

# THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART AND SAINT MARY OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

September 2016

Church of the Sacred  
Heart and Saint Mary  
Our Lady of  
Czestochowa

201 Main Street  
New York Mills, NY 13417

## I Title and Date of Origin

1. Official name and address of parish

The Church of Sacred Heart and  
Saint Mary's Our Lady of Czestochowa  
201 Main Street  
New York Mills, New York 13417

2. Date of establishment

1910

3. Date of incorporation

## II Territorial Development

4. From what parish or parishes was your parish originally formed? What were its original boundaries?
5. Give in chronological order any additional made to the original territory, naming the parish from which each increase was obtained.
6. Describe in chronological order all transfers of territory from your parish, specifying whether it was given to a newly created parish or to an already existing one.
7. Give the names of missions originally attached to your parish and any missions later attached to your parish.
8. Give in chronological order the names of missions detached from your parish, specifying whether they became independent parishes, were transferred to another already existing parish or were suppressed.

### III Church Property

9. Describe the arrival of the first Catholics, from what places they came, the building first used for divine services and by whom and when the first Mass was said.

It was amidst great difficulties, because of language and cultural barriers that the first Polish immigrants settled in America. Undaunted in spirit, with great hope and zeal they founded Polish-speaking parishes. These were to be the centers of the spiritual and cultural life of the early Poles.

Lacking a church where they could hear the language of their fathers, they first attended Catholic churches where a language foreign to them was spoken from the pulpit. This did not satisfy the Poles. They struggled and worked ceaselessly until their hopes and aspirations became a reality. Concerned about the future fate of their children, to safeguard the culture and traditions so dear to them, they began to organize their own parishes - Polish speaking parishes.

And for this reason, there came to life St. Mary's Parish, dedicated to the Mother of God under the title of Our Lady of Czestochowa (Our Lady of the Bright Mountain).

10. Give the location and original cost of property, the date of construction and names of architects and describe the type of material used in construction for the following: first permanent church, mission churches, additions, first permanent rectory, later rectories and additions. If possible, include final costs of each project.

In 1910, St. Mary's was designated as a parish by the Most Reverend Patrick Ludden, Bishop of the Syracuse Diocese. Priests from Holy Trinity Church came each Sunday to say mass for the faithful, until the appointment of Rev. Stanislaus Plaza as the first resident pastor of St. Mary's. A few of the parishioners recall that the first mass was said in the hall of Mr. Pezdek on Main Street for many years occupied by Union store and presently unoccupied.

In the meantime, plans were made to acquire more spacious property, where there would be ample space for expansion – for a rectory, a school, and a convent for the sisters. God blessed their efforts. The estate of Walcott and Campbell with its numerous buildings were deemed to be the logical site. It was purchased on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1910 for \$18,000. Immediately work began to transfer the site into a parish unit. A large barn on the estate was converted into a church. This church was blessed on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1910. The first Mass in this church was celebrated on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1911. The present enlarged church rests on the site of that original church. The contractor who built the original church was Mr. Stanley Rotter.

In 1911 Father Plaza was succeeded by Father Fijalkowski, who came from Sacred Heart Parish in Syracuse, full of zeal for the house of God and the spiritual good of his new parishioners and especially the children. The Parish School in 1912 housed three temporary classrooms in the rectory and 150 students. A school was built in 1915, entrusted to the care of the Felician Sisters with their Motherhouse in Buffalo. When the school was completed, the church was enlarged to accommodate the growing congregation.

11. Describe briefly the events of historical interest associated with each church such as dedication services, religious celebrations, etc.
12. Give the location and a description of the place of residence of the first pastor if different than the first permanent rectory.
13. Excluding school properties and buildings, give the date, location and cost of other properties and buildings acquired by the parish.

