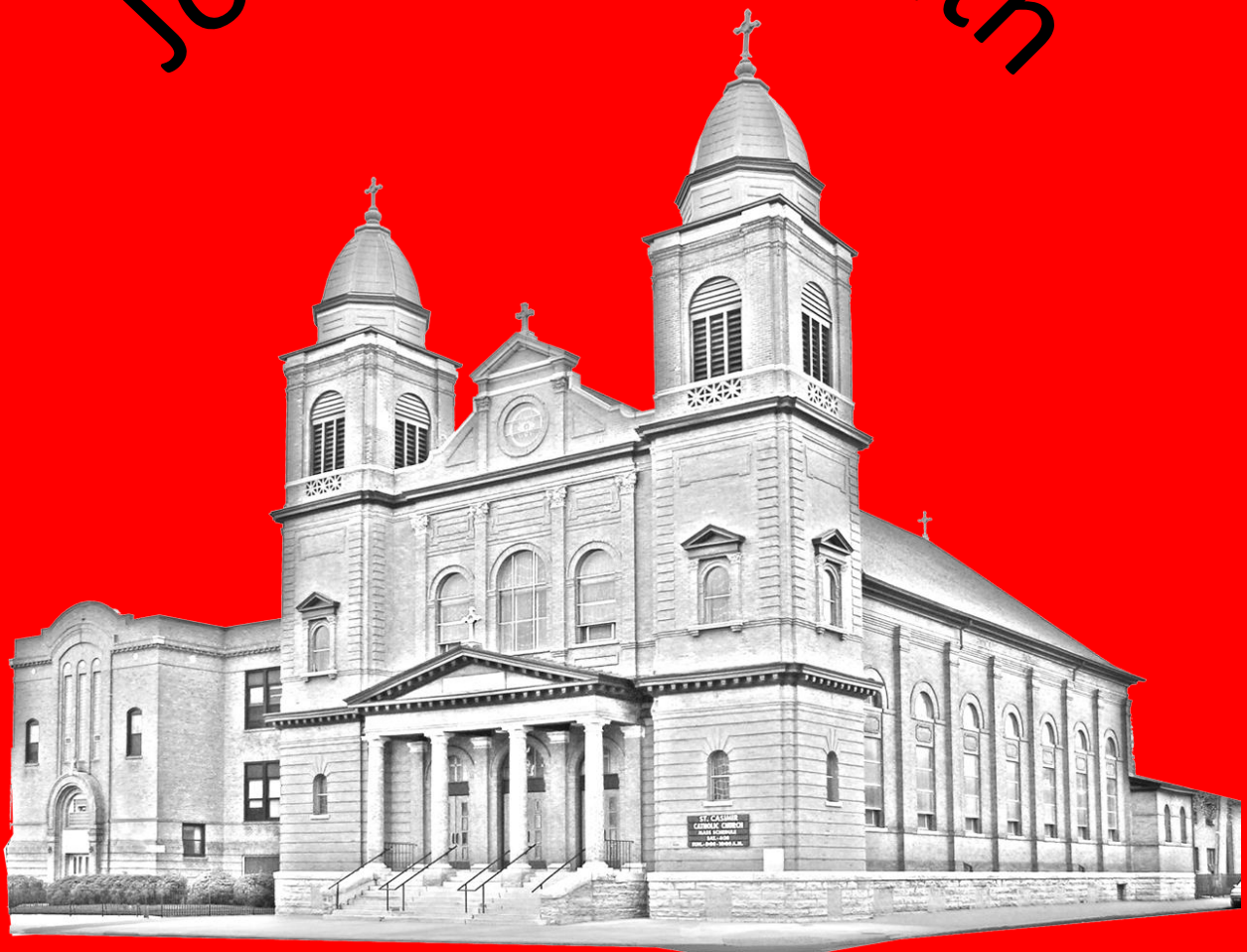


St. Casimir Church

Journey In Faith



1892 -2017

CELEBRATING

125 YEARS

On the 125th Anniversary of St. Casimir Church,
we come together to celebrate
Our Journey in Faith, Our Past, Present and Future.

