

## Welcome—New Members—Witamy

**Bernice Konopka**, interested in surnames: FUGIEL, GRABIEC, LIPOWSKI, WOJCIK, KONOPKA  
123 Carl Barrett Dr.  
Canton, Georgia 30115

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## Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

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

March—**Alana Baranick**, Plain Dealer Columnist and chief author of "*Life on the Death Beat: A Handbook for Obituary Writers*" will address the group on the topic: *Obituaries and History—Reliable Sources?*

April—Meeting and dinner to be held at **The Polish American Cultural Center**

May—**Vicki Blum Vigil**, member of The East Cuyahoga County Genealogical Society and Project Manager of the Cleveland Cemetery Database, will speak on the topic of: *The Cleveland Cemetery Database*

June—**Maria Davila**, from The Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office---Public Outreach Department, will speak on the topic: *Website Information Seminar---Property Deeds, Transfers*

July & August—Summer Vacation

## In This Issue

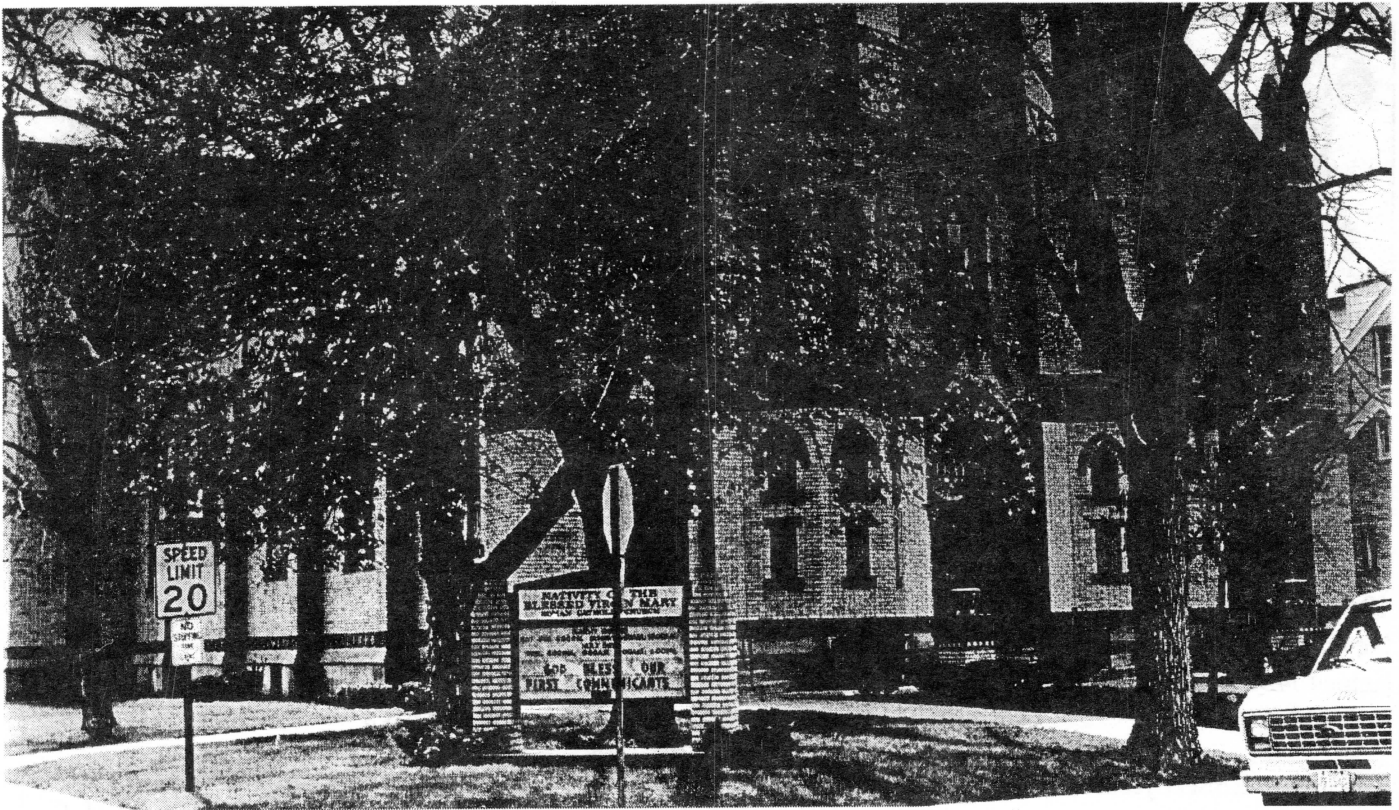
**History of Nativity Parish**—We begin the history of *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish* of Lorain, Ohio. This is the first installment. We received permission of the current pastor to copy the history from a book published in 1998 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the parish.

**Member shakes the hand of the "Great Babe Ruth"**—READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!—Which one of our members won a limerick contest in 1934 and got to shake the hand of the "Great Babe Ruth"? Guess who you think it is before you read about it further in the newsletter. With the baseball season soon to be upon us, it's a timely item.

