

In this issue:

First and foremost, we welcome our new members. We hope that their membership results in many good avenues of fruitful research and enjoyment of our quarterly newsletter.

In the past, our newsletter has presented the histories of St. John Cantius Parish and St. Adalbert's Parish of Berea, Ohio. With this issue, we travel to the east side and feature St. Hyacinth's Parish.

St. Hyacinth's published a twenty-fifth anniversary book of their founding in 1933. We copy the history of the parish from that book to get a glimpse of that history from that vantage point. Next, we submit a couple of articles taken from *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* concerning events that took place during that period. Another book about the parish was published in the eighties on the occasion of their seventy-fifth anniversary. We continue with the history of the parish, as taken from that book.

We have a listing of speakers at forthcoming meetings.

Also, we have a "sketch" of the *Southside* by Mr. Raymond DeCapite who was born and raised in that area of Cleveland. Many of his published novels are set in that locale.

On page 11, there is a form to remind you of the importance of your research work. This is a codicil form to be attached to your last will and testament to ensure that all your work is preserved after your death.

There are also a few other interesting items scattered about in these pages.

Welcome—New Members—Witamy

Lawrence Wydock (Wojdacz), interested in surnames: CZAJA, DZIEKAN, JAKON, MENDYKA, 1286 South Magnolia Ave. OGORZALEK, PLATEK, RZADCKI, RZONCKI, El Cajon, Ca. 92020 STEIFER, SZTAJFER, TWARDZIK, WOJDACZ, lwydock@aol.com ZISKO

Terry & Therese Kuzius, interested in surnames: CWIKLINSKI, GAWRYSZEWSKI, GRZYBOWSKI, 29720 Phillips JASINSKI, KOWALSKI, KRUKOWSKI, KUZIUS, Wickliffe, Ohio 44092 LASKOWSKI, MUSZYNSKI, ORLOWSKI

Michael & Geraldine Klepek KLEPEK

3745 Brownhelm Sta.
Vermilion, Ohio 44089

Don & Debbie Kozlowski, interested in surnames: GROHOLSKI, KOZLOWSKI, ZALEWSKI

446 Perry Rd.
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The Internet—

There is a Polish-English, English-Polish translation program available on the Internet at: <http://www.poltran.com>. Type in a English word and it'll give you the word in Polish; type in a Polish word (in upper case, capital letters) and it'll give you the translation in English.

The Courtly Lives of Polish Kings, Saints, Knights and Their Genealogy Index is another web site of interest at: <http://www.angelfire.com/mi4/polcrt/index.html>. Peek in on it!

The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) is planning their convention during the month of August. Their web site is at; <http://www.sggee.org>. Lots of good links to Poland here.

History of St. Hyacinth's Parish*

A quarter of a century ago a group of Catholic Poles residing in the southeastern part of the city of Cleveland petitioned the late Bishop Ignatius Horstmann to organize a new parish within a section of the city that was then in the parish of St. Stanislaus. Two reasons prompted them to do so: the crowded conditions at St. Stanislaus parish, and the distance their homes were removed from the church. Bishop Horstmann received their petition favorably and appointed the late Rev. Louis S. Redmer, as pastor of the new parish for which the patronage of St. Hyacinth was chosen.

The parish organized during a period of business depression, but due to the untiring effort of the young pastor, and the willing cooperation of his parishioners, the work of organization was successfully accomplished. Among the first who lent a helping hand were: Stanislaus Grodek and Adam Jarzembowski and the late Stanislaus Gawryszewski.

There were then about 200 Polish families living within the section allotted to St. Hyacinth parish. The first Mass for the congregation was said at St. Edward's Church and then for about a year services were conducted at St. Lawrence Church.

Then the congregation bought about 10 lots on which stand the combination church and school building, and the rectory. The lots cost \$10,000.00, the building \$18,000.00 and the rectory \$6,000.00. On the 4th of August 1907, the cornerstone of the church and school was blessed. On Christmas day of the same year, Mass was celebrated for the first time in the new building. School was opened on the 15th of January 1908. August 23, 1908, Rt. Rev. Paul Rhode, the first Bishop of Polish descent in America, dedicated and blessed the church and school.

The Rev. Louis S. Redmer, organizer and first pastor of the parish, carried on his pastoral work from the 20th of December 1906 to 29th April 1920. Then the late Bishop John P. Farrelly appointed the present pastor, the Rev. Joseph M. Sztucki. Shortly after the coming of Father Sztucki, the parish bought 9 additional lots for \$10,000.00. There was no Sister's home and so in 1921 a central heating plant, combined with the Sister's home was built at the cost of \$12,000.00. The new heating system installed in the church and school cost an additional \$20,000.00. In 1925 the parish auditorium was built along with six additional classrooms and club rooms. The cost of this building was \$42,000.00. Soon after the Sister's home was enlarged for \$7,000.00. The sidewalks around the buildings entailed an additional expense of \$3,000.00. Later the parish bought a home on one corner of its property for \$6,000.00, so that now it possesses a rectangular plot of ground, comprised of 20 lots. There is plenty of ground for a new church and there remains ample playground for the school children. There are at present two gardens, one aside of the rectory, the other in front of the Sister's home. The parishioners may justly feel proud of the plot of ground upon which the parish buildings are located.