Dedication

We dedicate this 125th Anniversary Book:

- ❖ To those who came before us: the pioneer members who started the parish, the families who grew it and maintained it, the priests who led this parish spiritually and administratively, and the sisters who taught and spiritually guided the children who attended St. Casimir School;
- ❖ To those who have been contributing their time, talent and treasures to keeping our parish alive; and
- ❖ To all who are part of our faith community: parishioners, the Karen Community, the Franciscan Brothers of Peace, the parishioners of St. Patrick Church, and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

Published St. Paul, MN

2017

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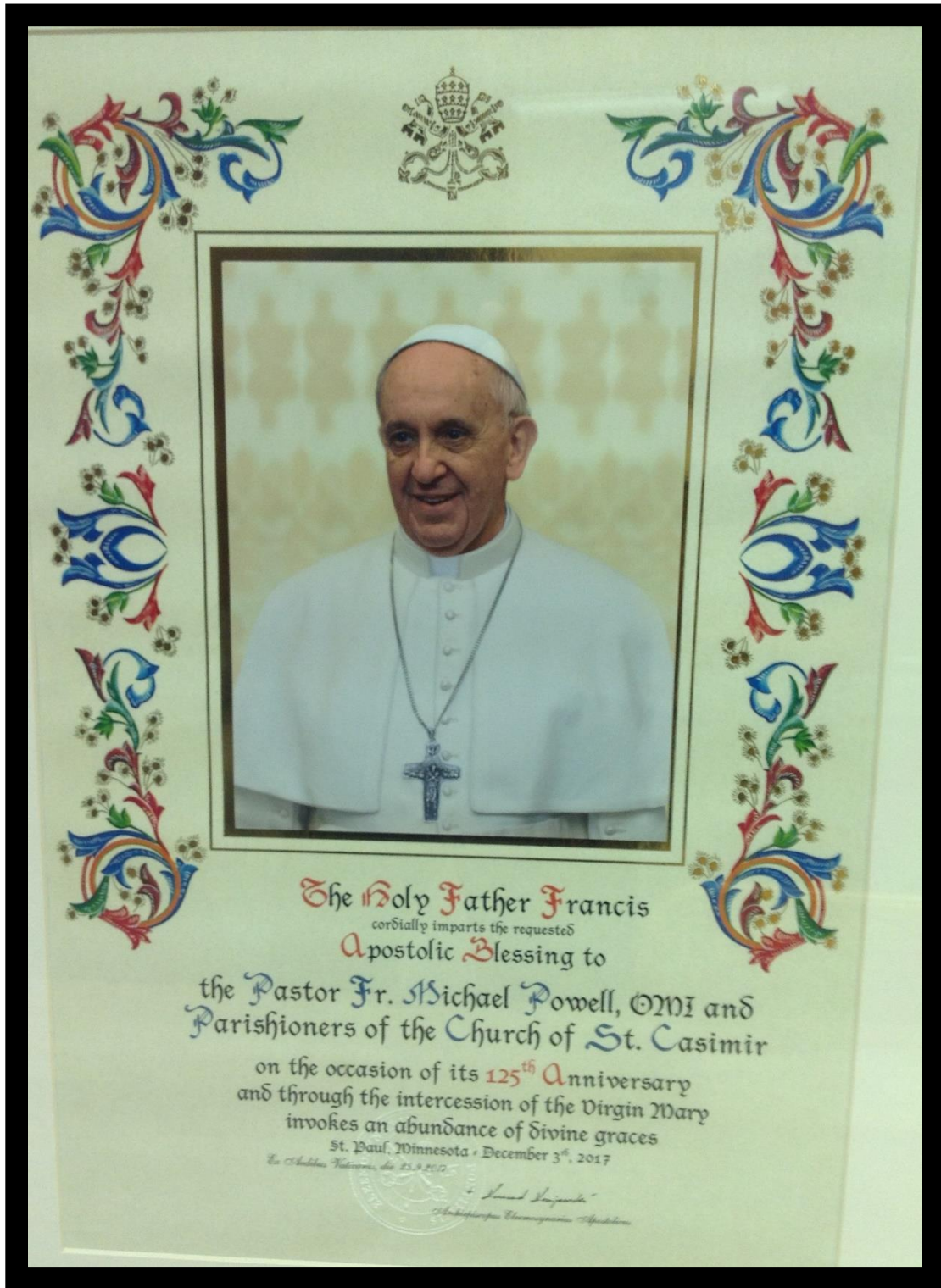
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*Anonymous donors
Altar & Rosary Society
Liz and Henry Dymus
In Loving Memory of Richard and Leonarda Rajtar
Thomasz Rajtar
St. Casimir Traditional Choir*

Papal Blessing



Letters of Greeting



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
SAINT PAUL &
MINNEAPOLIS

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 7, 2017

Reverend Michael Powell, OMI
Pastor, St. Casimir Church
934 Geranium Avenue E.
St. Paul, MN 55106

Dear Fr. Powell and Parishioners of St. Casimir Parish,

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations as your parish celebrates its 125th anniversary. I am happy to join you in giving thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings that he has bestowed upon you, upon the Archdiocese, and upon the families of Paul's East Side in the course of St. Casimir's 125 years.

