

Voices of Our Membership

From **Walt Pluchinsky** of Crown Point, Indiana to **Ed Mendyka**, dated February 6th:

Ed—I received your latest newsletter today—keep up the good work—

It's unfortunate that I have an upcoming medical procedure—nothing serious—but I would have loved to travel to Cleveland to hear **Eugene Bak** speak tomorrow—I bought one of his books—*Life's Journey*—recently and it ultimately was sent to a young lady of Polish descent in Bedfordshire, England.

To recap the situation, I sent the book to an Ania Norwood in England, whose mother Bernice went through a similar ordeal as did Eugene Bak in WW2. The mother may be a distant relative of us, and I had the opportunity several years ago to look them up in England. We correspond often by e-mail, and last fall, Ania asked me to locate the book written by Bak. Seems he was a distant relative on her father's side (a Petryka). Well, I also correspond with your member **Mike Klepek**, who is a distant relative of Ania, and I sent him the book for him to read, before sending on. Mike got the book autographed by Eugene, before sending it on. Ania has thanked me for the book, and tells me that there is a Bak in their family's past and she will try to get Eugene's e-mail address. As I understand, there is supposed to be a gathering—or reunion—of these people who went thru the terrible WW2 ordeal sometime this year in Krakow. Ania, I think, is planning to take her mother there.

So give Eugene Bak my regards, and perhaps I'll have another opportunity to meet him.

On a lighter note, I plan to be in Poland in mid-May, as part of a whirlwind train trip of Europe with my son. We plan to visit Golcowa again, home of my grandmother Stanislawa Kobialka, perhaps to do a little genealogical work again.

Keep up the good work.

Walt Pluchinsky

Crown Point, Indiana

Hello Walt—Glad to hear that you enjoy receiving our newsletter. Thanks for the feedback. A copy of your e-mail was given to Eugene Bak at our last meeting. The meeting was very well attended and his presentation was superb. His wife, Barbara, informs me that they are going to Poland this year to attend the reunion that you mention. It's evidently a biennial event and they have attended them in the past. His autobiography, *Life's Journey*, is available for sale at \$25.00. All of the proceeds from the book go for the support of the *Polish-American Cultural Center* here in Cleveland, Ohio. To purchase a copy of the book, contact Eugene Bak at: genebak@aol.com. We highly recommend the book and feel that there should be a copy in every Polish-American household.

From **Jim O'Malley** to Ed Mendyka, dated February 6th:

Ed:

Thanks for the great article about my great-grandfather; I know he'd have been proud to (probably) be the first Irishman profiled in *Our Polish Ancestors*.

I also enjoyed your remembrance about being an altar boy in the old Latin Mass days. At St. Ignatius, we didn't accompany the priests on house blessings but we usually got to keep the tips when serving weddings. Usually, the best man tipped us (4 servers) anywhere from \$2 to \$5, and occasionally \$10. If we got a \$5 bill, after the Mass we'd all go over to the Dairy Dell at 103rd & Lorain, get an big ice cream cone, and then go home with a buck each.

Berni and I hope everyone else appreciates the work you put into the newsletter as much as we do.

Jim O'Malley

Hey James:

Thanks for the kind words. Now, no one can say that we're bigoted; we even publish "stuff" from our Irish friends. Well—may the road rise to meet you—may the wind always muss your hair—or something like that—etc. And as for us former altar boys, we ought to form a group of old men, former altar boys, and get together to see if we still can recite the "*confiteur* and the *susipiat*" and all that other good stuff. I'm happy to report that you still can do it. We're slowly dying out. Folks ought to treat us "old foggies" with more respect.

From **Cindy Spikowski** to Ed Mendyka, dated February 15th:

Dear Ed,

We really enjoyed reading *Recollections of a Former Altar Boy-Po Kolendzie* in the January/March 2006 issue of *Our Polish Ancestors*. I remember our parish priest coming to our new home to bless it in 1956, but there were no altar boys and unfortunately, no Polish Christmas Carols. What a delightful tradition! It was so kind of you to share your memories.

