class to be conducted at Saint Adalbert School by Sister Mary Angelica. The educational program in the school was soon to be expanded beyond the eighth-grade level. At each year's graduation ceremony in June, Father Schultz suggested to his parishioners that he planned to introduce a ninth grade the following September. These promises of Father Schultz were recorded in the "Chronicles" of Saint Adalbert Convent in June, 1940, 1941, and 1942. In 1942, he deferred the distribution of high school entrance certificates to graduates until September when he intended them to register into Saint Adalbert Junior High School. Unfortunately, his promises could not be kept. Father Schultz died in July.

Parish Development Under Monsignor Ladislaus Rokosz

Worship

During his thirty-one years as pastor of Saint Adalbert Church, Monsignor Rokosz maintained the spiritual community and promoted educational excellence. In November 1943, soon after his appointment, he recommended that all school children attend daily Mass to pray for the end of the war. This practice of attending daily Mass continued until the formation of South Side Catholic Consolidated Schools in 1969-1970.

The year 1950 was declared a Holy Year by Pope Pius XII and was highlighted by the proclamation of the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father Rokosz in response to the Holy Year instituted a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. The devotion started June 3, 1950, and is still observed on the first Saturday of each month.

This decade marked the observance of two significant anniversaries. On November 20, 1955, the Felician Sisters commemorated their 100th Anniversary of the founding of their Order. In celebration, a special Mass of Thanksgiving was said at Saint Adalbert Church. Several years later on November 23, 1958, Saint Adalbert Church celebrated its own 75th Anniversary. A Mass of Praise and Thanksgiving was offered by Father Rokosz assisted by Father Aranowski and Father Nazimek. Following the Mass, Father Rokosz dedicated the newly constructed auditorium and social hall.

Besides the regular upkeep of the church, which included painting, cleaning, and repointing of the church building, Father Rokosz also purchased a new organ for the Church. This \$25,000 organ took 14 months to construct by the Moeller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland and about 4 weeks to install. The formal dedication took place on Sunday, November 13, 1960.

Reverend Ladislaus Rokosz was elevated to the rank of Monsignor on March 8, 1964. Not since Monsignor Gorzynski, was there a Monsignor who served as pastor of Saint Adalbert Church.

In 1970, Monsignor Rokosz was interviewed by the Pittsburgh Press for their Sunday ROTO Magazine. He stated that eighty percent of his parishioners still made their confessions in Polish and that at two of the Sunday Masses, the Gospel was read in English as well as in Polish. He also commented that many of his parishioners still maintained close ties to relatives in Poland, sending gifts and money. He regretted that the Polish language was not a regular part of the school curriculum any longer. Arrangements were made for parish students to learn Polish on Saturday mornings from a staff comprised of laymen and women affiliated with Centrala, the Polish National Alliance, and the Polish Roman Catholic Union.

Education

In June 1944, Father Rokosz initiated steps to organize the first Polish Catholic High School in the Diocese. He purchased the recently vacated Birmingham Public School, located between 14th and 15th Streets, for \$18,000. Following restoration of the building, the school was ready to accommodate a combined elementary and junior high school. By 1947, all twelve grades were being taught in Saint Adalbert School. An increase in the student population occurred when Saint Josaphat Junior High School closed its doors after a trial period of two years.

By January 1948, Saint Adalbert High School had been accredited by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education. This meant that graduates of Saint Adalbert High School could enter colleges and technical schools without preliminary testing.

Competition of Saint Adalbert High School with other Diocesan and Public schools increased throughout the years. Academic scholarships, interscholastic athletics, music and art festivals, spelling bees, publications, and science fairs nourished that competitive spirit of Saint Adalbert students. For instance, the yearbook, Memory Lane and the school newspaper, The Adalbertan consistently won the "All-Catholic" and "All-American" awards in press competitions. Also, in 1952, only five years after formation, Saint Adalbert High School basketball team became Western Pennsylvania champions.

By 1955, Father Rokosz realized that if the school continued to grow, plans for expansion had to be made. An architect was retained in January, 1956 and his sketch for the proposed gymnasium and high school was presented to the parishioners. Each parishioner was encouraged to make this dream a reality by lending support as a member of the "Dollar-or-More-a-Sunday" Club. Additional fund raising also occurred and a goal of \$100 per wage earner was set to meet the construction costs of \$100,000.