**Funeral Cards**—Many of us, as we grow older, seem to spend more time in funeral parlors than we used to. We wish to pay our respects to friends and relatives who have passed on. On these occasions, we usually pick up a memorial card that the funeral director has printed up. After a while, the number of cards that we have begin to become quite numerous. And what do we intend to do with them? Well---seems like a good idea to collect them in a binder and keep the collection in our library for perusal. There's information on the cards that someone might find helpful. So, rather than throw the cards out, send them to us or bring them to a meeting, so that they may be included in our collection. See page 10 for examples.

**Family History Center Conference**—There's to be a genealogy conference on April 28th at the *Family History Center*, 25000 Westwood Road in Westlake. Particulars about the conference on page 11.

**Membership Renewal**—A form is provided for your convenience on page 11.



## A History of *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish of Lorain, Ohio\**

### The Great Honor of Our People

#### Preface

This work is meant to be a detailed history of Nativity B. V. M. Parish from its founding to the present day. In order to ensure accuracy, documents such as pastors' reports, letters from the individuals discussed, newspaper accounts, and official church records were used as the main sources for the information presented herein.

It became movingly obvious while researching this history that there was great support among the various Catholic parishes in Lorain as they labored to become established in their early days. It was also seen that the various Polish parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland assisted each other, celebrated together, and had many close ties, especially in pastoral care. It seemed fitting, therefore, that details of this Catholic unity be included here, especially in this year of sesquicentennial celebration of the founding of the Diocese of Cleveland.

It is hoped that this work will instill pride in the parishioners and friends of Nativity and encourage them to maintain the Faith, efforts, and traditions of those who have gone before.

#### Beginnings—The Formation of the Parish

Lorain of the 1880's was growing rapidly with new arrivals finding work on the docks and railroads and in the Haydenville Brass Works. Early Polish inhabitants of the city had joined with the Irish and the German settlers to worship and had founded the parish we now know as St. Mary's. While the population of Lorain grew more than 200% between 1880 and 1890, the most singular event in the development of the city and the foundation of our parish was the establishment of the Johnson Steel Company in Lorain in 1895. Wages, 50% higher than those of other mills, attracted Poles from steel towns in Pennsylvania and soon unskilled laborers from Europe also arrived. Employment in the new steel mill as well as in the shipyards, stove works, and many other manufacturing operations hastened the arrival of immigrants to Lorain increasing its population almost 230% between 1890 and 1900.

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\*Reprinted here with the permission of the current pastor. Taken from the history of the parish on the occasion of the parish's centennial celebration, 1898-1998, by Philip I. Bak.

Immigrants of the Catholic Faith joined the original parishioners of St. Mary's, swelling the congregation. When the original church burned in 1895, the German members petitioned Bishop Ignatius F. Horstmann, the third Bishop of Cleveland, for their own parish, and Fr. Charles Reichlin was appointed pastor in January, 1896. The number of Polish members of St. Mary's continued to grow and they requested the pastor, Fr. Joseph Eylar, to petition the bishop on their behalf as well. On March 8, 1897, he wrote the following letter to Bishop Horstmann:

Rt. Rev. Bishop,

This committee of Polish people of Lorain requested me to give them a few lines as an introduction to Your Lordship. They are very anxious to have a priest of their own nationality, since a great many of them cannot speak but their own language. They are hard at work at present to organize for their future parish. For this reason they come to you, having about one hundred families and over two thousand dollars subscribed, which is pretty good for these our times. Hoping that you will kindly accede to their wishes,

I remain,

Yours sincerely in XP,

J. Eylar

On April 1, 1897, the bishop sent Fr. Reichlin two pass books with the instructions that he choose two reliable Poles to canvass the area to determine which residents wished to join a new Polish parish and what amount each would subscribe to purchase property and erect a church. The earliest reference indicates contributions from 52 families. Due to a shortage of Polish priests, the bishop was unable to act on establishing a parish until December 31, 1897, when he wrote the following letter to Father Adolph Swierczynski, a Pole ordained as a Franciscan priest in Tuscany in 1895 and released from the order shortly before the letter was dictated.

Rev. dear Sir:

You are hereby appointed to take pastoral charge, p. t., of the Poles at Grafton and Lorain, this appointment taking effect on Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1898.

Praying God to bless you in your new field of labor, I am,

Yours truly in Xt.,

Ignatius Frederick

Bishop of Cleveland

P. S. You may stay for a time at Lorain with the Rev. Father Reichlin, and thence attend Grafton as a mission till other arrangements can be made. Of course if you stay with Fr. Reichlin you must pay for your board. It will be in his basement that you will hold services for the Poles until you are able to build.

Fr. Swierczynski's previous assignment was at St. Anthony's Church in Toledo and the local press here described him as a bright young man with a reputation for getting things accomplished. He said his first Mass as pastor of the new parish in St. Mary's church on January 16. The first baptism in the parish, that of Mary Majka, took place two days later with Fr. Eylar officiating. For the first several months, services were held in the chapel of St. Mary's School on the alternate Sundays that Fr. Swierczynski was not at Assumption Mission in Grafton. One of the new pastor's first activities was establishing religious confraternities of the Rosary and the Sacred Heart.