While much has changed since the first Mass was celebrated at St. Casimir, your parish continues to offer a powerful encounter with the Lord who nourishes his Church with His own Body and Blood and who calls us to be his hands in a world that needs to be touched with His mercy. For 125 years the sacraments have been celebrated, God's word has been proclaimed, and lives have been transformed. I thank you for the witness that your parish community continues to give to the joy of the Gospel, through good times and challenging times.


As you begin this next chapter, I hasten to extend to you my prayers and best wishes. May God who has begun this good work in you bring it to fulfillment.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

777 Forest Street | Saint Paul, MN 55106-2857 | T: 651.291.4511 | F: 651.291.4549



From Fr. Elmar Mauer 
To 125thAnniversary@stcasimirchurch.org 
Date Mon 18:50



Dear Parishioners and Friends at St. Casimir's Church: Congratulations on your Parish Celebration. Thank you for inviting me to the festivities. Have fun preparing for it and enjoy celebrating it! I had a glorious and enriching four years on the East Side, from Nov. 1969 to Nov. 1973. Besides the weekend Liturgies, the most fun was that of being with the kids at the school, most of the children were still my size. The most worthwhile ministry I got to do was called, "The Holy Family Program". It was a way of preparing the children for First Communion. The parents would meet in groups of eight in their homes. We would talk about what the parents would teach their children about God, Jesus, Sacraments and Church. After eight weeks each group would bring the children to Mass for their first hl. Communion. So, I got to meet both parents and children. It was a great blessing to me and, hopefully, to all participant...After saying all this, it saddens me to have to say that I am unable to attend your party. Both age and health hold me back. But, you will be in my love and prayers, and, I have so many memories of people and events that keep me close. St. Casimir's. It was a very especial ministry for me. I'll ever be so grateful for my years in your parish. I cherish the memories of the good people of St. Casimirs and the walks around Lake Phalen Fr. Elmar Mauer, OMI

Message of Greetings to St. Casimir Parish:

Congratulations on St Casimir spirit! Nothing but the fondest memories of my brief time there! Carry on!

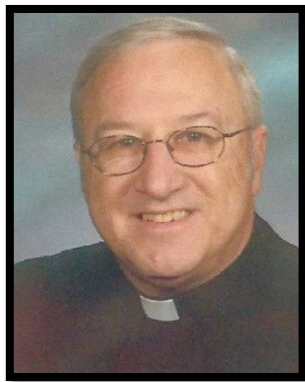
Fr. Allen Maes

Dear Parishioners of St. Casimir's,

I am truly sorry that I am unable to be with you to celebrate the parish's 125th anniversary. It is a great accomplishment and I wish you many more years of serving the people of God on St. Paul's East Side.

Although my time with you as pastor was short, only two years, I came to know and appreciate the great history of the parish and the continuing enthusiasm you have for living out the Gospel message. And, I am proud to have been one of the great number of Oblates who have served your parish for more than 100 years.

May God bless all of you. Fr. Bill O'Donnell, omi



To all my friends at St. Casimir's and all those who have joined since I left in 2011:

Marking 125 years as a parish community is a most significant occasion and I am sorry I am unable to be a part of it. For indeed so much has happened at St. Casimir's over these years. But most of all has been the ongoing and never ending blessings of a great God whom this parish has served over the course of its history. Whether it was in Polish, English, or the new Asian languages being spoken there the people of God who have made up this parish have shown great loyalty and faithfulness to it. There you have been nurtured in God's Word and Sacrament. Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals have marked the years and membership now for 125 years. It was my privilege to have led the parish from 2007 until 2011. Now gone six years I still have fond memories of experiences there and of course of the wonderful folks who make up its ranks. Although I won't be able to be with for the celebration I send my prayers and good wishes. Just think in another 125 years you can do it all over again.

God bless,

Father Joe Ferraioli, O.M.I.