The school enrollment is 810 children. There are sixteen classrooms available for school purposes. The Sisters of St. Joseph, who have ever given evidence of self-sacrificing zeal are in charge of the school. The following priests have assisted the present pastor in the spiritual duties: Frs. Leon Sztupek, Anthony Suwalski and Adolf Bernas. The present assistant is the Rev. Joseph C. Rutkowski. The parish has given three young men to the priesthood: Frs. John Bialek, Thaddeus Heruday and Joseph Zabawa. Within a short time cleric John J. Kucia will say his first Mass. Twenty two young ladies of the parish have entered various religious communities. In the past 25 years, there were: 4113 baptisms, 1127 marriages, 539 funerals of adults and 528 of children.

There are many sodalities and societies in the parish.

OUR SCHOOL

J. C. R.

Alma Mater, tender mother! What more beautiful name can a student give the school that gave him his education! Our School too is an Alma Mater.

A quarter century ago she was a young mother with few cares. Three years ago her cares multiplied four

*The following articles are taken from the twenty fifth anniversary book of St. Hyacinth's parish. The period covered is 1908-1933.



Pictured above is Bishop Paul Rhode. He was the first bishop of Polish extraction in the USA He dedicated and blessed St. Hyacinth's church and school on August 23, 1908. At the time, he was Bishop of the Green Bay, Wisconsin diocese.

times a hundred fold. The group of thirty whom she began to teach their A; B; C's, grew to twelve hundred children. She has seen her climax. Not the climax of the care she exercises, no, because she gathers energy and proficiency as she grows older. But the climax of the numerical strength of those she cares for.

Every year, when her task is finished and she no longer feels herself capable of adding to that which she had imparted, to some of her older children, she gives them up with great reluctance. Some she sends to other tender mothers, others she sends with great anxiety, much like orphans, to face their battles of life, removed from her tender care. How much she would rather they never outgrew the care she is able to give them, and cling to her tender bosom forever. Such an Alma Mater is she.

The graduates of our school happily realize that it has been a tender mother to them. There are none who cannot recall their school days at St. Hyacinth's as their most tender memories of their childhood days.

Witness the first day of school. Mother leading the child, and after a brief conversation with a pleasant lady, dressed in dark garments, and a strange covering on her head, leaves the child in her care. And that lonesome feeling as this strange lady, called Sister, places the children one by one in such confining quarters as are school desks. The awe inspiring silence broken only by sobs here and there, of those who in the strangeness of the situation look for a friendly hand.

A few days later, what change !! Children quickly recognize their friends. Remember how you tried to push your way through the crowd about the Sister to make sure she gave you some attention on the school yard? How in class you strove to please her every desire? And when she called on you for recitation and you failed to respond, what an ingrate you felt yourself to be.

Then, that seemingly stern man also in dark dress, and cornered hat on his head, whom all seemed to regard with special reverence—did he not inspire you with awe when he first entered the classroom; or perhaps, when he ruffled your carefully combed hair, and directed you and your mother to the Sisters. But you soon left a game of tag to run over and have your hair mussed by Father again.

You began to feel at home. And then your lessons ! What colossal obstacles were they to overcome in passing from one class to another ! "Reading and Riting and Rithmetic"—you'd sooner sing about them than toil to master them. And how proud were you to come home and prove to your father that you were studying hard. Remember how pleased he was when he told the neighbors that his child could read words, and even sentences, in the evening Polish paper.

Then there was a show. The Sister picked you for a verse or taught you to skip across the stage. Could you conceive Modjeska in all her glory, being prouder than you were that day !

Then your class was prepared for first Communion. That was now to be your first big day. But before that—catechism. To you it was no worry. Did you not shine and brighten up the Sister's face with your an-



Father Ludwig Redmer, the first pastor of St. Hyacinth's. He remained as pastor until 1920.

swers to Father? It was just another opportunity to display your knowledge of catechism before Father. But Oh! those poor fellows who did not study, pity for them because Father would see to it that they studied this time.

The day drew nigh. What preparation! You just had to look your best that day. The first confession gave you a more intimate taste of that sacredness which you saw about you in the church at daily Mass. On the happiest day of your childhood, you received the Body and Blood of our Lord with such innocence and devotion as you may never equal in all your life.