1928 Stone Crucifix Centerpiece of our Outdoor Stations

Donated by DAR DIA PARAFJI  
OD TOW, APOST.MODLITWY  
New York Mills, NY

1954 Marian Grotto

Donated and Constructed by  
Father Francis Nowakowski

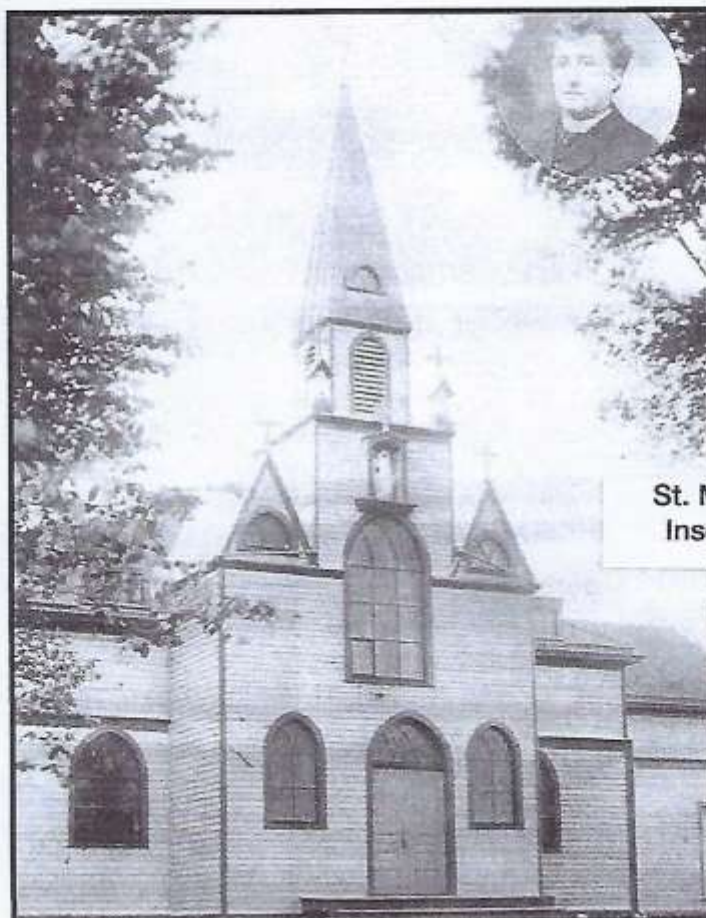
2010 New Outdoor Stations of the Cross

Donated by William E. Burke Utica Council 189  
Knights of Columbus

14. Include available photos of first and later churches, first and succeeding residences of pastor or buildings used as church and parochial residence.



First Mass Said Here "in Barn" - pictured our Second Pastor, Father Fijakowski with hat



St. Mary's Church 1910  
Inset Our First Pastor

#### IV Catholic Population

15. Give the number of families and predominant nationality of the original Catholic population of your parish and of each of the missions attached to it.
16. Indicate later changes in the size and nationality of the parish population at successive stages.
17. Name outstanding lay pioneers associated with the early history of the parish.
18. Give a chronological list of the boys from your parish who entered the priesthood or brotherhood and of the girls who entered the religious life. In each case give the family name, name in religion, name of religious community or dioceses and the date of ordination or religious profession.

Priests Ordained from St. Mary's

Reverend Monsignor Adolph Kantor – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1943  
 Reverend Joseph Nogas - June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1955  
 Reverend Valentine Krul – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1977  
 Reverend David Sambor - May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1878

Brothers from St. Mary's

Brother John Pawlika – Xavarian – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1962  
 Brother Joseph Pawlika – Xavarian – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1962

Sisters from St. Mary's

Sister Mary Felix, C.S.S.F. (Skrzek)  
 Sister Mary Davida, C.S.S.F. (Dziechciewski)  
 Sister Mary Baptysta, C.S.S.F. (Starsiak)  
 Sister Mary Celestine, C.S.S.F. (Wolkonocki)  
 Sister Mary Boguchwala, C.S.S.F.(Mazur)  
 Sister Mary Joachima, C.S.S.F. (Wojcik)  
 Sister Mary Marielle, C.S.S.F.(Wolkonocki)  
 Sister Mary DePauk, C.S.S.F. (Tabor)  
 Sister Mary Columbo, C.S.S.F. (Augustyn)  
 Sister Mary Sylvinetta, C.S.S.F. (Lopata)  
 Sister Mary Lucyda, C.S.S.F. (Ziober)  
 Sister Mary Sabinella, C.S.S.F. (Zalewski)  
 Sister Therese Marie, C.S.S.F. (Kodz)  
 Sister Mary Krysia, C.S.S.F. (Piotroski)  
 Sister Mary Peter, O.L.C.R. (Kobielski)

19. List extraordinary events such as floods, fires, losses by war or other causes, outstanding events peculiar to parish from pioneer days to the present; also legends and traditions connected with the parish.

