

Welcome—New Members—Witamy

John & Joanna Gaba, interested in surnames:

15912 Prospect Rd.
Strongsville, Ohio 44149
jegaba@juno.com

ANCIN, BAK, DYLAG, GABA, JENDRZYKA,
MARUSAK, STERCZYNSKI, SZROM

Sandra Kothera, interested in surnames:

5259 Case Ave.
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124
hhgcsandyk@aol.com

KOTHERA, KRUSH, VON KRUSHINSKI

Kathryn N. Swintek, interested in surnames:

10300 Burton Ave.
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m98ad23@aol.com

CHROSTOWSKI, JURCZYK, OLECKI, SWINTEK,
ZIELINSKI

Theodore & Natalie Swintek, interested in surnames:

10300 Burton Ave.
Bratenahl, Ohio 44108
m98ad23@aol.com

CHROSTOWSKI, JURCZYK, OLECKI, SWINTEK,
ZIELINSKI

Edward & Mildred Zasadzinski, interested in surnames:

103 W. Jefferson St.
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

DONIKOWSKI, ZASADZINSKI

What's Happening

Thank You—**Len and Hanna Pryer** donated a genealogy book to our library. New member, **Kathryn Swintek**, also gave us a book concerning the history of the Polish National Catholic Church in the USA. **Lucia Dominak** donated a laminated poster-sized article about a recent family picnic her "tribe" held this year. **Leroy Kostecki** gave us some pictures showing scenes from Cleveland's early days. And, **John and Sophia Talkowski** of Warren, Ohio send us a generous financial donation for which we and our anemic treasury are grateful. To one and all, thank you and God bless.

In This Issue—The Polish Heritage Center held its dedication ceremonies this past September 22. Many local politicians and distinguished dignitaries were there for this occasion. Special guest was the former National Security Advisor to President Carter, Zbigniew Brzezinski, who addressed the gathering. On pages 2-3 are some photos taken at this event. We encourage all our members to visit this site. It is located at the corner of Lansing Ave. and E. 65th St. Its displays and museum can be viewed of Sundays from 12-4 and by appointment by calling 1-216-883-2828. On Sundays from 11-1, they serve delicious lunches at reasonable prices prepared by the ladies of the Cultural Center.

History of St. Barbara's Parish—This year is the 100th anniversary of this parish located in the Old Brooklyn area of Cleveland. The pastor of the parish, Fr. Michael Dyrz, has graciously granted us permission to reprint an abbreviated version of the history in this issue. Copies of the jubilee history book can be purchased for \$10.00 (\$13 if mailed) by calling Fr. Mike at: 1-216-741-2067.

Old Photos—from the album of **Trina Galauner**.



The Polish American Cultural Center cordially invites you to be our guest at the dedication ceremonies for the new

Polish Heritage Center in Cleveland

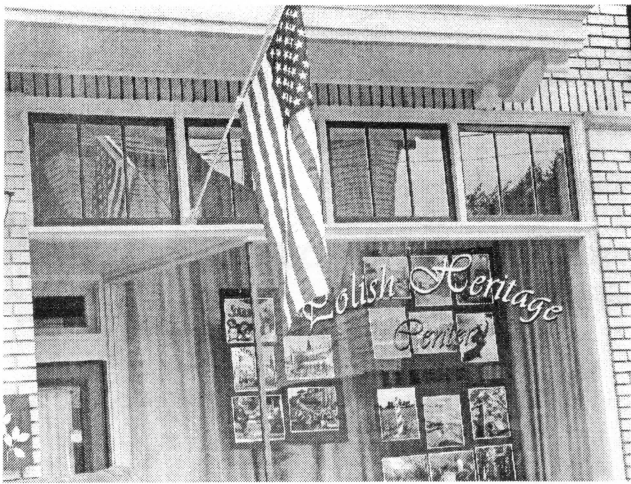
on
Thursday - September 22, 2005
1:30 pm

6501 Lansing Avenue
Cleveland, OH.

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor under President J. Carter will be the guest of honor.

The ribbon cutting ceremony and unveiling of the plaque at the entrance to the Center will be followed by the reception.

**Dedication of the Polish-American Cultural Center of Cleveland Ohio
The Place**



East 65th & Lansing Ave.

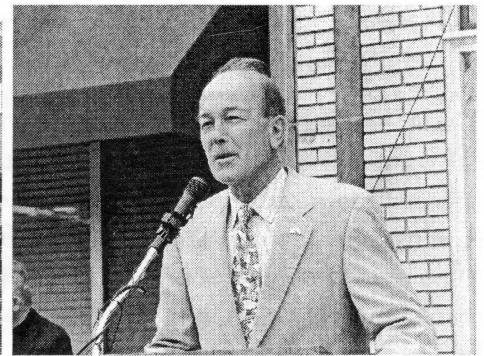
Dignitaries and Special Guests



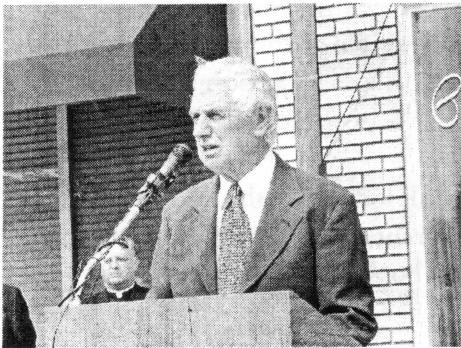
Bishop of the Cleveland Diocese,
Anthony Pilla