Then you passed to the eighth grade. And you began to wonder how it feels to be a graduate. You found out. But today I'll wager, you wish you were back in the eighth grade. No! a thousand times no! You wish that with your hair mussed by Father, you were being placed by the Sister in one of those small desks in the first grade of St. Hyacinth School.

May you never fail to appreciate those who have strived to make St. Hyacinth School what it was to you and those who will strive to make it mean as much in the lives of future generations.



The following article is taken from *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, dated August 24, 1908. The headlines read: "Says Poles Make Best of Citizens—Bishop Rhode of Chicago Declares Countrymen Need Only More Time—Prelate Here for Dedication of St. Hyacinth's Church" (*Editor's note—It seems strange that on this occasion Bishop Rhode would wish to emphasize citizenship in his remarks to this reporter. One must remember however, that this was but a scant seven years since a resident of Cleveland, Leon Czolgosz, murdered the President of the United States. Anarchy and anarchists were on the minds of the entire populace. To get an idea of what it was like during this period, one can read a recently published book entitled, Murdering McKinley by Eric Rauchway. Perhaps Bishop Rhode took this occasion to reassure Clevelanders that not all Polish immigrants were anarchists.*) Through his inborn love of liberty the Polish immigrant is fitted to make an American citizen of the most desirable class, according to Rt. Rev. Paul Rhode of Chicago, youngest Catholic bishop in the country and the only Polish prelate of high rank on this side the Atlantic. Bishop Rhode yesterday attended the dedicatory exercises of St. Hyacinth's church and school, Francis Ave. and E. 61st St.

"All the Poles in America need," he said, "is a little more time in which to adjust themselves to American conditions. The race has already accomplished wonders in this direction. Remember the immigration began a scant forty years ago. There are at present 2,500,000 Polish Catholics in the country. Cleveland has the fifth largest colony.

"Too rapid Americanization is dangerous to the Pole. He loses his connection with the past. It thus happens that religion is extremely important to him in his first years of residence here. I favor having my people settle in the country districts, wherever possible."

Catholic clergy from distant cities assisted in the dedication of St. Hyacinth's. The ceremonies began with a parade of 6,000 members of Polish societies. It marched from E. 55th St. and Euclid Ave. to the church. Anthony Hereday was marshal, M. P. Kniola had command of the military societies.

Arriving at the church, the marchers stopped for the presentation to Bishop Rhode of flowers by several societies. The presentations were made by Miss Mary McMahan, Miss Stephania Nowakowska and Mrs. H. Rutynowska. The bishop and the clergy went into the new church and blessed the walls. The public was then admitted.

High Mass was celebrated by Rev. C. Gronkowski of St. Adalbert's, Chicago. Rev. Ignatius Piotrowski of



Father Joseph M. Sztucki, appointed pastor at St. Hyacinthe April 29, 1920 and was pastor at the time of their twenty fifth anniversary. He remained pastor for 37 years until his untimely death in 1957.

St. Casimir's, this city, was deacon and Rev. Father Fridolin of St. Stanislaus, subdeacon. The deacons of honor were: Rev. T. Kalamaja of St. Stanislaus and Rev. V. Szyrocki of the Church of the Sacred Heart. Bishop Rhode preached the sermon.

After the church ceremonies a banquet was served to the visiting clergy in the new parsonage. The combined church and school building and the parsonage are the result of a year and a half of work by Rev. Louis Redmer, formerly of Toledo. The cost of the building is about \$30,000.

Among the clergy present were: Rev. F. Wojtalescz, Chicago; Rev. F. Mueller, Detroit; Rev. F. Kiernj, Detroit; Rev. John T. Carroll of Holy Name; Rev. Father Beigert, S. J.; Rev. Father Hartman, S. J.; Rev. A. J. Snplick, Toledo; Rev. B. Rosinski, Toledo; Rev. J. Pajuski, Rev. Stephen Furdek, Rev. Father Methodius, Rev. Francis Hepanski, Rev. Joseph Kocinski, Grafton; Rev. Ignatius F. Doppke, Berea; Rev. James Quinn of St. Catherine's, Rev. A. Migdalski, Youngstown and Rev. Charles Ruszkowski, Lorain.

The following article is taken from *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, dated August 21, 1933. The headlines read: "Banners Wave At East Side Church— Procession and Bishop's Visit Mark Anniversary of St. Hyacinth's."

The district near E. 61st Street and Francis Avenue S.E. was in holiday dress yesterday as St.

Hyacinth's Catholic Parish observed the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

The national colors of Poland hung side by side with the Stars and Stripes. Banners of church societies added color to a procession that escorted Auxiliary Bishop James A. McFadden from the rectory on Francis Avenue to the combination church and school facing on E. 61st Street.

