

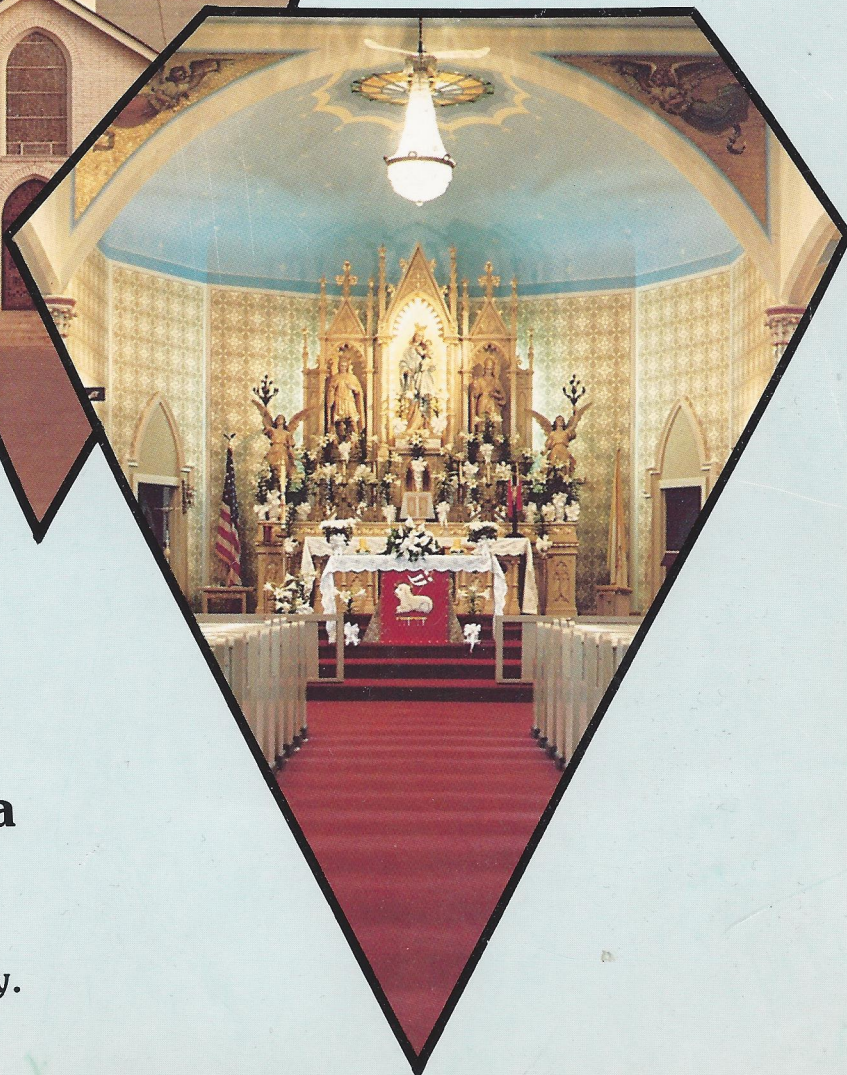
DIAMOND

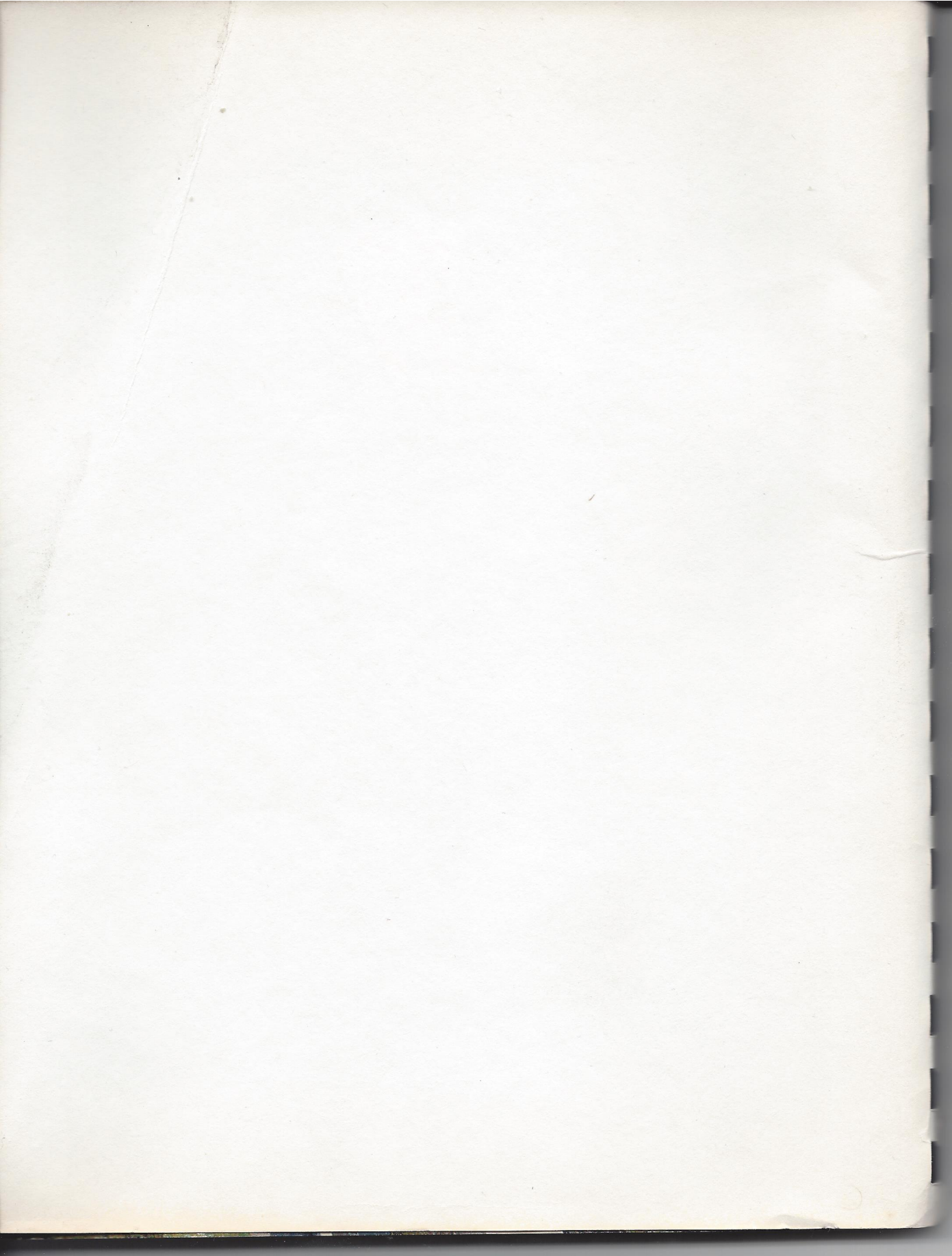
JUBILEE

1910-1985

**St. Mary
of
Our Lady
of
Czestochowa
Church**

new york mills n.y.





