

Welcome—New Members—Witamy

**James Jablonski**, interested in surnames:

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**Patricia Szczudlo-Schmidt**, interested in surnames:

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**Wayne & Joanne Boudreau**, interested in surnames:

11604 SW 3rd St.  
Yukon, OK 73099  
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Query from Ms. Boudreau—Need help in locating information on the following persons:

**Joseph Basinski**-born 09 or 14 Mar 1853 in Germany. His father's name is listed as John on Joseph's death certificate; mother's name unknown; he died 24 April 1918 in St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., MO. Joseph married Frances Wojciechowska 17 Jan 1882 in Berea, OH.; the marriage was performed by Rev. Victor Zareczny.

**Frances Wojciechowska**-born 8 Sept. 1863-place unknown and died 10 Aug 1934 in St. Joseph, Buchanan Co., MO.

By 1890 they are in St. Joseph, MO. Any information on these persons, their parents and/or siblings greatly appreciated.

**Dianne C. Czarnowski**, interested in surnames:

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dnnczar@aol.com

BORON, JABLONSKI, JANUSZEWSKI,  
LAPINSKI, MISIASZEK, MRUK

BIERNACKI/A, BODZIONY, BUGANSKI/Y,  
GLOWACKI, GRABOWSKI, GRYZIEC,  
KALABON, KEDZIERSKI, LUKASZEK,  
MARTULA, MIKOLAJCZAK, MUSIEL,  
SCHMIDT, STUDLO, SZCUDLO,  
SZCUDLO, SZCZUDLO, URBAN, ZYWZYK  
DALE, BASINSKI, SLIWOWSKI,  
WISNIEWSKI/A, WOJCIECHOWSKI/A

CZARNOWSKI, MOLENDNA, OKONIEWSKI,  
OKUNIEWSKI, PIERZCHALA, ROGOZINSKI,  
SEKRISKI/A, WENGELSKI/A, ZIEMBA,  
ZMIELSKI/A

Rest in Peace—

Polish poet and Nobel Prize winner in literature in 1980, **Czeslaw Milosz**, passed away August 14 of this year. He died at his home in Cracow surrounded by family. He was 93 years old. Milosz lived in exile for 30 years after the war, in France and the United States, before returning home. He was the symbol of opposition to totalitarian regimes. Milosz is probably best known for his poetry and his book, "The Captive Mind" published in the 1950's. He also wrote a book on the history of Polish Literature.

**Helen Sobiech (nee Mliczek)**, grandmother of member Thomas Ollie passed away in June of this year.

**Fr. Cantius Kobak OFM** passed away on August 15 of this year at Milwaukee, WI., after a two year battle with cancer. He grew up in the Kantowy area of Cleveland before joining The Franciscans. He was 74.

Remember them in your prayers.

# History of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish—1894-1994\*

by

William Radeker & Glenn Sobola

*Continued from our last newsletter—*

## The Prodigal Church Returns

When Bishop Horstmann passed away in 1908, Msgr. Boff again became the administrator of the diocese. Through the initiative of Rev. Kalamaja, O.F.M. the current pastor of St. Stanislaus, he and Bishop Koudelka of Cincinnati began the process that would bring the independent parish into the diocese. Rev. Kolaszewski fully cooperated with these efforts.

On Sunday, August 30, 1908, three fourths of Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners voted to transfer church properties to Msgr. Boff and in early September Rev. Kolaszewski and a committee sent a letter to the administrator applying for admittance into the diocese.

Our parish was officially affiliated with the diocese on September 15th and the end of the schism was formally ratified during services conducted on October 24th. Msgr. Boff absolved the congregation and Rev. Kalamaja, Pastor of St. Stanislaus, delivered the sermon and introduced the new parish administrator, Rev. Methodius Kielar, O.F.M.

Msgr. Boff reassured members that their dead could continue to be buried in the cemetery and it would remain intact for that purpose. He likewise made it clear no debt would be imposed on them without the bishop's consent and the knowledge of the congregation and councilmen.

He received the keys to the church at this ceremony and was deeded all properties on December 10th. Title was turned over to Bishop Farrelly when he was appointed to that office in 1909.