Bishop McFadden officiated at Mass and was assisted by Rev. A. A. Radecki, pastor of St. Casimir's, and Rev. John S. Bialek and Rev. Joseph Zabawa, native sons of the parish as deacon and sub-deacon. A sermon by Msgr. Marion J. Orzechowski, pastor of St. John Cantius Parish, gave a brief resume of the history of the parish since its foundation by Rev. Louis Redmer, who served as pastor until the appointment of the Rev. Joseph Sztucki, present pastor, in 1920.

It was Father Sztucki's desire and hope, Msgr. Orzechowski said, to build a new church but the depression discouraged such an undertaking. Speaking at the conclusion of Mass, Bishop McFadden praised both Father Redmer, the founder of the parish, who died several years ago, and the present pastor. "Father Sztucki has shown himself zealous and self-sacrificing in administering the parish and in the day of constantly changing pastorates and parishes, has remained in charge of the parish for a longer period than many other pastors of the city," Bishop McFadden said. He brought the greetings and blessings of Bishop Joseph Schrembs to the congregation on its anniversary.

Several of the diocesan monsignori were in attendance, these including Msgr. Nicholas Pfeil, Msgr.

Gilbert F. Jennings, Msgr. Peter M. Cerveny and Msgr. Francis J. Hroch. At 8 o'clock this morning Father Sztucki will offer a solemn requiem Mass for Father Redmer and at 9 o'clock, Rev. Joseph C. Rutkowski, assistant, will officiate at a solemn requiem Mass for deceased members of the congregation.

Mayor Ray T. Miller of Cleveland and Mayor Martin L. O'Donnell of Garfield Heights were present at the Mass. A banquet in the parish hall concluded the observance.

Continuing the History of St. Hyacinth's Parish*

Seventy five years ago, a group of Catholic Poles residing in the region known as Jackowa, petitioned Bishop Ignatius Horstmann to organize a new parish community. Two reasons prompted them to do so; the crowded conditions of St. Stanislaus Parish, and the distance their homes were removed from the church. Bishop Horstmann received their petition favorably and on the 20th of December, 1906, appointed Rev. Louis Redmer, as the pastor of the new parish for which the patronage of St. Hyacinth was chosen.

The parish was organized during a period of business depression, but due to the untiring effort of the young and energetic pastor, and the help of Fr. Francis Kolaszewski, pastor of St. Stanislaus, and the willing cooperation of the parishioners, the work of organization was successfully accomplished. Among the first and most generous parishioners who participated in giving their utmost help were Stanislaus Grodek, Adam Jarzembowski and Stanislaus Gawryszewski. The first sacrifice of the Mass for the congregation of St. Hyacinth was offered at St. Edward's Church and then for about a year, services were conducted at St. Lawrence Church.

The original site for the building of St. Hyacinth was across the bridge over Kingsbury Run on Grand Avenue, but the Board of Education then offered the congregation its unused land in the area of Francis Avenue and East 61st and 63rd streets. The congregation bought about 10 of the lots on which would stand the church, school and rectory. The lots cost \$10,000, the building \$20,000 and the rectory \$6,000.

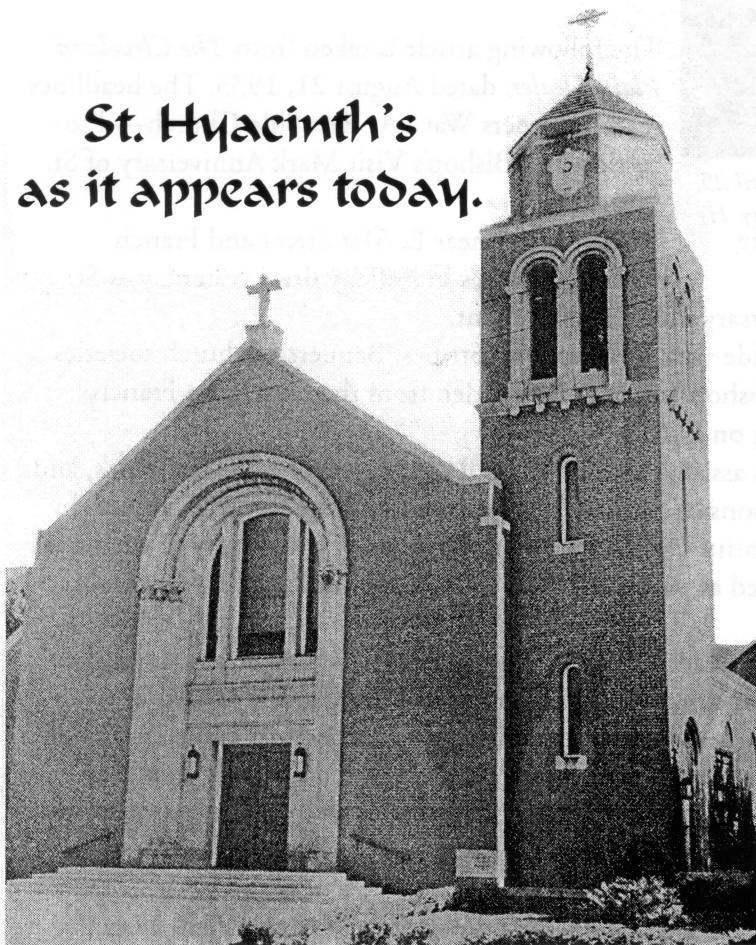
The Rev. Louis Redmer, organizer and first pastor of the parish, carried on his pastoral work from the 20th of December 1906 to the 29th of April 1920. He died while on his visit to the Holy Land. He was buried in Alger, in Africa. Then the Bishop John P. Farrelly appointed Rev. Joseph M. Sztucki as Fr. Redmer's successor. Father Sztucki began his pastoral work on April 29, 1920. Shortly after the arrival of Fr. Sztucki, the parish purchased nine additional lots for \$10,000. There was no Sisters' home and therefore, in 1920, a central heating plant combined with the Sisters' home was built.