Message of Greetings to St. Casimir Parish:

I have kept all of you in my thoughts and prayers since leaving St. Casimir. I truly enjoyed and appreciated my short time with all of you. I had hoped to return, but the powers that be had other plans for me. I am grateful for the friendship, support and cooperation that I encountered at St. Casimir. I was sent to St. Casimir in an emergency, and I left in an emergency. Fr. McLean was eventually taken by the cancer. What God's plan was in all this is still a mystery to me, but I felt privileged for the short time I was with you. I pray that you continue to prosper in every way as a close knit community. Fr. Greg Gallagher and I are in the same community in Buffalo, NY - working with the young men entering the Oblates and in the three Oblate mission parishes. I hope and pray this is a wonderful celebration, and the parish continues well through the next hundred years. And, as I used to say when I was in the parish, don't lose your Polish roots. Those who came from Poland and built St. Casimir at a time when there was an attempt to suppress and even destroy Polish culture, language and religion struggled to keep their rich treasures of their heritage alive and thriving. And, we can say, "Jeszcze ani Polska, ani kościół Świętego Kazimierza nie zginęły - ale prosperowały." (Yet, Poland and the church of St. Casimir have not perished - but thrive.) May you continue to thrive with and in God's grace. You will continue in my thoughts and prayers. Please remember to pray for me.



God bless.

Fr. Jim Loiacono, OMI



Message of Greetings to St. Casimir Parish:

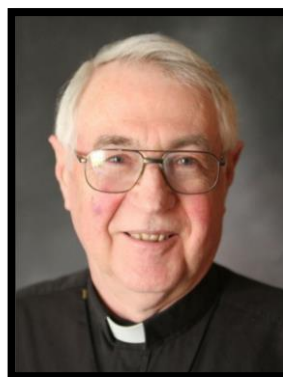
Unfortunately, I will not join you for the celebration.

In Spirit I will be there. Someday I will visit St. Casimir.

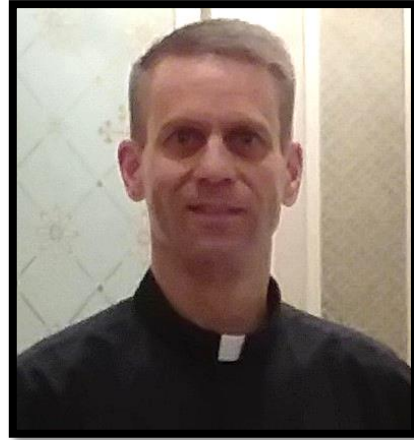
Fr. Stan

As St. Casimir's celebrates 125 years of witnessing to Christ on the east side of St. Paul, may your Polish heritage be strengthened to face new challenges. For the many vocations you have given to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, special thanks. For the training you gave to the many Oblates who served you, our gratitude. And for the love you showed me during my time with you from 2009-2015, receive my love in return.

Father Harry Winter, OMI



Greetings to all of the parishioners of St. Casimir Church, as well as, the alumni of the parish school and other friends who are a part of our community. It is an honor to be the pastor of St. Casimir's as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of its first Mass. St. Casimir's has such a long and full history. I am still learning more about it after being here almost a year and a half. Sharing our history now in pictures and stories is a great way to celebrate this occasion. It also reminds us to be thankful to God for how He has blessed our parish. There have been the priests and sisters who have served the people. Without their ministry, the community would not have formed and grown. We also show thanks for the generosity of past parishioners who built the church, school and rectory, as well the regular weekly support of the parish that they provided. They helped to form a firm foundation that makes it possible for us to practice our faith today. We indeed have much for which to show our gratitude, 125 years' worth!



On this occasion we must also look to the present and future of St. Casimir's. As followers of Christ we are called to keep discerning what is His will for our community. This surely includes striving to be a warm and inviting place where new people will feel at home. In the past few years we have welcomed our Karen members to St. Casimir's. They are a part of St. Casimir's that is full of life and growing. While the Karen do come from a very different culture, they do fit in with the tradition of St. Casimir Church. It has always served the working class immigrants of this part of St. Paul, and it is continuing to do so. Indeed, the Lord still has much planned for our parish. Let's try to accomplish His will together.

Thank you for being a part of St. Casimir Church. May God bless you and your family, and our wonderful parish of St. Casimir.

Fr. Michael D. Powell

Pastor of St. Casimir Church

St. Casimir Church: A Parish Made by Immigrants

Polish history was instrumental in the birth of St. Casimir Church and its continued connection to Polish immigration to the area. In the late 1870's through 1880's, Poland was divided into three parts. Its citizens became victims of persecution and tyranny. Many sought refuge in America believing this would be a land of opportunity and freedom. It was this time period that brought the first influx of the Polish people to Minnesota. There were two subsequent periods of arrivals due to further turmoil in Poland: World War II and Solidarity.

