In 1890, immigrant Catholic Poles began arriving and settling in Racine, Wisconsin. Their number was small and they attended the existing Catholic churches in Racine. Ignorant, however of the English language, they felt the need of banding together to procure for themselves religious comfort in the language they understood. To accomplish this and likewise preserve their Christian national traditions they formed a Society under the name of "Holy Name of Jesus" on February 1892 and it began with twenty members. Through the efforts of this society arrangements were made to bring to Racine for Sunday services a priest who spoke the Polish language. Catholic priest, therefore, were invited: from the diocese of Milwaukee came the Rev. Victor Zareczny and the Rev. Dr. Joseph Chylewski, who were instrumental later in organizing the present parish, as the number of Polish families began to increase.

The first organizational meeting took place at Holy Name Church hall on November 1, 1903 with about forty-five members being present under the guidance of the Rev. Victor Zareczny. At this meeting the first steps were taken for the formation of a parish.

In order to obtain official approval of the Archbishop of Milwaukee and to obtain recognition by the state a meeting was held on January 8, 1904 with the elected officers present in the presence of the Rev. Victor Zareczny. At this meeting therefore steps were taken for the incorporation of St. Stanislaus B.M. Congregation according to the requirements of the Archdiocesan rules and state regulations. The required papers were secured and entered on record. The record of incorporation of the St. Stanislaus B.M. Congregation was filed at the Chancery Office in Milwaukee and the date of incorporation was sealed March 23, 1904.

St. Stanislaus B.M. Congregation being now duly incorporated, it was necessary to start plans for the building of its own church edifice. A meeting therefore was called on May 15, 1905 by the Rev. Victor Zareczny at St. Mary's Parish hall for this purpose. (Sunday services now were being held at St. Mary's church.) The membership voted to buy five lots at 18th and Center Sts. for the sum of $2,400.00 and this was soon done and the documents were duly executed and recorded.

In the year 1906, the first Pastor, the Rev. Joseph Chylewski was assigned by the Most Rev. Archbishop G. Messmer to St. Stanislaus Congregation. The membership now was about 100 families.
The following year in June, 1907, at a meeting of the directors and the Pastor, plans were made to construct a combination building Church and School.

The laying and blessing of the cornerstone of the new Church took place July 21, 1907 on a Sunday afternoon despite a heavy rainfall. The services were conducted by the Very Rev. H. Gulski of Milwaukee, assisted by priests of Racine, Kenosha and Milwaukee and witnessed by hundreds of people.

The new Church building was completed in 1908 and so on Sunday, February 2ktb, 1908 Dedication services took place. "The dedicatory services were conducted by the Most Rev. Sebastian G. Messmer, a Pontifical High Mass following.

The new parish had no permanent home for its Pastor as yet, so a meeting was held with the Rev. John Blechacz, Pastor, to purchase a home for the rectory. It was decided to purchase a home next to the Church at 1733 Center for $2,500.00. This was done and an additional loan of $1,250.00 was taken to complete the purchase.

The parish at this time had not opened its school and steps were now taken to do this. First, a home was bought for the Sisters in April of 1915 at 1740 Grand Avenue at a cost of $3,900.00 and the Sisters of St. Joseph from Stevens Point were engaged to teach. On September 7th, 1915 school was opened with 150 children, first to fifth grade. When the classrooms in the combination building were filled and more room was needed, in September of 1919, 3 lots were purchased at 1744 Grand Avenue with a home, which was converted into an additional classroom.

The original home of the Sisters was judged to be too small and so in 1926 another home was bought by the parish, moved and joined to the old one in the rear, so that enough room was provided for the teaching Nuns.

In time the classrooms in the combination building proved insufficient and so lavatories were built outside, another classroom provided in the building, but with time this proved unpractical and unhealthy. Since 1930 various plans and discussions took place to remedy these faults but nothing came of it.

The Home and School Association was organized in the Parish in 1948.

The Society promotes better relationship and understanding between the teachers, parents and school children. By its meetings with the teachers, it helps the upbringing of their children. The organization further gives help to the school by its various projects for the betterment of the school, e.g., the support of the parish school library; it helps the school in the health program and in the care of youth. It is also a big contributor in purchasing needed items for the operation of classes in modern education of today.