In 1925, due to the overcrowded conditions in the school building, an auditorium and six additional classrooms were built. In April, 1926, the Most Rev. Theodore Kubina, Bishop of Czestochowa in Poland was present in Chicago for the Eucharistic Congress and was asked by Fr. Sztucki to officiate at the blessing of the school building.

Shortly after, a lot of twenty acres was purchased for \$6,000. The addition of this

*This part of the history is taken from the 75th anniversary book of the parish.

**St. Hyacinth's
as it appears today.**



piece of land added to the beauty of the church property, making it possible for the future building of a new church and Sisters' home. It also provided a spacious playground for the school children and ideal grounds for the annual church carnivals. Due to the rapid development of the parish community, the church proved to be too small. It was also discovered that elder parishioners found it inconvenient climbing many stairs to reach the church. There arose, then, a need for a new, larger and more convenient place to worship. The dream of a beautiful new church with a tower and facilities to accommodate young and old became a vital concern of Fr. Sztucki and many of the parishioners. The heavy church debt of previous years did not permit materialization of the plan. However, in January of 1947, Fr. Sztucki, following the publishing of the parish financial report, announced that the last debt, incurred during the severe depression, had been paid. Now the desire of generous

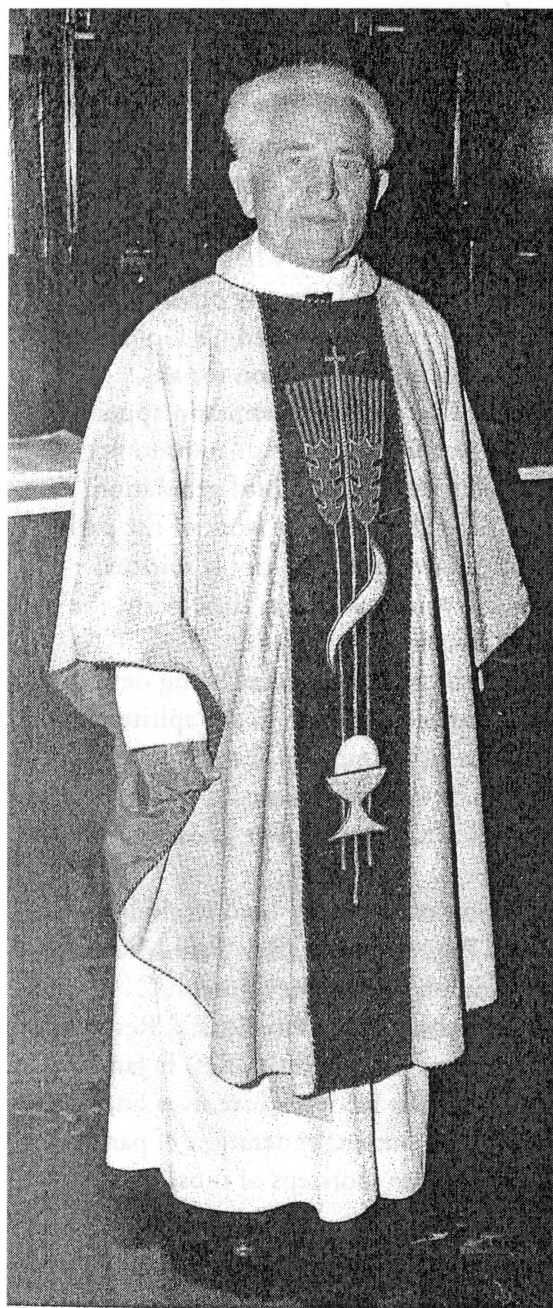
parishioners for a new church could soon be fulfilled. Therefore, the pastor requested that each family contribute \$50.00 towards a church building fund. The announcement stirred the enthusiasm of all and the money was willingly given. The first large offering, amounting to \$200 came from the Rosary Society. Other societies and clubs followed the fine example.