Cindy Spikowski

The blessing of homes after the Three Kings holiday was a beautiful tradition. It's a shame that it became a victim of the changing times. It added a certain "flavor" to life.

Linda Jean Ellis writes about her efforts to determine her mother's first name:

In Memory of My Mother's Many Names

Linda Jean Limes Ellis – 1587 Edgefield Road, Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124 ©

January 25, 2006

Researching the facts and foibles of my great-great grandfather or great-grandmother had never been a problem for me regardless of the secrets I uncovered about them. However, delving into the life of my dear departed mother proved personally frustrating because she was my closest friend and sweet mother for 47 years of my life. So it was she must have had her reasons why she chose not to share with me the hidden story behind her real birth name.

I had seen my mother's name printed on my parents' marriage certificate and her own signature affixed to her original Social Security card. She was Virginia, Virginia H. or Virginia Harriet – and I never had a reason to think otherwise. This was until after my mother died on February 3, 1995 and I learned there was more to my mother and her identity than I could have ever imagined.

My first revelation came from her sister, my Aunt Irene, who came with me one Sunday afternoon to visit my parents' gravesite at Elmwood Cemetery in Lorain, Ohio. As we approached their tombstone, she announced, "You have the wrong name for your mother on the tombstone." I thought, what could she possibly mean by that statement? Surely, that could not be true.

However, my aunt told me that my mother was named Regina at birth, but she never liked it. I had not heard of this before from my mother or anyone! What I did recall though was hearing my cousin, Lenny, calling my mother "Auntie Ray" (later my Aunt Irene wrote a letter to me with the spelling of "R-a-e"; short for Regina?) Still I remained unconvinced.

Soon afterward, I requested a copy of my mother's Baptismal and Confirmation records from St. Stanislaus Church in Lorain, Ohio. My mother's family had lived on Apple Avenue, near the church, for years and I knew she attended "St. Stans."

My mother was baptized on October 4, 1914. Her baptismal record shows Regina Harriet Zagorski as her name. I knew from her father's naturalization records that Zagorski and Zagorsky were interchangeable. I could live with the surname discrepancy without any question. But, "Regina" boldly appeared on this official document, and it was the first time I saw it in print as my mother's given name.

My mother's Confirmation was on December 17, 1926 and the typed record shows her confirmation name was Rita. The name on her Confirmation was "Regina Hedwig Zagorski". I thought, well, Hedwig may be Harriet in Polish? But, on an accompanying letter from the church secretary stated otherwise: "Hedwig does not translate to Harriet." Yet another unfamiliar name I would now have to associate with my mother and who she was. And, again "Regina." It is widely known that "Regina" means "Queen."

Next, I tackled obtaining the public birth record for my mother. The registration number was 665 in Registration District 753 in Lorain, Ohio.

But there were two differently created forms with the "Registered No.665", AND later, on June 29, 1942, an Ohio Department of Health Affidavit was filed for a correction to No. 665.

Interestingly, her mother, Josephine Zagorsky, signed the 1942 corrected Affidavit, which stated:

"I, Josephine Zagorsky, being first duly sworn, say that I am the mother of Virginia Zagorsky, File No. 665. Date of Birth: September 13, 1914, Place of Birth: Lorain, Ohio; Name of Father: Andy Zagorsky; Maiden name of mother: Josephine Szczepankiewicz; Remarks: "First name of child was misspelled and last name was misspelled."

Now, on File No. 665 Certificate of Birth shows my mother's name as "Regina Sagarski" and the other "Virginia Sagarsky". The former name's Certificate had an addition the later name's form did not: "*Given name added from a supplemental report*" dated October 6, 1914.

The "Virginia Sagarsky" was written on a Certificate of Birth dated and filed September 15, 1915 and her mother's name was shown as "Josephine Grogan."

Her mother's name before marriage was Josephine Szczepankiewicz. Why "Grogan" was not later corrected to Szczepankiewicz I do not know.

