

Ohio Death Certificates 1908-1953

What: Cleveland Public Library patrons can now view and copy any death certificate issued in the state of Ohio from December 20, 1908, through December 31, 1953.

Where: The Death Certificates are on microfilm in the Library's Microform Center, located on the first floor of the historic Main Library Building at 325 Superior Avenue.

When: During Library hours, Monday-Saturday 9-6. (Open on Sundays from 1-5 from the first Sunday after Labor Day to the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend. Closed Summer Sundays.)

How to locate a date of death using available indexes: If you do not know the date of death, first try finding the date in the online Ohio Death Certificate Index, which covers 1913-1944: <http://www.ohiohistory.org/dindex/>. You may also search the microfilm indexes to the Death Certificates (1908-1953) in the Microfilm Center to find an exact death date.

How to Obtain Copies in Person—

Anyone may visit the Library during open hours and make self-serve copies for 10 cents each.

How to Obtain Copies by Mail—

Each request for a death certificate must include the following information:

1. Name of the deceased.
2. Date of death (if exact date is now known, give the approximate date.)
3. Last known place of residence (city, village, township, etc.) if known.

Note: The Library provides only uncertified copies of death certificates. These cannot be used for legal purposes.

Ohio Residents Only: 3 Free Copies by Mail—

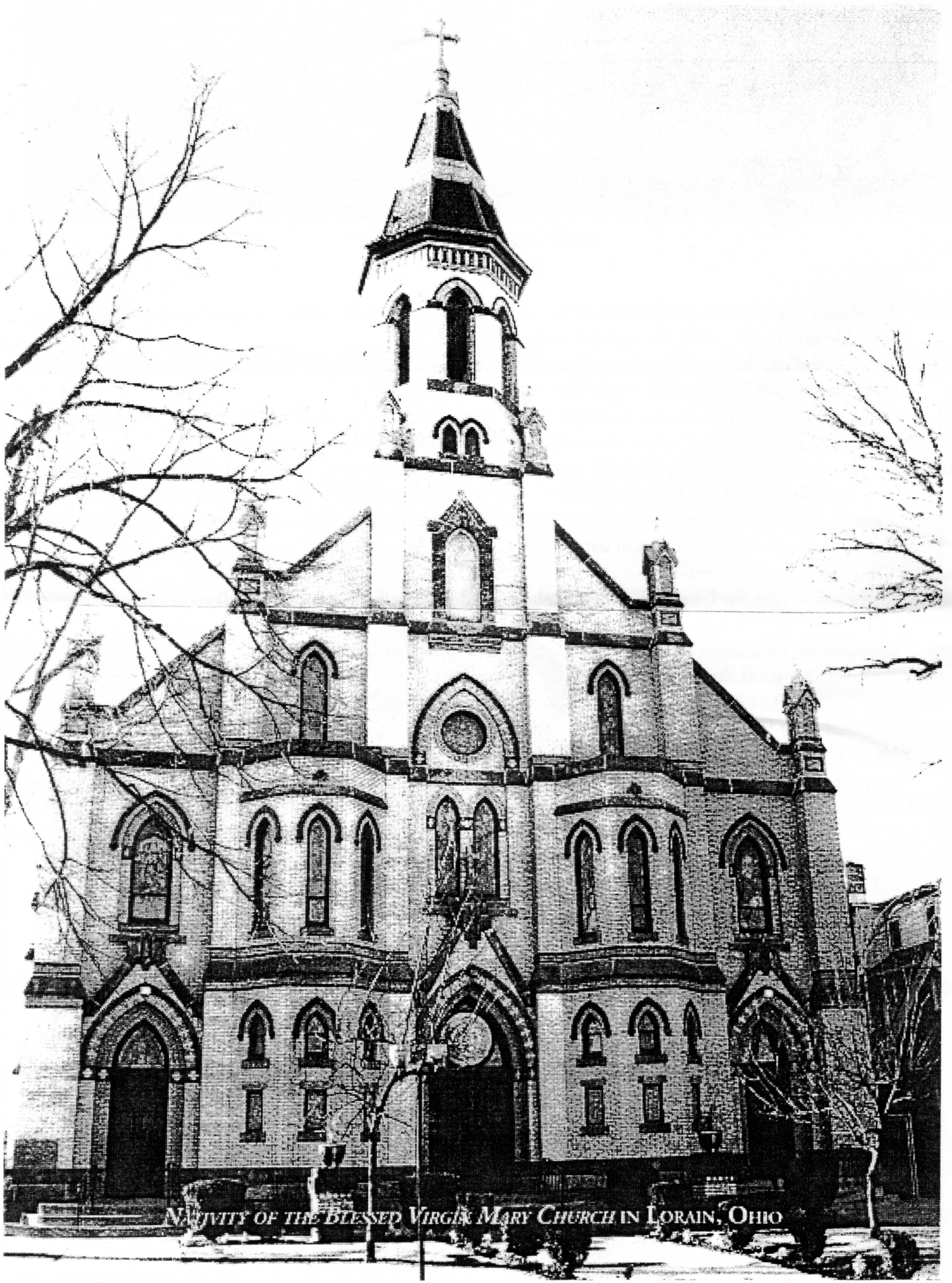
If you need 3 or fewer certificates within any 4-month period: Please contact the Microform Center directly by e-mail (fastest): microform.center@cpl.org or by regular mail: Microform Center, Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Ave., NE, Cleveland, OH, 44114. We regret that we cannot accommodate telephone requests for copies. Provide the information as requested above. Copies will be mailed to you free-of-charge. Please don't forget to include your regular mailing address in any e-mail message you send for this purpose.