On February 28 Bishop Horstmann approved St. John Kantius as patron of the new parish and early parish seals and listings of Sunday services in the newspapers bear this title. The congregation soon outgrew the school chapel and began using a schoolroom at St. Joseph's Church. An altar stone was procured on April 13. Fr. Swierczynski's greatest concern was locating appropriate property for a new church and a number of sites were examined, including ones near the hospital, on Long Avenue, and on Washington Avenue, the latter promised to the parish for free by the owner, James Hoge, a prominent businessman and executive for a variety of companies, banks and utilities. This property was not yet developed and was probably rejected for this reason as well as the obvious perception of favoring one business over another. The location near the hospital was too far away from the parishioners' residences. Perhaps the Long Avenue location was not chosen due to cost though even Fr. Benedict Rosinski of St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland, who was asked by the bishop to examine in person the

various sites, recommended it.

Fr. Swierczynski requested to leave the diocese for family reasons on May 12 and the bishop responded affirmatively on June 2. He left shortly thereafter but in October, while staying in Buffalo, asked to return to Cleveland. The request was denied. In 1902 he became the first pastor of St. Hedwig's Church in Floral Park, New York. He remained at that church in the Brooklyn Diocese until 1911 when he went to Rome. He stayed in the Eternal City until the end of World War II, serving at the Church of San Vitale and also as a chaplain. In 1945 he returned to the Brooklyn Diocese as the Chaplain of the Little Sisters of the Poor and remained at that post until 1949. He died in 1953 after a very long and full life.

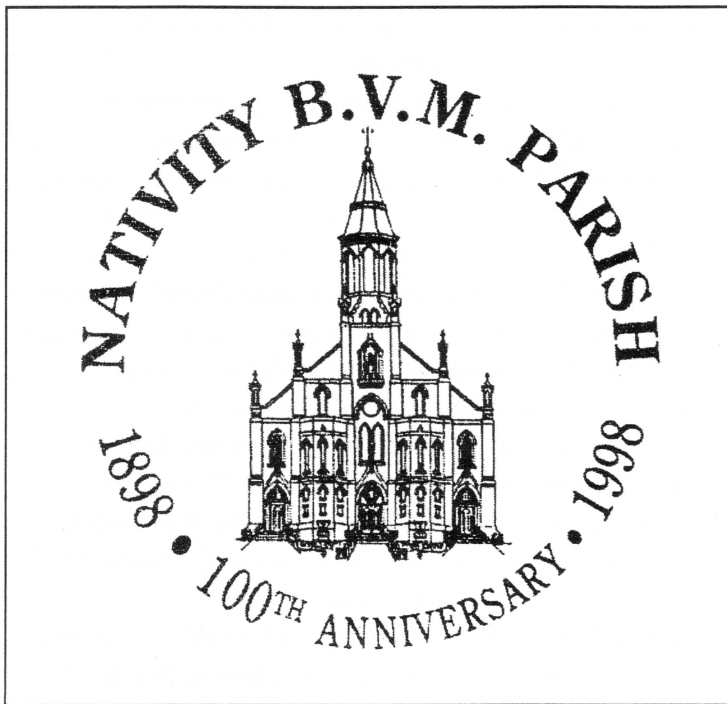
Fr. Charles Ruszkowski, an assistant at St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland, was appointed pastor on June 6 with the continued added responsibility of the care of the mission in Grafton. By October additional growth of the congregation necessitated moving the place of worship once again, this time from St. Joseph's School to the basement of St. Joseph's Hospital, where services were held every Sunday. Fr. Ruszkowski also lived at the hospital in those early days. From there he continued the process of searching for an appropriate location for the new church. Six lots were finally selected at the corner of Park Street and Eighth Avenue, now known as Lexington Avenue and Fifteenth Street. The deed of April 26, 1899, indicates that Worthy S. Streater transferred the property of Bishop Horstmann for \$1500.

### A New Church and a New Name

By June 7, 1899, plans had been drawn for a wooden combination church and school 44 feet by 104 feet, the transepts projecting an additional 5 feet on each side. The structure of Gothic architecture was to have a slate roof and a seating capacity for 700 in the upper level and two classrooms and living apartments in the lower level. Fr. Ruszkowski gave the cost as \$7,700. On July 3 the contract was let to Jacob Meyer to begin construction of the third Catholic church in the city of Lorain and ground was broken July 6. Mr. Meyer was well respected locally for his abilities in building churches, having been in charge of the erection of the imposing brick structure of St. Mary's Church after the fire of 1895. Unfortunately, this St. Mary's Church was also destroyed in 1924 by the devastating tornado.