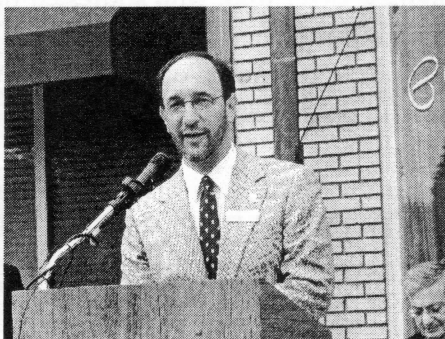
Mayor of the City of Cleveland,
Jane Campbell



Emcee for the festivities and PGSGC
member, Ben Stefanski II



President of the Cultural Center and
PGSGC member, Eugene Bak



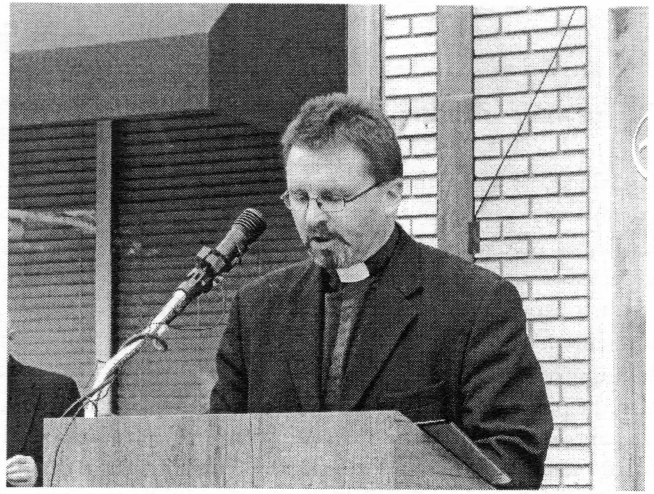
Ward 12 Councilman,
Tony Brancatelli



Special guest, Zbigniew Brzezinski, former
National Security Adviser



Representative of the Polish Embassy in Washington,
Andrzej Rabczenko.



Polish-American Cultural Center Spiritual Advisor,
Rev. Jerzy Kusy.



The Natives pose with the mayor.



Part of the crowd.



A view of the balcony.

Music & Food



The Museum



History of St. Barbara's Parish

by Fr. Michael Drycz, current pastor of St. Barbara's

What was parish life like in Cleveland in 1905?

For one thing the diocese was much larger in territory. At that time, Youngstown and Toledo were part of the Church of Cleveland. By 1905, there were two Polish parishes in Toledo and two Polish parishes in Youngstown. The problems of nationality parishes experienced in Cleveland were multiplied and repeated. Every nationality church wanted a priest who spoke their language. Whenever a priest is ordained, some diocese or religious order must hold the title to his ordination. The new priest is expected to work in his diocese or order. There is no "free-lancing." We say that a priest is "incardinated" into a diocese.

In a particular case, a bishop may "excardinate", or release a particular priest. Another diocese must pick up the title to his ordination, after five years. In the 1800's as new world immigration developed, European bishops had plenty of priests. European bishops were only too happy to let a priest go to the new world, especially if that priest was a headache for the bishop. There was also the problem of unrealized expectations. Sometimes a priest would arrive in a diocese and would be sent to a parish that existed on paper only. After a few years the priest may have succeeded in building a small temporary church and rectory for his little flock of 100 families. Priest and congregation were mutually dissatisfied with each other. Sometimes the priest took a new assignment or returned home. There were abrupt transfers and sometimes there were days and weeks during which the parish was pastorless. Some priests were named "Pastor Pro Tem." There were periods of economic difficulty, recessions in the U.S. in the years just prior to and just after World War I. How many parishes were in debt at that time? How many foreign born clerics knew the intricacies of foreclosure or second mortgages? By 1905, the Polish National Church, a schismatic group, was organizing. *The Universe Bulletin*, of December 1906, recorded the laying of the cornerstone for St. Barbara's Church. It stated that before the appointment of Fr. Migdalski as pastor, "Polish independent priests were luring away the faithful in Brooklyn from the Catholic church." By 1914, Sacred Heart Polish National Catholic Church existed at Lincoln Park in Tremont, and Immaculate Heart on Lansing Avenue was "independent." Hopefully this introduction will help us to understand the history of St. Barbara's Parish.

By 1905, the number of Polish families living in the Broadview, Pearl, Henninger, Krather area and those Polish families living around W. 15th and Denison was increasing. A priest from St. John Cantius (Jan of Kenty) occasionally met the pastoral needs in Polish. The Diocese of Cleveland in its own directory lists the founding of the parish as 1905.

On January 24, 1906, Fr. H. Orłowski forwarded to Bishop Horstmann a petition from the Poles living in Lakewood and worshipping in St. John Cantius in Tremont for permission to build a frame chapel. Fr. Orłowski stated that there were not many Poles living in that area as of yet, "But if a chapel is built there even though there will be no services for some time, very likely more Poles will settle there if they are certain that they will have their church." The letter continued "moreover this undertaking may incline the Poles residing in Brooklyn who are much greater in number to build a church which would be very desirable because it might put an end to the attempts of Independents who at several occasions have tried to draw the Poles residing there from the Catholic church."