Thus I had in my possession what essentially amounted to three birth certificates, a Baptismal record (both original and typed) and a Confirmation for my mother; all with disagreeing information for her birth name.

But it was what I saw on page 78 of the 1931 Lorain High School yearbook, "*The Scimitar*", that conclusively convinced me Regina was my mother's name given at birth.

Under the heading of "The Sophomore A Girls" - in the fifth column, the fifth name from the bottom appears the name: "Regina Zagorski." Who would have thought how important a high school year book could be in a situation like this?

I've reconciled myself to respect my mother's desire to have remained silent during her lifetime about her birth name. I feel comfortable knowing that the name on her tombstone, "Virginia H. Limes", is the name she had truly desired for herself. I know I did right by her. Ultimately, that is all that really matters for both of us.

Good luck in your future research, Linda Jean.

E-mail from member **Charles Cwiakala** to member **Ralph Lysyk**, copy to Ed Mendyka:

"Oldest daughter, Tanya, surprised me by assisting a veteran's group in creating a cyber Memorial Web Page for my father, which can be downloaded at the following WebSite: <http://halleryarmy.mckdesign.com/Stories.php>"

This site contains a section devoted to "Soldier's Stories" which is a collection of stories of the great men who served in Haller's Army. The story reads:

Eager to fight for his homeland, Charles Cwiakala lied about his age in order to join up and fight for the



independence of Poland. He fought in France in WW I and in the Ukraine during the Polish Soviet War of 1919-1920. Among the decorations he received were the **Cross of Valor**, the **Cross of Merit** and the **Volunteers War Cross**. Fiercely proud of his service to Poland, he kept his uniform tailored to fit through his entire life and was regularly honored by the **Polish Consulate in Chicago** as one of the last surviving veterans of **Haller's Army**. Charles passed away in the year 2000 at the age of 97, his final wish was to be buried in his Polish Army uniform...which he was.

Corrections—**Elaine Szaniszlo** writes to correct her E-mail address which is: water_colors@sbcglobal.net. In the last issue of our newsletter the address was misspelled.

In our last issue we featured St. Hedwig's Parish and presented a history of that parish. In the body of that article was a section entitled "Vocations From The Parish." Under that title is the name of Brother Joseph Zurowski, C.M. Member **Barbara Shaver** writes that the good Brother who is her maternal uncle, has been a Brother for 42 years and not 22 years as mentioned in the history. Sorry for the errors.

Norman Braun sent an article which appeared in the **Cleveland**

Press dated July 23, 1980 and was written by Eleanor Prech. The article concerns a very prominent Cleveland Polish-American family, the Cioleks, and is deserving of our attention. The article follows:

Research your name, senior citizen says

Edmund M. Ciolek Sr. has some advice for senior citizens who would like a worthwhile project.

"Get interested in your name," he advises. "You will be surprised at what you can discover and how interesting it is to delve into such a study.

"And do this before you travel to the old country because then the trip will have more meaning for you."

Ciolek, 69, speaks from experience because he made a trip to Poland two years ago without information he now has and feels sorry that things worked out that way.

"On my return, I went to the Cleveland Public Library and was able to examine three reference books which had much material in them about the Ciolek name," he said.

"One of the books was in 16th century Latin and it took a while before I successfully found an expert at John Carroll University who could translate it for me."

In his research, Ciolek found that his name means bull or a calf and that the coat of arms is a bull or a calf of reddish color on a white field.

He learned that his origin was from the family of the Vitellini in Italy. In 971 A.D., during the reign of Miecislav (Mieszko), they were brought into the kingdom of Poland by the Rev. Lord Robert, Archbishop of Gnesnen(Gniezno.)

His maternal brother Paul propagated his own family in this kingdom.

"These Ciolkowie or Vitellini in Poland later assumed different last names. Thus, those from Macieiowice were called Machieiwij; those from Drzewice, Drzewiecij; those from Zelechowo, Zelechowscij and so on."

Ciolek deducts from notes that the family was a religious one which worked with royalty.