V Parochial Clergy

20. Give a chronological list of pastors and administrators of the parish, attaching to each dates of their tenure of office.

Rev. Stanislaus Plaza	1910
Rev. Alexander Fijalkowski	1911-4/1958
Rev. Peter Koleczek	4/1958-7/1976
Rev. Peter Gleba	7/1976-
Rev. Joseph Sadowki	10/1989-1994
Rev. Valentine Krul	7/1994-2011
Rev. Thomas Honold	1/2011-6/2011
Rev. Arthur Krawczenko	5/2011-present

21. If there was a transfer of the parish from seculars to religious or vice versa, note this change in its chronological order.

22. Give a chronological list of assistants attached to the parish, giving for each the sates of their tenure of office.

Rev. Conrad Tyzynski	
Rev. Valentine Chrobok	
Rev. Edmund Stankiewicz	
Rev. Stanley Macewicz	1935
Rev. Theophil Wojkowski	
Rev. Stanislaus Lniski	
Rev. Leopold Prozny	1948 - 1958
Rev. Arthur Hapanowicz	1956 - 1964
Rev. Adolph Kantor	1960 - 1962
Rev. Edmund Pilat	1964 - 1969
Rev. Thomas Kobuszewski	1964 - 1969
Rev. John Maxsween	1963 (3 months)
Rev. Ronald Duda	1969 - 1974
Rev. Bernard Orszewski	1969 - 1972
Rev. Joseph Nogas	1974 - 1981
Rev. John Drozdal	1975 (6 months)
Rev. Edward Daniszewski	1976 - 1978
Rev. Joseph Zareski	1981 - 1985
Rev. John Drozdol	1985 - ??

23. Give a chronological list of deacons assigned to your parish giving for each the dates of their tenure of office.

Deacon John Kopec

24. Include photos of deceased clergy.

## VI Education

### A. Parochial Schools (Active and Closed)

25. Dates of purchase of property and establishment of school, the pastor at the time, cost of the building and manner of raising the money.

A school was built in 1915 on the land where the current church existed. Father Fijalkowski was Pastor. Students were taught by the Felician Sisters with their Motherhouse in Buffalo.

26. Improvements made to the building, dates of improvements, cost and under whose pastoral direction.
27. Grade levels upon opening of school, additions or deletions of grades with effective dates, current grade levels.

Kindergarten through Grade 8

28. Teaching staff in charge of education since foundation in parish; number of teachers and grades taught; any changes in teaching communities.
29. If high school was attached to school, give data as to establishment: date, pastor, cost, etc.  
No high school
30. Attendance at first school and notable changes during the years. The Parish School in 1912 was housed in three temporary classrooms in the rectory with 150 students taught by the Felician Sisters.
31. Teachers' residence at foundation of school; present residence (if applicable); building of convent: date, cost and under what pastor; convent improvements: date and cost.

Pledges to the total of \$155,000 were made in February of 1959 by the means of a special convent building fund drive. Construction began on the site of the former convent, with ground breaking taking place on Memorial Day 1959. The convent was completed and blessed in 1960. Total cost was \$192,000.

32. Give the names of principals since school's beginning. List those who taught at school's opening.
33. Include available photos of first and succeeding schools and convents.



34. Enrollment – 2015-2016
  1. Elementary School
  2. High School
  3. Total

n/a – no current school
35. Do you have Pre-K, Head Start or after school care?  
No
36. Methods of parochial school support  
n/a
37. If your parish school is not still active, give date of closure. If merged with another school give date, name of school(s) merged with and any change of name.

In September 1993, there were 138 students enrolled in Grades Kindergarten through Grade 6. Beginning in January 1994, meetings were held the next several months regarding the status of Catholic schools in Utica area. Pastors and Principals attended the meetings, conducted by Bishop Costello and Sister Mary Virginia, who was the area Assistant Superintendent. In April 1994, Bishop Costello announced that, due to declining enrollment, St. Mary's School in New York Mills would not reopen in September 1994. St. Mary's School officially closed on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1994. With the closing of the school, another tradition ended. The closing of the school brought to an end the dedicated service and contributions of the Felician Sisters who served St. Mary's Parish since August 1912.