August 27, the day after the Feast of our Lady of Czestochowa, was chosen for the laying of the cornerstone. Fr. Ruszkowski had carefully orchestrated a truly impressive celebration and all accounts indicate that it was a tremendous success. Bishop Horstmann and 400 people from Cleveland arrived by train and were joined by other visitors from Berea, Grafton, and Elyria. At noon, a parade of 1500 people marched from the station to St. Joseph's Hospital to the music of five bands. The bishop and clergy attended a luncheon at the hospital. At 3:00 a parade of military and civic organizations from Lorain and visiting communities, including all the local Irish, German, and Polish Catholic societies, formed at the hospital and proceeded down Broadway to Tenth Street and up Lexington Avenue to the church property, the thoroughfares all bedecked in flags and bunting. One of the organizations in the parade must have been the Rosary Society, this group being listed in the parish reports from the beginning. Upon arriving at the church, the crowd was greeted by a sign which said in Polish, "Welcome to the Bishop and Clergy and all Members," on the partially completed structure. Assisting Bishop Horstmann and Fr. Ruszkowski in the services were Fathers Eyley, Reichlin, and Schlachter of Lorain, Fathers Rosinski, Orlovski, and Wachowski of Cleveland, and Fr. Suplicki, Pastor of St. Adalbert's Church in Berea. A statement of church statistics, signed by the bishop and parish officers, copies of Polish papers from Cleveland and Chicago, and a copy of The Evening Herald of Lorain had been placed in a small tin box and this was deposited in the hole cut for it in the foundation. As 5,000 people watched, the cornerstone then was lowered into place. The prayers and blessing of Bishop Horstmann followed. The stone, which can now be found at the back of the present church, next to the rectory, bore the inscription, "Church of the Mother of God of Czestochowa" in Polish on the front and "Jacob Meyer, Builder, A. D. 1899" on the side. Rev. Benedict Rosinski of St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland preached a Polish sermon and then Bishop Horstmann gave a few remarks in English in which he indicated that Lorain was destined to become a great city. The Polish National Hymn was sung by those in attendance. The festivities were brought to a close by the armed knights present, who fired three volleys over the church.

While the new church was being built, Sunday and weekday services continued to be held in the basement



of St. Joseph's Hospital. Local papers, giving the times of these services, continued to refer to the parish as "St. John Kantius" but all diocesan documents, including the description of the laying of the cornerstone in The Catholic Universe, give the parish title as "Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary," the name that was approved on October 5, 1898. The change in name by the bishop was probably due to the establishment, also in 1898, of St. John Cantius parish in Cleveland and the bishop's desire to have an American Church where a title such as "Our Lady of Czestochowa" didn't quite meet the objective. To emphasize this point, future important parish events, conducted by diocesan officials, would take place near the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Marian feast of the Universal Church closest in date after the Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa. However, in these early years, the multiplicity of names must have

caused confusion as evidenced by descriptions in the newspaper of the Polish Parish of St. John Kantius conducting services in the Church of the Nativity while postcards, showing the parish buildings, bear the inscription "Our Lady of Czestochowa."

By April 15, 1900, Easter Sunday, the new structure was completed to the point that it was ready to be used as a place of worship, Fr. Ruzskowski described the activities of that day in his annual report to the chancellor:

Before the congregation moved into the new church, the trustees with the pastor presented themselves to the sisters of the hospital and thanked (them) for the kind favor granted for about 2 years, during which the sisters gave gratis their basement to the Polish Congregation for their services. From there the Polish societies marched in line to the new church, where Rev.

Hartmann, S. J., said the first Mass and the pastor preached an appropriate sermon.

The interior of the church was provided with three new altars, a pulpit, and a fine altar railing, which cost \$750, and a pipe organ, which cost \$355. A priest from Massillon donated the pews. The new 100-foot steeple was struck by lightning and damaged on July 17 but insurance covered the repairs.

On Sunday, September 9, 1900, the day after the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the new church was dedicated to the service of God. Again joyous festivities and solemn services combined to mark the day. Shortly after 9:00 a.m., societies and bands from Cleveland, Berea, and Grafton arrived by train and were met at the station by a Polish band, two Polish societies, and the Knights of St. John from St. Mary's Church in Elyria and St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Churches in Lorain. These organizations formed a parade of 500 members who marched to Reid Avenue where they met the day's speakers, waiting in carriages. The parade continued to Eighth Street, up Broadway, across Fourteenth Street, and over to the church. Due to the illness of Bishop Horstmann, the church was dedicated by Monsignor Boff, Vicar General of the Diocese of Cleveland. He was assisted by Msgr. Thorpe of Cleveland, Fathers Ruzskowski and Reichlin, Fr. Schaffeld of St. Mary's Church in Elyria, Fr. Vogt of St. Mary's Church in Avon, Rev. Hoersteman of Rockport, Fr. Stuber of Holy Trinity Church in Avon, and Fathers Wanderly, Rosinski, McGuire, Shirotzski, and Lazinski of Cleveland, who processed and chanted first around the outside and then the inside of the edifice, blessing the walls. Fr. Rosinski, beloved by the Polish congregation, sang the Solemn High Mass with Fathers Reichlin and Schaffeld acting as deacon and subdeacon. Fr. Lazinski preached an eloquent sermon that morning. Fr. Shirotzski conducted vespers in the afternoon, followed by a sermon, given by Fr. Rosinski, which held the audience spellbound. Later in the afternoon, most of the clergy attended the laying of the cornerstone of St. John's Church in South Lorain. The

day's celebrations were brought to a close with a race of the mounted societies. Capt. M. P. Knisla of St. Casimir's Society of Cleveland was awarded a gold medal for making the best charge.