"What is interesting," he said, "is that the family has remained religious and strong in the educational field throughout the years." Ciolek's father, Theodore, came to America from Poland in 1906 and was married here in 1908. Eleven children were born here. Three sons became priests and a daughter became a nun.

The eldest son was Rev. Stanislaw Ciolek who died in 1970. He had served in the Polish parishes of St. Hyacinth, Sacred Heart and St. Josaphat.

Seven of the remaining sons and daughters are: Msgr. Casimir Ciolek of St. Peter and Paul Church in Garfield

Heights, Father Joe Ciolek of the Holy Family Cancer Home, Edmund, Tom, Agnes Mistruck, Mary Blanda of Berea and Jane Budzick.

In his studies, Ciolek received much help from the Mormon Library in Mesa, Ariz. He said there is free access to tapes of name from all over the world. He also received pedigree charts to trace family lineage.

Ciolek urges people to “write down everything you remember about your parents and family” for future generations. He and his wife Angela live at 1769 E. 32nd St. They are the parent of five sons, among them Councilman Edmund Michael Jr. of Ward 31.

Dated information, to be sure, still however, useful and helpful—and interesting.

E-mail from President **John Szuch** dated April 3rd:



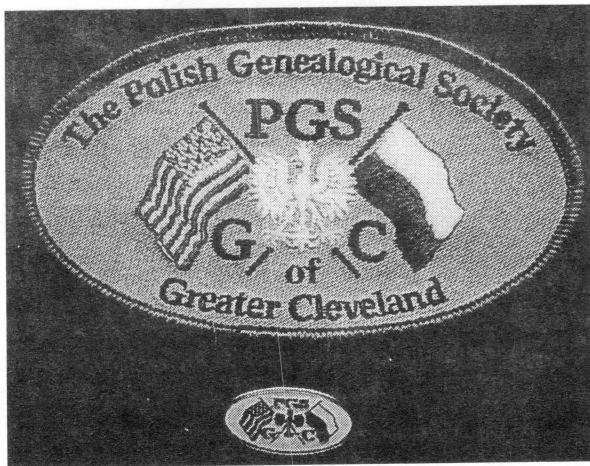
It is with sadness that I report that we have lost a member. **Leroy Kostecki**, a native of Cleveland and graduate of old South High School passed away on March 11, 2006. Leroy was a veteran of the Korean War and a member of PLAV 157. He attended Sacred Heart Parish where the funeral Mass was held. Internment was at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.

Leroy was a special person for me as we both were Cleveland Rockers WNBA fans. I would frequently run into him at the games that I attended with my Granddaughter Lauren. He would often give her souvenirs from previous season games and bought her a pin from the souvenir shop. We would often talk about the WNBA prior to our PGSGC meetings. I noticed he was missing at the

March meeting, but had no idea I would never see him alive again. Leroy was buried with his PGSGC membership card and Society patch. He will be sorely missed by the Society.

An offering for Mass has been made for the repose of the soul of Leroy Kostecki.

PGSGC Patch and Pin



We now have our very own PGSGC patch and pin. The logo is on a blue background, the lettering is in black, the eagle is in white and the outside border is in red. The flags are as they should be, USA in red white and blue and the Polish flag in red and white. The patch is 4.5 inches long and 2.75 inches from top to bottom. It can be sewn on T-shirts, sweaters, jackets, baseball caps etc.

The cloisonne* pin is best suited for the lapel of a suit or sport coat. It features the logo on a white background, black lettering outlined in gold, and a golden eagle. The flags are in the colors they should be.

The items cost \$3.00 a piece. Both items will cost you \$5.00. Ordering by mail will cost you \$1.00 more for postage. Presi-

dent John Szuch is handling the selling and mailing of orders. He can be contacted by mail at: John F. Szuch, 105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273. He also can be contacted by E-mail at: PulaskiPro.

*enamelwork in which colored areas are separated by thin, metal bands.