Ohio Residents: More Than 3 Copies by Mail—

If you need more than 3 certificates in any 4-month period: Please contact our Photoduplication Department via e-mail at PhotoDup@cpl.org (preferred) or telephone (216-623-2901). The Photoduplication Department will provide a cost estimate. Copies will be billed according to the Library's standard fee schedule. The cost is approximately \$7 per certificate. You may also wish to order your copies through the Ohio Historical Society, which provides an online form for ordering multiple copies: http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/database/odci_faq.html

Out-Of-State Residents: How To Order Copies By Mail—

Please contact our Photoduplication Department via e-mail or telephone as given above. The costs will be as stated above for Ohio Residents. You may also wish to order your copies through the Ohio Historical Society at the online address provided above.



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH IN LORAIN, OHIO

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

Second Installment

A large crowd gathered on Sunday, August 16, the day after the Feast of the Assumption, on the site set aside by Fr. Ruskowski when he left plenty of room for a new church next to the first building, which occupied the area now covered by the present convent building. Fr. Radecki consecrated the area where the church would be built and a building permit was procured the following Tuesday. Since regular bids to build the church were too high, the pastor hired Anthony F. Wasielewski of Minneapolis, an itinerant builder of churches around the country, including Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Josaphat's Churches in Cleveland, to superintend the project. Many of the parishioners, who were presently out of work, were hired to carry out the construction on a day labor system, decreasing the cost. Local factories also donated materials and the diocese provided a \$20,000 loan. Unfortunately, the happy activity of the congregation was quickly subdued by the announcement of the death of Pope Pius X on August 19. This great pontiff, who would be declared a Saint of the Church in forty years, must have blessed from heaven the work of his people in Lorain as they labored to build an edifice worthy of the memory of their homeland about to be ravaged by the World War that hastened his death.

The foundation of solid, cut stone was completed that autumn and work paused for the winter. The superstructure was begun April 1, 1915. Sunday, April 25, the day chosen for the laying of the cornerstone of the new church, proved to be the largest celebration in the parish's history. Due to Confirmation services in Cleveland, Bishop Farrelly was unable to attend. In his stead, Monsignor T. C. O'Reilly, Chancellor of the Diocese, performed the rites. The monsignor motored from Cleveland to Elyria, where he was met in the early afternoon by 18 companies of Polish knights and representatives of Nativity Parish. As he and his escort proceeded to Twenty First Street and Broadway, Marshall William Zacharyas and a parade of hundreds of visitors, who had arrived by trolley from Cleveland, Toledo, Sandusky, Elyria, Grafton, and Marblehead, left the church and headed south on Broadway to meet the chancellor and his group. There, the two crowds joined and with the guests of the day marched to the Nativity Rectory with the following organizations: Polish Cadets and Turners and International Band of Cleveland, the Kosciusko Society of Cleveland, St. Casimir's Society of Cleveland, Polish Vulcans of Cleveland and Lorain, the Lorain commanderies of the Knights of St. John, Slovak societies of Lorain with a band, the Kosciusko Society of Lorain, St. Casimir's Society of Lorain, St. Michael's Society of Lorain and the Lorain Cornet Band, and uniformed Polish societies.