Early September brought another happy occasion, the opening of the parish school. 63 pupils were in attendance and under the supervision of one lay teacher. By the end of the year, 82 students were enrolled. Twice that autumn, strong winds caused the parish some misfortune by toppling the chimney onto and through the roof.

### The Young Parish Grows and Prospers

Additional improvements to the church took place in 1901 with the installation of a confessional, chandelier, and Stations of the Cross. Membership growth and the hardships associated with travelling the twelve miles between congregations continued to make it more difficult for Fr. Ruszkowski to serve both Nativity and the mission in Grafton and a letter from the parishioners, requesting that he be relieved of that responsibility, was sent to the bishop on February 19, 1902. On June 14 of that year, a young priest, Ignatius Piotrowski, was named pastor. Unpopular with the parishioners, he was transferred to St. Stanislaus Church in Youngstown on March 27, 1903, and Fr. Ruszkowski, who was serving at that church, returned. However, Assumption Mission in Grafton was given their own pastor at the same time so that as that mission became a parish, the pastor of Nativity was able to concentrate his time and energies upon the members of his own flock.

The school was also growing at a rapid rate so that by the end of 1904, membership had doubled from that of the first year to 130 students. A Sister of St. Francis from St. Joseph's Hospital joined the lay teacher in educating the pupils. The generosity of the congregation did not slacken as is indicated by the parish having the resources to fresco the church in August, 1904, and pay off the entire church debt on October 25 of that year. Since the House of God was paid for and the pastor was still renting, construction of a rectory at a cost of \$5,200 commenced on September 1, 1905. A \$250 shed also was erected that year.

Since the founding of Nativity, a number of Slovak immigrants had been members of the congregation and on February 1, 1906, they were given their own pastor, leading to the establishment of Holy Trinity Parish. There were approximately 1,600 members of Nativity that year, making it the second largest Catholic parish of the seven in the city of Lorain and of the seventeen in the county. Only St. Mary's in Lorain with a membership of 2,600 was larger. While many Poles lived near the church, a large number had settled in South Lorain so that they could reside near the steel plant. Plans for a new church to meet the needs of the burgeoning congregation were being formulated and members living in South Lorain, quite a distance from Nativity, felt that they should have a church nearby. Thus, they petitioned the fourth Bishop of Cleveland, John P. Farrelly, for their own parish on August 27, 1907, and their request was granted on February 3, 1908. Dexter Avenue, now known as Twenty First Street, was established as the dividing line between the two Polish parishes. All those parishioners of Nativity living south of Dexter Avenue became members of the new parish of St. Stanislaus. As can be imagined, the existence of two Polish Roman Catholic parishes, separated solely by a street, created some friction, especially concerning membership and finances, and a number of heated exchanges between pastors ensued. As St. Stanislaus Parish grew and became more financially sound, cooperation between the two parishes increased. Prior to the construction of the St. Stanislaus rectory, the priests of that parish even lived at Nativity's.

Fr. Ruszkowski's desire to have teaching sisters serve the students of Nativity School was fulfilled in 1908 when three sisters of St. Joseph, Third Order of St. Francis, came from Stevens Point, Wisconsin, to educate the growing number of students. The group was under the leadership of Sr. Mary Ignatia. By 1911 there had been one vocation from the parish to the priesthood and one female religious vocation. These most likely were Mary Zuba, who entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, T. O. S. F., on August 11, 1911, and took the name Sr. Mary Cyprian, and Francis Dyczkowski, who was ordained in Detroit on June 27, 1920, and said his first Mass on July 4 in Nativity Church. He spent the greater part of his ministry serving the coal miners in West Virginia. A baptismal font also was purchased in 1911.

By 1912 Fr. Ruszkowski had initiated plans to build a new church. William Ginther of Akron architect for St. Bernard's Church in his city and Holy Rosary and St. Adelbert's Churches in Cleveland, had even prepared preliminary drawings but these were never used. Fr. Ruszkowski did not carry out this goal for he was transferred to St. Casimir's Church in Cleveland on March 21, 1912. While there, he inaugurated the building of the fine

structure that serves that parish to this day. Obviously, Nativity Parish held a special place in his heart for upon his death in 1919, his will specified a donation of \$1000 to the parish. He was succeeded by Fr. Thomas Wilk of St. Stanislaus Church in Youngstown. Fr. Wilk resigned on July 1, 1912, due to ill health. He went to Zakopane, Poland, and died there on September 15.

#### A Charismatic New Pastor and the "Finest Religious Edifice in the City"

A 26 year-old priest, Andrew A. Radecki, an assistant at St. John Cantius Church in Cleveland, was named administrator of the parish upon the resignation of Fr. Wilk. The young man, who had been ordained only two years previously, had quite a challenge in front of him. The parish was still growing rapidly and the parishioners were clamoring for a new church. Fortunately, Fr. Ruzskowski had left the parish in sound financial shape and had begun the groundwork for a new church building. There can be no doubt that Fr. Radecki was also up to the task. His penchant for detail, his excellent education, and his strong administrative abilities, as evidenced by the meticulous notes that he left, made him an excellent candidate to lead the parish at this demanding time.