Fr. Albert Migdalski—April 11, 1906- December 12, 1908

On April 23, 1870, Albert Migdalski was born in Maciejowice in Prussian ruled Silesia (in Polish, "Slask"). He received his education in Lombriasso, Italy and the Gregorian University in Rome. Fr. Migdalski was ordained on December 20, 1902, in Mondefrascone, Italy. He appears in Cleveland on April 21, 1903, when he was assigned as the assistant pastor of St. Stanislaus, Cleveland. He was named "pastor and founder" of St. Barbara Parish, April 11, 1906. He served here until June 1908. Due to poor health he retired and returned to Poland where he served the Katowice Diocese in Silesia. In a *Universe Bulletin* article of December 11, 1914, Fr. Redmer of St. Hyacinth Parish received a letter from Fr. Migdalski stating that he had been drafted into the Prussian Army where he was functioning as a "military pastor." The article stated that "Bishop Farrelly secures release of his priest" by contacting the State Department in Washington D.C. We don't know if the Bishop was successful.

In a letter of appointment, Bishop Ignatius Horstmann on April 11, 1906, appointed Fr. Albert Migdalski resident pastor of the Polish parish to be organized in South Brooklyn. Further he wrote, "you will also take charge of the congregation to be organized as a Mission at Lakewood...please confer with the Rev. H. Orłowski in reference to the parish to be organized. Until you have arranged for your residency, you may stay with Fr. Orłowski (St. John Cantius).

The Diocesan Report for 1906 and the *Universe Bulletin* of December 12, 1906 gives this brief summary:

"Organized April 7, 1906 by Rev. Albert Migdalski. On August 10, he purchased 20 lots (2 1/2 acres) on Valley Road for \$2,400 from the Gates Estate. "The Gates family was very influential in the history of Old Brooklyn. The deed to the property mentions the adjacent Eggers Brick Company, and the Sanborn fire maps show round brick kilns on the Eggers property.

By November, a contract had been let for a church-school building for \$11,420. Architect Emile Uhlrich planned a 3 story building with the church on the first floor and 2 classrooms on the second and two classrooms on the third floor. *The Ohio Architect and Builders* in their December 1906 issue states that Uhlrich has, "prepared plans for a church and school for Rev. A. Migdalski, Brooklyn, Ohio, 36x76 feet, two stories; slate roof; plaster; gas and electric fixtures; steam heating. ... General Contractor Webster & Newman." The first Mass was said at Christmas in a bare, unfinished auditorium. The building was to be finished in March 1907.

In *The Universe Bulletin* of December 7, 1906, we read:

"Last Sunday, December 2, the newly incorporated borough of Brooklyn witnessed an impressive demonstration of Catholic faith. The occasion was the laying of the cornerstone of St. Barbara's combination church and school

building. At 2 o'clock pm societies from every Polish and Lithuanian congregation in Cleveland poured into little Brooklyn. Krather Court, where the temporary residence of Fr. Migdalski, the pastor, is situated, was lively as never before with gay band music, the chat of the numerous Polish Catholics and the brilliant uniforms of the various Polish military organizations, including 500 men, under the able leadership of Mr. M. Kulota.

At 3 o'clock, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. G. F. Houck, accompanied by Rev. L. Redmer, arrived. His carriage passed through a long line of Polish soldiers in parade formation presenting arms.

At Fr. Migdalski's residence, Msgr. Houck was received by a gathering of clergy, who, in carriages, ended the long procession moving through the principal streets of Brooklyn toward the new building."

In his report to Bishop Horstmann for the year ending December 31, 1907, Fr. Migdalski reported that the church was to be completed by Easter of 1907. St. Barbara's school opened on September 15, with 19 students (8 boys, 11 girls). Sadly he notes that 25 parents refuse to send their children to Catholic school. He states that "a lady teacher is in charge of this school." The report dated December 20, 1908, states that "all children attend public schools." It seems then that the first attempt to establish a parish school ended in failure. By June of 1908, Fr. Migdalski was gone. Earliest attempts in parish history listed Fr. Kuta as one of 6 pastors in 3 years time. In fact Fr. Kuta served at St. Barbara's as a vacation replacement for Fr. Migdalski during the summer of 1907.

Fr. Julius Paczuski—June 1, 1908-December 1908

Fr. Julius Paczuski was born in Poland on December 7, 1874. He attended the seminary in Lublin. Bishop Ruskiewicz ordained him in Warsaw on December 8, 1897. Fr. Paczuski did pastoral work in Poland, and in New York state. He was assigned "Pro-Tem" at St. Barbara's June 1, 1908 and he served till December 1908, when he was moved to Grafton's Assumption Church. He served from December 12, 1908 until March 5, 1909, when he left the Diocese.

Fr. Joseph P. Kocinski—December 12, 1908-March 27, 1909

Fr. Joseph P. Kocinski was born near Warsaw, Poland, on February 28, 1877. He was educated at St. Ignatius College (now John Carroll University) and Cleveland St. Mary Seminary. He was ordained on June 9, 1906, at St. John's Cathedral by Bishop Ignatius Horstmann. He did parish work in Toledo and Cleveland. He was named pastor of St. Barbara's on December 12, 1908, and served until March 27, 1909. From that day he was pastor of St. Hedwig's, Cleveland (later parish name is St. Josaphat) until April 26, 1917. He was pastor of St. John Cantius, April 26, 1917 to May 17, 1932. Then he became the pastor of Sacred Heart, Cleveland, May 17, 1932 until June 25, 1937. Next he became the pastor of St. Josaphat, June 25, 1937 until November 26, 1941. He retired November 26, 1948, and he died on November 1, 1954. He was buried in Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland.