1910



1985

DIAMOND JUBILEE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

NEW YORK MILLS

NEW YORK



His Holiness John Paul II



His Holiness John Paul II

paternally imparts a special

Apostolic Blessing
to the parishioners of St. Mary's Church of Our
Lady of Czesochowa, New York Mills, New York,
on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee, September
24, 1985 as a pledge of divine graces.

Ex Audibus Vaticani die 30. 10. 84

+ Antonius M. Bura

Archiepiscopus
Elemosynarius Summi Pontificis



Office of the Bishop
240 East Onondaga Street
Syracuse, New York 13202

Reverend Peter W. Gleba
St. Mary's Parish
201 Main Street
New York Mills, NY 13417

Dear Father Gleba:

Seventy-five years ago, the spiritual story of St. Mary, Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish began. I extend my prayerful congratulations to you on this special anniversary.

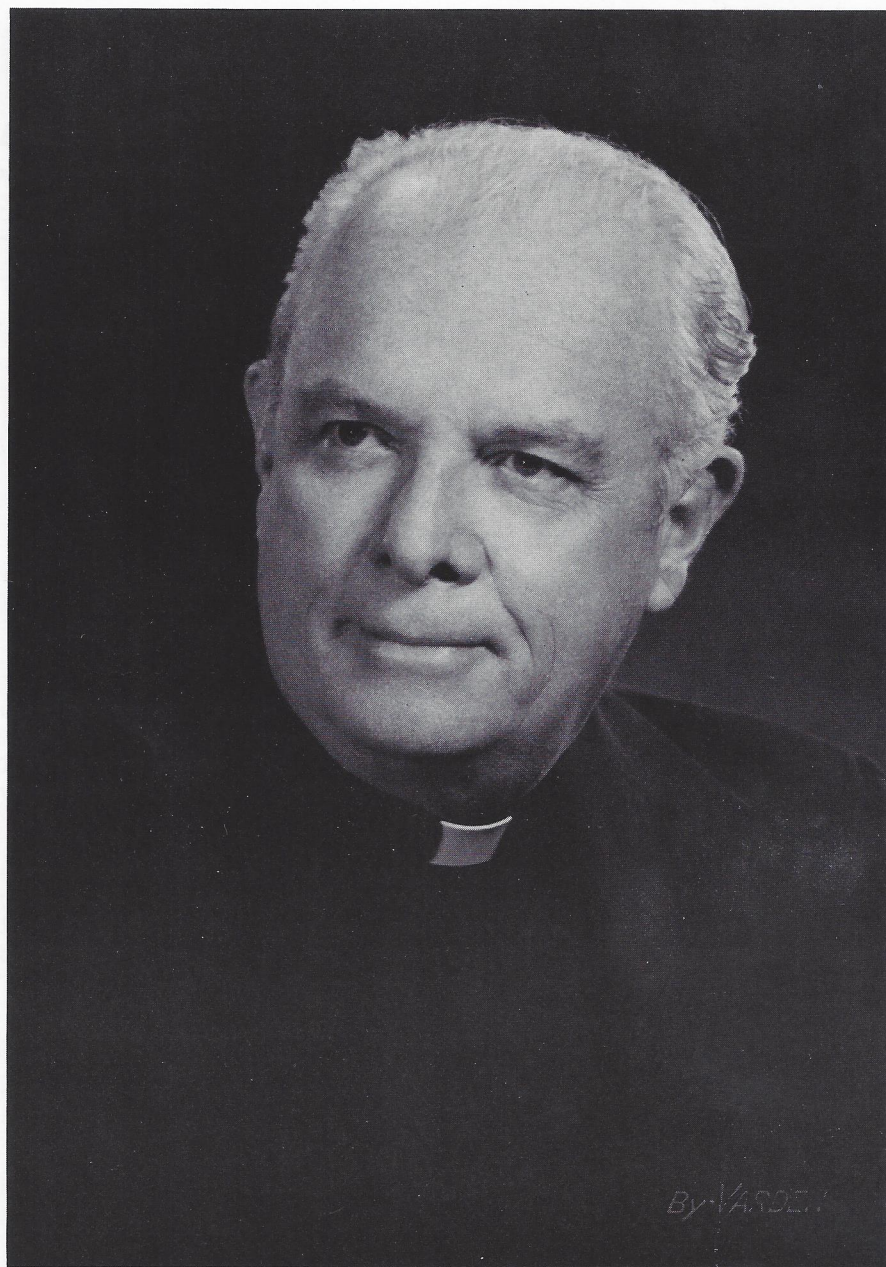
We look back with pride and thanksgiving to those pioneering priests, Felician Sisters and laity who began God's work at St. Mary's Parish, and for whom we pray God's blessing of eternal life.

But this celebration is as much a celebration of the present and future for St. Mary's as it is an opportunity for remembrance of the past. The same Holy Spirit who first gave vision and purpose to the founders of St. Mary's Parish breathes life and hope into your people today, giving cause for great rejoicing at this anniversary celebration. It is with a profound sense of thanksgiving that we pray God's choicest blessings on the good people, priests and religious who continue to advance God's Kingdom at St. Mary's by their prayers and actions.