Even with the establishment of St. Stanislaus Parish, Nativity Church and School were overcrowded. The following letter describes the action that was taken.

Lorain, Ohio  
March 31, 1913

Rt. Rev. J. P. Farrelly, D. D.  
Bishop of Cleveland

Your Lordship,

After much persuasion and repeated requests our pastor, the Rev. A. A. Radecki, finally consented to holding a meeting of the parish. At this meeting held in the school building of the Church of the Nativity, March 30th, and presided by Mr. F. Zysk, the Church Marshall, and Mr. A. Novak, as president and secretary respectively, we the undersigned were elected and appointed the duty to formulate and sign the following resolutions:

Whereas, our old Church building, serving presently as a church, school, and Sisters' residence is entirely too small to answer their purposes; the church being overcrowded at all the services and no pews to rent, the State Safety and Fire Dep't. will not allow standing in the door and stairways, the church being on the second floor of a frame building; the school consisting only of four classrooms cannot accommodate half of our children, 250 of our children are presently attending the public schools; The Sisters' residence is inadequate and unsanitary,

Whereas, the building being only a frame structure and comparatively old requires repairing and continual repairs, costing great sums, are practically useless,

Whereas, the church collections and offerings were decreasing because of constant promises to build and no sign of the effort were made,

Whereas, the money presently on deposits was saved for the purpose of a new church only,

Whereas, at present collections and offerings are more than doubled it is only in hope of seeing the end accomplished,

Whereas, the harmony, unknown perhaps in the history of the parish, is astonishing and at the meeting, where every parishioner was present, all were of one accord and aim,

We, the undersigned, hereby humbly ask the permission of Your Lordship to execute our proposed plans and likewise to make a loan of the necessary amount.

Also, the parish and we, in its name, pledge ourselves to work in peace and union with our pastor.

However, learning that our present pastor is only as Administrator of the parish and, as such, says he cannot undertake to satisfy our demands and fulfill our plans, we also, hereby, expressing the wish of the entire parish of the Nativity humbly ask Your Lordship to give him full appointed power as Pastor, and executor of our plans.

Awaiting Your Lordship's earnest attention and an early reply to our humble requests,  
We beg to remain Your Lordship's obedient servants and children,  
The Undersigned Committee and Chairman

The bishop responded to this request by asking Fr. Radecki to give a full outline of the proposed work to the diocesan consultors. He replied that all he requested at that time was to allow Mr. Ginther, who had donated the money due for the previous drawings, to prepare a new set of plans for a building not to exceed \$60,000. Fr.



*Father Andrew A. Radecki*

Radecki felt that half that amount could be raised before the walls were up and that no loan would be taken until absolutely necessary to finish the project. Diocesan requirements stated that half the necessary funds had to be in place before building could begin. Thus, when the bishop was presented with plans for a 78 by 145 foot church built of red brick and stone trimmings and costing \$58,000 plus \$8,000 for renovations to the old building to convert all of it to a school and \$3,000 for a frame house for the sisters, he denied the request and call for a simpler design.

The parishioners were firm in their resolve to have the most beautiful church in the city and had raised \$27,000 by the end of February, 1914. New blueprints were prepared by Mr. Ginther on May 26, 1914, and these were sent to the Diocesan Building Commission. Upon examining these plans, the commission requested that the boiler be moved from the basement below the sanctuary to a separate building, the stone coping over the doors and windows be corbelled, the elimination of the huge angels near the sanctuary arch, and the removal of the Roman arch decoration in the sanctuary, being incompatible with the Gothic lines. The bishop met with Fr. Radecki and he agreed to the changes with the exception of moving the boiler, most likely due to the cost of building a separate boiler house.

The bishop and his priest were in agreement at last to begin the most important undertaking in the parish's history. One last thing remained before construction could commence and this was accomplished on July 8, 1914, when Fr.

Radecki was named the sixth pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

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Here ends the first installment of the history of *The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish*.

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### **Every Boy's Dream: Meet The Great Babe Ruth!\***

by Gregory Rogo

It was every boy's dream. Go to a big league game in a famous ballpark like Yankee Stadium or Comiskey Park. See the great Babe Ruth play (he'd probably smack a couple of homers). Get to actually meet the Babe, shake his hand, and tell him how great you think he is. Then, to remember it all, receive an autographed picture of you shaking hands with the great Babe Ruth!

But what were the odds of winning the Quaker Oats Company's Babe Ruth Contest? Why probably every kid in America was entering it. There must be a million entries a week. There were other neat prizes too, like a baseball autographed by the Babe himself. That would be something to show your friends! If you could just come up with a good line to complete the limerick about Quaker Puffed Wheat or Rice and Babe Ruth--- maybe, just maybe...





Babe Ruth, he stepped up to the plate  
Saying, "Oh Boy! I surely feel great  
For I've just had to eat some Quaker Puffed Wheat,  
The food that gives the blues the gate.