Fr. Camillus Sierputowski—April 29, 1909-February 18, 1910

Fr. Camillus Sierputowski was born March 7, 1870. His education took place in Warsaw, St. Petersburg and Rome. He was ordained in Lemberg, Austria (a.k.a. Lwow, Poland; Lviv, Ukraine) on July 6, 1902. His assignments included: Lemberg, Austria; LaCrosse, Wisconsin; Duluth, Minnesota and Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak parish in Barberton. He was the pastor of St. Barbara's from April 29, 1909 until February 18, 1910, when he left the Diocese.

Fr. Thomas Krakowiak—April 5, 1910-September 20, 1910

Fr. Thomas Krakowiak was born in Slotwin, Poland, on December 7, 1883. He studied at the Seminary at Plock and was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Plock in July of 1907. and he did pastoral work in that diocese from 1907 to 1909. Coming to America he worked in Connecticut. On April 5, he became pastor of St. Barbara's. Some 5 months later, he resigned the pastorate on September 20, 1910. Fr. Krakowiak then left the Cleveland Diocese.

Fr. Paul Koszyk—September 20, 1910- September 1911

Fr. Paul Koszyk was born January 10, 1870 in Miechowitz. He was educated at Innsbruck College and Seminary and the Seminary at Turin. He was ordained by Bishop Giordaini on December 3, 1899. His assignments included: Toulouse, France; Innsbruck, Prussia and Wilmington. In a letter of appointment dated September 20, 1910, Fr. Koszyk was appointed "pastor pro-tem" of St. Barbara's Parish with the Polish parish in Lakewood as a Mission. In the book *People of Faith* that celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Cleveland the entry for St. Hedwig's Parish is dated 1905. Furthermore the historic sketch states in December 1909 Bishop Farrelly appointed Fr. Thomas Czarkowski its first pastor. The archivist of the Diocese of Cleveland stated that in the Official Catholic Directory for 1911, Fr. Paul Koszyk was listed as the pastor of St. Barbara and St. Hedwig. The 1914 Official Catholic Directory listed Fr. Theophil Czarkowski as the pastor pro-tem of St. Hedwig Parish. Sometime after 1913 he left the diocese.

This is Fr. Koszyk's December 30, 1910 report to the Diocese, originally written in Italian. It was translated by the priests at St. Rocco's.

"The church built in the autumn of 1906 is in a downhill slide. It is located far from where the faithful live. To arrive at the Church, 85% of the parishioners have to cross the valley, passing 2 railroads and a bridge.

It is difficult to travel this distance after a rain storm and impossible to travel in the winter. Those living closest to the parish travel 30-35 minutes to arrive at the church. After the new bridge will be built, about 83% of parishioners will prefer attending St. Stanislaus or Sacred Heart of Jesus, even though they are farther away.

Over the church there are 4 classrooms which can accommodate 80 students, but because of distance and danger in travel, the school is not feasible. There are about 60 students that come for religion classes, 5-8 children never attend. I have used every possible argument to convince the families to send them but what can you do if the mothers themselves do not go to church. I celebrate daily Mass without any servers and without a

congregation. A new rectory was built in 1909 costing \$3,000. Although some parishioners state that it is worth far less than \$2,000.

That house that was build as a rectory still stands at 4003 Valley at Elston. It is now a duplex.

Fr. Paul Szulerecki—November 28, 1911-January 25, 1918

There was a two month gap between the departure of Fr. Koszyk and the arrival of the seventh pastor, Fr. Paul Szulerecki. Paul Szulerecki was born in Chicago on October 4, 1878. He trained at St. Bonaventure's in New York state. On May 4, 1904, he was ordained by Bishop Colton in Buffalo. In 1907, he was identified as a priest of the Erie Diocese. On November 28, 1911, Fr. Szulerecki was named pastor of St. Barbara's. He resigned on January 23, 1918. He served another month at St. Mary's in Barberton and then left the Diocese.

In a feature article in the October 4, 1912 issue of the *The Universe Bulletin* there is an article entitled "St. Barbara's Polish Parish Overlooking South Brooklyn":

"One of the youngest Polish parishes in the city stands in a particularly beautiful spot in South Brooklyn, the site commanding a view of the entire valley from the height on which it stands at the extreme northerly end of Valley Road, one of the most magnificent views of the natural scenery in a section which abounds with them... Father Szulerecki is a native of this country, a young priest, who is thoroughly Americanized in every way and who is very anxious to do everything in his power for his people. It is altogether probable that before another year has passed more than tentative steps will have been taken toward locating St. Barbara's permanent plant on the northern side of the valley nearer to the center of the population."

The issue of the church's location can be seen in a two page hand written document found in the Archives of the Diocese. It begins with the following words:

"We the undersigned have held a meeting on the 25th of April, 1913 at Barski's Hall at P.M., at the foot of Denison and Jennings Road to discuss the future of our congregation. (The present site is inaccessible therefore we decided to purchase land on Denison Avenue between 15 & 16 streets.) The total price of this land is \$7,380. Thus far we have paid \$2,276 on land contract. The balance due \$5,104 with two years interest."

The Cleveland Press of April 7, 1915, has an article about the devastating fire at St. Barbara's Church. The damage amounted to \$20,000. The firemen had to struggle with impassible roads. In trying to fight the fire, before the arrival of the fire engines, Fr. Szulerecki suffered burns about the hands and face.