## VI Education

### B. Faith Formation of Public School Children

38. Enrollment 2015-2016
  - Elementary
  - Secondary
  - Total
39. Staff
  - Priests
  - Sisters
  - Lay Persons
40. Methods of Faith Formation Support

### C. Adult Faith Formation

#### 41. Organization of program

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** (RCIA) is a process by which individuals are initiated into the Catholic Faith. In this process, informal learning sessions are held for adults and children ages seven and older who have never been Baptized, who were Baptized in other Faiths and wish to become Catholic, who were Baptized Catholic but never received the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Catholics who would like a 'refresher' course are also welcome to attend. The process begins whenever one is ready and classes are tailored to one's schedule.

How is sacramental life of parish promoted?

### VII Parish Organizations

42. List various organizations, date each was organized, description of programs, chair persons.

#### **Bereavement Ministry**

History: The Bereavement Ministry was started in 2008. Ann Krol, coordinator, along with other members, call on family of the deceased to assist in planning the funeral liturgy, select the readings and music suitable for the deceased. Cards are sent and telephone calls are made to let the family know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of the parishioners. Each year in October, the committee meets to plan an All Souls Day Liturgy for a Sunday in November. Families of the deceased that year are invited to participate in the Mass. The first All Souls Day Mass for the deceased parishioners was celebrated in November 2008.

Today: The activities of the Bereavement Ministry continue as described above.

#### **Choir**

History: The Liturgy and celebrations are always enhanced by beautiful singing and interpretation of themes. It all began in 1911 when the Philharmonia Choir was organized with the title of St. Cecilia's Choir, singing and praising God in song. In 1921 the Philharmonia Choir not only sang in church but it also presented concerts under the direction of Franciszek Narkon and won many trophies. On January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1936, another choir was founded by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kangiser, called the Halka Choir. They sang weekly at the 9:00 A.M. Sunday Mass. They also won many trophies, with Professor Francis Narkon as their director.

Zygmunt Pilek came from Poland and assumed responsibilities of the church music and choir. The choir sang on special occasions, presented concerts, and sang at all parochial special occasions, especially at the first Masses of native sons of St. Mary's who were ordained priests, the Silver Jubilee, confirmation, and the Diamond Jubilee. But because Mr. Pilek wanted to dedicate his life completely to music, he left the parish and assumed responsibilities as organist in Massachusetts. He was replaced by Stephen Zielinski.

After a few years, Mr. Zielinski left and James Adamczyk became organist. The choir then sang at High Mass at 10:00 A.M. every Sunday and at all special occasions. Then Joseph Borgia became head of the Music Ministry and he was joined by Cantor/Flutist Lori Ann Sedgwick.

Today: Our Music Minister is Carleton Boone. He offers his musical talent for leading the assembly in sung prayer and serves as an accompanist on the organ and the piano.

### **Confraternity of Christian Mothers**

History: Mother's Club had its beginning on a Sunday afternoon in December of 1943. Eleven mothers decided to organize and attempt to raise funds to further improve the educational facilities at St. Mary's. Under the guidance of Sister Mary Eymard, Principal, election of officers was conducted. The results were: Honorable President – Rev. Alexander Fijalkowski; President – Stella Furgal; Vice President – Sister Mary Eymard; Recording Secretary – Anna Juchniewicz; Treasurer – Michaline Malecki. Other members present were: Mary Kiersztyn, Helen Kobielski, Matilda Stolarczyk, Rosalia Snizek, Stella Marcinkiewicz, Sophie Bara, Wanda Krol, Jadwiga Wolkonowska.

With great determination, these eleven members aroused great interest in others. The organization grew to the great Confraternity of Christian Mothers with a membership that totaled over one hundred active members. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1965, the Confraternity became incorporated as part of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers. The members were an inspiration to the students of St. Mary's School because of their great concern for quality education.

The Mother's Club sponsored many fund-raising activities. In September 1976, they sponsored a weekly BINGO which annually raised \$16,000 for the school. They published "Hilltop Treasures" cookbooks. Volume I was chaired by Pat Urban and Volume II by Virginia Killian. They held activities – such as Christmas parties, class parties, film and drama presentations – to create a cheerful school spirit.

Our Lady of Sorrows is the Patroness of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers.