Later in 1949, Architect Paul Ellsworth Potter, at the request of the pastor, submitted a building plan and an estimate of \$150,000. In January 1950, the approval of Archbishop Edward F. Hoban was secured for the erection of the new church. Ground blessing ceremonies conducted by Fr. Sztucki were held on July 2, 1950. In this year a carnival was held to swell the building fund. Due to the efforts of the parishioners and local merchants, the carnival was a financial success.

The Archbishop delegated Father Sztucki to bless the cornerstone on March 11, 1951. Father Joseph Rutkowski, pastor of St. Hedwig's, delivered the sermon. Father Rutkowski was a former assistant at St. Hyacinth Parish. Due to the scarcity of building materials, work on the new edifice progressed slowly. At this time, a fund-raising committee was organized and solicited parishioners in their homes. Funds necessary to complete the task were raised, in the amount of \$225,000. Special tribute must be given to the families, societies, organizations and clubs which not only contributed money generously, but also purchased the altars, windows and other church furniture.

The new church building was completed in May of 1952. The occasion became doubly memorable for a group of children who received their First Holy Communion on that day. The closing ceremonies were climaxed by the solemn blessing of the church and the celebration of the first Pontifical Mass by Archbishop Edward F. Hoban on May 22, 1952.

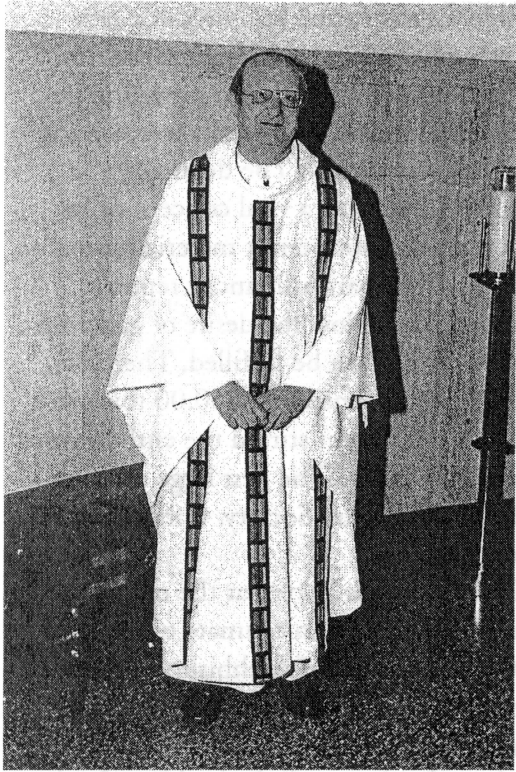
In the year of 1954, Fr. Joseph Sztucki became a Monsignor, this took place on January 17. In 1956 before the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the parish, Msgr. Sztucki had the interior of the church painted. Two weeks before the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the parish and Msgr. Sztucki's 40th anniversary of his priesthood, God called him for his heavenly reward. Truly he was a chosen child of Mary, for it was on the feast of Our Lady of the



Father Joseph C. Rutkowski, third pastor of St. Hyacinth's Parish.

Snows, August 5, 1957 that he left our midst to receive his hundredfold reward.

On September 4, 1957, Rev. Joseph C. Rutkowski was appointed our third pastor. Fr. Rutkowski was



Father John S. Deka, fourth pastor of St. Hyacinth's Parish.

not unfamiliar with our parish, for he served as our assistant beginning in 1928. He spent many years of his early priestly ministry teaching catechism in our parish school and making many visits to the homes of the parishioners which gave him a unmatched familiarity with our parish community. Father also was the director of our Silver Jubilee celebration in the year 1933. After six years he was named pastor of St. Hedwig's in Lakewood, only to return to St. Hyacinth in 1957 as our pastor.

During the next 16 years, Fr. Rutkowski continued the development of our parish community and labored with zeal, love and devotion in behalf of the souls entrusted to his care. Under his leadership, the spiritual and physical growth of the parish was immense. Fr. Rutkowski built no monuments of stone as the two pastors before him, but he built the more important monuments of God's graces on the souls of our parishioners. In January of 1973, Fr. Rutkowski retired at the age of 70 from full time pastoral care, but he still is very much a vital part of our community when he returns each week for the Sunday Polish Mass as well as for many other parish events. On Sunday, May 21, 1978 Father celebrated his Golden Jubilee of his priesthood. This was a joyous occasion for all.

On January 11, 1973, Bishop Clarence G. Issemann appointed Rev. John S. Deka as the fourth pastor of our parish community. Fr.

Deka began his pastoral care with a sincere effort to maintain the now smaller, second and third generation parish. Working without an assistant, he had to open doors to the laity to help him with the work of the parish.

