



Monsignor Ladislaus C. Rokosz

The First Hundred Years St. Adalbert Church 1883-1983, Pittsburgh, PA, p. 28. CAP at Orchard Lake.

Ladislaus Rokosz, born June 3, 1898, was five years old when his parents left his hometown, Budzanow, Poland, crossed the Atlantic, and settled in the hard-coal region of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Ladislaus was one of nine children. He often recalled his early childhood years. In the old country, his father had been a church organist and a teacher, but because of the language barrier, he lost his professional status in the United States. Since eighty percent of the Nanticoke population was Polish, Ladislaus' father was soon employed in the mines. With hard work, he managed to save enough money to purchase a farm in Standish, Michigan.

Ladislaus received his education at Saint Mary High School and Saint Mary College in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He transferred to Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe for further study and after graduation, was ordained at the Archabbey on June 25, 1922.

The young Father Rokosz served as an assistant at Saint Mary Church, Glen Campbell; at Holy Family Church, Lawrenceville; and Saint Mary Church in McKeesport. He fulfilled the duties of pastor at Saint Louis Church, Lucerne Mines, Indiana County (1929-1930) and Saint Hedwig Church, Duquesne (1930-1942). He was then appointed pastor of Saint Adalbert Church in Pittsburgh by Bishop Hugh C. Boyle in 1942. Father Rokosz arrived at Saint Adalbert Church on October 8, 1942.

Reverend Ladislaus Rokosz became a Judge of the Matrimonial Synod and a member of the Diocesan Board of Consultors. Pope Paul VI elevated Father Rokosz to the rank of Monsignor on March 18, 1964.

Monsignor Rokosz retired from active service in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1973, after having performed the duties of pastor at Saint Adalbert Church for 31 years. During his retirement, he lived in Scott Township. He died on March 5, 1976 after a prolonged illness at the age of 77. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Bishop Vincent M. Leonard and Bishop Anthony Bosco of the Pittsburgh Diocese and Bishop Norbert Gaughan of the Greensburg Diocese. Monsignor is buried in Saint Adalbert Cemetery, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.