No finer example of the truth of The Savior's words, "Love covers a multitude of sins" can be found than the reaction of Rev. Kolaszewski to Msgr. Boff's efforts. Our Lord knew that even though His servant was unorthodox, independent, and rebelled against lawful authority, the priest was motivated more by love and concern for his flock than self-advancement. Through His clergy a way was provided for the pastor and his followers to end their long period of isolation.

The bishop's excommunication had been lifted on September 4th, but it was November 8th when Cardinal Gotti informed Msgr. Boff that Pope Pius X had given the administrator power to absolve Rev. Kolaszewski of all censures. The contrite priest left the parish to spend some weeks doing penance and publicly asking pardon for the scandal caused by his actions during the past 14 years. These acts of atonement were preceded by an even greater sacrifice, stepping aside as pastor and separating himself from his devoted parishioners.

He was retired January 7, 1909, and despite hopes of being returned to the active priesthood, this was to be denied him. After years of declining health brought on by a deteriorating heart and kidney condition, he passed away at the home of his sister on Friday, December 2, 1910. Funeral rites were said at St. Boniface Church and he was buried with fellow priests of the diocese in section nine at Calvary Cemetery.

The passing of time permits a more accurate appraisal of our first pastor's contributions than was possible during his era. Contemporaries, influenced by an atmosphere of division and hostility, could not foresee that the church he built, the parish for which he purchased land and of which he oversaw the beginning, and the independent parish he founded, would still be active, vital members of the community a century later—living monuments that proclaim his accomplishments more effectively than any words of praise.

## A New Beginning

Between the last months of 1908 to early 1912 the parish was managed by a succession of administrators, Reverends M. Keilar, O.F.M. 1908-1909; A Migdalski, January to October 1909; J. Darowski, October 1909 to July 1910; and B. Walter, 1910-1912. In 1909 nuns from the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis began taking charge of the school.

*\*Reprinted with permission from the One Hundredth Anniversary Book of this parish, published in 1994.*



*Msgr. Marian Orzechowski*

A move to recall the 1897 loan was temporarily dropped when it was learned that, by then, the church properties were owned by the diocese. However, Rev. Lonsdale requested insurance money collected for damage sustained from the 1908 fire. Realizing the fire reduced the value of the loan's security, he later decided to call in the mortgage. Aware interest payments were in arrears, he took advantage of a provision in the contract that rendered the principal payable upon default of interest payments to revoke the loan.

To retire the lien and stabilize the finances of a church that were in disarray since its inception, Rev. Walter and the councilmen requested and obtained permission from Bishop Farrelly to negotiate a \$27,000 loan from *The Broadway Savings and Trust Company*. The bulk of the money, \$20,500 was to redeem the \$17,000 principal and \$3,500 interest owed on the Salford note. An additional \$5,000 was earmarked for the estimated cost of a Sisters' home and the remainder applied toward payments due parishioners and societies.

When the contract was cancelled on October 6, 1911, the diocese was represented by Attorney John G. White, a public-spirited citizen who was instrumental in founding the Cleveland Public Library. He was later named a Supreme Court Judge, and although a Protestant layman, served as council for the bishop from 1870 until 1928.

According to a 1925 report to the diocese, a number of new parishioners joined the parish after it became affiliated with the diocese, and friction occasionally surfaced between these newcomers and some original members, this report cites the necessity of mediating these squabbles as a probable cause for the constant change in administrators during this period of transition.

The situation was reversed, and our parish received its first permanent pastor since Rev. Kolaszewski, when Rev. Marian J. Orzechowski was appointed to that post in February, 1912. This forceful, yet diplomatic pastor, who enjoyed the complete confidence and support of Bishop Farrelly, not only guided our church through a difficult period of major expansion, but also succeeded in settling the congregation down to a normal parish life.

In response to a growing enrollment of over 250 pupils Rev. Orzechowski provided quarters to accommodate four nuns. He recognized these dedicated sisters were not only giving students a practical education, but were also preparing their charges for the future by Americanizing the curriculum as rapidly as circumstances would permit.

He was concerned with both spiritual and physical needs of the parish. On Sunday, July 13, 1913 Bishop Farrelly confirmed 180 members, including 35 adults, and in that same year plans were finalized and construction of a new church began.