He had a choice of an all expense-paid trip to either New York's Yankee Stadium or Chicago's Comiskey Park to see Babe Ruth play. He chose Comiskey because Chicago was host to the Worlds Fair that year and he could also attend the Fair. He could bring an adult, so Norm and his mother rode the Big Four R.R. in a Pullman car (another first for Norm) to Chicago. They stayed at the exclusive Edgewater Beach Hotel. He got to attend two Yankee/White Sox games, meet Babe Ruth, and received an autographed picture shaking hands with Babe. He also met and shook hands with the president of the Worlds Fair and was interviewed by WGAR radio before leaving Cleveland.

Unfortunately, Norman didn't get to see his idol play. Babe was injured in a previous game when he was hit in the right shin by a line drive off the bat of Lou Gehrig. Ironically, that occurred in Norm's home town of Cleveland, at the Old League Park. When Norm arrived in Chicago, Ruth was still in a Cleve-

land hospital recovering. He recovered quickly, however, flew to Chicago, and suited up for the White Sox/ Yankee doubleheader but---he still was too sore to play.

Norm kept up his winning ways and won the contest again. This time the prize was an autographed Babe Ruth baseball. But don't ask Norm what ever happened to that ball (he doesn't have it anymore), and it probably wouldn't be worth much today anyway. It was used over and over.

Norman Braun is a longtime Garfield Hts. resident and an active member of the Garfield Hts. Historical Society. Although Norm's aged slightly since 1934, he's still a baseball fan and an active, dynamic member of the community. He has numerous interests and hobbies and the same infectious smile he had in 1934.

Visit Norm at one of his favorite hangouts, the Garfield Hts. Historical Museum (5405 Turney Road) on Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.. Norm can give you a fascinating glimpse of the area's historical past, from its founding families (many of them buried in the cemetery next to the museum), to where a Moravian Village was once located (near Hathaway and Canal Roads).

Norm can tell you about local Indian Mounds, show you a working crystal radio set (the original Internet), or interpret a German inscription from an old gravestone.

And don't forget to somehow weave the Yankees or Babe Ruth into your conversation with Norm. He might just show you a great picture from 1934---of a handsome, beaming youth, shaking hands with his hero, the great Babe Ruth.

\*Reprinted with permission from *The Garfield Hts. Historical Society*.

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**Rest in Peace**—Since the last newsletter, two of our members have passed on. They are: **Joseph Uniatowski** and **Walter Kanieski**. Walter was a partner in the ownership of *Parma Hardware* for many years. He was very active in the community and very well liked. An excellent article about Walter appeared in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* on Christmas Day, 2006. Both men were members of the *Cleveland Society of Poles* for many years.

Please say a prayer on their behalf.

May they rest in peace—Amen.

May the Souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



**EDWIN E. LIPOWSKI**

Entered into rest

July 1, 1981

Services at

Our Lady of Grace Church

Monday, July 6, 1981

at 10:00 a.m.

Interment

Holy Cross Cemetery

Section 16 Lot 1533 Grave 2

May the angels lead you into Paradise, may the Martyrs receive you at your coming, and take you to Jerusalem, the holy city. May the choirs of the Angels receive you and may you with the once poor Lazarus, have rest everlasting. Amen

Tomon & Sons Funeral Home  
4772 Pearl Rd. 741-6661

**Chester F. Ksiazek**

December 23, 1950 - December 19, 2001  
Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio  
Section 8, Lot 4286, Grave 1

God saw he was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be.  
So He put His arms around him  
And whispered, "Come with Me."  
With tearful eyes  
We watched him suffer,  
And saw him fade away.  
Although we loved him dearly,  
We could not make him stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands to rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.

Joseph Misencik Funeral Home  
12500 Madison Ave., Lakewood, Oh 44107  
Phone 216/221-2522

IN MEMORY OF

**DANIEL F. OSTROWSKI**

BORN

August 8, 1927

DIED

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

SERVICES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

9:30 AM

St. Therese Church

INTERMENT

Calvary Cemetery

Section 87 Lot 1325 Grave 2

PRAYER

Lord make me an instrument of Thy peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

ARRANGEMENTS BY  
**RYBICKI & SON**  
4640 Turney Road  
(216) 641-6321  
FUNERAL HOMES

"We have loved him during life, let us not abandon him, until we have conducted him by our prayers into the house of the Lord." Amen.