Today: Since the closing of the school, the group still supports events for the children of the Parish, but now welcomes all women of the Parish to become members, and also help whenever they are needed. They still host the Snowflake Festival for children and families in December and hold a party after First Penance for the children, their parents and grandparents. A major event organized by this group is the Annual Family Style Ham Dinner held every November. This is both a fundraiser as well as a social event for the Parish.

### **Holy Name Society**

History: The Holy Name Society was organized in February 1959. The founding president was Albert Rosinski. The purpose of this men's club was respect and honor for the Holy Name of Jesus by personal sanctification in the reception of the sacraments.

The society sponsored many fund-raising projects for the school. An annual golf tournament was held. The society sponsored a turkey raffle and a ham raffle. Each Holy Thursday, members observed their Holy Hour.

Today: The purpose continues to be to promote a greater devotion and reverence to the Holy Name of Jesus, through words, actions and deeds; and to provide the opportunity for the men of the Parish to grow both spiritually and morally by the sharing of their ideas and themselves to attain that goal. The golf tournament, turkey raffle and ham raffle are still held to support the Parish.

### **Hope House**

Today: Hope House, located on Eagle Street in Utica, provides meals to those in need 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Parish volunteers have been serving there on the first Thursday of the month for a number of years. Since 2013, parishioners started preparing the meal that we serve. Those who are unable to volunteer help by their financial assistance that helps to purchase the food that we prepare and serve. A \$2.00 donation is usually enough to feed one of Hope House's guest for a day.

In 2015, Reverend Arthur Krawczenko became a member of the Board of Directors for Hope House. When talk of a fundraiser began, Father offered to host the event in our school gym. Our volunteers decorated, cooked, hosted and brought this dinner to fruition. We prepared an authentic Polish Dinner. Plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hope House fund raiser are currently in process. Again, it will be an authentic Polish Dinner at Sacred Heart and Saint Mary's Church!

### **Hilltop Seniors**

History: The Hilltop Seniors was founded in October 1983 by Reverend Peter Gleba for anyone 55 or older. Officers were: President – Irene Swirat; Vice-President – Louis Bien; Secretary – Florence Warchalowski; Treasurer – Mania Kobielski; Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Peter W. Gleba.

Today: This group meets every Thursday afternoon in the Cow Palace. The gatherings include a variety of activities, such as BINGO, celebration of members' birthdays, speakers on topics of interest to seniors, occasional parties, refreshments, and FUN. Anyone 55 and over is welcome.

### **Liturgical Ministers**

Today: Liturgical Ministers are lay people who take leadership roles in the celebration of our Parish Liturgies. Serving as a liturgical minister is a calling that enriches not only the Assembly of the Faithful, but also each person who makes the decision to answer that call.

~Lectors proclaim the Holy Scripture at Mass – usually the First and Second Readings – and may also offer the prayers of the Faithful. They assist the people to hear God speaking to them in the Scriptures.

~ Eucharistic Ministers are designated Parishioners who assist with the distribution of Communion at Mass in the forms of both bread and wine – the precious Body and Blood of Christ.

~Liturgy Committee meets to discuss plans for the Liturgical Seasons of the Church Year. They serve as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Assistants to Father at the 12:10 daily masses (Tuesday through Friday) and assist with Tuesday's Adoration. On special days the Liturgy Committee assists Father at the 12:10 Mass with the distribution of Ashes, Blessing of Throats, and other such duties.

### **Parish Council**

History: In conformity with the recommendations of the Ecumenical Council on the Apostolate of the Laity, Art. 26, and following the recommendations of His Excellency Walter A. Foery, the Parish Council of St. Mary's was organized on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1966. The council was composed of the elected presidents of all the parish societies, lay trustees, Sister Superior, Pastor and all his

associates. Meetings took place four times a year or whenever necessary. At the first meeting, Thomas Sager was elected Head Chairman with Bertha Kupiec as Secretary. The Parish Council advised the Pastor on parochial concerns and with the help of various committees, resolved the many problems that arose in parish life.

Today: The Parish Council is a group of parishioners who work with the Pastor in an advisory capacity to make decisions for the good of the Parish. They also represent their fellow parishioners. Parish Council members are registered members of Sacred Heart-St. Mary's who are active in practicing their faith and able to attend monthly Parish Council meetings. Parish Council President is Sharon Jachim.