In the year 1950 when conditions in the school building became intolerable and there was a threat of closing the school, plans were made after a Mission of May 1950 to build an addition to the school and provide healthier and proper accommodations for the school children. An addition of four classrooms was added and joined to the old combination, with a basement
providing lavatories and a meeting room. The Architect for the reconstruction was Al. Seitz of Racine and the contractor, Bongard-Reidy of Racine. The Pastor was Rev. Joseph Lomasz. The cost of the building was $80,000.00. A mortgage of $70,000.00 was obtained from the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin and the balance of the cost was raised by the parishioners. The work began June, 1950 and was completed by October, 1950.

The parishioners enthused over the project took part in preparing for the building by removing trees and demolishing the old lavatories and storage garage later lessened the expense by filling ground around the building.

In the old school building the floors were tiled, new chalkboards put in by the Home and School Society. The house on Grand Ave. used as a classroom was sold and moved to another location.

In 1953 the school grounds were asphalted for which the parishioners contributed generously. The old rectory to the north of the church which was rented since the new rectory was built, was sold and moved to make additional playground room for the school children.

The year 1957 brought us to the 50th anniversary since the building of the parish churchy school combination. Looking back, many trials were passed and suffered but in the jubilee year, we saw gratefully, with the help of God a more serene future for the parish, free from debt and continuous betterment for the parishioners both spiritually and materially.

A dream at last was fulfilled for it all began in the summer of 1963 when ground was broken for the new church and rectory addition. Al. J. Seitz Associated Ltd. was awarded the task as architect. The new main altar was blessed by His Excellency Roman Atkielski. The dedication day was set for May 10th, 1964. For this grand occasion our beloved Archbishop Most Rev. William E. Cousins presided in Cappa Magna. The pastor of the new church was Rev. Roman Rewolinski. The building is very spacious and modern in design. It now serves about 325 families. The basement of the church is furnished with a modern kitchen and large dining area. Here is the hub of all parish activities, festivals, dinners, meetings and now the Bingo games.

The year 1970 saw the demolishing of the sisters convent which was no longer needed to make way for a larger playground and parking area. This space was black-topped and marked up for play and parking area.

It is only through the Grace and help of Almighty God, and the Patronage of St. Stanislaus B.M. and the wonderful cooperation of the parishioners throughout these many years that the parish can be proud of its present status. I am sure that the parishioners throughout these years have always kept in mind that Polish axiom; W JEDNOŚCI SIŁA or "Where there is unity, there is strength."

For the first time in many years the parishioners have joined together in unifying themselves with a parish council in the year 1978. For our motto, which was originated by our school children "WE ARE STRONGER TODAY THAN YESTERDAY", the parish is progressing very well. It is our humble prayer that the good LORD will continue showering His graces upon us and that we will
always work as a team for His honor and glory.

This year May 13th, 1979 is our 75th Diamond Jubilee. It is also the 900th anniversary of the martyrdom of our patron St. Stanislaus. This is also a great year of joy for the Polish nation of which we can take pride of being. God was good to the Polish people by having one of her sons elected as the present Vicar of Christ, His holiness Pope John Paul II. The archdiocese has as its shepherd a new leader, Most Rev. Rembert Weakland O.S.B. the former Primate of the Benedictines.

The seventy fifth diamond jubilee year took place during the presidency of James Carter, Lee Dreyfus the newly elected Governor for the State of Wisconsin, and the Mayor of our city, The Honorable Stephen Olson.

OUR CLERGY

Pastors who administered at St. Stanislaus Parish:

Rev. Victor Zareczny       1904-1906
Rev. Joseph Chylewski      1906-1909
Rev. John Blechacz         1909-1912
Rev. Casimir Olszewski     1912-1914
Rev. Bernard Burant        1914-1923
Rev. Felix Goral           1923-1932
Rev. Michael Lipiński      1932-1939
Rev. Francis Karwata       1939-1942
Rev. John Bonk             1942-1950
Rev. Roman Rewolinski      1958-1966
Rev. Edwin Grochowski      1966-1970
Rev. Stanley Witkowiak     1973
Reverend Associate Pastors:
Rev. Anthony Czaja          1936
Rev. Joseph Cieciorka      1937
Rev. Felix Tatreczynski    1940
Rev. Joseph Betlinski       1944
Rev. Ignatius Pachoha       1948
Rev. Joseph Safiejko        1950
Rev. Eldred Lesniewski      1953
Rev. Arthur Herkowski      1955
Rev. Adrian Race           1961
Rev. Joseph Baran           1964
Rev. Alphons Wittig C.SS.R. 1973
Rev. Casimir Kudron C.SS.R. 1976