One with you in the Lord who is the source of all rejoicing,
I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Frank J. Harrison
Bishop of Syracuse



Most Rev. Frank J. Harrison, D.D.



DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

THE CHANCERY

240 East Onondaga Street
Syracuse, New York 13202
Tel. 422-7203

September 29, 1985

TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. MARY'S,
_ OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA: _ _

My sisters and brothers:

Your youthfulness and vitality belie your seventy-five years!
Congratulations on attaining this Diamond Jubilee.

This is a time for recalling what has been. With appreciation you appropriately review your magnificent history, giving thanks for the great people who are your forebearers. You should pay tribute to the lay leaders, the Sisters, the priests, and the ordinary folks who together have forged so rich a history.

But this is also a time for rededication, a time to RENEW. We miss the grace of moments like these if we fail to respond with a vibrant "Yes" to all to which the here and now summons us. Be Church! Be God's people! Let your good works continue to shine that those who see them will give glory to our God Who enables them.

For what has been, thanks. For what is yet to be, Amen.

Faternally yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Thomas J. Costello
Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse



Most Rev. Thomas J. Costello



St. Mary's Church

201 Main St., New York Mills, N.Y. 13417

September 29, 1985

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As your pastor for the past nine years, it has been my privilege to see our beautiful parish grow spiritually and physically to be truly a "Jasna Góra" for all of us who see God as the source of our everyday life.

Our special devotion to Our Lady of Częstochowa has been the source of graces and blessings that God bestows upon each one of us.

This Diamond Jubilee is an occasion for me to express my warmest congratulations and prayerful best wishes to all the parishioners for their sacrifices and prayers but, especially, for your sincere help and cooperation whenever I called for your assistance.

As you read the history of St. Mary's here in New York Mills, please note the strong faith and tireless efforts of all the priests and parishioners who have gone before us to their eternal reward. They literally built this parish with their own hands.

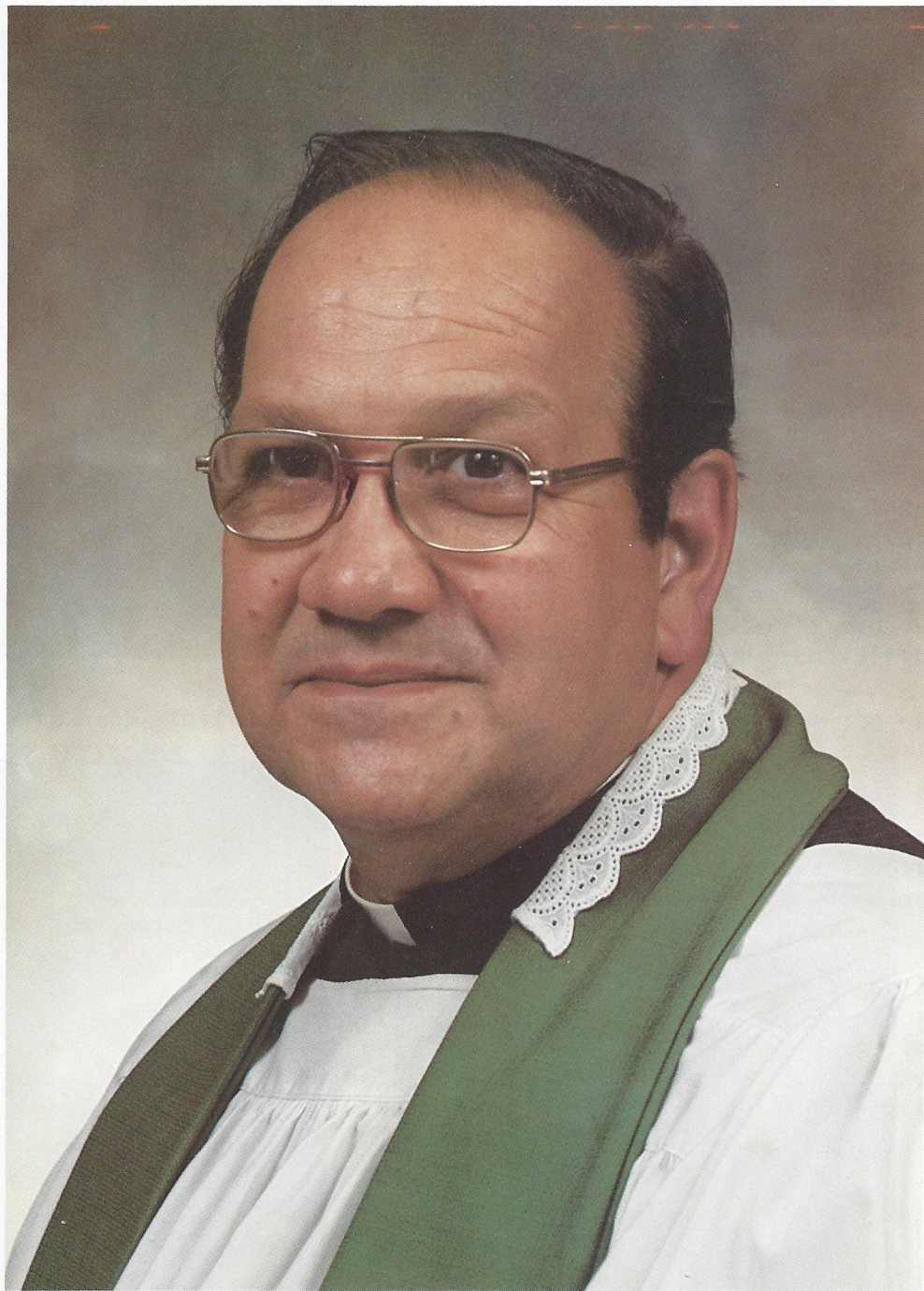
This same spirit of sacrifice and faith should be our inspiration as we celebrate the fruits of their and our labors in the vineyard of the Lord.

May all of us, from the oldest to the youngest, always strive to reflect our gratitude and faith in God by our part in building up this parish--St. Mary's of Our Lady of Częstochowa.