The Cleveland Press, April 7, 1915
ST. BARBARA'S CHURCH BURNS

Priest Believes Tramps Police Dump Start Fire

The practice of dumping vagrants in the Harvard-Denison valley was blamed Wednesday for an early morning fire which destroyed St. Barbara's Polish Catholic Church. The church, on a hill at 4149 Valley Rd, was a total loss. Costly vestments, statues and pictures went up in the flames, which lighted the valley like a beacon. The damage is estimated at \$20,000. Five engine companies, after struggling over almost impassable roads, were unable to save any of the furniture. Firemen of Engine Company 4 narrowly escaped when a brick wall fell. Rev. Father Szulerecki of St. Barbara's was burned about the face and hands aiding firemen.

Priest Fights Flames

Father Szulerecki, whose parish house is nearby, was awakened at 1:30 A. M. Wednesday. The priest dashed out in night attire to sound the alarm. Until firemen arrived, he tried to put out the fire with buckets of water. Father Szulerecki believes tramps, dumped by police, broke into the church basement to sleep, and threw "lighted matches on the floor." "I have appealed to police in vain several times for protection from tramps," said Father Szulerecki. "A year ago St. Barbara's was threatened twice by fires I am sure were started by tramps."

MAY FORM NEW CHURCH

Members of St. Barbara's Parish Debate National Catholic Move.

A Mass meeting of members of St. Barbara Polish Roman Catholic Church, which was destroyed by fire last week, was held last evening at W.O.W. Hall, Denison Ave. S.W. near W. 25th St, to discuss the advisability of forming a Polish National Catholic congregation.

A large crowd of men and women attended the meeting, which was opened by Andrew Zemba, leader in the movement. He introduced Rev. L. Wrzesinski, rector of the Polish National Catholic Church, W. 14th St and Fairfield Ave. SW, principal speaker of the evening.

Rev. Father Wrzesinski discussed in detail the difference between the Roman Catholic and National Catholic churches, stating the two faiths are entirely similar, but that the latter congregations are the owners of their church property. In the former, he stated, all property stands in the name of the bishop.

After considerable discussion a committee of seven was named to work out plans of organization. The committee, which was offered all necessary help by Rev. Father Wrzesinski, consists of: T. Bargski, J. Sarski, J. Winczek, J. Wrublewski, John Sitek, V. Hajec and J. K. Pasek.

On the Internet St. Mary's Polish National Church lists its founding as April 23, 1915 in Old Brooklyn. Their first church was located at 3510 Broadview Rd.

DYNAMITE FOUND AT FIRE MAIMS BOY

The Cleveland Plain Dealer, April, 9, 1915

Cap Picked up at Scene of Church blaze Blows Off Thumb and Finger
Fire Marshal to Investigate, Pastor May be Subpoenaed

One of eleven dynamite caps found by schoolboys yesterday afternoon at the scene of the fire which earlier had destroyed St. Barbara's Polish Catholic Church at 4149 Valley Rd., SW, cost 12 year old Howard Bonness the second finger and thumb of his left hand. Powder was blown into his right hand, the fingers of which were shattered, and doctors said they were not sure they could save it. The explosion occurred at supertime last evening in the Bonness home at 3747 W. 13th St. when Howard tried to pick the cap apart with a hairpin. Upon learning the boys had found the caps in the yard of St. Barbara's church, which was demolished with a loss of \$20,000 by a blaze suspected to be incendiary, T.A. Fleming, deputy state fire marshal, last night, announced he would investigate the discovery of the caps in relation to the fire. Mr. Fleming determined on this action particularly in view of the fact that factional troubles have disturbed the congregation of the church in the past. The pastor, Rev. Father Paul Szulereski, was to be subpoenaed by the fire marshal's office to appear for a hearing this morning. Fire Wardens, Patrick Ferrie and L. J. Dormendy, were at the scene of the fire yesterday. Accidents to other boys similar to the one that injured Howard Bonness were prevented by police, who went through the neighborhood tracing boys who found the caps and recovering them. Patrolmen found in several instances the boys had emptied the caps of powder without mishap, although it was in such an attempt that the Bonness boy has hurt. Howard was given the cap which exploded in his hands by 8 year old Frank Coastes of 2303 Denison Ave. SW, who with other boys, found the caps sticking to the mud in the church yard. When the accident happened to Howard, Frank, Louis and Joseph Novak of 3753 W. 13th St. were with him. His mother summoned Dr. C. F. Richardson, who amputated what remained of the thumb and second finger of Howard's left hand. Members of the burned St. Barbara's church plan to confer tomorrow morning with Bishop John P. Farrelly regarding plans for rebuilding of the structure.

In the booklet printed for Fr. Joseph Jarosz's Ruby (40th) Jubilee as pastor of St. Barbara's (1929-1969) we read:

In 1916, (sic, should read 1915), a fire completely destroyed the church. A hall "Woodmen of the World" on Denison and W. 25th, was rented, in which to service. When discussions were held about building a new church, differences of opinion arose.

Some were in favor of the old site. Those living around E. Denison favored a site in their section. Since these latter were the largest group, Fr. Szulerecki, with Diocesan approval, purchased a site on E. Denison and W. 15th street, and erected a small wooden church.

Those dissatisfied with the location, separated themselves and formed an 'independent parish.' When financial difficulties and misunderstandings hindered Fr. Szulerecki in the building of a parish house, he became discouraged, resigned in 1917, and departed for parts unknown.

"Woodmen of the World" hall still exists. It is now an auto parts store across from the Shell station at W. 25th and Denison Ave.

We have from May of 1916, the letter of the Building Commission to Bishop Farrelly about the building of a wood church on Denison.