The undertaking progressed as economically as possible. Labor and materials were furnished by the parish and work was supervised by Anthony F. Wasielewski, an itinerant church builder from Minneapolis. He worked from blueprints copied from Holy Family Parish, a church he constructed in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Despite his lack of formal credentials he built a well-conceived and soundly constructed structure.

By 1914 work had progressed to the point that *The Munich Studio* of Chicago could install the first two stained glass windows. Possibly due to disruption of normal commercial activity during World War I, this project was not completed until 1918.

No public notice of the event survives but diocesan records indicate that Bishop Farrelly dedicated the new

church on Thursday, July 27, 1916. The old church continued to serve as a school and meeting hall until it was demolished in 1924.

In January, 1914, St. Stanislaus kindly offered \$5,000 towards our church's construction, but this was not taken advantage of at the time. However, the offer remained in effect and on September 1, 1914, these funds were deposited in our parish account for payment of overdue debts, forwarded to the bishop for satisfaction.

Expanding enrollment, peaking at 1,350 students in 1929, had already brought on a need for additional classroom space as early as the mid-teens. An 80 by 64 foot, eight-room frame building, later nicknamed the "bobhouse", was planned and built in 1917 by an architect named Johnsen. After the present brick school, designed by Franz Warner, was erected by the W. Dunbar Company in 1925, this older structure provided space for storage, choir rehearsals, C.C.D. classes and other parish and civic activities. Maintenance cost for its aging flat roof and deteriorating flooring eventually became such a financial drain that the Church Committee was forced to have the structure leveled in August of 1980.

In 1918 a house and lot adjacent to our Lansing Avenue grounds was purchased and two additional homes were moved on this property. A convent to house 25 nuns was built out of these three structures.

The five-year building program took its toll on parish finances. Creditors who received no satisfaction from our church pressed the bishop for payment of past due claims and in some cases threatened or actually initiated lawsuits.

Discord arose in April, 1919, when councilmen, blaming the pastor for a decline in church revenue, requested the bishop replace him, and the pastor's discharge of a non-diocesan priest, Rev. Wojciechowski, for creating divisions in the parish, instigated a petition for the priest's return. The first crisis was defused by negotiations. The bishop's defense of Rev. Orzechowski's abilities, and a mid-July election of councilmen; the Rev. Wojciechowski affair faded away.

The regular January, 1920 council election was rigged in favor of the two candidates supported by the dissident faction. The ballot box was stuffed by various means to the extent that they received 300 votes each even though only 200 attended the meeting.

The results of this farce were overlooked until the newcomers took it upon themselves to withhold collections from the pastor and manage church finances themselves. The election was then annulled and these bogus councilmen were replaced with officially chosen members.

These disturbances soon passed into memory and the divided camps merged into a unified body that developed a strong attachment to their parish, a spirit very much in evidence today. The pastor, no longer distracted by conflicts, proceeded with his project of transforming nineteenth century church properties into a modern multi-structure parish.

To achieve this goal he purchased the lot behind the convent that faced Worley Avenue in 1924. This acquisition not only provided the extra land needed to erect our present school, but also gave our parish property its current boundaries, a near two and one half acre plot of 18 lots that measure 280 feet deep with a 360 foot frontage on both Lansing and Worley Avenues.

The cornerstone for the school was laid in 1925 and the building was completed in 1926, the same year Rev. Orzechowski was named Rt. Reverend Monsignor. The builder and mediator was transferred to the pastorate of St. John Cantius Parish in 1932 and passed away there on May 1, 1939.

Rev. John Mlotkowski became pastor on May, 1932 and, like his predecessor, brought many improvements to the parish and was also honored with the title of Monsignor in 1940. The church was redecorated in 1935 to celebrate the silver anniversary of his ordination. Other accomplishment included enlarging the sacristies and building new garages in 1945 and replacing the older convent with a modern brick structure in 1954.

It was also during his pastorate that our parish name evolved from its longer form to the more familiar Immaculate Heart of Mary. Although this latter title appeared on some diocesan reports two decades earlier, it was first used on parish stationery in 1934. There has never been any official change of the parish name so both are still correct but in 1947 the present name had been used exclusively.

Tragedy struck at 2:00 AM July 24, 1950, when two thugs wearing stockings over their heads broke into the rectory. The hoodlums demanded proceeds from a carnival that had ended the previous night, and when Msgr.