Father Deka strongly believes in the parish community as a shared responsibility. With his spiritual guidance, and cooperation on everyone's part, he strives to accommodate the young as well as the elderly, the traditional and the modern, working together as creative Christians in the contemporary world.

Under Father Deka's direction, programs of continued religious education for adults are being developed and many opportunities are available for all to share their abilities for the continued growth of the spirituality on our parish. This 75th Jubilee celebration under the supervision of Fr. Deka is an example of the many ways, each individual shares themselves with others and recognizes the uniqueness of our community.

Fr. Deka's goal is the continuing of this development of personal relationships with one another with the sense of belonging and of loyalty uniting us in a living human family.

The history of our parish would not be complete without the mention of the many hard working assistants who also shared in a labor of love for our parish. They were: Rev. Peter Nowicki, Rev. Paul Michalak, Rev. Thomas Murawski, Rev. Leo Sztupek, Rev. Anthony Suwalski, Rev. Adolph Bernas, Rev. Joseph C. Rutkowski, Rev. Casimir Cudnik, Rev. John Bialek, Rev. Ladislaus Golembiewski, Rev. John Kusiak, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Heruday, Rev. Stanislaus Ciolek, Rev. Cannon Leo Telesz, Rev. Raymond Truszczynski, Rev. F. James Mulica. Many have been called for their heavenly reward, but the memory of their labors of love lives on.

May all these accomplishments which now belong to history, inspire the present generation of parishioners with zeal and devotion. With God's help and blessing may we all follow in the footsteps of those hardy pioneers who preceded us.

Since the publishing of their Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Book much has happened. Father Deka died several years ago. The school has been closed and the parish has been without a pastor. Rev. Mr. Kenneth J. Piechowski, Deacon, is the Parish Life Coordinator and Rev. Theodore Marszal, of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, is the Presbyteral Moderator. Masses are celebrated in the church by visiting clergy on the weekends and two days during the week, on Wednesdays and Fridays,

This sketch of "*The South Side*" was written by Mr. Raymond DeCapite. Mr. DeCapite has published many novels and plays. Among his novels are: *The Coming of Fabrizio*, *A Lost King*, *Pat the Lion on the Head*, *Go Very Highly Trippingly To and Fro* and *The Stretch Run*. Among his plays are: *Sparky and Company*, *Things Left Standing* and *Zinfandel*. Mr. DeCapite was born and raised on "*The South Side*." The locale of many of his stories are set in that area.

So, what does this sketch have to do with Polish genealogy? This article is about a neighborhood to which our parents or grandparents came when they immigrated to the USA, and more specifically, to the Cleveland area. Many different nationalities, living together, and somehow getting along. They were tolerant of one another and helped to make the USA what it is today. There must have been such neighborhoods in all the industrial cities of the northeast and midwest in the early part of the twentieth century.

The South Side

The South Side, the Tremont area, is a hillcrest neighborhood five minutes south of downtown Cleveland. North, south and east of it is The Flats, the industrial valley of the city.

The South Side was home. It was immediate family. It was aunts, uncles and cousins. It was schoolmates whose parents were Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Slovak. German, Irish, Greek and Syrian. It proved to be a stage deep and wide enough for any dream.

The South Side was St. Augustine's Catholic Church, St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Church, Pilgrim Congregational Church—and fourteen others. It was Tremont Elementary School and Lincoln High. It was the Merrick House, one of the oldest settlement houses in the city. It was the Dinky, a yellow trolley pretty in memory as a toy. It was Lincoln Park, a square block of grass, trees, playgrounds and benches. A man named Dominic used to sit on a bench, smoke his pipe and talk about the old country, dream about it, as he must have talked and dreamed about the new. It was Fairfield Hill with three and sometimes four layers of children on a sled whistling down the January dark. It was the Jennings Theatre with nickel movie matinees every Saturday and Sunday afternoon; with love and innocence conquering all in double features every night; with dishes on Wednesday; with Banko and cash prizes on Saturday,