The first Poles that came to St. Paul settled around the area of the state capitol. In 1881, with great determination and hard work, they built the first Polish parish in the area: St. Adalbert's Church. But as more immigrants arrived, they began to settle on the East Side of St. Paul where the railroad and other employment opportunities were more available. These newcomers were also eager to have a Catholic church and school of their own closer than St. Adalbert's was to where they would be raising their families.

Through sheer motivation, hard work, and saving needed funds, these faith-filled people got permission from the bishop to establish St. Casimir Church in 1892 as a daughter church of St. Adalbert's. As a deep faith in God was and still is central to the lives of most Poles, these newcomers worked tirelessly to establish a strong faith community reflecting the Catholic beliefs and traditions that were the foundations of their lives.

Life was difficult. The immigrants struggled through the hard times of the Depression and discrimination, but these predecessors were survivors. Their strong convictions of faith allowed them to build their church, raise strong Christian families, and maintain a school to help further instill their Polish beliefs, culture, and values. Throughout its history and strong religious upbringing of its children, St. Casimir's Church has had twelve vocations to the priesthood and at least twenty women entering religious service as a nun.

The second wave of people from Poland were immigrants known as displaced persons. During World War II, these families were dragged from their homes, put on trains, and transported against their will to camps to work in Germany, Russia, and all over Europe, Asia, and Africa. They were mostly frightened mothers and children as the men were serving in the army. Their courage and ability to endure poverty, loss, hunger, and fear are testament to their strength.

After the war, the U.S. government allowed these people to have visas to come to America. It was mostly through the help of relatives, friends, or farmers offering room and board for work that enabled them to stay. Later, those in more rural areas moved toward the city beginning a new journey. Many women were fortunate enough to reunite with their husbands. There were numerous adjustments in life and obstacles to overcome which lay ahead of them. Language barriers, lack of work, money, and little housing available were just some issues faced daily.

Yet they persevered, overcame obstacles, and faced their problems finding support and spiritual guidance within our parish community. They began to prosper and were content with what they had. They formed friendships and saw the Church as a safe haven. They maintained a strong devotion and dedication to the Blessed Madonna. These immigrants further strengthened a desire to keep Polish traditions and customs flourishing within the parish. They continued to work hard to pass on to their descendants their values and beliefs. Many organizing and becoming involved in groups within the

church such as the choir and men's and women's clubs of the Altar and Rosary Society and St. Joseph's Society.

With the passing years, many changes came in the neighborhood and country. The membership of the parish increased and people of other nationalities found a home here after World War II. The parish was becoming a bit less Polish and more American. At its core, though, the heart of Poland continued to beat.

In the 1970's and 1980's there was much unrest in Poland under communist rule. Seeing the wrongs imposed upon them, young Polish rebels began the Solidarity Movement. They opposed communism and harsh labor laws. Many were imprisoned for their involvement. They were eventually forced to leave their country expelled from Poland with their wives and children; given a one way ticket out with the condition that they not return. They clung to words of a fellow countryman and the newly elected Holy Father, Pope John Paul II: "Be not afraid." Many arrived with a Divine Mercy prayer card of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as envisioned by another fellow Pole, St. Faustina, inscribed with the sentence, "Jezu Ufam Tobie. (Jesus, I trust in You.)" Once again, faith was carrying these immigrants through their unknown journey.

Fortunately for these refugees, they were sponsored by various social services such as Catholic and Lutheran Charities and the International Institute of Minnesota. Twelve families* came to St. Paul one at a time. They were promised some financial aid and a place to live. Volunteers, especially those who were capable of communicating in Polish, were needed to assist in the process. Several of St. Casimir's parishioners offered their time and talents to help with the relocation. Many saw this as an opportunity to repay for help that their families received when they arrived. Other volunteers wanted to provide these new Polish refugees with help that their families needed but failed to receive years ago. Thanks to the Parish, some of the children were even allowed to be enrolled in the school. These arrivals worked hard to make a life here. Although many of these families have moved on from our parish, strong connections still remain with many former volunteers and families.

In the 1990's, an opportunity arose for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate to invite needed priests from Poland. St. Casimir's Church was fortunate to benefit from this which gave some of the newer immigrants a stronger connection to their homeland.