*Msgr. John Mlotkowski*

Mlotkowski, shaken by the unexpected intrusion, had difficulty opening the safe, one of them viciously struck him in the head. The pair escaped with \$13,000 from the Sunday collection and bazaar profits plus \$35 taken from the wallet of Fr. Krauza. The financial loss delayed the construction of the convent four years.

Another possible result of this ruthless attack was the effect on Msgr. Mlotkowski. His health deteriorated to the point that Rev. Aloysius Dombrowski was appointed Parish Administrator on June 4, 1957. After the beloved pastor's death in March, 1960, Rev. Dombrowski was named his successor.

The interior of the church was again redecorated in 1958 and a modern 24 rank pipe organ was installed by the Wicks Organ Company in 1962. In 1964 ground was broken for a new rectory and administration building.

During excavation for the structure's basement, observers noticed a large round hole in the center of the diggings which sparked a rumor there was to be an indoor swimming pool. When open house was held on Sunday, June 13, 1965, parishioners were eager to view this expected luxury. Anticipation changed to chuckles when they learned the hole was dug to provide a base for the spiral staircase.

From August 19, 1969, until the end of his appointment, Rev John Deka acted as administrator during Rev. Dombrowski's recuperation from a serious heart seizure. By 1971 the pastor's declining

health made it necessary to designate Rev. Francis Bartnikowski parish administrator. Rev. Bartnikowski was made Vicar Coadjutor in 1974 and named pastor on June 11, 1976.

Rev. Dombrowski was declared Pastor emeritus with the privilege of lifelong residency at the parish. However, within a few years he moved to St. Augustine Manor and remained there until his death on April 9, 1990.

The longest continuing parish organization, the Board of Trustees, was instituted when the church was organized on May 3, 1894. It was originally composed of elected members who managed the business affairs of the parish.

Sometime after our church was admitted into the diocese, the body evolved into a Church Committee composed of ushers who were initially elected but later appointed by the pastor. These collectors conducted the annual fund-raisers and acted as advisors to the pastor on matters connected with church properties.

Except when the pastor appointed someone with special qualifications, four councilmen were elected by the group. Their principal duty was to audit and sign the annual parish financial report submitted to the bishop. This last remnant of our church's beginning faded into history in 1983.

Vatican Council II (1962-1965) called for universal participation of the laity in the governance of parishes. The parish Pastoral Council and the parish Finance Council today serve the pastor as his principle consultative bodies, assisting him in his roles as shepherd and steward of the parish.

The parish's ninetieth anniversary in 1984 was marked by redecorating the church interior, installing new

carpeting in the nave and constructing confessionals in the belfry areas. In 1987 the stained glass windows were repaired and furnished with outside plastic coating to protect them from the elements and vandals.

A June 1972 report inaugurated by Bishop Issenmann to determine effects of population shifts on urban parishes revealed that between 1960 and 1969 the parish lost 49 percent of its members, had a 51 percent decrease in school enrollment, and infant baptisms, a measure of future parish and community stability, dropped 56 percent. A 1980-1983 study of 1980 census results reflected this same pattern.

At a March 1985 Urban Pastor's Convention, a core group, presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Lyke, was formed to establish an Urban Region Planning Process. By November, preparations were made for April 1986-April 1987 sessions to evaluate and make specific recommendations for future use of parish resources.

During one of these meetings, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Rev. John Murphy, and Sister Christine Vladimiroff, Secretary of Education, proposed that our school be merged with that of Sacred Heart Parish, an idea the Body endorsed.

Emotions ran high for those on both sides of the issue when the plan was announced. However, a realization that rising costs and declining enrollments were jeopardizing the future survival of these schools prompted separate March 19, 1987 letters to Bishop Pilla from the parish staff and ten of the 16 members of the Parish Council. Both communications recommended combining these schools into one facility with two campuses. In a March 26th letter, His Excellency gave consent to their proposal, directing the plan be in operation for the 1987-1988 school year.

Legal requirements for rechartering were fulfilled when a new name honoring both parishes, Jesus and Mary School, was chosen for this dual institution.

Robert and Cecilia Walkowiak donated their funeral home properties to the parish on September 17, 1988. This facility, located across the street from the parish, was appropriately named the Marian Center. It provided a convenient chapel for weekday Masses and much needed space for other parish activities.