Approximately 8,000 people filled every available space around the church and spilled far down Lexington Avenue and Fifteenth Street as the clergy processed from the rectory to the church under construction. An honor guard of rows of uniformed knights, swords drawn, saluted them. Msgr. O'Reilly was assisted by Fr. Louis Redmer, D. D., of St Hyacinth's Church in Cleveland and Fr. Wenceslas Krzycki, O. F. M., of St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland as deacon and subdeacon respectively. Other priests present from Cleveland were Fathers Methodius Kielar, O. F. M., also of St. Stanislaus Church and Marion J. Orzechowski of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. The Lorain parishes were represented by Fathers Reichlin of St. Joseph's Church, J. J. Johnston of St. Mary's, J. P. Stefanic of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, J. Kozelec of Holy Trinity, D. Leone of St. Peter's, P. Logan of St. John's and J. Spanowski of St. Stanislaus, who acted as Master of Ceremonies. Additional Cleveland societies present included the Polish Infantry, Legion of Polish Rifles, Pulaski Guards, and the St. Hyacinth's Athletic Club. Other organizations from Lorain consisted of Our Lady of Czestochowa Society, St. Joseph's Society, Star of Victory, Sons of Poland, and the Polish Businessmen's Association. Musical selections were provided by F. Nowicki's Cleveland Band.

Msgr. O'Reilly blessed and anointed the granite cornerstone in which were sealed two histories of the parish, the first written by Fr. Radecki, and the second contained in a copy of *The Lorain Times-Herald*, a picture of the church as it would look upon completion, an announcement of the dedication ceremony, copies of the *Polonia* and the *Catholic Courier* newspapers, published in Cleveland and Toledo respectively, a list of all the donors of funds for the erection of the new church, and an American coin, bearing the date 1915. The front of the stone bears the Latin inscription, "D(eo) O(ptimo) M(aximo), Ecclesia Nativitatis B. V. M., Aedificata A. D. 1915 (To God, the Best, the Greatest, The Church of the Nativity B. V. M., Built in the Year of Our Lord, 1915)." On

the side is marked in Polish, "Kosciol Matki Boskiej Czest, Pobudowany z Dobrowolnych Ofiar Parafin, R. P. 1915, Ks. A. A. Radecki, Proboszcz (The Church of the Mother of Czestochowa, built with the goodwill offerings of the parish in the Year of Our Lord, 1915, Fr. A. A. Radecki, Pastor)." After setting the stone and blessing the church walls, the monsignor congratulated the congregation on its achievement and praised their faith and devotion to God and the principles of Christianity, handed down from generation to generation.

"Devotion to God has kept you true to the principles of right. Had it not been for the faith that moves you, the name of Poland would have been obliterated in the strife of the past 300 years. Your brethren in the Old World, stricken by this terrible tragedy of war that has staggered the world, are carrying a cross that is made lighter by such faith as yours. Theirs is a real martyrdom. The name of Poland is a reality because the name of Christ was a reality to your forefathers. We would beseech you to cherish with all the strength of your hearts the faith that has been handed down to you. We ask you to keep the cross and banner side by side. Let faith be your inspiration of love insofar that you will be true to home, to family, to the state at large and to the church. Beware of those who would lead you astray with promises of greater and broader liberty. Remember they aim only to steal away the richness of your faith. This is the victory that overcometh all—faith."

Msgr. O'Reilly concluded by giving the felicitations of the bishop and himself to the City of Lorain, to Fr. Radecki for his leadership, and to the congregation. His address was followed by the presentation of Fr. Benedict Rosinski of Toledo who was present at the laying of the cornerstone of the first church sixteen years earlier. Speaking in English and Polish, he expressed his great pleasure at seeing such a fine house of worship being erected in less than a score of years from the parish's founding.