Finally, Linda Jean Ellis of Lyndhurst, Ohio wrote some time ago, “Please also include some materials on the Polish people living in nearby areas like Lorain—history of their churches, etc.” Your wish, Ms. Ellis, is hereby granted—hopefully. The only history that we have of St. Stanislaus Parish of Lorain, Ohio is from a 75th anniversary book published in 1983. Their 100th anniversary is coming up shortly and we hope that they will publish a centennial book. In the meantime, we’ll go with what we have.



ST. STANISLAUS PARISH HISTORY

Out of Early Struggle, a Strong Community

In the year of our Lord, 1907, an attempt was made to organize a Polish parish for the people of “South” Lorain—the area south of Dexter Street, what is now 21st Street. A census was taken and about 60 families were registered. Later, a petition listing 93 families was sent to Bishop Ignatius F. Horstmann in Cleveland, asking for permission to establish a parish, according to records at the Diocesan Archives. The original petition now is on

display in the church.

Because of a shortage of Polish speaking priests, Bishop Horstmann was unable to grant the request until February, 1908. Granted, the church is the "People of God," but we will tell our history in terms of the 10 men who have served as pastor over the years.

The early days of the parish were tough financially. There were several times when the Diocese seriously considered closing the parish because of the large amounts of unpaid bills. But, almost miraculously, enough money to cover the debts was received each time and the danger passed. Since then, we've grown to become the parish we know today.

Father Joseph Tomecki—February 23---June 30, 1908

When Father Joseph Tomecki arrived and began to organize a Polish parish, there were about 65 families scattered in "South" Lorain and more in outlying areas. The people chose St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, as their patron. The first devotions and Masses were celebrated in the basement of what is now Holy Trinity School. The rent was \$21.70 for the facilities.

Unfortunately, the fledgling parish experienced little progress or success in its initial months. Parishioners petitioned the Diocese to assign another Polish priest to St. Stanislaus. At one point, relations between Father Tomecki and parishioners became so strained that he hired two armed policemen to keep watch during Sunday Masses. When questioned about the policemen, Father Tomecki told parishioners the officers were hired to keep out the neighborhood's dogs and pigs.

Father Tomecki's assignment ended just four months after he arrived, and for more than a month there was no pastor. The parish was attended by Monsignor F. Boeff, Administrator of the Diocese at the time.

Father John Zyburka—August 2, 1908---September 22, 1911

In his own hand, on page one of his financial daybook, Father Zyburka wrote:

"J. S. Zyburka, who was appointed pastor of St. Stanislaus Church on August 2, 1908, found that the parish had no funds, no buildings, no real estate. The debt incurred, previous to his appointment and unpaid by Rev. Tomecki was 1. To R. A. Koch Co., \$106.56; 2. To Reichlin, Reidy, and Scanlan, \$70.50; and 3. To Mrs. Domanska, \$38.50."

In October, 1908, Dexter Street (21st Street) was made the official boundary between Nativity and St. Stanislaus parishes. On October 12, 1908, permission was granted "to borrow and expend \$40,000 for the purchase of lots for the church, school and pastoral residence, and for the erection of said buildings." The lots were finally purchased on December 14, 1908.

Carey Construction Co. was awarded the contract to build the current school building, and on January 21, 1909, the blessing of the ground took place. Work began immediately. By July 1909, enough work was completed on the basement to allow Father Zyburka to conduct devotions.

Monsignor Boeff officiated at the laying of the cornerstone on August 1, 1909. The first Mass was celebrated in the partially finished upstairs on Easter Sunday, 1910.

But because of a lack of funds, construction lagged and finally stopped. Only the exterior of the school/church building was completed. Both the pastor and parishioners grew discouraged, and on August 8, 1911, Bishop John P. Farrelly asked Father Zyburka to resign. He decided to go into academic work.

Father John Tokarcz—September 22, 1911---July 11, 1913

Upon his arrival at St. Stanislaus, Father Tokarcz began to work for the school's opening. In December, 1911, three Franciscan sisters arrived from St. Louis, Mo. and school sessions began on a regular basis. The sisters lived in the school building because the parish had no other place to house them.