Groundbreaking took place in June, 1957 and excavation was completed by July 3, 1957. Several weeks later, the first concrete footings were poured and by September the foundation and outside walls were completed. In February 1958, the Christian Mothers donated \$1,000 to purchase a statue of the Blessed Mother that would be placed at the Auditorium entrance. All work was proceeding as planned until construction came to an abrupt halt in July, 1958. A cement workers' strike prohibited the finishing touches from being made and paralyzed over 190 construction projects throughout the city. The strike ended in October and the building was completed. Stage curtains were purchased with another generous \$1,000 donation from the Christian Mothers. On November 23, 1958, on the occasion of the Parish's Diamond Jubilee, the Auditorium and Social Hall were dedicated by Reverend Ladislaus Rokosz. He announced at a banquet later that day, that because of the generous contributions of all parishioners, this new building was debt free.

Father Rokosz's dream of building the new high school, an extension of the auditorium complex, was never fulfilled. Lack of funds and an inflated economy prevented any further construction. Nevertheless, the auditorium became a center of parish and school activities. Sports, plays, Christmas "Cantatas", assemblies, dances and socials were always scheduled. In 1966, the Millenium of Polish Christianity, a program was presented by the school children to Polish-Americans from the tri-state area.

Throughout the late 1960's, Catholic schools on the South Side became embroiled in a controversy of school merger. The pastors of the seven concerned schools (Saint Adalbert, Saint Casimer, Saint John the Evangelist, Saint Josaphat, Saint Matthew, Saint Michael and Saint Peter) comprised the first temporary school board. A consolidation of schools was expected to achieve better academic programming at less cost. Faculties would merge and all school buildings, except Saint Casimer School, would be utilized. All payments and bills would be met from a common fund.

The last class of Saint Adalbert High School graduated Sunday, June 1, 1969. The merger, known as South Side Catholic Consolidated Schools, took effect for the new school year 1969-1970, graduating its first senior class in June, 1970. Monsignor Rokosz headed the provisional consolidation school board and Father Francis Pucci was appointed the first headmaster. Many parishioners protested the merger and some even withdrew their children from the parochial school and enrolled them in the public school. Monsignor Rokosz expressed confidence that the Consolidation would work despite any obstacles. Today, the Consolidation remains as one of the largest and most successful in the Diocese.

Five 'Saintly' Bells

Mounted within the bell towers of Saint Adalbert Church are five bronze bells weighing nearly three and one-half tons. Each of the bells is named after a Saint and was cast in 1892 by the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, Maryland for \$1,800 including shipping and installation. Today, the McShane Bell Foundry estimates that it would cost nearly \$60,000 to replace the bells.

The three smaller bells are located in the South tower (near Breed Street): The bell named "Saint Adalbert" weighs over 1,200 pounds and was donated by the Saint Adalbert Society; "Saint Joseph" weighs over 850 pounds and was donated by the Saint Joseph Society; and "Saint Casimir" weighs nearly 325 pounds and was donated by the Habrowski Family. The remaining two bells are located in the North Tower (near Sarah Street) and chime the Angelus each day at six in the morning and again at six in the evening. "Saint Ladislaus", the largest weighing nearly 3,175 pounds, was purchased by Reverend Ladislaus Miskiewicz as his gift to the parish. The second largest bell, "Saint Anthony" weighs over 1,500 pounds and was donated by the Saint Anthony Society.

The bells were operated manually until 1950. Since that time they have been run automatically by an electric clock mechanism which requires, that they be serviced twice a year to keep them in proper working order.

As the bells ring out on various occasions, some say that instead of hearing the peal of bells, they hear the "voices" of Ladislaus, Anthony, Adalbert, Joseph and Casimir joined "in song:"

In Preparation of a Centennial

With less than a decade to prepare for the parish's centennial, Father Filip began to update and modernize some of the parish's possessions. As early as 1974, the church's sound system was improved. The rectory ceilings were lowered and windows replaced in an effort to conserve energy and reduce utility costs.

A year later, Father Filip arranged for hand railings to be placed at each of the church's entrances and in the vestibule. An ornamental iron gate and fence was also erected in front of the social hall and auditorium entrance.