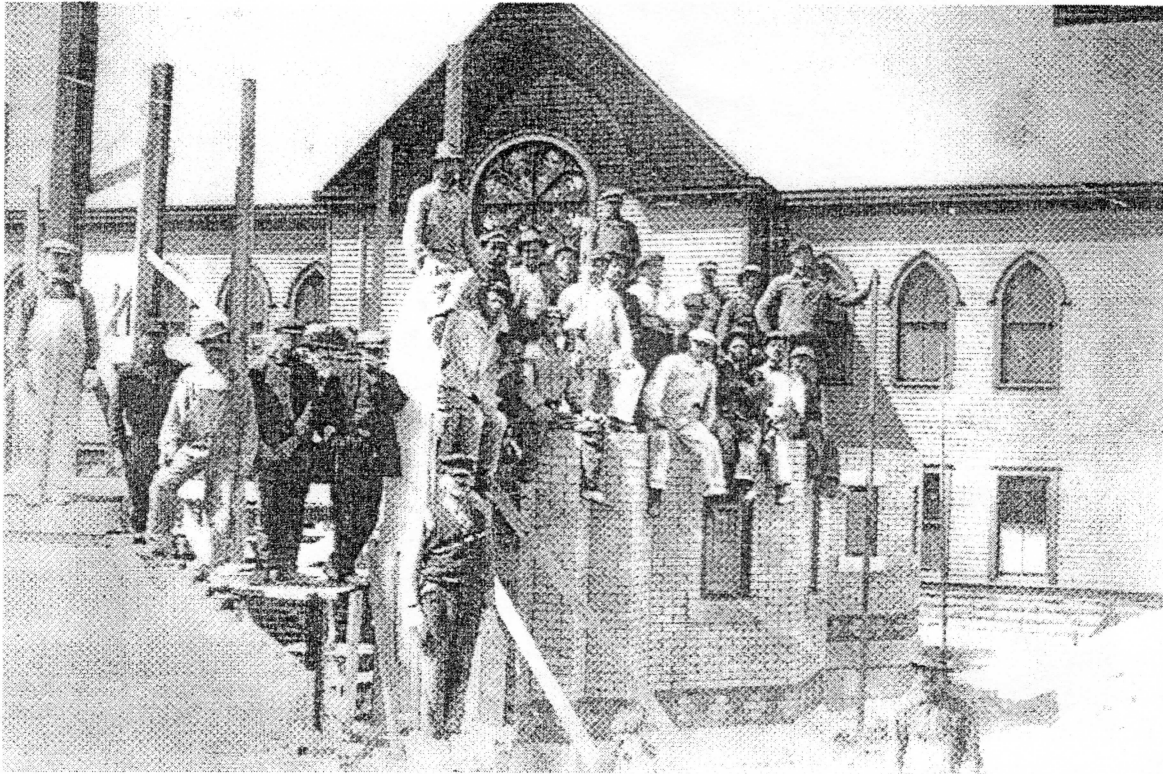
"Our forefathers built such churches as this in their native land. Today those wonderful edifices have been leveled by the torch of war. To us, it would seem that this great Gothic pile, erected on the free soil of America, is to stand as a reparation for what our brethren have suffered over there."

After the ceremonies, the parish provided the visiting clergy and members of the out-of-town societies with a banquet at Col. Steve Fronczkowski's Hall on Fifteenth Street. The visitors left the city that evening.

Work continued through the spring and summer and into the fall. Fr. Radecki supervised every detail. He could be seen climbing on the scaffolding, his cassock billowing in the breeze. All checks for materials and payments to craftsmen and laborers met with his scrutiny. Even the number of times the cement and mortar were mixed was indicated by him. By Sunday, November 14, 1915, the church was almost completed and local clergy joined Fr. Radecki in a special Mass in the new edifice. The first wedding in the church, that of Estella Dolski and Frank Knitter, took place the following day.

November 25, Thanksgiving Day, was aptly chosen for the dedication of the new Church of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Ceremonies began at 9:00 a.m. when a procession of Polish Catholic societies, some in military uniforms, the Slovak band, the clergy, and Bishop Farrelly in full episcopal robes left the rectory and went to the church. As they approached the front of the building, a large crowd surrounded it and uniformed men formed on either side of the walkway. The bishop entered and blessed the walls and interior. This was followed by prayer. The marching men then entered and proceeded to the front and the waiting crowd filled the rest of the seats. Solemn High Mass was sung by Fr. A. J. Suplicki of Toledo. Fr. Marion Orzechowski was deacon and Fr. Joseph Spanowski was subdeacon. Bishop Farrelly spoke of the sorrows of the Polish people in the war in Europe and the achievements of the Poles in Lorain, who had grown from a cluster of families to a population of that of a small town. Rev. Louis Redmer, who was joined by many members of his congregation of St. Hyacinth's Church in Cleveland, delivered the sermon in Polish. As with other major, previous celebrations, support from local and diocesan priests was evident. Joining Fr. Radecki, Nativity's eleven societies, and those already mentioned were: Fr. J. Patterson, diocesan secretary, Fr. Protzny, O. F. M., Fr. J. M. Sztucki, Fr. John W. Solinski, Revs. J. Lzutcki and J. Lotinski of St. Mary's Seminary, Fathers Reichlin of St. Joseph's Church, Logan of St. John's, Johnston of St. Mary's, Skur of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Novak of Holy Trinity, Leone of St. Peter's, and John Mlotkowski of St. Stanislaus. A Hungarian orchestra and a special choir furnished the music that memorable day.

The church as it stood completed, based on the figures provided by Mr. Wasielewski, cost \$50,037. Of this



Construction of the present church with the old structure in the background

amount, he took \$7,000 for his services and paid \$1,125 to Mr. Ginther. The total amount was a savings of \$6,000 according to Mr. Ginther's estimate and \$15,000 according to contractors' bids. The main body is 60 feet by 135 feet, 4 feet wider than drawn in the blueprints to improve the proportions. The Transepts are 75 feet across and the bell tower is 120 feet high. The edifice is faced in yellow, pressed brick and trimmed in Ohio sandstone and copper. The roof was covered with red shingles with a decorative cross design running along the top ridges. These flame retardant shingles were a significant cost savings over the architect's specified slate roof. The interior was light buff and plain with oak trim. Interior furnishings were an extra \$8,000, the pews alone accounting for \$1,300 of this amount. The church bell was transferred from the first church to the new structure. Christened Stanislaus, it was cast in 1902 by Meneeley and Company of West Troy, New York. The same firm manufactured the bell now in St. Emeric's Church in Cleveland for Amadeus Rappe, the first bishop of Cleveland.