The South Side was the men who worked in The Flats. It was the men who worked on the railroad, the men who worked in the mills, forges and foundries. It was the women who worked to make ends meet. It was Gather Walsh at St. Augustine. It was Miss Bloomfield and Miss Alexander at Tremont Elementary. It was Miss Glick, Miss Palmer and Miss Dickerson at Lincoln. It was the grocer, John, who extended credit like a hand all through the Depression. It was Angelo the Jeep who used to say, even at weddings and funerals, "Where is everybody?" It was TT, who had traveled with the circus, who had survived two wars and two marriages, a solid keg of a man who delighted friends by turning sudden backflips and shouting, "Yo!" A woman said, "One of these days you might land on your head." "That's the least of my worries," he said. It was Alex, the owner of a small confectionery, a man who took on all comers at two-hand pinochle. "Alexander the Greatest," he was called. It was Pete, who now and then during the week before the Fourth of July tossed a cherry bomb in the stovepipe opening of the confectionery, a bomb that exploded with such force in that store it seemed to blow everyone out the door. "What happened?", he would say, innocently. "Ain't you going to grow up, ever?", Alex would say. It was Romeo, an aspiring actor who tried his luck in Hollywood. He tested for the lead in *Golden Boy* but lost the role, he said, because he was two inches shorter than William Holden. Long afterward he was hearing, or over hearing, remarks like, "An inch taller and I'd be dancing with Ginger Rogers." Or, "Three more inches and I'd have been governor." It was Danny, who for two years enjoyed one of the sweetest of political plums, a job emptying the wastepaper basket and dusting the desk, chairs and sofa in the City Hall office of Commissioner Paul, a former shipmate on an ore carrier. Danny would catch the trolley on the South Side at four in the afternoon, hop off in front of City Hall, dash in while the trolley continued its downtown round, do what he was supposed to do, and be out in time to catch the trolley on its way back to the South Side. He would be home by five-thirty. Sometimes he took his wife, Vicki, to keep him company and do the dusting. Vicki used to say things like, "haste makes hurry!" Or, "Mary was in Rome: she had an audition with the Pope!"

The South Side was a midsummer night a long time ago with plumes and pillars of smoke in the sky;

with flags of blue fire; with a throbbing red glow from the steel mills that could be seen thirty miles away. It was people sitting on porches, porches generous enough for friends as well as family. The women were saying:

“She outgrew all her clothes.”

“I can’t do anything with him. He’s like a wild animal. I can’t wait till school starts.”

The men were saying:

“Things are picking up at the mill. I put in three days this week.”

“There’s going to be a war.”

“We’ll get in. Mark my words now.”

Mike started playing his harmonica. It was forlorn, at first, a threadbare weave. Pretty soon it was different. Pretty soon it was *If You Knew Susie*. People did, of course and so for a while some were able to relax a little in the heartbeat glow, a glow insistent, profound, like the hope that brought them to this country.

Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

March—**Therese Spellacy** from the Cuyahoga County Probate Court will address the group on the topic: *Researching Probate*.

April—**Sean Martin**, editor of *Forum*, the newsletter of the Polish-American Cultural Society of Cleveland, Ohio. Topic to be announced.

May—**Judge Raymond Pianka**, a member of our group, will address the group on the topic: *The Kurpie Region of Northeast Poland*.

June—**Judith Cetina**, County Archivist, Cuyahoga County Archives, will address the group on the topic: *What’s New at the Archives/Records/ Naturalization*.

November—**Sonia Chapnick**, a member of our group, will present a slide show of one of her trips.

If any of you have any suggestions as to speakers or topics which you’d wish to hear or know about, please contact **Georgene Jasinski**.

And finally, a thought—Everyone recognizes the picture of the man below, Cardinal John J. Krol. He was born October 26, 1910 in Cleveland, Ohio. He is one of the most, if not *the* most, illustrious alumni of St. Hyacinth’s parish.



We wonder sometimes, what is it about a man that reaches a high position, in any field of endeavor. What do others recognize in him that make him unique in their eyes? How did he go about reaching such an exalted position?

Here we have someone who was born and raised amongst us. He went to elementary school at St. Hyacinth’s. Did anyone, at that time, foresee what he would become? Was there some kind of a mark on him, some hint of what was in store for him in the future? For a time, he was the auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland.

Clevelanders are said to have an “inferiority complex.” We have such a colorful and meaningful history and yet, somehow we feel like we are under appreciated, that we do not get the recognition that we deserve. In the case of Cardinal Krol however, he was indeed recognized and appreciated.

All of Cleveland’s Polonia, and indeed, all Clevelanders can be proud of this man. He had to be among the first, if not *the* first, Polish-Americans to attain the rank of Cardinal within the Church. He was also the first native born Clevelander to have achieved this prominent rank. He would sit in the consistory in Rome, in 1978, that would elect the first Polish Pope in the history of the Church. Here

he was, this son of St. Hyacinth’s, determining the course of the world in the twentieth century.

A GENEALOGICAL CODICIL
TO MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

To my spouse, children or guardian:

Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my Genealogical records, books, files notebooks, photos or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family history.

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials.

Please remember that my genealogical endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel and money. Therefore, please do not ignore my requests.

Signature, Date

Witness

Witness

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
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PARMA, OHIO 44134

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Everyone who is interested in Genealogy, and more specifically Polish Genealogy, is welcome to join our group. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from September thru June at St. Mary's PNC Church; 5375 Broadview Rd. (corner of Broadview & Wexford); Parma, Ohio. Parking is available in the parish lot, the entrance of which is on Marietta Ave. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and usually end at 9:30-10:00 PM.

Membership dues are \$20.00 a year.

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