In honor of America's Bicentennial Year, 21 parishes of the Pittsburgh South Deanery held their Eucharistic Celebration on Sunday, August 1, 1976. Bishop Vincent M. Leonard was the principal celebrant at the Mass held at Saint Adalbert Church. Following the Mass, the congregation led by altar boys, a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, and young people in ethnic costume, walked in procession to Saint John the Evangelist Church for Benediction.

That same year, Father Filip had the auditorium entrance enclosed with mosaic marble walls. The building was renamed the "Monsignor Rokosz Center" and re-dedicated on November 28, 1976 on the 20th anniversary of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers of Saint Adalbert Church.

On July 20, 1980, the American Wind Symphony performed during the 11:30 A.M. Mass at Saint Adalbert Church. The entire 45-piece orchestra, under the direction of Robert Austin Boudreau, filled the sanctuary and played four classical selections during the Liturgy.

Father Filip made two trips to Rome - one in 1976 and one in 1981, both in celebration of his 40th and 45th anniversaries of ordination to the priesthood, respectively. It was during his second trip to the Eternal City with ten of his classmates in 1981 that Father met Pope John Paul II. For Father this was the highlight of the trip since the Pope is the first Polish Pope elected by the College of Cardinals on October 16, 1978.

Following his return from Rome, Father Filip began extensive church renovations in preparation of the parish's 100th anniversary. The entire interior of the Church was painted. Scaffolding, reaching within feet of the vaulted ceilings, remained for many months. Elaborate stenciled-borders were

painted along the walls and around the windows and alcoves. The murals were hand-painted and refurbished to their original beauty. The statuary, all 30 pieces, were cleaned and repaired as needed. All of the marble - altars, statues, walls, and pillars - were cleaned. The pillars were also painted and repaired. The sanctuary was extended forward six feet which meant moving the Communion railing and building new steps. The aisles were widened and a new floor was laid in preparation for new oak pews and kneelers. The enlarged sanctuary floor was carpeted. The portable wooden altar was replaced with a marble altar constructed of a marble base and columns that originally made up one of the marble pedestals in church.

The choir loft was also renovated. The old pews were replaced by the pews from the main floor. Aisles were ramped and carpeted. The organ was overhauled. All heating and electrical systems were updated and modernized.

The work took more than a year and a half to complete with minor repairs completed only a few weeks prior to the Jubilee celebration.

Vocations To The Priesthood From Saint Adalbert Parish:

Rev. Anthony Tarkowski
Rev. Anthony Muszyński
Rev. Michael Kozłowski
Msgr. Anthony Habrowski
Rev. Stanislaus R. Labujewski
Rev. Theodore Schultz
Rev. Julian Lachendro
Rev. Bronislaus Mieruniski
Rev. John Styka
Rev. Vincent Kuklewski
Rev. Stanislaus Kupiec
Rev. Casimir Zieliński
Rev. Joseph Wichmanowski

Felician Sisters from St. Adalbert Parish:

Sr Mary Prospera Reszyska
Sr Mary Desideria Pietrzycka
Sr Mary Berarda Pozych
Sr Mary Severine Walkowiak
Sr Mary Maximilia Kołeczek
Sr Mary Christine Pilarski
Sr Mary Emerencia Konieczna
Sr Mary Sebastian Kopydlowska
Sr Mary Lubimira Brzozowska
Sr Mary Medarda Nowak
Sr Mary Adelia Szalla
Sr Mary Antoinette Muszyńska
Sr Mary Leonilla Kaczorowska

Sr Mary Faustina Szalla
Sr Mary Samuel Berkowska
Sr Mary Anisia Urbańska
Sr Mary Ludwina Jagodzińska
Sr Mary Valentine Irla
Sr Mary Sanctoslaus Zaborowska
Sr Mary Dobrosława Krawczak
Sr Mary Agnella Matuszak
Sr Melchiada Buczyńska
Sr Mary Stephanie Bruchwalska
Sr Mary Viatora Rowińska
Sr Mary Ignatius Pokrywka
Sr Mary Gaudiosa Dominowska
Sr Mary Philomena Cygrymus
Sr Mary Paula Nogal
Sr Mary Magdalene Modrak
Sr Mary Damasia Zulka
Sr Mary Philip Kwiatkowska
Sr Mary Julia Gutowska

Sisters from other Orders:

Mother Michael Marie Cygrymus
Sr. Mary Ellen Kozlowski
Sr Mary Gemma Gutkowski