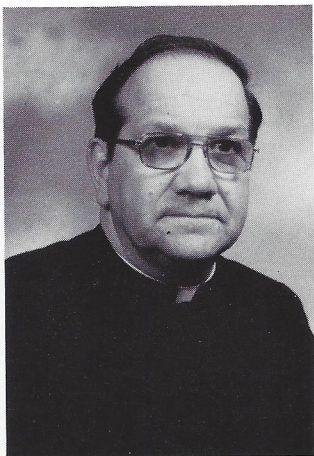
Your Faithful Pastor,

Father Peter

Father Peter Gleba



Rev. Peter W. Gleba



Rev. Peter Gleba



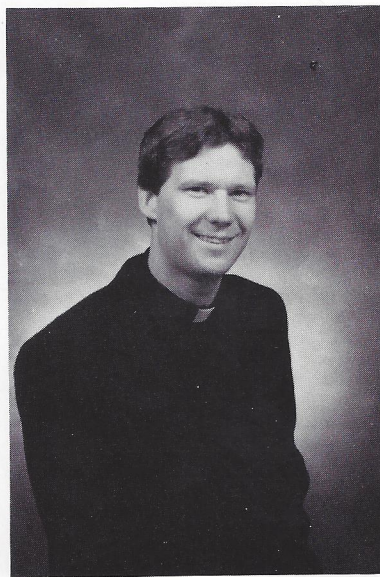
Rev. Thaddeus Strekowski



Greetings from Your Priests



Rev. Francis Nowakowski



Rev. Joseph Zareski

May 7, 1985



Dear Father Gleba:

After working for eighteen years with the dedicated, loyal Associate Priests and the parish family of Saint Mary's - Our Lady of Czestochowa, New York Mills, New York, I not only consider it an honor, but a great privilege to send my sincere congratulations and blessings to you and the parish family on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the parish.

The present growth, the visible structures, and all the modern parish facilities are a great tribute to the devotion, sacrifices and cooperation of the Priests with the past and present members of the parish family. God has really blessed St. Mary's abundantly, even when faced with great difficulties.

I am very happy that God and my superiors saw fit to give me the opportunity to serve and work with the good and generous people of St. Mary's, for the honor of God and the eternal salvation of souls.

I also assure you and the parishioners, that the eighteen years spent at St. Mary's were memorable and spiritually rewarding to me personally. My prayers are and will continue to be that God will send his blessings upon the parish family.

May St. Mary's, under the patronage of Our Lady of Czestochowa, located on that beautiful hill, continue to be a beacon of love, love of God and love of neighbor. May the parish grow and prosper for the honor and glory of God, community and country; but above all, with the help of God may it always be a blessed home for the salvation of all the souls committed to its care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Koleczek

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Koleczek

PJK/ph

ASSISTANT PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED AT ST. MARY'S

Reverend Conrad Tyzynski

Reverend Valentine Chrobok

Reverend Edmund Stankiewicz

Reverend Stanley Macewicz - 1935

Reverend Theophil Wojikowski

Reverend Stanley Lniski

Reverend Leopold Prozny - 1948 - 1958

Reverend Arthur Hapanowicz - 1956 - 1964

Reverend Adolph Kantor - 1960 - 1962

Reverend Edmund Pilat - 1964 - 1969

Reverend Thomas Kobuszewski - 1964 - 1969

Reverend John Maxsween - 1963 (3 mos.)

Reverend Ronald Duda - 1969 - 1974

Reverend Bernard Orszewski - 1969 - 1972

Reverend Joseph Nogas - 1974 - 1981

Reverend John Drozdol - 1975 (6 mos.)

Reverend Edward Daniszewski - 1976 - 1978

Reverend Joseph Zareski - 1981 - 1985

Reverend John Drozdol - 1985 -

PRIESTS ORDAINED FROM ST. MARY'S

Reverend Monsignor Adolph Kantor - June 5, 1943

Reverend Joseph Nogas - June 5, 1955

Reverend Valentine Krul - May 7, 1977

Reverend David Sambor - May 13, 1978

BROTHERS

Brother Joseph Pawlika - Xavarian - September 8, 1962

Brother John Pawlika - Xavarian - September 8, 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 DePaul, 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. (Piotrowski)

Sister Mary Peter, O.L.C.R. (Kobielski)



Jubilee Committee

1st Row - Father Joseph Zareski
 Marilyn Jordan
 Mildred Szarek
 Mary Wilski
 Father Peter W. Gleba

2nd Row - Shirley Kozlowski
 Ann Szkotak
 Nellie Polczynski
 Stanley Zima

Back Row - Stella Jachim
 Paul Wrobel
 Jackie Terchowicz
 James Adamczyk

Historia Parafii Najświętszej Maryj

I

Naszej Pani Częstochowskiej

Ludzie z Polski zaczęli imigrować do Ameryki od 1900 aż 1910, szukając zatrudnienia i lepszego sposobu życia. New York Mills był idealnym miejscem, ponieważ wielu Polaków już mieszkało w Utica, gdzie oni mieli swój własny Polski Kościół — Świętej Trójcy — również były fabryki wełny gdzie oni mogli znaleźć zatrudnienie.

Bariery języka i kultury nie wstrzymały Polskich imigrantów. Oni byli napędzeni wielką gorliwością i nadzieją tworzenia ich własnego ośrodka duchownego i kulturalnego — ich własnego parafialnego kościoła.

Widać to z parafii Najświętszej Maryj Naszej Pani Częstochowskiej, która zaczęła od poświęcenia się Matce Bożej pod nazwą Nasza Pani z Jasnej Góry, Czarna (The Black) Madonna.

Dlatego pierwsi osadnicy przybyli do New York Mills osiemdziesiąt pięć lat temu, blisko dziesięć lat upłynęło przed powstaniem tej parafii. Aż do 1910 oni chodzili do Utica, do parafii Świętej Trójcy Mszę Świętą i przyjmowali sakramenty. W 1910 Ksiądz Biskup Patrick Ludden, Biskup Syracuse, zatwierdził Kościół Najświętszej Maryj jako parafie.