A series of health problems forced Rev. Bartnikowski to petition Bishop Pilla for an assignment with less strenuous duties. This was granted when he was named pastor of Assumption Parish, Grafton, Ohio on June 12, 1991. From that date until the appointment of Rev. Stanley Klasinski as pastor on September 3, 1991, Assistant Pastor, Rev. John Seabold, acted as Administrator Pro Tem. Rev. Seabold then took a leave of absence to undergo surgery and followed this with appointment to St. Clement Parish on February 1, 1992.

Title to St. Mary's Cemetery was turned over to the diocese in 1908 and it was later included in the roster of Diocesan Cemeteries. However, responsibility for its administration and upkeep, as well as the privilege of limiting burial to parishioners, was retained by the parish.

When landfill operations made a significant tract of hitherto unusable land available, the additional number of plots made it impractical to continue St. Mary's as a private cemetery. On April 1, 1992, Bishop Pilla authorized transfer of management and maintenance to the *Catholic Cemeteries Association*.

The Marian Center was opened to contribute to efficient parish operations and provide some relief from high utility costs. However, insurance and maintenance costs made its operation a liability rather than an asset. In May 1992, a decision was made to donate the property to the *Broadway Area Housing Coalition*.

The contract stated that after the building was converted into a single family dwelling, 80 percent of any profits from its sale were to be given to the parish. There was also a stipulation that the home was to be initially offered to a qualifying parishioner.

Even as these closing words are being written, parish history is being made. Parishioners and friends are celebrating in anticipation of its hundredth anniversary with events that can only be recalled by future historians.

This festive period is also a reminder of our inheritance. Our parish founders passed down more than church properties; they bequeathed the spirit of unity that enabled them to establish their church through their own efforts. As Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish moves toward its second century of ministry by welcoming immigrants, celebrating our Polish Catholic heritage, schooling our young, and serving the community, this legacy will turn current problems into and opportunity to face the future with confidence. Working as one to maintain His house of worship will permit Our Lord to show us the way.

**PASTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH**

Rev. Anton Kolaszewski  
May 3, 1894 to October 7, 1908  
Rev. Andrew Ryczek assisted him from 1905.

Msgr. Marian Orzechowski  
February 15, 1912 to May 17, 1932.

Rev. Methodius Kielar O.F.M.  
Adm. from October 7, 1908 to January 21, 1909.

Msgr. John Mlotkowski  
May 17, 1932 to March 22, 1960.

Rev. Albert Migdalski  
Adm. from January 21, 1909 to October 4, 1909.

Rev. Aloysius Dombrowski  
June 14, 1960 to June 1, 1976.

Rev. John Darowski  
Adm. from October 1909 to July 1910.

Rev. Frank Bartnikowski  
June 11, 1976 to June 12 1991.

Rev. Bronislaus Walter  
Adm. from July 1910 to February 11, 1912.

Rev. Stanley Klasinski  
September 3, 1991.

The pictures on page 9 are all part of one big panoramic photograph which was taken in front of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The date was Sunday, March 23, 1930. Msgr. Marian Orzechowski was pastor of the church at the time. The occasion was the visit of the Polish Ambassador to the United States, Tytus Filipowicz, to the City of Cleveland. Present at the occasion were: the newly appointed United States Ambassador to Poland, John M. Willys, Bishop Schrembs and other dignitaries. It was indeed a high honor for the pastor and the parish to be chosen to receive such distinguished visitors. Notice the outpouring of the faithful on this occasion: the young boys dressed as pages, the young girls all dressed in white, the band, the veterans and all the parishioners dressed in their Sunday finery. It was truly a memorable day in the life of the parish.

The following article appeared in *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* the next day, March 24, 1930:

**WILLYS PLEDGES HELP TO POLAND  
Joins Ambassador to U.S. In Pilsudski Tribute at Banquet**

John N. Willys, making his first public appearance since being designated ambassador to Poland, yesterday pledged to an audience of Poles in Public Music Hall that he would devote as much time as possible in Warsaw to aiding their home land in building up its industries.