Additional improvements from the blueprints included raising the foundation 10 inches, using 12 inch floor joists instead of 10 inch ones, and installing ornamental castings and moldings, including the many cherub heads found throughout the structure and which took the place of the large angels, rejected by the Diocesan Building Board. The cost of some of these improvements was offset by eliminating such items as steel trusses, terrazzo flooring, marble wainscoting, and brick walls in the vestibule. The interior originally seated between 800 and 1,000. The church is the third oldest structure in Lorain still in use as a Catholic church, St. Joseph's Church, built in 1896 and St. Ladislaus Church, erected in 1905, being older. St. Mary's Church was destroyed in the 1924 tornado and rebuilt.

With the new church completed, the bell tower of the old building was removed, the upper floor was converted into classrooms, and other modifications made to transform this entire structure into a safe place to educate the largest Catholic student body in the city of Lorain. Additional teachers were required and so a convent, costing \$5,733, was built in 1917 to house them. Sidewalks also were laid that year. It became obvious to Fr. Radecki that the school building soon would not be big enough to hold all the students, so in January, 1918, the two lots west of the current parish property were purchased and transferred to the bishop for \$10 each. In 1918 the beauty of the church interior was enhanced by the painting of the sanctuary at a cost of \$1,272 and then in 1919, by the installation of the altars, donated by parish societies. The price of the main altar was \$3,500. To complement them, two statues and votive stands were purchased the same year. In spite of

all these expenditures, the mortgage was paid off in 1920.

Ground next to the rectory was broken on November 16, 1921, for the new \$115,000 school and the work was completed the following November. On his first visit to Lorain, Bishop Joseph Schrembs dedicated the building Sunday, November 12, 1922. That morning he confirmed 210 parish children. Later, on a rainy autumn afternoon, a parade, composed of Knights of St. John from Nativity and St. Joseph's Churches, Knights of Columbus, Polish Falcons, the churchmen, Keifer's Band, and the Slovak Band, left Twenty Eighth Street and headed toward the new school. A throng of over a thousand people watched the bishop, assisted by Fathers Radecki, Leo Warth, Joseph Sztucki, W. F. Novak of Holy Trinity, and several other members of clergy from Cleveland, officiate at the exercises. After the services, Bishop Schrembs briefly addressed the crowd in the church and encouraged the building of Catholic schools. He told the people, "My dearest children, the best thing you could do for your children was the building of this excellent edifice. Education is a very important factor in any religion and you are promoting it." Fr. Sztucki gave the main address, during which he outlined the principles of education during the various stages of life.

The building, built of yellow brick to match the church, was designed to be fireproof, using two steam boilers for heat. It has twelve classrooms on the three upper stories and two large rooms and an auditorium in the basement. Provisions were employed in the construction so that additions could be made to the rear. There is a cornerstone on each side of the front of the school. The east one is marked in Latin, "A(d) M(ajoram) D(ei) G(loriam), + Schola Nativitatis B. V. M., Aedificata A. D. 1922 (To the Greater Glory of God + The School of the Nativity B. V. M., Built in the Year of Our Lord, 1922)." On the west stone is carved, "Nativity B. V. M. School, Rt. Rev. Jos. Schrembs, D. D., Bishop of Cleveland, Rev. A. A. Radecki, Pastor, J. E. Potter, Architect, The L. A. Burgett Co. Bldr." Nine teachers provided education to more than 500 students when they left the old building to attend classes in the new structure.

June 28, 1924, saw the City of Lorain ravaged by the tornado that many still recall with sadness. The parish buildings suffered very little damage but three parishioners were killed and eighteen families of the parish lost their homes. A great number were injured. Due to this disaster, the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society was



Class of Jan. 1926



Class of 1930

formed that August to provide relief to the poor and suffering. An appeal was made to various Polish organizations throughout the country and a large amount of money was donated for the cause, \$3,000 being used for relief work for the sufferers of the catastrophe.