Kapłani z parafii Świętej Trójcy przychodzili w każdą Niedzielę i odprawiali dla wiernych Mszę Świętą na korytarzu w budynku pana Jana Pezdek i pana Stanisława Boduch przy ulicy Main, zajętym przez Union Store; kawał ziemi zajęty teraz przez Upstate Office Equipment.

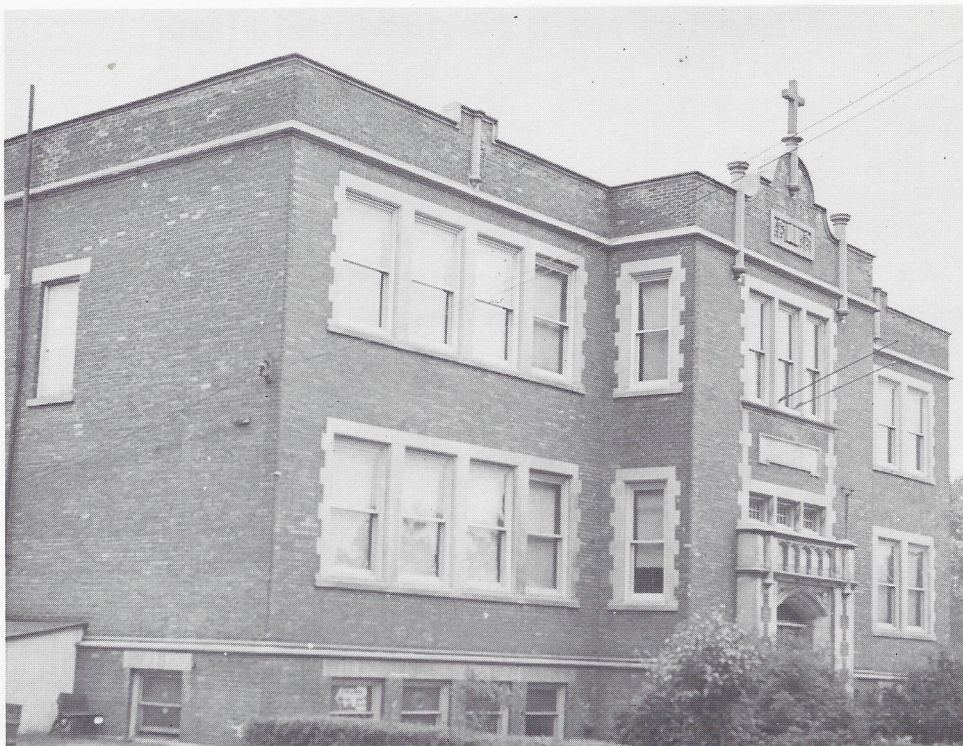
W okresie tymczasowym, plany były formułowane, aby nabyć wielki kawał ziemi, aby budować parafialny zespół. Majątek Walcott i Campbell był nabyty za sumę \$18,000.00.

Duża stodoła, używana dla stałej jazdy, była zamieniona na kościół, który był poświęcony 14-go Sierpnia 1910 roku. Pierwsza Msza Święta w tym kościele była odprawiona w Niedzielę 3-go Stycznia 1911 roku.

Obecny powiększony kościół pozostaje na miejscu tamtego pierwotnego kościoła. Przedsiębiorcą był pan Stanisław Rotter.

Pierwszym stałym proboszczem Najświętszej Maryj był Stanisław Plaza.

W 1911 Ksiądz Aleksander Fijałkowski został drugim proboszczem, który przybył z Najświętszego Serca parafii w Syracuse. Za jego duchowym przewodnictwem została zbudowana szkoła w 1915 roku, powierzona Siostrze Felicjankom, które pracowały w



winnicy Pańskiej przez siedemdziesiąt lat. Podczas, gdy szkoła była w czasie budowy, klasy odbywały się na plebanii. Nasze notaki szkolne z tych przeszłych siedemdziesięciu lat świadczą o wspaniałym poziomie naukowym, osiągniętym przez absolwentów.

Kiedy szkoła była wykończona, kościół był powiększony do jego obecnej miary, przystosowanej do wzrostu parafii. Przez 47 lat Ksiądz Aleksander pracował goźliwie dla ludzi. On kochał pracę dla ludzi w New York Mills.

8-go Kwietnia 1958 roku, po długiej chorobie i przebywaniu na plebanii, Ksiądz Aleksander Fijałkowski zmarł, przeszedł do wieczności.

Ksiądz Piotr Koleczek został mianowany trzecim proboszczem 25-go Kwietnia 1958. Wikariuszami byli w tym czasie, z pochodzenia Polskiego, Ksiądz Adolf Kantor i Ksiądz Artur Hapanowicz.

Pod przewodnictwem Księdz Koleczka witraże okienne były umieszczone w kościele, a także zrobione były nowe konfesjonały.

Na złoty jubileusz wnętrze kościoła było unowocześnione. Plebania otrzymała na zewnątrz pokrycie aluminiowe. Nowy dom klasztorny był potrzebny.

Zbiórka na nowy klasztor zaczęła się w Lutym 1959 kiedy parafianie zobowiązali się na sumę \$155,000.00. Rozpoczęcie budowy odbyło się w Memorial Day. Klasztor był wybudowany i poświęcony w 1960 roku. Cały koszt wynosił \$192,000.00

Szkoła była rozczczona w 1964 roku z jej obecną salą gimnastyczną i stołówką.

4-go Grudnia 1971 Ksiądz Piotr Koleczek był podniesiony do rangi prałata.

Ostatnie stadium odnowienia odbyło się w latach 1974 a 1975. Kościół był odnowiony wewnątrz i zewnątrz--nowy dach, nowa wieżyczka, ławki, pokój dla matek z dziećmi, sanktuarium, figury, małowidła, i dywany. Cały koszt wynosił ponad \$275,000.00. Parafia zadłużyła się na sumę \$229,000.00.

Kościół był poświęcony przez Biskupa David F. Cunningham 6-go Kwietnia 1975 roku.

Wskutek osłabionego zdrowia, Ksiądz Prałat Piotr Koleczek zdecydował się ustąpić i stać się proboszczem Świętego Józefa w Lee Center, New York.