8328 Broadway
Cleveland, Ohio
May 9, 1916

Right Rev. John P. Farrelly, D.D.
Bishop of Cleveland

Right Reverend Dear Bishop:-At a full meeting of the Building Commission yesterday the plans and specification for a proposed frame Church for St. Barbara's congregation on Denison Avenue, Cleveland were duly considered. The following report was ordered made thereon:

1. The dimensions of the building were considered adequate to meet future wants. Were the building made much wider, and even shorter if necessary, it could be lengthened in future in case of need. We recommend much greater width.
2. Plaster should be substituted for "beaver boards." Something substantial can be had for little more than what is inferior.
3. There is no provision made for placing confessionals.
4. Provide two exits on the sides. The law will require this.
5. Enlarge the sanctuary—make it at least 20 feet deep.
6. Provide a passage between the two sacristies behind the altar.

Very respectfully submitted,

P.J. O'Connell
Secretary of Bldg. Commission

What is "beaver board?" It is a type of plywood made from wood shavings ends of lumber.

There are extant copies of notarized complaints against Fr. Szulerecki for slights, real and imagined. He was criticized for not consulting with his provisors (ushers), for not allowing the people a vote on the new site. There was also the issue of the new rectory being perceived as lavish. The events of the next few months were extraordinary. Fr. John Czyzak, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish on E. 71st, who enjoyed a good reputation in the Polish community, was tapped by Bishop John Farrelly to investigate and to report back to him regarding the situation. On November 30, Fr. Czyzak sent the Bishop four pages handwritten in Latin. Fr. Czyzak interviewed forty witnesses. In the case of four who were important, three contradicted their own testimony. Fr. Czyzak's conclusion: "Fr. Szulerecki is absolved of all accusations regarding his priestly life." Three recommendations were put forth: (1) Fr. Szulerecki is to be removed, (2) A substitute vicar to be appointed to exercise pastoral care until order is restored and a new rectory rendered livable, (3) At the least opposition to either priest, the parish must be closed without delay.

In the historical data for 1918, Fr. Czyzak writes: January 25th, Fr. Szulerecki left the parish. January 26th, Rev. John Czyzak, pastor of Sacred Heart, took the government of the parish into his hands by the order of the Rt. Rev. Bishop. February 1st, Rev. John Zeglen, assistant to Fr. Czyzak was named the local vicar for St. Barbara's by order of Rev. Czyzak. In October and November, church closed on account of Spanish influenza.

Fr. John Zeglen—1918-April 15, 1922

Fr. John Zeglen, according to the biography from the diocese, was ordained a priest on January 25, 1918, after completing his training at St. Mary Seminary. His first assignment was pastor of St. Barbara's effective February 2, 1918. It seems that Fr. Zeglen was never an assistant pastor. In writing to Bishop Farrelly, Fr. Czyzak states that the new rectory being built at the Denison site well be finished in January 1919. "I ask your Lordship to transfer Fr. Zeglen on the first day of February, 1919, from my parish to St. Barbara's and at the same time to release me from St. Barbara's."

Fr. Zeglen breathe new life into the parish. The finances were put in order and plans were drawn up for a school. Fr. Zeglen enjoyed writing bits of parish history into the sacramental records. On February 24, 1923 he notes: Joseph Jarosz was ordained into the Holy Priesthood. He said his first Mass here. His parents, Anthony and Anna Jarosz, live in this parish. On April 15, 1922, he was named pastor of St. Stanislaus, Youngstown. On September 29, 1929, he was named pastor of St. Mary Czestochowa in Corlett. On October 26, 1953, he was named a domestic prelate: Monsignor Zeglen. He retired June 11, 1964 and died December 13, 1964.

Fr. John Solinski—April 5, 1922-August 15, 1927

Fr. John Solinski was born on December 5, 1889, in Rogers City, Michigan. He attended St. Adalbert School in Berea, St. Ignatius High School and St. Mary's Seminary. He was ordained a priest on June 2, 1917. In April 1922 he was named pastor of St. Barbara's Parish where he served until August 15, 1927. In 1927 he was named the founding pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Garfield Heights. He returned to his home parish of St. Adalbert's on June 28, 1939 where he served until his death on May 8, 1967.

Fr. Solinski picked up the school plans and began construction in 1924. A duplex on W. 16th was purchased to serve as a convent. The original plan for two stories and eight classrooms was downsized to a basement and a first floor, a total of six rooms and a hall. In July of 1925, Fr. Solinski moved the church furnishings from the wooden church on the corner into the hall. Then the wooden church became the parish hall. As he celebrated his Tenth Anniversary of Ordination in June of 1927, the parishioners bought him a car. His nephew is Bishop Gilbert Sheldon, former Cleveland auxiliary bishop and Bishop of Steubenville.

Fr. Leo A. Sztupek—August 1927-April 1929

Fr. Leo A. Sztupek was born in Erie, Pennsylvania in January, 1889. He was ordained for the Diocese of Altoona, December 20, 1919. He was received into the Diocese of Cleveland, June 20, 1923 and was incardinated April 14, 1928. He served as pastor of St. Barbara's from August of 1923 to April of 1929, when he went on sick leave. He died on January 26, 1974 in Erie. He was a man of great energy and was well liked. He had a disagreement with the Franciscan Sisters of Sylvania who staffed our school. It centered on the refusal of the Sisters to teach Polish. The disagreement continued with the next pastor. Eventually the Sisters of St. Joseph of Marymount were engaged to teach in our school.