Polish traditions still continue here: the Easter Blessing of the Food and the singing of the Polish carols at the Christmas Eve celebration are concrete examples of this. Though times and demographics of our faith community have changed, the values and Catholic devotion remain. While St. Casimir's has welcomed and been blessed with other cultural influences, we have the founding Polish immigrants and their descendants to thank for what St. Casimir's Church is today. We live in a world of constant change, and our St. Casimir community is an example of finding positive in the unexpected. Recently welcoming our Karen faith partners, we continue to look forward to St. Casimir's remaining a strong Catholic influence on the East Side of St. Paul. Sto Lat!

Frances Wiatros

*The Kurkowski, Wiatros, Zmyslo, families all had a major hand in settling those 12 families in our area and at St. Casimir's parish, and assisting these families to gain independence here in St. Paul. Fr. Norman Pahl was the pastor when these families arrived. The Felician Sisters who taught here, worked to teach English to the children who attended St. Casimir School. Many of our parishioners also stepped-up to help the families.

Karen Catholic Community (History) and Activities at St. Casimir

The history of the Catholic church in Myanmar extends back over 500 years. A majority of the population in Myanmar (Burma) is Buddhist with around 2% Christian. The Christians mostly come from the ethnic minority groups. The 'Karen' people are one of those minority groups which has engaged in the longest-running civil war in world history. The Karen along with other ethnic groups from Burma have been brutalized by the Burmese military and driven from their villages and homes and forced into refugee camps. After several years in the refugee camps, the Karen were allowed to relocate to another country, and several have relocated in St. Paul MN.

I met the first 'Karen Catholic family' in 2013 at our friary in St. Paul. I received a phone call from a translator with limited English wanting to talk with someone about going to church, so I invited them to meet with me the following day. The woman's name was "Clare," and her daughter's name was "Moo Reh Htoo," this was the first family that we started working with. After many twists and turns trying to understand the dynamics of the culture and needs of the community, we started gathering more people until a group was formed. In 2014 we were welcomed by the Fr. Jim and the Oblates to come to St. Casimir.

The Karen have a rich Catholic history coming from the first missionaries that came to their country. This history and culture have blessed many who have worked with them throughout these years. The time at St. Casimir's has given the community a chance to grow and flourish. I have written several articles about the Karen Community in our newsletters, and you can read these on our website Franciscan Brothers Of Peace. Below I have attached the most recent newsletter regarding this past summer activities.

Among the stir of activity we had with our summer apostolates, ones that I would like to highlight are those that involved the Karen Catholic community. We held the first annual Karen American Catholic Family Conference (NACFC) at St. Casimir's Church on the east side of St. Paul. This was a two day event that was comprised of participants from Karen communities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Omaha. The gathering hosted several guests from Myanmar. Among the speakers for the Conference were Fr. Edward, a Karen speaking Priest from Myanmar, Sister Josephine FFM, a counselor and psychologist, and Br. Simon, a seminarian.

The purpose and motivation of this event was to provide a conference for Sgaw speaking Karen from Myanmar who were unable to speak Burmese and who had limited English to come together to support each other in their Catholic faith. This also gave our community the opportunity to provide pastoral support to other communities in the United States who lack these resources. We had Mass, confessions, and adoration all in the Karen language.

The event also provided an opportunity for several talks by all the guest speakers. I gave a talk which focused on the cultural difficulties people encounter when adjusting to American culture and conflicts that may arise between parents and children. We also had fruitful small group discussions and faith sharing which encouraged the participants to stay strong in their Catholic faith.

A highlight of the Conference was the final Mass, in which the old custom of "Parents Day" was celebrated. Held near the Feast of St. Joachim and Anne, this is a traditional day celebrated by all cultures and religions in Myanmar. At the celebration, some elders of the community were honored with songs and gifts. It was a truly moving experience.

Other events involving the Karen Community this summer included a Parents and Grandparents Retreat at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse, WI. It was a wonderful sunny day at the shrine. The theme of the Retreat was on Martha and Mary. I gave several reflections on this theme which encouraged parents in the midst of the busyness of life to try to find some time each day to sit at the feet of Jesus like Mary did and listen to Him. I explained that this can happen in a variety of ways from spending time in Eucharistic adoration, going for a meditative walk, and praying the rosary. The Retreat was spiritually fruitful for all who attended.

Also, each year the Missionaries of Charity and the Brothers work together in putting on a two-week long Summer Camp for the Karen and Hmong children in the area. This event is hosted by St. Vincent DePaul Church in St. Paul. The theme of the Camp was the "The Merciful Jesus." There were seventy children participating this year ranging in age from six to fifteen years old.