Father Tokarcz rented a home in the 2800 block of Broadway, which served as the rectory for about three years. Despite some attempts at moving forward, expenses mounted and once again, the parish faced financial difficulties. The stresses caused by the financial problems affected the pastor's health and he was forced to retire on July 11, 1913.

Father Joseph Spanowski—December 29, 1913---June 22, 1915

After more than five months without a pastor, the Diocese assigned the newly-ordained Father Joseph Spanowski. He arrived during a recession and not much could be done to solve the parish's financial problems. To

save money, the young pastor gave up the rented rectory and moved in with the priests at Nativity. Despite the adverse conditions, he put the parish accounts in order and determined what obligations were most pressing.

To save the lots on East 28th Street from being sold for back taxes, the Bishop urged turning them into a playground for the school children to prove to county officials that the land was, in fact, being used by the church.

On June 17, 1915, after Father Spanowski asked several times to be reassigned, Bishop Farrelly sent him to Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Cleveland.

Father John Mlotkowski—June 23, 1915---August 30, 1920

A new era began for St. Stanislaus Parish with the arrival of Father Mlotkowski. Social life began to flourish. Monthly house collections were started. The employment situation in Lorain also improved, making it easier to meet some of the outstanding debts.

In 1916, the interior of the church/school building was finished at a cost of \$1,025. The main altar, the pews, the Stations of the Cross and other church furnishings were purchased. A home at 2652 Apple Ave., costing \$4,200, began serving as the rectory in June, 1917.

Delinquent interest and a portion of the parish debt also were paid. The parish did so well that spiritual care was extended to Poles in Amherst and South Lorain. However, by April, 1920, Father Mlotkowski began inquiring about vacancies at larger Polish parishes. In a July 20, 1920 letter to Bishop Farrelly, he wrote, "I think the situation will be difficult for some time to come." He was reassigned a month later.

Father Francis Duda—September 1, 1920---June 17, 1932

Thrifty Father Duda continued the work of his predecessor, and within a few years, the entire parish debt was paid off.

In August, 1922, construction on a new home for the sisters, who still resided in the school, was begun. And in August, 1924, the present rectory was started at a projected cost of \$13,000. The old rectory on Apple Avenue was sold for \$8,500.

Several lots on East 27th and Elyria Avenue were purchased. In 1929, Father Duda began the "New Church Fund" and architectural drawings for the new church were submitted to the Bishop's office that fall. Estimated cost of the new, more modern building was \$50,000 to \$55,000. By 1932, more than \$11,000 had been collected and set aside for the church and plans called for borrowing about \$40,000. However, the Diocesan Building Commission severely criticized the plans--which were similar to the current church--as inadequate. Even so, Father Duda was preparing to solicit bids when the Bishop moved him to St. Adalbert Church in Berea.

Father Leo Rygwalski—June 17, 1932---December 31, 1972

Father Leo Rygwalski arrived here from St. Mary Church in Orwell, Ohio on June 17, 1932. Construction of the new church was postponed because Father Rygwalski wanted to become better acquainted with his parishioners. In addition, the Great Depression caused local banks to freeze the "New Church Fund". As unemployment rose, collections dropped.

Father Rygwalski turned his attention to the youth of the parish. A Holy Name Society and a Young Ladies Sodality were organized, allowing the young people to become active in the church.

To prepare for the parish's Silver Jubilee in 1934, all the parish buildings were painted and repaired. The Silver Jubilee was celebrated on May 13, 1934 with a solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving by Auxiliary Bishop James McFadden. A banquet followed that evening and a souvenir book was printed.

On March 23, 1937, Father Aloyius Dombrowski was assigned as the parish's first assistant. A few months later, in July, 1937, Father Rygwalski announced that construction of the new church was again under serious consideration. A fund drive was held and by June, 1939, \$31,000 had been collected. Ground was broken that month and by the following June, the church was built.

The old church was remodeled to serve as a gymnasium. In 1950, the stage was built, completing the list of renovations.