Shortly after the tornado, on Independence Day, Fr. Radecki was transferred to St. Casimir's Church in Cleveland, the same church to which Fr. Ruszkowski had been sent. The parishioners repeatedly begged the bishop not to send Fr. Radecki away and this continued after he had been gone for some time but the decision was final and a stern letter from the bishop finally stopped the appeals. Fr. Radecki was to stay at St. Casimir's for the rest of his long life. He continued building programs there and participated in many diocesan activities both with the Polish clergy and in other ecclesiastical matters. Pope Pius XI bestowed the title of Domestic Prelate upon him in 1934. Monsignor Radecki went to his eternal reward March 9, 1969.

Upon Fr. Radecki's departure, Fr. Dominic Mielcarek was named pastor of Nativity. He is remembered for his interest in the youth of the parish and enjoyment of and participation in athletic events. Desiring to keep the young people involved in parish life, he oversaw the formation of the Junior Holy Name Society for boys up to 17 years of age on August 20, 1924, and the Senior Holy Name Society on August 27. He also started the Young Men's Athletic Club and enrolled all the children in the Apostleship of Prayer.

Perhaps the most prestigious visitor to the parish was Archbishop John Cieplak of Vilna, Poland. He spoke to the congregation on December 21, 1925, during a tour throughout America to thank this country for its efforts in having him released from a Russian Bolshevik prison, where he had been incarcerated for seven months and sentenced to death for giving religious instruction to children. The archbishop has been declared Venerable by the Church and his cause for beatification is proceeding.

By 1925, the number of parishioners had grown to the point where the efforts of one priest were insufficient to serve the spiritual needs of the congregation and so Fr. John S. Bialek was appointed the first assistant pastor on May 8. The large attendance at the parish school also continued throughout these years, so that additional Sisters of St. Joseph, T. O. S. F., arrived to educate the children. The largest number of sisters in the school's history, eleven, attended to the students during the 1925-26 school year. Toward the end of 1926, repairs to the interior of the church, consisting of cleaning and restoring plasterwork, painting, and replacing fixtures, were accomplished at a cost of \$1,100. The parish's debt at that time was \$60,000, some of this amount undoubtedly due to the \$70,000 in loans needed in 1922 to build the school. Reduction of this financial obligation was made

difficult when in 1928 the American Ship Building Company, which employed a large number of parishioners, suspended operations. Families and organizations were able to collect \$465 for the Stations of the Cross, which were purchased from George Phillips and Sons on October 7, 1929. A few days later, October 20, Fr. Mielcarek was transferred to St. Stanislaus Church in Youngstown. He remained there as pastor until his death on October 13, 1938.

Fr. Stanislaus Rogosz succeeded Fr. Mielcarek for a short time until Fr. Ignatius Dembowski, Pastor of St. Casimir's Parish in Youngstown, was named administrator on July 24, 1930, and Fr. Rogosz assumed his post at St. Casimir's Church. Fr. Rogosz was later to return to Poland, where he was presumed dead in 1951. Fr. Dembowski was appointed pastor on January 15, 1932, and this humble, self-effacing man soon endeared himself to the parishioners. Many improvements to the parish properties took place during his pastorate. On May 26, 1934, another son of the parish, Felix C. Choromanski, was ordained to the priesthood. In 1938 the church interior was redecorated. Fr. Justin, the famous Polish radio preacher, visited the parish in 1941. The lot next to the school was purchased on December 17, 1942.

The pastor's historical report of January, 1946, indicated that eleven parishioners had chosen vocations as sisters and three as priests, two belonging to religious orders. The number of converts joining the parish by that time was 189. By the end of World War II, 514 parishioners had served their country in that enterprise of freedom.

Fr. Dembowski was also an able financial administrator. When he arrived in Lorain, the parish debt was \$57,000. By June, 1948, the parish had a cash surplus of \$90,000. At the time when he announced that the parish debt had been liquidated, contributions not only continued but even increased. All this occurred for a priest who found it easy to speak about love, patience, and forgiveness but impossible to preach about money. Fr. Dembowski and the parishioners had labored unceasingly to raise these funds and they had special plans to utilize them on a most joyous occasion.

Sunday, June 20, 1948, was the day chosen by the parish to mark its fiftieth year of spiritual service to the City of Lorain and the twenty-fifth anniversary of Fr. Dembowski's ordination as a priest for the Diocese of Cleveland. To commemorate these events, ground would be broken for a new convent for the sisters who had so faithfully served the parish and work started on enlarging the rectory and facing it with brick, installing a new heating system in the church, and making other general repairs.