In Christ

Bro. Seraphim fbp

Link to most recent newsletter: <http://www.brothersofpeace.org/index.php/archive-sp-1002225962>



St. Casimir Karen Community

History of The Church of St. Casimir of St. Paul Introduction

Reflecting on our parish as it celebrates its 125th Anniversary.

By Marilyn Litschke, great-granddaughter of Joseph Jasinski

In preparing for our celebration of the 125th Anniversary of St. Casimir parish, one cannot help but do a lot of reminiscing and reflecting on all the events that took place in this parish, helping to shape the lives of so many people in this community for more than 125 years. Many of us on the 125th Anniversary Committee have been revisiting the history of our parish, reading the books prepared for the 50th, 75th, and 100th Anniversaries (and the 25th Anniversary for those of us who can read Polish), looking through boxes of old photos, and sharing memories of the church and school. For some of us whose families started this parish or came generations ago, it also brings back memories of family – weddings, baptisms, first communions, funerals. For me, it has brought back memories of my grandparents Joseph and Clara Jasinski Kuztelski, who were married at St. Casimir Church on May 21, 1901, and my parents, Bertha Kuztelski Kautt and Henry Kautt, who were married at St. Casimir Church on July 18, 1934. For others who joined the parish more recently, it has provided an opportunity to learn about our Polish heritage and parish history.

Our church building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, has stood like a proud sentinel for 113 years on the corner of Forest and Jessamine Streets in St. Paul, Minnesota, guarding the surrounding community, and offering a safe haven for regular worshippers, as well as troubled souls. Standing on the corner, looking at our picturesque church with its red-brick exterior, Romanesque arches, twin bell towers, and “1904” cornerstone, we are momentarily whisked back in time to a vastly different day and age. You can almost imagine seeing some “misty images of activity” of over 100 years ago, moving around like a busy beehive.

As we turn the clock back even further, “dusting away the cobwebs of time,” we are reminded about a time before St. Casimir Church even existed. Visualize those early Polish immigrants who bravely left their Mother country, and took a great gamble, many times enduring hardships, as they came to America with their families, along with hard-working skills. They brought their delightful and cozy traditions and customs such as baking babka and paczki at Eastertime, also blessing of the Easter baskets, and singing beautiful Polish Koledy at Christmastime. Many of these traditions still today remain a great part of St. Casimir’s heritage, even though the demographics in the community have changed.

Some of the facts mentioned in these anniversary books referenced above trigger memories that my mother shared with me about the early history of our church. The books mention that the first group of Polish immigrants to St. Paul joined with the Czechs, and they started St. Stanislaus Kostka church, located on West Seventh Street. Throughout the 1870’s,

both Poles and Czechs attended this church. However, as their numbers rapidly increased, the Poles decided to start their own parish church, St. Adalbert. The original St. Adalbert church was the old frame Church of St. Louis, moved from downtown to Charles and Galtier Streets in Frogtown in 1879. That church was rededicated in November 1881 in a ceremony in both Polish and English. The Polish community in St. Paul continued to grow, expanding into the East Side.

In thinking of the geography of the St. Paul city area at that time, (with no 35E Freeway) and having a large expanse of open lands, some of it lying along railroad tracks, I can only imagine the difficult distance that the East Side Polish people had to travel to attend masses, school, and church events at St. Adalbert's – either going across town by horse and buggy, perhaps with a sleigh in the cold winter months, or possibly an early type of streetcar, or the alternative -- walking. My mother told me that my grandmother, Clara Jasinski Kuztelski, born in 1882, who as a little girl attending St. Adalbert's school, had to walk from her home on Cook Avenue near Arcade St. for miles across all that expanse of land where the 35E freeway is now, to get to school. One day she and some girlfriends were chased by some hobos. When my great-grandfather, Joseph Jasinski, learned of this, he was very upset. He, along with other men, thought it would better serve the needs of the East Side Poles to have a church that was much closer for them to attend. And the rest is the history of St. Casimir Church.

Our beginnings were certainly very humble. That small group of believers and founders who gave us our start were struggling to carve out their future in a world where they were at a disadvantage because of cultural and language differences. But, not only did they have a dream, they had an inner strength springing from their own heritage; a strength which encouraged them to succeed while remaining true to what they considered most important: their faith and their families. I like to think that my great-grandfather's memory and spirit lives on in our family through our heritage - first of all, my grandmother Clara Jasinski Kuztelski, daughter of Joseph Jasinski; my mother, Bertha Kuztelski Kautt; and then through me, Marilyn Kautt Litschke; and then my son, Jeffrey Vogel. Someone from Joseph Jasinski's family has constantly attended St. Casimir's for 125 years.