**LEON LIPOWSKI**

Entered into rest

May 21, 1962

Services at

St. Charles Church

May 24, 1962

Interment

Holy Cross Cemetery

O Gentlest Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on the soul of Thy servant, bring him far from the shadow of exile to the bright home of Heaven, where we trust Thou and Thy Blessed Mother, have woven for him a crown of unending bliss. Amen

A. J. TOMON & SONS  
Funeral Home  
4772 Pearl Rd. SH. 1-6661

I am the Resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me, even if he dies, shall live, and whoever lives and believes in Me, shall never die  
John 11, 25-26



**Francis S. Bostosky**

Born

November 26, 1929

Entered Into Rest

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

Funeral Service

Holy Trinity Polish Nati. Cath. Church

Friday, February 22, 2002

Interment

Sacred Heart Polish Nati. Cemetery

Section A, Lot L, Grave 17

When caring is important  
**KOMOROWSKI**  
DOMAGALSKI • Funeral Home  
4108 East 71st Street Cleveland, OH 44105 (216) 341-1854  
2204 Prosper Ave. Cleveland, OH 44113 (216) 771-1556

Give eternal rest, O Lord,  
and may your light shine forever  
on the Soul of

**WALTER ADAM MENDYKA, M.D.**

ENTERED INTO REST

October 3, 1985

PRAYER

Lord, welcome into your kingdom our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in friendship. There we hope to share in your glory when every tear will be wiped away. On that day we shall see you, our God, as you are.

Amen.

Arrangements by

**Corrigan Funeral Homes**

I am the Resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me, even if he dies, shall live, and whoever lives and believes in Me, shall never die.  
John 11, 25-26



**ALEXANDER S. SUTOWSKI**

Date of Birth

June 5, 1919

Entered Into Rest

May 7, 2002

Services

Saturday, May 11, 2002

St. John Cantius Church

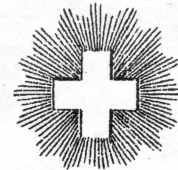
Interment

Holy Cross Cemetery

Section 41 Lot 1881 Grave 2

When caring is important  
**KOMOROWSKI**  
DOMAGALSKI • Funeral Home  
4108 East 71st Street Cleveland, OH 44105 (216) 341-1854  
2204 Prosper Ave. Cleveland, OH 44113 (216) 771-1556

Pomodi się łaskawie za spokój duszy  
mojej.



**ADAM MENDYKA**

Umarł 24-go Lutego - 1953

Pogrzeb 27-go Lutego - 1953

z Kościoła św. Jana Kantego

Pochowany na Cmentarzu św. Krzyża

Najmilsiejszy Jezu mój, przez dobroć Serca Twego, racz tej duszy odpuścić wszystkie grzechy ażeby za pokornymi naszymi prośbami zmiłowania Twego dostąpiła.

Wieczny odpoczynek i. t. d.

Zdrowaś Marja i. t. d.

A. J. TOMON I SYNOWIE

— Domy Pogrzebowe —

PR. 1-0949

2144 W. 14th St.

SH. 1-6661

4772 Pearl Road

I am the Resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me, even if he die, shall live; and whoever lives and believes in Me, shall never die.  
John 11, 25-26

Ralph Sutowski's  
mother - in - law  
**STELLA KONIEWSKI**

Date of Birth

March 12, 1905

Entered Into Rest

Saturday, March 25, 1995

Services

Tuesday, March 28, 1995

St. Mary of Czestochowa Church

Interment

Holy Cross Cemetery

Section 12 Lot 4452 Grave 1

When caring is important  
**KOMOROWSKI**  
DOMAGALSKI • Funeral Home  
4108 East 71st Street Cleveland, OH 44105 (216) 341-1854  
2204 Prosper Ave. Cleveland, OH 44113 (216) 771-1556

Alleluia Alleluia;

For Leroy, life has not ended but merely changed. Praise God for his mercy.



**FRANK S. TAVRELL**

Date of Birth

February 21, 1921

Entered into Rest

Sunday, August 30, 1998

Services

Thursday, September 3, 1998  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Interment

St. Mary's Cemetery  
Section T Row 10 Grave 35

**GOLUBSKI FUNERAL HOME**  
6500 Fullerton • Cleveland, Ohio  
(216) 341-0940



**LEROY C. KOSTECKI**

Date of Birth

May 1, 1932

Entered Into Rest

Saturday, March 11, 2006

Services

Thursday, March 16, 2006  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

Interment

Ohio Western Reserve  
National Cemetery

**GOLUBSKI FUNERAL HOME**  
6500 Fullerton • Cleveland, Ohio  
(216) 341-0940

DROCE

MADE IN ITALY

# Cleveland Ohio Family History Center

December 6, 2006

## Notice of April 28 Genealogy Conference

The Cleveland OH Family History Center is sponsoring a FREE genealogy conference on Saturday, April 28, 2007. This multi-track conference will include a hands-on workshop on the basics of genealogy, plus in-depth seminars for more experienced attendees. The conference will be held at 25000 Westwood Road in Westlake.

Please make your members and patrons aware of this conference. Feel free to copy this letter for those members and patrons, to mention it in your newsletters, and to copy and post this announcement. We appreciate the support you have offered us for our past four conferences. We look forward to another excellent conference next April, and thank you for your support in publicizing it.

Sincerely yours,

Philip C. Franklin  
Executive Director

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To renew your membership in the PGSGC, use the form below.

.....Cut Along This Line.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover my membership dues for the year(s).\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: PGSGC, 1901 Wexford Ave., Parma, Ohio 44134  
Make checks payable to *The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland.*  
Thank You!

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

Please submit all correspondence to: PGSGC Newsletter, c/o the return address above.  
e-mail address—[edjmendyka@aol.com](mailto:edjmendyka@aol.com)