### **Pastoral Care Team**

Today: Members of the Pastoral Care Team visit and often bring Communion to Parishioners who are homebound or in hospitals or nursing homes. They bring the healing presence of Christ as they spend time with the sick, the shut-ins and the elderly. It is very important that those who are no longer able to attend mass on Saturday or Sunday know that they are still valued members of our Parish community.

### **Sacred Heart of Jesus & Holy Rosary Society**

History: When the parish of St. Mary's of Our Lady of Czestochowa was organized in New York Mills in August 1910, the first women's society to organize was the Rosary Society, whose first president was Sophie Trzepacz. Monthly meetings were held as well as devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The purpose of this society was devoted entirely for the betterment and improvement of St. Mary's parish. Respect and consideration were shown to deceased members by gathering at funerals with candles and the banner of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary Society being carried in the procession.

In 1922, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, the second women's society, was organized under the direction of Caroline Pietruszkla, the first president. Several men were members of this society as well. The members were so devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that money was saved and donated to purchase the statue of the Sacred Heart that stands today on the side altar to the right of the main altar of the church. Donations were sent to the orphans in Czestochowa, Poland. The society also made donations for the monument of General Casimir Pulaski that stands at the Parkway in Utica.

As years went by and the membership began to diminish, the two societies combined under the name of The Sacred Heart and Rosary Society.

Today: One of the objectives of the **Sacred Heart & Rosary Society** is to foster ardent devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of the Rosary. This is accomplished by attending devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus whose Feast Day is in June and by honoring Mary, the Mother of the Rosary, whose Feast is in October.

The Society also functions as a bereavement group. A Mass is offered for each deceased member upon his/her death. The members also attend the wake for a special prayer service and, on the day of the funeral, escort the deceased into and out of the church.

Membership is open to all.

### **St. Casimir Society**

History: On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1911, with the help of Gabriel Ruchwa and Joseph Wdowiak, St. Casimir Society was formed. The program was brief but complete – to practice faithfully brotherly love, solicitude for spiritual as well as material welfare of the members. In accordance with the Constitution, with a charitable program in mind, the society grew as the days and years passed. Help others in sickness, accident, and especially at time of death in a family. As with any charitable organization noted for good deeds, the doors were always open to the parishioners and the Pastor.

A token of devotion to the parish is the beautiful crystal chandelier. It has adorned the ceiling of the church for years, casting thousands of colorful lights in every direction thereby adding beauty and dignity to church celebrations. The chandelier is like a star blinking behind the Eternal Light. The Statue of St. Casimir at the main altar of the church is also a gift from the society.

The society is also co-owner of the St. Casimir and St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Woods Road, Whitesboro, New York.

Today: They are still dedicated to the proposition that men practicing the Roman Catholic Faith have united in a brotherly way to assist each other in times of sickness and whenever there is a need. They promote and protect the Catholic Faith through good works, charity and the promotion of Catholic Education. Members are to set good example by leading exemplary daily lives.

The St. Stanislaus (Bishop & Martyr) Society and St. Casimir Societies are separately incorporated under the laws of New York State and are co-owners of the St. Stanislaus, B&M – St. Casimir Societies Cemetery Association, located on Woods Road, Whitesboro, NY. Both societies are responsible for the management and operation of the cemetery which is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officers from each society.

### **St. Stanislaus B. & M. Society**

History: The Polish immigrants settling in New York Mills in the early 1900's banded together in homes of neighbors for prayer services and traveled to Utica to attend Mass, especially for Christmas, Easter and Corpus Christi. In 1905, a group already formed – led by Jan Smola – began making plans to build a church where they could worship. At a meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1905, an organization was formed and called "Crusaders of Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr under the Protection of Our Lady of Czestochowa". Officers were elected, namely President – Antoni Gondek; Vice President – Jan Roback; Recording Secretary – Jan Wentka; Financial Secretary – Josef Smola; Comptrollers – Josef Nowicki and Stanley Solnica; Marshals – Bronislaw Sliski and Sylvester Bartosz; Director of the Sick – Jan Sliski. It is imperative to note that these men were about 18 to 25 years of age. They established the society to be of assistance to each other and to provide moral and financial help in sickness and death. They attended wakes and funerals for deceased members as a group and, when necessary, paid all the expenses for burial.