Willys shared honors with Tytus Filipowicz, Polish ambassador to the United States, in an all-day celebration by Cleveland Poles of the 63rd name day of Marshal Joseph Pilsudski, Poland's national hero. Willys and Filipowicz have the honor of being the first to be chosen representatives of their countries since the posts were raised from legations to embassies. Both ambassadors attended a solemn high mass in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 6700 Lansing Avenue S.E., which opened yesterday's celebration.

**In Seats of Honor.**

They occupied the seats of honor in the afternoon at a mass meeting in Public Music Hall and again at a banquet last night in Hotel Cleveland. Both spoke at the mass meeting and the banquet. "While in Warsaw," Willys said, "I hope to do more than merely fulfill my social engagements. My first duty, of course, will be to represent my country properly, and that I shall do to the best of my ability. But in another way I am grateful to President Hoover for my appointment. I expect to have a lot of time to devote to other matters than those of the embassy. In that time I plan to do all in my power to aid Poland in the development of her industries and in building up the country in general. The United States in 1785 was in much the same condition as Poland is today. This country then had just won its liberty and was in the rebuilding stage. She needed help and received it generously. I intend to give as my contribution all that I can from the experience of 35 years in the industrial

fields of the United States.”

Filipowicz took issue with those who call the present Polish system of government a dictatorship. “This is just as incorrect,” he said, “as to say that, for instance, the American system is that of a parliamentary government. The cause of these common errors lies in the fact that in reality there are other forms of government which are neither strictly parliamentary nor strictly dictatorial. The Polish Parliament, as regards its experience in legislation and control of government, cannot be favorably compared with the parliaments of Great Britain or France, even though parliamentary institutions in those countries are hardly considered perfect.”

#### **Praises Pilsudski**

“It is fortunate for Poland that, thanks to the moral authority of Marshal Pilsudski, mistakes resulting from the inexperience of voters and Parliament, as well as from excessive partisanship and party politics, can always be rectified. Although Marshal Pilsudski is almost always dissatisfied with his Parliament, the latter has often shown its recognition of him.”

Other addresses were made at the banquet by Mayor John D. Marshall; Max Hencel, Chicago, treasurer of The Polish National Alliance; Mrs. M. Nesterowicz, editor of Everybody's Daily, Polish newspaper of Buffalo; N. W. Walinski, representing Toledo Poles and Prof. Thomas Siemiradzki, editor of the Cleveland Polish Daily News. C. W. Sypniewski, Pittsburgh, head of the Polish National Alliance, was toastmaster.

The day started with the arrival of the ambassadors at Union Station. They were met by a welcoming committee which included Z. B. Dybowski, secretary of the Ohio Pilsudski committee and chairman of arrangements for yesterday's affair; Paul Kurdziel, publisher of the Polish Daily News; Dr. Walter Kozlowski, Detroit, Polish consul for Ohio and Michigan, and Z. Zebrowski and L. Zakozewski, representing the Polish Army Veterans Association.

#### **Attend High Mass**

Msgr. M. J. Orzechowski, pastor of the Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary, was celebrant of the mass. Rev. Joseph Jarosz, pastor of St. Barbara's Church, preached. Bishop Joseph Schrembs of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese occupied a throne in the sanctuary to the left of the altar. The two ambassadors sat opposite to him within the sanctuary rail—a rare honor paid to laymen. W. Pokoski, first secretary of the Polish embassy in Washington, sat beside his chief. Msgr. Nicholas Pfeil, pastor of St. Peter's Church and Rev. John R. Kenny, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, were deacons of honor to the bishop and sat at either side of his throne. School children in multi-colored dresses, World War veterans, members of church societies joined in a colorful procession that escorted the churchmen and the ambassadors from the rectory to their places in the church.