Fr. Casimir Pilatowski, Fr. Edwin Osowski, and the Graduating Class of 1952

At 9:30 leaders of the congregation, parish organizations, costumed children, priests, and Bishop Edward F. Hoban processed from the rectory to the church. A Pontifical High Mass began at 10:00 with Fr. Dembowski serving as archpriest, Fr. Sztucki of St. Hyacinth's Parish in Cleveland as deacon, and Fr. Joseph Jarosz of St. Barbara's Parish in Cleveland as subdeacon. Fr. Felix Choromanski of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Cleveland and son of the parish was the Master of Ceremonies. The sermon was given by Msgr. John Krol, Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of Cleveland and later Cardinal Archbishop of Philadelphia. He stressed the responsibilities of coming generations to pass on the Faith with ardor. The Cecilian Choir of Nativity, under the direction of Sr. Mary Anisia, provided the music for the Mass. Following the Mass, Bishop Hoban with the assistance of Fr. Dembowski turned the first spade of dirt for the construction of the new convent.

At 5:00 a banquet for members and friends of Nativity was held in the United Polish Club. The principal address was given by Msgr. Radecki who reiterated the sentiments of Msgr. Krol in stating the need for preserving and being devoted to the Faith. Fr. Leo Rygwalski of St. Stanislaus Parish in Lorain was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Fr. Thaddeus Michalski, Assistant Pastor at Nativity, who was in charge of the anniversary events and who was being transferred to Sacred Heart Church in Cleveland, gave a brief farewell talk. Other speakers on the program were Fr. Dembowski, Fr. Choromanski, Mayor Patrick Flaherty, and Frank Bailey, member of the parish council. A dance followed the presentations.

Construction of the convent was carried out by the L. A. Burgett Company, the same contracting firm that constructed the school. The architects were Potter and Badowski. The cost of the completed structure was \$75,000. Total costs of the additional improvements to the parish properties were \$35,000. While under construction, the convent was damaged by a \$6,200 blaze that December. It was built on the location of the original church, which was dismantled some time prior to 1934. Upon the building's completion, nine sisters moved into it.

The blessing of the convent took place on the Sunday following the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 11, 1949. At 2:30 a procession of uniformed church societies, school children, and twenty visiting priests from Cleveland, Elyria, and Lorain led Bishop Floyd Begin, Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, from the rectory to the church for Vespers. Msgr. Radecki was the main celebrant of those services with Fr. Michalski serving as deacon and Fr. Joseph Jarzynski, Assistant Pastor of St. Stanislaus in Lorain, assisting as subdeacon. After Benediction 1,200 people watched as the bishop was escorted by the earlier procession to the convent, where he blessed it at 3:00.

To increase interaction between teachers and parents with students attending Nativity School and to help in fund-raising, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) was formed in November, 1951. In addition to a large variety of moneymaking activities, the group sponsored speakers, programs, and parties. Family celebrations were promoted enthusiastically.

By the end of January, 1952, Fr. Ignatius Dembowski had served Nativity B. V. M. Parish 21 years, longer than any other pastor. He had been suffering with severe arthritis for some time and although only 53 years old, was no longer able to lead the parish. Therefore, he wrote to Archbishop Hoban begging him to accept his resignation:

I have never faced a more difficult and more unpleasant task than the one I am about to perform. I beg to place my resignation as a pastor of Nativity Church in Lorain, Ohio, into your hands, with the humblest plea that you accept it at your convenience and to appoint a successor.

My deepest regret is that I must leave such wonderfully cooperative people of my parish. They are not wealthy—mostly laborers. Yet, because of their self-sacrificing generosity, in the 21 years of my pastorate, the parish debt was completely liquidated. All necessary repairs and improvements made, even during the depression. In 1948 the people undertook to finance the project of building a new convent and remodeling and enlarging the rectory. The cost exceeded \$120,000. As a result of their unprecedented generosity, the costs were covered, and at the beginning of this year, the parish has a cash balance of approximately \$32,000.

Fr. Dembowski headed to the drier climate of Arizona with his two dogs. He refused to have a farewell banquet but councilmen insisted on giving him a party and the school children presented him with a program

after his final Mass as pastor, which he offered for the parish, which was, he said, "the best in the diocese, barring none." A large monetary gift was donated to him for his years of untiring efforts by the grateful parishioners. Fr. Dembowski continued to serve God's people until he was called to his final rest on July 21, 1972.

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

Library News

The holdings of the library of the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland can be found on the Society's website: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/library.htm>

The list will be updated periodically as new books are added to the collection.

Of interest this month is a new book entitled *Haller's Polish Army in France*, by Paul S. Valasek. The book was published in 2006, and has 432 pages with 75 photos, 6 maps and over 1600 names of recruits. The book explains the formation, development and accomplishments of Haller's Army of Polish volunteers from America.

Another interesting addition to the library is James A. Michener's *Pilgrimage: A Memoir of Poland and Rome*, written in 1990. The author tells of his travels in Poland as well as about writing his book, *Poland*, which we also have in our library. *Pilgrimage* also includes photographs and an introduction by Lech Walesa.