Fund-raising was planned to build a fund for the new church. On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 1905, a raffle for a ton of coal (worth a dollar) realized a profit of \$10.30. Wages being only about \$3.00 a week, this was a goodly profit.

Within the village, they had prayer services in large rooms of buildings such as the dining hall for boarders at what are now the burned ruins of National Park, owned then by John and Peter Kozaka. A grocery store known as the "Polish Workmen's Association Union Store" and operated by Mr. Joseph Smola also had a large room in the back of the building which was often used and occasionally Masses were offered by visiting priests. This store was located between what is now Upstate Office Equipment and the Mills Tavern. Another store operated by Mr. Marcin Pezdek was

located on Main Street but did not specify a location. Numerous activities were held frequently to provide recreation and to raise funds.

In 1910 uniforms were ordered for "Cadets of the Polish Army". Members had to take care of the uniforms and wear them at special occasions. In 1911, Father Alexander Fijalkowski became Pastor. St. Stanislaus had ninety-nine members. The society purchased the main confessionals, society banner and American flag, uniforms, badges, and musical instruments. A loan of \$400.00 was also given to the church.

Anticipating the needs of the parish, they began to work toward the dire need of a cemetery of their own. Working with their brother society, Saint Casimir, they joined forces and in the middle of the Great Depression, they purchased land in 1932 for a cemetery.

Today: They are still dedicated to the proposition that men practicing the Roman Catholic Faith have united in a brotherly way to assist each other in times of sickness and whenever there is a need. They promote and protect the Catholic Faith through good works, charity and the promotion of Catholic Education. Members are to set good example by leading exemplary daily lives.

The St. Stanislaus (Bishop & Martyr) Society and St. Casimir Societies are separately incorporated under the laws of New York State and are co-owners of the St. Stanislaus, B&M – St. Casimir Societies Cemetery Association, located on Woods Road, Whitesboro, NY. Both societies are responsible for the management and operation of the cemetery which is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officers from each society.

## VIII Historical Records

43. Give a list of the extant sources of information for the history of your parish, such as baptismal, marriage and census records, correspondence, county histories, secular or diocesan newspapers, scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, diaries, letters, etc. specifying the years for each.
44. If there are any printed material related to the history of your parish, please send a copy with your historical notes.

## IX Parish Cemetery

45. Give location, date of organization, cost and area and additional purchases and their cost.

In 1932, the St Stanislaus BM Society & the St Casimir Society purchased 29.8 acres of land on 80 Woods Rd, Whitesboro, NY which was prepared for use as a cemetery under their joint ownership.

46. Explain form of organization, i.e. membership association, private association, special corporation, etc.

The St. Stanislaus (Bishop & Martyr) Society and St. Casimir Societies were individually incorporated under the laws of New York State in 1955 as cemetery associations and are co-owners of the St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr – St. Casimir Cemetery. Both societies are responsible for the management and operation of the cemetery which is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officers from each society.

47. If incorporated, give date of incorporation.

1955

48. Date of first burial, number of burials per year.
49. Notable events concerning cemetery.

The cemetery offers single and multiple lots, a separate Veterans Section and a Chapel, available year around, with seating capacity for 50 people.

Every Memorial Day there is a special mass held @ 9 AM to honor and remember those who have died serving our great country.



X Miscellaneous

50. Are you linked with or have you merged with another parish? Include effective dated and any changes in name of parish

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Church of the Sacred Heart in Utica closed and its' parishioners merged with those of Saint Mary's Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in New York Mills. The church in New York Mills became known as the Church of the Sacred Heart and Saint Mary Our Lady of Czestochowa.

51. If merge has been completed what was the date of the last Mass of the closed parish?

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

52. Do you have commissioned lay ministers? How many?

One – Sue Spina

53. Do you have lay ministers? How many?

Twenty

54. Names of nuns assigned to your parish; names of their orders.

Sister Lisa Cirillo, CSJ

55. If applicable, name those from your parish who are studying for a religious vocation.

n/a

56. List parish staff positions.

Parish Secretary, Church Sacristans, Music Ministry, Maintenance, Director of Religious Education, RCIA, Bereavement Ministry, Youth Minister, Trustees, Parish Council President, Finance Committee President

57. Name of your organist and the type of organ used.

Carleton Boone

58. Describe the choirs and music program.

59. Name of your parish historian.

60. Do you have a parish center or community room?  
61. Are your parish buildings handicapped accessible?

Church and Cow Palace are; Parish Office is not  
Old School Cafeteria/Gym are

62. Have there been renovations or additions made to any of your parish buildings? Demolition of any of your parish buildings? Include dates of these events.