On January 4, 1944, Father Stanley Mrozka replaced Father Dombrowski. Six months later, on July 23, 1944, the parish celebrated a picnic during which the mortgage was burned. In fall, 1944, the sanctuary was decorated at a cost of \$3,175.

Father Mrozka entered the Navy on June 14, 1945 and was replaced by Father Casimir Sitko.

On June 12, 1947, the statue of St. Stanislaus was blessed and hoisted into the niche on the front of the church. The five foot tall statue cost \$810.

On August 17, 1947, Monsignor Duda blessed the new pipe organ, a Hilland Lane made in Alliance, Ohio at a cost of \$12,600. New stained glass windows, made by Bernadini Studios in New York City were also installed that year. The windows, costing \$13,050, were blessed by the then Monsignor John Krol, who is now the Cardinal-Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Father Joseph Jarzynski replaced Father Sitko as assistant on April 19, 1949.

In June, 1950, the parish decided the school should be remodeled and enlarged. The blessing of the school addition grounds by Father Rygwalski occurred on July 23, 1950, and excavation began early the next day. Unfortunately, the Korean War created building material shortages, slowing construction of the addition. Monsignor Duda blessed the cornerstone and preached on September 24, 1950.

A problem with the school's old heating plant that fall led to its dismantling. Shortages again led to difficulty in purchasing a new plant. During that winter, the sisters taught classes in the sacristies and the church because there was no heat in the school. In addition, parish social life had to be abandoned.

On April 29, 1951, after much of the work was completed, Monsignor Mlotkowski blessed the building and Monsignor Krol preached. The original plans for the school addition estimated the cost at \$144,000, with much of the work only roughed in. At the encouragement of the parishioners, the entire job, including tiling the walls and corridors and installing ceiling lights in the old part of the building, was completed at a cost of \$179,436.

The parish borrowed \$98,000 from the Diocese and the entire debt was paid in 1956.

On January 7, 1954, Father Jarzynski was replaced by Father John J. Bryk, a newly-ordained priest.

After completion of the school addition, enrollment increased placing a requirement for more nuns. The sisters' home, however, had only four bedrooms for the seven nuns. The councilmen of 1957, in conjunction with those of the previous two years, formed a building committee. It was decided that a larger garage was needed to house the parish carnival booths to go along with a new home for the nuns. At this time, a home on Apple Avenue was purchased for \$20,000 to serve as a temporary sisters' home while the old one, located where the



At the dedication of the new church, June 16, 1940, Monsignors Duda and Radecki with Father Szudarek join in the ceremonies.

current convent is, was razed.

The contract for the convent totaled \$121,102, while the contract for the garage was worth \$17,800. Father Rygwalski blessed the site for the convent and garage on July 7, 1957.

Arriving on June 13, 1957, Father John Kusiak replaced Father Bryk as assistant and was able to assist Father Rygwalski at the blessing.

The formal dedication of the convent took place on May 7, 1958, the patronal feast day of St. Stanislaus. Archbishop Edward Hoban dedicated the convent and celebrated the first Mass in the convent chapel. Four days later, the Archbishop returned to celebrate the parish's Golden Jubilee.

Father Kusiak was replaced on June 13, 1963 by Father Leo Tarkowski, who was subsequently replaced within three months by Father Nitchell Cieslik. Father Cieslik died last April while serving as a pastor in Grafton.

Father Raymond Truszczynski was assigned to the parish on September 9, 1965, and served here for six years as associate pastor, being transferred to St. Hyacinth Church in Cleveland in 1971. He was destined to return to St. Stanislaus in 1973 as pastor.

Father Frank Kucia replaced Father Ray as associate pastor on June 29, 1971.

On December 31, 1972, Father Rygwalski retired from his post as pastor, a post he held for more than 40 years. The new Diocesan regulations called upon pastors to retire at age 70 and to move out of the parish in which they served. Father Rygwalski moved into his own home in Sheffield Lake while continuing to celebrate Mass at Nativity Parish.