Submitted by Cindy Spikowski

Polish American Encyclopedia Project

from an e-mail from polishamericanforum@yahoogroups.com

"Polish American Encyclopedia Project—Every major European immigrant group: Italians, Germans, Irish and others have published historical encyclopedias to inform researchers and the general public about the experiences and contributions of their groups within the mosaic of American society. African-Americans have their reference works, as do Native Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Catholics and others. Of all the major groups to populate North America, only the Poles remain without a serious historical encyclopedia to define their presence. It is time to remedy this enormous deficiency in the literature on the Polish experience in America. At its meeting in January of 2007 the Board of Directors of the Polish American Historical Association approved initial plans and began soliciting information and contributors for the encyclopedia. Since that time, a publisher has been identified and a number of authors have committed to the project. I am writing to ask your help in supporting this project which will be important for passing along Polish American heritage to our children and their children, as well as the general public. Specifically, I ask your support in one or both of the following ways: 1. We are in the process of compiling a listing of potential entries; biographies of important Polish Americans and topical entries such as major organizations, events or cultural aspects (wigilia, oberek, etc.). You can help by sending your suggestions for potential entries to me at jpula@pnc.edu. Also, if you are interested in authoring entries, please let me know your field of expertise and the kind of entries you would be interested in. 2. As you can imagine, a project of this scope will be very expensive. To bring it to fruition, we need financial assistance. Please consider a tax deductible donation to PAHA to support this project. All donations are welcome, and will be acknowledged in the published encyclopedia. To contribute, make your check payable to 'PAHA Encyclopedia' and send them to the Polish American Historical Association, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, 60650. The **Contributor** level is \$10 to \$49; **Sponsor**, \$50 to \$99; **Patron**, \$100 to \$499; and **Benefactor**, \$500 or more. I hope you will consider supporting this important project to preserve and disseminate Polish American history and culture in any way that you can. Again, if you have questions or lists of suggested topics, I can be reached at jpula@pnc.edu."

If you haven't visited our group's Web site recently (<http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc>) do so. **Trina Galauner** has included many new links which will help you in your research.

Funeral Cards—Thanks to: **Bernard Brady**, **Trina Galauner**, and **Linda Jean Ellis** for giving us some of their funeral cards (or copies of them) so that we may add them to our collection. It's getting to be a nice little collection. We could use more of them; keep them coming. For our members who cannot come to our meetings but wish to contribute to our collection, send your cards (or copies of your cards) to: PGSGC, 1901 Wexford Ave., Parma, Ohio 44134. Thank You.

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

September—**Father Eric Orzech**, Associate Pastor at St. Therese Church, Garfield Heights: Topic TBA
October—**Connie Hamman**, Library Assistant at the Western Reserve Historical Society, will speak on the topic of: *Polish Genealogical Research at WRHS*.
November—Member, **Ben Kman**, will demonstrate how to use the *Slownik Geograficzny* (Gazatteer of Poland) in finding ancestral villages in Poland.
December—Election of Officers and Christmas Party.

Rest in Peace—

Please say a prayer for the repose of the soul of member **Theodore F. Swintek**. He was a Cleveland Policeman for many years. He was 78 at the time of his death. The funeral Mass for Theodore was at 10 a.m. at St. Casimer's Church on August 16th. May he rest in peace, Amen.

Interesting Web Sites—

Carol Zanath directed our attention to a very interesting Web Site: www.clevelandseniors.com/family/polish.htm. Here you will find a link to an online Polish store where you can purchase Polish music, books, clothes and DVD's on sale. Also, there is an article written by member **Diane Karpinski** entitled: *The Frances Kaszubski Story*. There is a piece devoted to the 42nd Awards Banquet of the *Pulaski Scholarship & Recognition Awards* affair. *The Polish American Cultural Center* members were active with a booth at the *Festival of Freedom* and there are pictures and a story about that. Also, there are links to: *The Pulaski Square in Cleveland*, *The Polish Cultural Gardens in Cleveland*, *Gen. Kazimierz (Casimer) Pulaski*, *Longfellow Poem at the Consecration of Pulaski's Banner*, *Mercedes Karpinski Spotts*, and a book review on *Push Not the River*. But perhaps the most interesting articles are about *Growing Up in Ducktown* in three parts. Ducktown? What is Ducktown? And where is it? Was there really a neighborhood in Cleveland that was referred to as Ducktown? Well—click on the Web Site and find out for yourself. All good articles about being Polish in Cleveland.

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

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

Please mail this form with your check (no cash) in the enclosed envelope. Make checks payable to *The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland*.

Thank You !

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
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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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