Fr. Joseph Jarosz—August 3, 1929-1970

In the 1700's Poland was partitioned by Prussia, Austria, and Russia. Austrian ruled Poland was called "Galicia." On October 13, 1895, a child was born to Anthony and Anna Jarosz of Sietesz, near Jaroslaw. The child was named Joseph. He began seminary studies at Przemyśl. In 1921 he emigrated to the United States with his parents and completed his seminary studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Cleveland. Bishop Schrembs ordained him on February 24, 1923. His first assignment was that of the assistant pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary. On December 2, 1926, the American Extension University of Los Angeles granted Fr. Jarosz a Bachelor of Laws degree. The Supreme Court of Ohio on August 5, 1929 recognized Fr. Jarosz as an attorney and counsellor. He also received a diploma for professional training in accounting. On April 23, 1963, James Rhodes recognized Fr. Jarosz as a Notary Public.

On April 19, 1929, Fr. Jarosz was named "Administrator" of St. Barbara's. In an August 3, 1929 letter to Bishop Schrembs, Fr. Jarosz stated that out of 401 school aged children, 150 attended public schools. The reason for that was that the children were not being taught Polish. "As soon as I announced that the Sisters of St. Joseph would take care of the school in the future, all parents having children in public school declared their intention to send their children to parochial school." Then on August 27, 1929 Bishop Schrembs attempted to transfer him to St. Hedwig's in Akron. A committee rose up and presented verbal and written statements to Bishop Schrembs. On August 28, 1929, Bishop Schrembs rescinded the transfer. To St. Barbara's Parish, Fr. Jarosz

represented stability, unity, peace, and prosperity.

In 1950, ground was broken for the present church which is built in Lombard style. The church seats 600 and was built at a cost of \$250,000. Archbishop Hoban blessed this building July 13, 1952. Five years later, in 1957, the Sisters convent was moved from W. 16th Street to Botany Avenue and a new convent for the sisters was begun. Perhaps these years were the "golden years" for St. Barbara's.

The 1960's brought the freeways to St. Barbara's door. First I-71 cut through the neighborhood. Then the Jennings Freeway threatened to raze all the buildings that were part of St. Barbara's plant. The parishioners fought for the revision of the freeway blueprints. The people of St. Barbara's were successful in getting the freeway to change its intended course. The freeway was finally opened on December 8, 1998 after destroying six square blocks of St. Barbara's parking lot. In spite of the change of plans, St. Barbara lost many parishioners. School enrollment dropped and the school closed in 1969. It was the hope of Fr. Jarosz to transform the PTU into a Ladies Guild. To this end Fr. Swirski was deeply involved in working with the Guild. The 1960's also saw the development of the Memorial Day Program of the St. Barbara's Veterans. St. Barbara's sent many sons to the military during World War II. Fr. Jarosz retired in the summer of 1970. He continued to live at St. Barbara's Parish until his death in August 1982.

Fr. Chester C. Cudnik—1970-1997

Chester C. Cudnik was born on December 23, 1922. He was educated at St. Casimir School, Cathedral Latin, John Carroll University, and St. Mary's Seminary. He was ordained on May 22, 1948. Among his assignments was that of assistant at St. Barbara's from 1958 to 1962. He returned as pastor in the summer of 1970. Friendly Fr. Chester did whatever was necessary to keep the parish going. He had the old school building razed and a forty car parking lot built. Rectory windows were replaced and vinyl siding was applied to the rectory. On reaching his 70th birthday, Fr. Chester asked Bishop Pilla for a year by year extension to his pastorate. Finally, health problems forced him to retire on October 31, 1997. Father currently resides with his sister and her sons in Highland Heights.

Fr. Michael S. Dyrz—1997- present

Michael Dyrz was born in Chardon, Ohio on April 23, 1946. His schooling included twelve years in Chardon public schools, Borromeo College and St. Mary's Seminary. He was ordained on June 9, 1973, by Bishop Clarence Issenmann. Among his assignments there was a fourteen and a half year pastorate at St. Stanislaus Parish in Lorain. On July 15, 1997 Fr. Mike was assigned as associate pastor at St. Barbara's. On October 31 of that year he was named administrator. In his ministry both the church and the rectory were air conditioned. New windows (heat efficient) were installed in the convent. Additional land left over from the freeway project was purchased. A twenty car parking lot was built south of the sanctuary. Fr. Mike worked to enhance the Liturgy and to increase roles of participation. The Ladies Guild was given a new Constitution and the Holy Name Society was established for the men. A Liturgy Commission, a Finance Council, and a Social Concerns Commission have been formed.

The tension over the location of St. Barbara's Church (South Brooklyn versus Brooklyn Centre) was finally resolved thirty years after the founding of St. Barbara's and twenty years after the fire. The history of St. Barbara's Parish was very much involved with the point of the parish's physical site. It was a subject that divided the parish. Fragments of the parish formed independent churches. All of this was because of the location. On May 22, 1935, a number of Polish priests of the diocese wrote a joint letter to Bishop Schrembs taking the side of the Poles of South Brooklyn supporting their appeal for another Polish parish. Their appeal was taken seriously and on August 15, 1935, a delegation was sent to Grafton to bring Fr. Anthony A. Orlemanski to Cleveland to be the founding pastor of Corpus Christi. Fr. Orlemanski established the new church on Stickney Avenue near Biddulph and Pearl.

In closing we note that today St. Barbara's has 350 envelope recipients. The same freeways that tore out the heart of the parish are now bringing new life to the parish. From St. Barbara's there is easy access to I-71, I-480, I-490, I-90, I-77 and the Jennings Freeway. With the rebirth of townhouses in Tremont and Lakeview condominiums on Valley Road, and the Steelyard Commons Shopping Mall, we can say that St. Barbara's has a fine location for the future.