Father Raymond Truszczynski—January 1, 1973---November 21, 1973

With the ever increasing amount of government regulations and with the greater need for paperwork after Vatican II, Father Truszczynski wisely hired a part-time bookkeeper to keep the parish accounts in order. Repairs also were begun on the rectory as plastering and remodeling of the sanctuary was done. Father Ray was dying of cancer and served our parish only briefly that year.



Herman Popiel, inset, was the first graduate from the school, completing the eighth grade in 1916. The 1922 class, born during the year our parish was founded included: Front row---Mary Czarnecki, Agnes Misiak, Rev. Francis Duda, Frances Kosakowski, Jennie Striner. Second row---Wanda Klekota, Edward Klekota, Peter Kowalski, Leo Dembek, Frank Strozewski, Fran Kopravski, Emilia Klapkowski.

We will continue with the history of St. Stanislaus Parish of Lorain, Ohio in our next issue of the newsletter.

Welcome—New Members—Witamy

Joseph & Bonnie Glance

295 Stratford Dr.
Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147
bglance@sbcglobal.net

Shirley Lazar, interested in surnames:

KULON

3213 Oakpark
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Member, **Eugenia (Mendyka) Lipowski**, gifted her children with a one year membership to our group. What a nice way to show your love for your children and love of your heritage. Hope that they enjoy our newsletter.

Thomas & Mary Anne Nancarrow, interested in surnames: GRABIEC, LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA,

361 Vista Circle
TWARDZIK

North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Joseph & Christina Laliberte, interested in surnames: GRABIEC, LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA, TWARDZIK

18401 69th Dr.

McAlpin, Florida 32062

James & Michelle Lipowski, interested in surnames: GRABIEC, LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA, TWARDZIK

100 Arrowsmith Dr.

Folsom, California 95630

Michael & Karen Herak, interested in surnames: GRABIEC, LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA, TWARDZIK

532 Loxley Dr.

Warner Robins, Georgia 31088

Blaze & Linda Lipowski, interested in surnames: GRABIEC, LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA, TWARDZIK

5506 Southall Dr.

Bolling AFB, DC 20032

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

May—Member **Ron Marec** will address the group on the topic: *The Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Solidarity.*

June—Member **Trina Galauner** will address the group on the topic: *Organizing Your Genealogy.*

July and August—Vacation Time—No meetings.

September—**Robert Jerin** will address the group on the topic: *Searching for Your Ancestor at Ellis Island.*

October—Members: Celebrate Polish Heritage Month—Please bring Polish memorabilia, collections, clothing, genealogy items etc. for display and discussion.

November—**Mitchell Bienia**, Owner of **Kniola Travel Agency**, will speak on the topic:

Polish Christmas Traditions.

December—Election of Officers and Christmas Party.

Rest in Peace—Please say a prayer for the repose of the soul of Richard Dworznik who passed away recently. He is the brother of member **Paul Dworznik**.

Polish Recipes on the Internet—For all the chefs in our group there is an interesting website at:

<http://www.recipesource.com/ethnic/europe/polish/indexall.html>

Learn how to make: Easter Babka, Bigos, Cabbage Rolls, Christmas Borscht, Kapusta, Kielbasa, Kiszka, Kutia, Kluski, Kompot, Klopsk, Pierogi---and on---and on. And when you get to be an expert at one of these recipes, bring a sample to one of our meetings for the membership to taste test.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
c/o ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH
1901 WEXFORD AVE.
PARMA, OHIO 44134

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

"OUR POLISH ANCESTORS"
is published by
THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND



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.

President:	John F. Szuch 105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273	(330) 769-4603
Vice-President:	Ron Marec 3316 Elsmere Rd., Shaker Hts., Ohio 44120	(216) 752-7513
Treasurer:	Richarda Jambrozy 1492 Lewis Dr., Cleveland, Ohio 44107	(216) 226-1548
Secretary:	Sonia Chapnick 7897 Gildersleeve Circle, Kirtland, Ohio 44094	(440) 256-8392

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