Renovations to the inside and outside of the Rectory were begun in 2014 and completed in 2016.

63. Names of saints whose relics are in the altar stones.  
64. History of stained glass windows.

Stained-glass windows were installed throughout the church under Father Koleczek's guidance (1958-1960 time period)

65. Please include any other items that you feel should be added to your parish history.

The church has celebrated several anniversaries.

St. Mary's Our Lady of Czestochowa celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1960 under Reverend Peter J. Koleczek as Pastor; with assistants Reverend Adolph A. Kantor and Reverend R. Hapanowicz.

St. Mary's Our Lady of Czestochowa celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 1985 under Reverend Peter W. Gleba as Pastor; with assistant Reverend Joseph Zareski. The celebration was on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1985 with a 4:00 PM concelebrated Mass with Bishop Frank J. Harrison and Bishop Thomas Costello. The evening celebration banquet was held at Twin Ponds in New York Mills, with Monsignor Peter Koleczek the main speaker.

The Church of the Sacred Heart – St. Mary Our Lady of Czestochowa celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 under Reverend Valentine Krul.

On Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1982, St. Mary's Our Lady of Czestochowa hosted the celebration of 600 years of the Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Poland. A special painting by Stanley Borowiec of Our Lady can still be seen in the back of our church. This picture is a memorial donation from family and parishioners in memory of Father Francis Duda.

In November 1999, St Mary Our Lady of Czestochowa and Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Church met at St. Mary's Church for a joint Ecumenical Celebration. Music was provided by the combined choirs of the two churches.

Following the service, the congregation gathered in the cafeteria for refreshments and fellowship. This has become an annual event on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, alternating between the two parishes.

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the ordination anniversaries of former Pastor Monsignor Adolph Kantor and Pastor Reverend Arthur Krawczenko were celebrated at the Church of the Sacred Heart and Saint Mary Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Overseeing the celebration was the most Reverend Edward Ozorowski, Archbishop of Bialystok, Poland. "At this most sacred day, you are here to celebrate this liturgy and recognition of Monsignor Kantor, as well as Father Arthur" he said.

The current pastor, the Reverend Arthur Krawczenko, was ordained into ministry 10 years ago, while the church also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the ordination of Reverend Monsignor Adolph A. Kantor, who grew up in New York Mills, becoming the first parishioner of the church – which was still St. Mary's Church at the time – to become an ordained priest. He served as pastor of his home parish during the 1960s and spent decades serving in the Mohawk Valley and Central New York. Dedications to the current and former pastors started and ended the solemn Mass.

New York Mills Mayor John Bialek heralded in the ceremony, following opening prayers, regaling the history of the church and its ministry. He proclaimed July 7, 2013, as a day celebrating the two pastors. Bialek described Monsignor Kantor as "a man of the Lord, who prayed with us," and thanked Reverend Krawczenko for "teaching us values essential in our community."

State Senator Joe Griffo, R-Rome, said he knows both Monsignor Kantor and Reverend Krawczenko as essential members of the local community, and also presented certificates from the Senate recognizing Sunday's ceremony. "They play such an important role not only in this parish, but in our community," Griffo said.

Reverend Krawczenko, who took over as Pastor of the parish two years ago, remained humbled through the service, offering a few words of thanks at the end. "Thank you for helping me be true to God for the last year," he said.

**The Church of the Sacred Heart and  
Saint Mary Our Lady of Czestochowa Church**









**The Sacred Heart of Jesus**



**Picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa painted by Stanley Borowiec**

## Rectory



## Parish Office and Convent





### School Building



### Knights of Columbus (Former School – Cafeteria and Gym)



## The Cow Palace



## Church Grounds: Sacred Heart of Jesus



**Church Grounds: Stone Crucifix with Outdoor Stations of the Cross**



**Church Grounds: Marian Grotto**



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