Assistants and Associates

Rev. Joseph Gorski 8/17/39 - 4/19/42
Rev. Edmund F. Kuczarski 6/42 - 9/43; '62-'63
Rev. Francis J. Szczepanski 4/5/44 - 12/22/48
Rev. Edward F. Gackowski 12/23/48 - 1/7/54
Rev. Stanley A. Cymanski 5/44 - 6/58
Rev. Chester C. Cudnik 1958 - 1962
Rev. John A. Kusiak 6/13/63 - 6/6/65
Rev. Thaddeus Swirski 6/10/65 - 10/18/71
Rev. Michael S. Dyrz 7/15/97 - 10/31/97

Benedictine Fathers

Rev. David Vizolyi, OSB
Rev. William Maytas, OSB
Rev. Joachim Pastirik, OSB

A Short History of St. Barbara's School

The first school opened its doors on Valley Road in mid-September of 1901. There were 19 students (11 girls, 8 boys). The school was operated by a woman teacher whose name does not appear in any of our historical records. We assume that the school lasted about a year. There are no further references in the archives.

In the days of Fr. Zeglen plans were begun for a school at the Denison Avenue site. The original plans for a two storied school building had to be downsized to a basement and a first floor. This was all that the parish could afford. Ground was broken in 1924 and the school opened in September of 1925. The Wojnarowski family had a film made on that day. The film shows the priest, sisters and students marching around the new school building. At this time the Franciscan Sisters of Sylvania in the Diocese of Toledo, staffed the school. Between the years 1925-1929, twelve sisters served St. Barbara's school. At the time of the writing of this history, one sister who taught is still living.

In the Fall of 1929, Fr. Jarosz invited the Sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis to staff St. Barbara's. This was the beginning of a 75 year relationship between St. Barbara's Parish and Marymount Convent. Those who attended classes in the 1930's recall that the morning classes were taught in Polish and the afternoon classes in English.

Although the school closed in 1969, Sisters have continued their ministry to St. Barbara's Parish. We must admit that the Sisters were excellent vocation recruiters. We note the following vocations from St. Barbara's Church:

Society of Mary—Brother Stanley Zubek

Franciscans of the Assumption Province—+Fr. Rembert Badarzynski

Diocesan Priesthood—Monsignor Michael Dylag of the Greensburg Diocese, Orchard Lake Schools, and fund raiser for the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington D. C.

Fr. Joseph Jarosz, pastor of St. Barbara's

Fr. Joseph Hilinski, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy and Delegate Ecumenical Interfaith Affairs

Fr. David Novak, pastor of Holy Trinity, Lorain

Franciscan Sisters of Sylvania—+Sister M. Victoriana Chmura, +Sister M. Helen Chmura

Sisters of St. Joseph, TOSE—Sister M. Esther, Sister M. Georgiann Gorszyca, Sister M. Michaeline Badarzynski, Sister M. Florence Krupa, Sister M. Laurentine Andreasik, and Sister M. Marjorie

Sisters of the Precious Blood-Sister Irene Holz

For all of these we say, "Te Deum, Laudamus—Holy God We Praise Thy Name."

In our last newsletter, we included a picture of St. Barbara's graduation class of 1958. We asked for anyone who knew the names of the graduates to please identify them for us. Lo and behold, Ms. Sandra Rozhon did just that. Here is the photo with the names.



Top row: Dennis Wojton, Dennis Draye, Andrew Minich, Peter Karaba, James Adams, Peter Kalinowski, Walter Jakubowski, John Pernick
 Middle row: Shirley Ptaszek, Judy Pensock, Vivian Teylor, Elaine Woloszynek, Irene Glad (Glod ?), Sandra Wanicki
 Botom row: Beverly Nowak, Diane Trzcinski, Rev. Chester Cudnik, Rev. Joseph Jarosz, Joan Shella (Szela), Linda Kulaga

More Photos, courtesy of Trina Galauner.

Second Grade Class at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in 1928



Top row: Ms. Sobolewski, Unk., Helen Baracz, Unk., Isabelle Skrydlewski, Theresa Sobierajczyk---Second row from top: All Unknown except Sister Zofia---Second row from bottom: Emily Witkowski, Hattie Stankiewicz, Mary Wicinski, and two Unknowns---Bottom row: Honey Komorowski, Mary Gruzca, Jean Kupiec, Ms. Zalewski, Ms. Przybilski, Frances Moniak (Trina Galauner's grandmother)

Crafts Class at Sacred Heart of Jesus School---Circa 1931



Top row: Ms. Skrzdewski, Theresa Sobierczyzyk, Helen Trzcinski, Ms. Kulaszewski, Stella Palacz, Agnes Kaczuba, Emily Witkowski, Honoria (Nanette) Sivinski, Frances Moniak, Helen Szalkowski, Antonette Maracz, Unknown girl who married a Komorowski, and the teacher who's name is Unknown---Second row from top: Agnes Kosicki, Alice Dlaniak, Emily Wachowski, Irene Zgrabik, Alice Sroczynski, Cecelia Blicharski, Jessie Jastrzembki, Matilda Bernas, Isabelle Skrzydlewski, Regina Sychalski, Helen Rajek, Hattie Stankiewicz(?)--Seated: Monica Kabylini, Helen Baracz, Hattie Stankiewicz (?), Ms. Betlejewski, Ms. Zalewski with child on her lap, Josephine Trzaska, Alice Mroczak with child standing on floor, Marie Mroczek.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
C/O ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH
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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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