Następnie czwartym proboszczem został Ksiądz Piotr W. Gleba, 15-go Lipca 1976 roku. Ksiądz Piotr Gleba wrócił z powrotem do domu, do New York Mills, i stał się proboszczem z trzech największych Polskich parafii w diecezji.

Więszą pracą dla nowego proboszcza było usunięcie całego parafialnego długu, \$229,000.00. 28-go Kwietnia 1978 roku były położone nowe dachy na plebanii i na klasztorze za \$14,880.00.

9-go Wrzesnia 1978 roku parafiani uczęścili zabawę dla Księdza Piotra Gleba na jego 25-ty jubileusz.

Bingo zaczęło się jako źródło szkolnego dochodu. W Styczniu 1979 roku, było umieszczone centralne ogrzewanie we wszystkich budynkach parafialnych przez Walt Babiarz i Kogut Electric, za sumę \$3,000.00.

Nowe okna wewnętrzne były dodane do frontowej części starego budynku szkolnego za sumę \$1,750.00. W 27-go Marca 1981 była rozpoczęta praca w "Cow Palace". On był powiększony i były położone nowe kanalizacyjne rury przez Lou Kozłowski Firm i Antasia (Tulli)Kupiec, którzy ofiarowali całą swoją pracę. Całość kosztowała \$7,575.00.

W Niedzielę, 19-go Września 1982, parafia Najświętszej Maryj obchodziła 600-lecie kaplicy Matki Boskiej Częstochowskiej w Polsce. Specjalny obraz był namalowany przez pana Stanley Borowiec który pozostawił go w kościele Najświętszej Maryj. Ten obraz był ofiarowany w pamięci Księdza Francis Duda przez fanieli i parafianów.

W roku 1983 specjalne wejście zostało zbudowane w tyle kościoła, aby pomagać kalekom którzy przychodzą do naszego kościoła raz w rok w Pazdzierniku, jako Heenan grupa.

Plany diamentowego jubileuszu były formułowane na zebraniu Rady Parafialnej w Czerwcu 1984.

Umowa była przyznana dla Gasparri Church Decorators za rozległe odnowienie i malowanie wnętrza kościoła Najświętszej Maryj. Cały projekt kosztował \$32,500 i był wykończony w Pazdzierniku 1984 roku. Podczas tej pracy Mszę Świętą były odprawiane w szkole na sali gimnastycznej i to było w tym miejscu aby wielu parafian doświadczyć bliskość życia rodzinnego tu w parafii Najświętszej Maryj.

W Maju, zostały dodane żyrandole po stronie ołtarzy, ofiarowane w pamięci Chester i Stanley Mikuta od rodziców i brata. Drugi dodany był przez Stanley i Josephine Zima.

20-go Stycznia 1984 roku parafia Najświętszej Maryj zaczęła Renew (Odnowe). Doktor Walter Karwowski był uszczony Silver Tea Testimonial za czterdzieści lat pracy w naszej szkole i parafii. 17-go Czerwca 1984, Siostra Joyce Marie Tulowicki, nauczycielka czwartej klasy szkoły Najświętszej Maryj, umarła po długiej chorobie.

Po chorobie, Dr. Walter Karwowski umarł 1-go Lutego 1985. Stefan M. Chrabaszcz był назначony na Skarbnika w parafii Najświętszej Maryj, pracując z Stanley Zima.

Nasza szkoła była poświęcona z mistrzowską drużyną koszykówki. 8-go Marca 1985, oni otrzymali nagrodę mistrzostwa miejskiego.

19-go Maja 1985 Biskup Frank Harrison udzielił sakramentu Bierzmowania.

Wychowanek parafii Najświętszej Maryj gospodarzył w letnim pikniku 7-go Lipca 1985.

Parafia będzie wreszcie świętować diamentowy jubileusz w Niedzielę, 29-go Wrzesnia 1985, ze wspólną Mszą Świętą o 4:00 po południu z Biskupem Frank J. Harrison, Biskupem Thomas Costello i z księżmi z parafii, poprzednich wikariuszy i przybytych gości księży. Wieczorem uroczystość zakończy się bankietem w Twin Ponds (resturacji). Prałat Piotr Koleczek będzie głównym mówcą na bankiecie.

W Poniedziałek, 30-go Wrzesnia 1985, grupa parafian pod przewodnictwem duchowym Księdza Piotra W. Gleba udadzą się do Polski i Rzymu. Na Jasnej Górze będzie odprawiona Msza Święta w kaplicy Matki Boskiej Częstochowskiej. 11-go Grudnia 1985 cała parafia będzie uczestniczyć w robotniczym obiedzie i tancu, dziękując każdemu kto uczynił ten jubileusz rokiem PAMIĘCI NIGDY NIE ZAPOMNIENYM.



***Christmas
at
St. Mary's***



History of St. Mary's of Our Lady of Czestochowa

People from Poland began to immigrate to America from 1900 until 1910, seeking employment and a better way of life. New York Mills was ideal because many Poles were already living in Utica where they had their own Polish church--Holy Trinity--and there were woolen mills where they could find employment.

Language and cultural barriers did not inhibit the Polish immigrants. They were inspired with great zeal and hope to establish their own center of spirituality and culture--their own parish church.

This is how St. Mary's Parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa began--dedicated to the Mother of God under her title--Our Lady of the Bright Mountain, The Black Madonna.

Though the first settlers came to New York Mills eighty-five years ago in 1900, nearly ten years elapsed before St. Mary's had its birth. Until 1910, they traveled to Utica to Holy Trinity Parish to attend Mass and receive the sacraments. In 1910, St. Mary's was designated as a parish by the Most Reverend Patrick Ludden, Bishop of Syracuse.

Priests from Holy Trinity came each Sunday to say Mass for the faithful in the hall of Mr. John Pezdek and Mr. Boduch on Main Street, occupied by a Union Store--the plot of land currently occupied by Upstate Office Equipment.

In the meantime, plans were formulated to purchase a large piece of land to construct a parish complex. The Estate of Walcott and Campbell was purchased for this purpose at a cost of \$18,000.

