



History of St. Adalbert's Church, Farrell, PA.
Golden Jubilee 1913-1963.
CAP at Orchard Lake.

This year, we of St. Adalbert's Parish are commemorating the Golden Jubilee, fifty years of existence, a half century, dedicated to service of God and humanity. But actually, the real beginning, the first conception of St. Adalbert's Church, goes back 51 years to September, 1912, when the church was first conceived in the minds of the Polish people of Farrell, and when the name of its patron saint was selected. Henceforth, from that day in September, this church, first a vision in the minds and hearts of those people, and now a reality standing at 1031 Fruit Ave., was to be known as St. Adalbert's Polish Roman Catholic Church.

The members of the Church's first committee, Joseph Usnarski, Martin Dolata, Stephen Włodarski, Frank Włodarski, Casimir Jimro and Stephen Kacerski, must have been extremely eager and ambitious men, for one year later, on September 15, 1913, the first cornerstone was laid during a ceremony with Rev. Andrew Ignasiak and Rev. Casimir Rybiński, the first pastor.

That same year, in just a little over three months, the church was completed, and on Christmas Day, the new church rang with the songs and ceremonies of its first services. Eight months later the official dedication took place with the Most Rev. Bishop John Fitzmaurice, officiating on August 16, 1914. The parish and its members went on for 17 years after this, acquiring new property and building new additions. In August of 1914, the rectory was completed, and in 1916, 20 acres of cemetery property, located on the Sharon-New Castle road adjoining Farrell City Park were purchased. The school building, housing grades 1 through 8 heard its first lessons recited in September, 1917, and the convent was completed one year later.

Then in 1931, a tragic fire struck, all but demolishing the entire Church building. Again, undiscouraged, Father Rybinski and his Polish parishioners set about rebuilding the church, this time larger and more beautiful than before. It's dedication by His Excellency Bishop John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie, was held April 3, 1932, and with some improvements and renovations, this building stands today.

In May of 1933, Father Rybinski received notice of his relocation to a parish in DuBois, Pa. It was then that our present pastor, Rev. Casimir T. Nagorski, coming to replace him, was appointed to the parish. He has served as pastor for the past 30 years. In his time, the parish has seen the enlarging and landscaping of the cemetery, an addition to the rectory and complete renovation to the church auditorium and school.

An unfortunate event occurred in 1959. Due to the shortage of teaching nuns the parochial school was forced to close after graduating young teen-agers for 42 years. The school is presently being used for religious instruction of the children of the parish.

Three hundred and sixty families now compose St. Adalbert's, and rising from those families have been five vocations, two to the priesthood, Rev. Emanuel Krzysiek and Rev. Edward Borawski; and three to the Convent, Sister Mary Benilda, Mary Biala; Sister Mary Christianna, Stella Czesnakowicz; Sister Mary Carmel, Rose Hermanowicz.

In the course of its existence, St. Adalbert's had participated in cultural and social development of its members. The church served its purpose in maintaining the primary purpose; the worship of God and bringing spiritual solace to its members. The development of social life was carried on with the organization of various groups and societies. Among these is the Altar-Rosary Society, which is the oldest, having its beginning in 1913. The society had continued all these years with faithful service to the church. The Sodality of Our Lady, Boy Scouts, and Youth Organizations have co-existed in cultural development and maintaining Christian principles. The youth being the back-bone of the parish, their religious and moral development is the main concern of the parish, because the future of the parish depends on the youth of today.

Of recent origin, the Infant of Prague Guild and Confraternity of Christian Mothers have taken an important stand in developing a Christ-like spirit among its members and bringing them closer to their church through their many activities and participation in charitable work.

Also of recent origin is St. Adalbert's Council of Catholic Men whose purpose is to promote and conduct educational, charitable, religious and social welfare among the members of the parish and to more effectively aid and assist the pastor in the various activities of the parish.

To our faithful and loyal parishioners, also our many friends of the parish, we express our sincerest thanks and gratitude for your many kindnesses, support, and loyalty throughout these fifty, fruitful years.

REV. C. T. NAGORSKI.