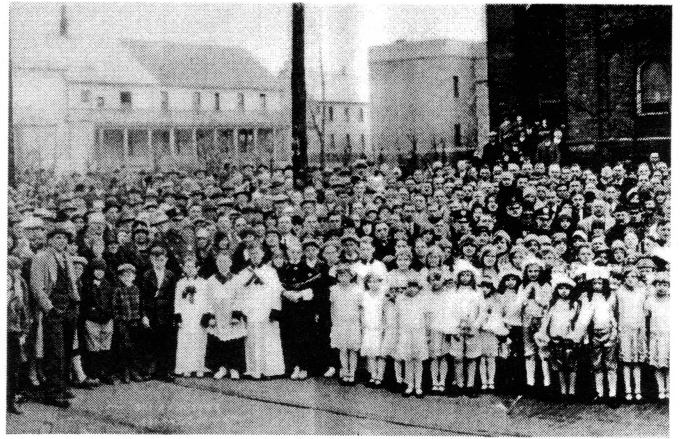
#### **Greets Ambassador**

At the conclusion of the services, Bishop Schrembs addressed a greeting to Ambassador Filipowicz, to whom he spoke in Polish. Then the prelate turned to Ambassador Willys and, speaking English, said: “Today you are about to depart for that other country across the ocean which has its own traditions of liberty, a liberty that is written in the hills, the valleys, the rivers; a liberty which, in the person of Jan Sobieski, was planted and looked down upon a frenzied Europe, which shrank before the yoke of the unspeakable Turk. Were it not for Sobieski, God alone knows what Europe would have done. Sobieski and his brave Polish soldiers saved Europe in that day. But Europe failed to remember and for centuries Poland suffered persecution. But it is in persecution that the spirit of liberty grows and the hearts of men grow stronger and burst forth into a mighty flame. For centuries the Polish people were oppressed, but today they breathe the air of liberty and they will welcome you with open arms.”

To the congregation, the bishop said: “One word to tell you how happy I am on this occasion to greet his excellency, the ambassador of Poland to the United States. His coming into our midst is like a ray of sunshine. You know how happy children are to receive a letter from their parents on a foreign soil, with what avidity they read it. His excellency is not merely a letter from your country. He is the personal representative. We welcome him and are glad that he has come to speak to you of your native land. The Polish people, now enjoying liberty, will develop the spirit of liberty and will go forward to take their rightful place as one of the great nations of the earth.”

Neither of the ambassadors spoke at the church. Prof. Siemiradzki, editor of the Polish Daily News and





Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish



Sunday, March 23, 1930



chairman of the national Pilsudski committee, presided. Mayor Marshall welcomed the two ambassadors and asked Willys to carry to Poland a message telling of the fine citizenship shown by the Poles in the United States and Cleveland in particular.

D. C. Rybolt, former mayor of Akron, represented Gov. Myers Y. Cooper. Rev. Stanislaus Sobienowski, pastor of St. Hedwig's Church, Lakewood, spoke in Polish and delineated the life of Pilsudski. Sypniewski delivered a eulogy of the Polish patriot in English. (*Editor's note—the writer uses the word eulogy in the sense of meaning high praise or commendation. Pilsudski was still very much alive at this time.*) Miss Beatrice Janus, dressed in the native garb of Poland, recited a poem about Pilsudski and the Polish National Choir sang several songs. After church services yesterday the two ambassadors and others who participated in the ceremonies were luncheon guests of Msgr. Orzechowski in the church rectory.

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The Reader's Corner—

*America's Polish Heritage—A Social History of the Poles in America* by Joseph A. Wytral; published by the Edurance Press, 1961.

A book which presents a good overview of the Poles coming to America. A historical background is provided and covers the Political Immigrants (period: 1776-1870), the Economic Emigration (period: 1870-1929), the organization of Poles in America, the founding and growth of Polish organizations, such as the Polish National Alliance and the Polish Roman Catholic Union. The book has an Appendix listing many interesting Tables and an extended Bibliography for those who wish to delve deeper into the various topics presented.

*Push Not The River* by James Conroyd Martin; published by Thomas Dunne Books, 2003. A gift of the book was made to our library by **Martha Bergman** and we wish to thank her for her generosity.

This is a typical romantic novel with the heroine beset with all manner of obstacles to overcome. The story takes place in Poland during the late eighteenth century, during the period of the partitions. It is based on the diary of a real-life Polish countess who lived through the rise and fall of the historic Third of May Constitution.

The reader gets a good insight into the customs and ways of the various classes of people.