A large barn, used for a riding stable, was converted into a church--being blessed on August 14, 1910. The first Mass in this church was celebrated on Sunday, January 3, 1911.

The present enlarged church rests on the site of the original church. The contractor who built the original church was Mr. Stanley Rotter.

The first resident pastor of St. Mary's was Reverend Stanislaus Plaza.



Father Alexander Fijalkowski

In 1911, Father Alexander Fijalkowski became the second pastor of St. Mary's Parish, coming from Sacred Heart Parish in Syracuse.

Under his spiritual guidance, a school was built in 1915, entrusted to the Felician Sisters who have labored in the Lord's vineyard these past seventy years. Our school records for those past seventy years attest to the excellence of scholarship attained by the graduates of St. Mary's.

When the school was completed, the church was enlarged to its present size to accommodate the growing parish. For forty-seven years, Father Alex labored zealously for the people he loved in New York Mills.

On April 8, 1958, after a long illness and confinement to the rectory, Father Alexander Fijalkowski was called home to his eternal reward.

Father Peter Koleczek was appointed the third pastor of St. Mary's on April 25, 1958. Assistant priests at that time were a native son--Reverend Adolph Kantor and Reverend Arthur Hapanowicz.

Under Father Koleczek's guidance, stained-glass windows were installed throughout the church and new confessionals were added.

For the Golden Jubilee of St. Mary's in 1960, the interior of the church was modernized. The rectory received an exterior of aluminum. A new convent was badly needed.

The drive for a new convent began in February, 1959, when parishioners pledged \$155,000.

Ground-breaking for the new convent took place on Memorial Day, 1959.

The convent was completed and blessed in 1960. Total cost was \$192,000.

The school was expanded in 1964, adding the present gymnasium and cafeteria.

On December 4, 1971, Father Peter Koleczek was elevated to the rank of Reverend Monsignor.

The final stages of renovation took place during 1974-1975.

The church was renovated both inside and outside. A new steeple and roof were added. New pews were installed. A mother's room was constructed. The sanctuary was refurbished and new fixtures were added to the interior, along with carpeting and a complete repainting of the interior of the church.

The entire cost was over \$275,000. The parish indebted itself to the diocese and other parishes for a total of \$229,000.

The church was blessed on April 6, 1975, by His Excellency David F. Cunningham, Bishop of Syracuse.

Due to failing health, Monsignor Peter Koleczek decided to step down as pastor of St. Mary's and became pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Lee Center, New York.



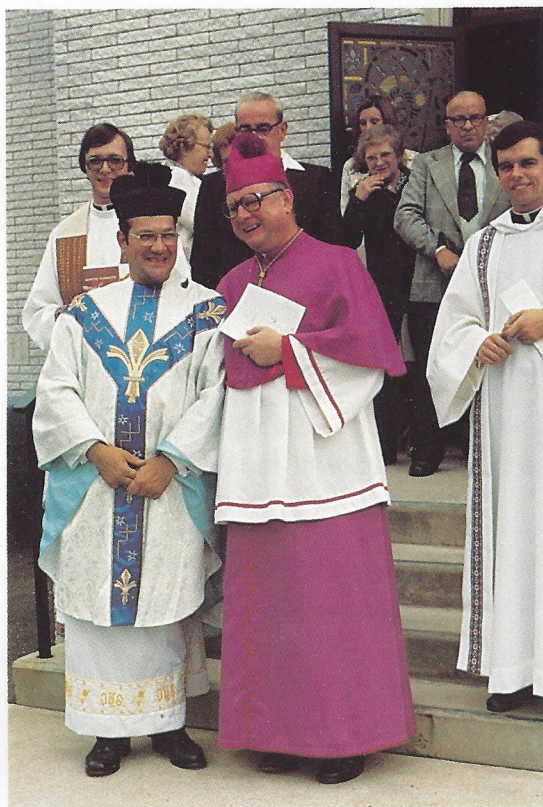


Consequently, the fourth resident pastor became Reverend Peter W. Gleba. On July 15, 1976, Father Peter returned back home to New York Mills to become pastor of the third largest Polish parish in our diocese.

A major concern for the new pastor was eliminating the entire parish debt of \$229,000. On April 28, 1978, new roofs were installed at the rectory and convent at a cost of \$14,888.



On September 29, 1978, the parishioners of St. Mary's honored Father Peter with a 25th Jubilee celebration.



Bingo was started as a source of revenue for the school. In January, 1979, an air conditioner was installed in the parish center by Walt Babiarz and Kogut Electric for the sum of \$3,000.

New storm windows were added to the front part of the old school building for \$1,750.00. On March 27, 1981, work was begun on the "Cow Palace". It was enlarged and new sewer pipes were installed by Lou Kozlowski Firm and Antasia (Tulli) Kupiec, who donated all of the services. Total cost was \$7,575.00.



On Sunday, September 19, 1982, St. Mary's hosted the celebration of 600 years of the Lady of Czestochowa Shrine in Poland. A special painting by Stanley Borowiec remains at St. Mary's. This picture is a memorial donation from family and parishioners in memory of Father Francis Duda.



In 1983, a special entrance was constructed for the rear of the church to aid the handicapped who come to our church as the Heenan Group yearly in October.

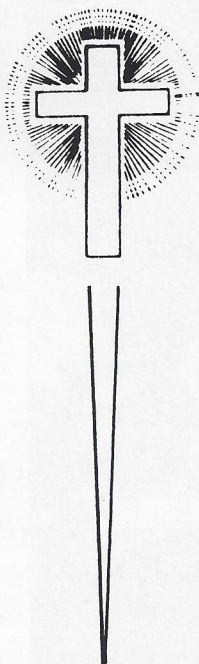
Plans for the Diamond Jubilee were formulated at the Parish Council meeting in June, 1984.



A contract was awarded to Gasparri Church Decorators for the extensive renovation and painting of the interior of St. Mary's Church. The entire project cost \$32,500 and was completed in October, 1984.

During this project, Masses were offered in the school hall. It was here that many parishioners experienced the closeness of family life here at St. Mary's.

In May, two beautiful chandeliers were added to the side altars--the first donated in memory of Chester and Stanley Mikuta, and the second donated by Stanley and Josephine Zima.



January 20, 1984, saw the beginning of Renew at St. Mary's. Dr. Walter Karwowski was honored with a Silver Tea Testimonial for forty years of service to our school and parish. On June 17, 1984, Sister Joyce Marie Tulowiecki, fourth grade teacher at St. Mary's, died after a long illness.

After a long illness, Dr. Walter Karwowski died on February 1, 1985. Stephen M. Chrabaszcz was appointed Trustee at St. Mary's, serving with Stanley Zima.

Our school was blessed with a championship basketball team. On March 8, 1985, the team received the City Championship Award.

On May 19, 1985, Bishop Frank Harrison administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

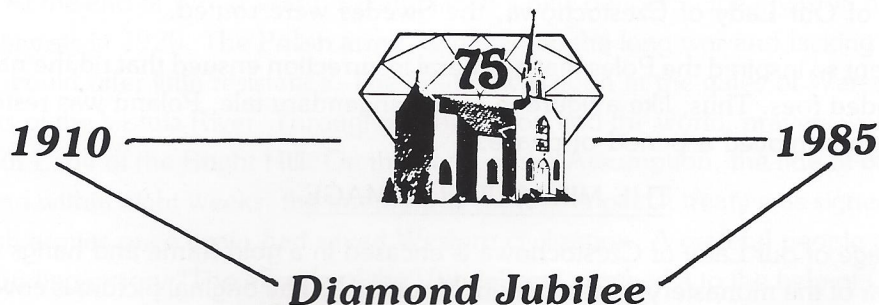
Alumni of St. Mary's hosted a summer picnic on July 7.

The parish will celebrate the Diamond Jubilee on Sunday, September 29, 1985, with a concelebrated Mass at 4:00 p.m., with Bishop Frank J. Harrison, Bishop Thomas Costello, and priests of the parish, former assistants and guest clergy attending.

In the evening, the celebration will end with a banquet at Twin Ponds. Monsignor Peter Koleczek will be the main speaker at the banquet.

On Monday, September 30, 1985, a group of parishioners--under the spiritual guidance of their pastor, Reverend Peter Gleba, will travel to Poland and Rome to celebrate Mass at Jasna Gora, the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

On December 31, 1985, all the parish will attend a workers' dinner and dance to thank everyone who made this Jubilee Year a REMEBRANCE NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN.





THE MIRACLE AT CZESTOCHOWA

Czestochowa today is a great industrial city in the Polish province of Kielce. On the Hill of "Jasna Gora", or "Bright Mountain" or "Clermont" stands a great shrine in honor of Our Lady. Dangers of attack necessitated that the monastery which houses the shrine be fortified by a high wall with a moat and a drawbridge.

In the year 1655 during the reign of King John Casimir, Poland was almost completely conquered by invading Swedish troops. Added to this, the Turks were attacking Poland from the South. The national situation seemed so hopeless that King John took refuge in Silesia. Province after province was forced to render homage to the Swedish Charles Gustavus.

Some forty days before Christmas 1655, an army of 10,000 Swedes attacked the bastion at Czestochowa which was manned by seventy monks and one hundred sixty Polish knights. Under the leadership of the holy monk, Father Kordecki, and due to the intervention of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Swedes were routed.

This event so inspired the Poles that a general insurrection ensued that rid the nation of their dreaded foes. Thus, like a figure in some legendary tale, Poland was restored to freedom and enjoyed a period of peace.

THE MIRACULOUS IMAGE

The image of our Lady of Czestochowa is encased in a gold frame and hangs over the main altar of the monastery on the "Bright Mountain". The original picture is covered by an overdress studded with pearls, precious jewels and gold. On the head of both Mother and Child are crowns of gold and precious stones--personal gifts of St. Pius X.

The picture itself is 30 by 40 inches. Encased, however, it measures 5 by 3½ feet. Because it belonged to the Byzantine School of Painting, the features were painted in brown. Aging has turned the faces and hands to a dark bronze color. For this reason, the picture is also called the "Black Madonna".

A striking feature of this painting is that the face of Our Lady has three cuts across the right cheek. It is related that Hussite soldiers who attacked the monastery in 1430 threw the picture to the ground and then one of their ranks slashed it. At the third blow, the soldier supposedly fell dead, thus causing his comrades to flee in terror. Artists have attempted to patch the scars but, amazingly enough, their efforts were for naught. The scars reappeared after each retouching.

Tradition has it that this portrait of Our Lady was painted by St. Luke upon a cypress tabletop supposedly made by St. Joseph. During the years of persecution, the picture was given refuge in the catacombs of Jerusalem. There it lay hidden until it was uncovered in 326 by St. Helena. The picture then was passed on to her son Constantine who moved it to Constantinople where many miracles were attributed to it. The origins are not certain, however.

In the 9th century, the image was brought to Kiev where it remained until 1382. Whatever the origin of this picture, it is certain that the picture was given to the Pauline Fathers in 1384.

It was then transferred to Silesia and finally to Czestochowa. It was brought to Czestochowa for safe-keeping, away from the destructive hands of the Mongol hordes. In Czestochowa, a monastery was built to house it. The monastery was at first quartered by monks of the Greek Rite--the Basilian Fathers. Later, it was given to monks of the Latin Rite--the Pauline Fathers--during whose tenure the miraculous defense of 1655 took place.

Since the Great Miracle, wherever the people of Poland found themselves, they never ceased to pray for the restoration of a free Poland.

At the end of World War I, Poland faced a new danger: the invasion by Russian Bolsheviks in 1920. The Polish army, depleted by the long war and lacking ammunition, could offer little resistance. The enemy was soon at the gates of Warsaw on the banks of the Vistula River. Throughout the nation and the world, prayers were offered to Our Lady of the Bright Hill. On the Feast of the Assumption, the tide of battle turned and within eight weeks, the enemy was routed. A peace treaty was signed and the Polish armies once again had saved Western civilization. A grateful people called this astounding victory "The Miracle of the Vistula" and ascribed it to the help of Our Lady.