*Life's Journey* by Eugene Bak; published by East European Monographs, Boulder and distributed by Columbia University Press, New York 2002. A gift of the book was made to our library by **Sonia Chapnick** and we wish to thank her for her generosity. Eugene Bak is currently the president of The Polish-American Cultural Center in Cleveland. The book is his autobiography. He was born in the southeastern region of prewar Poland, in the area known as the "kresy." He and his family were caught in that area at the outbreak of the war. After the invasion by the Soviets in September of 1939, they were transported to the inner regions of the USSR. After the Soviets were invaded in 1941 and diplomatic relations were established between the USSR and Poland, they were allowed to travel to collection points where Gen. Anders was creating his army. Mr. Bak tells the story of the family and their travels, forced and otherwise, until finally they wind up in Cleveland after the war. He went on to get a Chemistry degree from Ohio State University and spent many years of his working life with Mooney Chemicals. With Mooney, he rose to a high executive position and after retirement, stayed on with the company as a consultant. This is truly a success story that should be read by all Polish-American teen-agers, by all of Polonia. He and his wife continue to reside in the Cleveland area and do much for Polish causes. We are fortunate to have them here.

*Your Life Is Worth Mine* by Ewa Kurek; originally published by Znak Publishers in Cracow; here in the United States by Hippocrene Books of New York, NY 1997. This is the story about how Polish Nuns saved hundreds of Jewish children in German-Occupied Poland, 1939-1945. A gift of this book was made to our library by **Roseanne Ewazen** and we wish to thank her for her generosity.

Books Recently Purchased For Our Library—

God Bless Norman Davies—May The Good Lord bless him with good health and a long life—For whatever reason, this eminent historian has taken it upon himself to present Poland and its history, its causes, its people, like no one else. His presentations are objective and fair with no axes to grind. Anyone who wishes to acquaint themselves with Polish history would do well to read his books.

*God's Playground—A History of Poland—Vol. I—The Origins to 1795* by Norman Davies; published by Colum-

bia University Press, 1982.

*God's Playground—A History of Poland—Vol. II—1795 to the Present* by Norman Davies; published by Columbia University Press, 1982.

This two volume work is probably the standard history of Poland written in English. It was published in 1982, twenty-two years ago. Much has happened in that twenty-two year period, such as the collapse of the USSR. It is hoped that Mr. Davies will bring forth an updated edition of this work. In the meantime, one can only highly recommend these books to all who enjoy reading Polish history.

*Heart of Europe—The Past in Poland's Present* by Norman Davies; published by Oxford University Press, first published in 1984, new edition 2001.

This is a one volume book about the history of Poland. It does not follow the usual chronology of a history book, that is, from the earliest times to times more recent. That format is reversed. It begins with the period of Solidarity and goes backward in time. In this way, the author wishes the reader to become more acquainted with recent events which they might be aware of and then proceeds to earlier history. The final chapters of the book is an analysis of the Solidarity period based on Poland's past history.

*White Eagle-Red Star—The Polish-Soviet War 1919-1920 and 'The Miracle On The Vistula'* by Norman Davies; published by Pimlico 2003, 1972

This is a history book about the classic battle between the Poles and the Bolsheviks which ended in The Miracle On The Vistula and a Poles victory over the Soviets in 1920. Here are all the Polish and Soviet characters, famous and infamous, of that period; Pilsudski, Dmowski, Haller, Paderewski, Sikorski, Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky, Tukhachevsky—just to mention a few. Most of Davies's books come with some excellent period photographs and this is no exception. Also the book has a good bibliography.

*Rising '44* by Norman Davies; published by Viking-The Penguin Group, 2003

August 1, 2004 marked the sixtieth anniversary of the Warsaw uprising of 1944. CNN had a special about it on TV recently. In Poland, the anniversary was marked by many special observances. There are many people today who still think that there was only the one uprising in Poland, that of 1943 in the Jewish Ghetto. The memories of the rising in Warsaw in 1944 were not much publicized during the decades of Communist rule in Poland. In fact, to the Communists, the heroes of the Rising were considered to be bandits, hooligans and anti-Soviet. And the shameful way that the Allies treated "this first ally" and how they kowtowed to "Uncle Joe" Stalin, it's no wonder that the Western press, didn't and doesn't, devote too much ink to these happenings.

Therefore, it's great to read about what truly happened during this time. So, thank you again, Mr. Norman Davies, for giving us an account of these glorious and tragic events in the history of Poland.

Genealogy is more than the collection of dates, places and photographs. To truly appreciate our ancestors, we should try to understand their times, what they had to go through. Try putting yourself in their shoes. How would you react if you were forced to leave your home, your homeland, and everything you loved?

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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.

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