May God continue His blessings and love for our faith community named in honor of St. Casimir, as we celebrate this great occasion.



*Back Row L to R: Bertha, Helen, Joseph Jr., Clara, Frances, and Martha
Front Row: Augustina & Joseph Jasinski*

*Joseph Jasinski was one of the men who signed
the Articles of Incorporation.*

History

With each anniversary the history of St. Casimir Church has been recorded in a book like this one. The history of the first 100-plus years of St. Casimir parish, as recorded in the earlier anniversary books, is compiled in this book. And in keeping with tradition the history also is updated to include the last 25 years.

Compiled and edited by Deb Blee, Gloria Chada, and Marilyn Litschke.

Establishing the Church

“In 1885, the rise of large factories and construction, railroads, such as the Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Burlington, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Companies helped the City of St. Paul experience a remarkable growth in population. Simultaneously, a large influx of European immigrants, including many Poles, took place at this time.” *75th Anniversary Book*.

“In 1888 the group of Poles belonging to St. Adalbert Parish but residing on the East [S]ide, decided to organize themselves into a society under the name of St. Casimir the Prince. [Also known as “The Saint Casimir Men’s Society”. *100th Anniversary Book*.] ... The principal aim of this small unit of sixty energetic men was to found a parish. Eventually they selected a committee which earnestly began to collect funds for a new building. *75th Anniversary Book*.

“According to Bertha Kautt [Marilyn Litschke’s mother], an event occurred which encouraged the people to take action. It seems that some of the young children were walking home from St. Adalbert school one afternoon. As they were crossing the [train] tracks, some hobos in the area began to chase them. The children escaped and ran home as fast as they could. One of them was Bertha’s mother [Clara Jasinski, Marilyn Litschke’s grandmother], whose father was Joseph Jasinski.

“As the story continues, Joseph decided right then to gather the leaders of the neighborhood to sit down and draw up a plan of action for getting a parish in their own neighborhood. Joining these gatherings were Francis Jasinski, Joseph’s brother, Peter Glombitza, Joseph Gruchot, Martin Kujawa, Walter Rozycki, Michael Szczepaniak (Stepaniak), Charles Ciernia, and Daniel Tarara.”

“Soon thereafter they approached Fr. Dominic Majer, pastor of St. Adalbert. Fr. Majer had only the year before doubled the size of the church and built a convent for the teaching sisters. It was understandable that he was not at first supportive of their proposal. However, upon meeting several times with the leadership, and at the urging of the bishop, then Bishop John Ireland, he was induced to agree that even his enlarged church would soon be inadequate to accommodate the expanding neighborhood on the East Side.

“On the 28th of December, 1888, ‘The Church of St. Casimir of St. Paul’ was incorporated. John Ireland, Thomas Grace, Dominic Majer, Peter Glombitza and Joseph Jasinski were the signatories. With Fr. Majer’s consent, a committee was selected to collect funds to purchase property and to construct a building.” *100th Anniversary Book*. “[T]he group purchased three lots at Forest and Jessamine Streets for \$1,500 in 1890, but the economic conditions of the time forced them to suspend the work so enthusiastically begun.” *75th Anniversary Book*; *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 32. “To save money, men volunteered to dig out the basement themselves. But for almost two years nothing else could be done.” *100th Anniversary Book*.

“Construction work began again and, by October of 1892, the building was well underway.” *100th Anniversary Book*.



Fr. Jazdzewski

The First 25 Years (1892 – 1917)

“There were about seventy families for the beginning of the parish. Then spurred by the words of the Gospel, ‘For what doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul,’ and ever conscious of their duties towards God, realized the need of a spiritual leader. A special committee appealed to His Excellency, Archbishop John Ireland for a priest.” *75th Anniversary Book*. “It was in ...[October of 1892] that the Archbishop appointed Fr. Henry Jazdzewski to be the first pastor of St. Casimir Parish.”

“The flock encouraged by the zeal and helping hand of their pastor industriously toiled day and night to complete the work of building a parish church as soon as possible. The first parish building was a modest frame structure two stories high and it measured seventy by forty feet. The first floor was furnished as a school while the church was located in the upper story of the building.” *75th Anniversary Book*; *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 32. “The cost of the building came to \$5,000.” *100th Anniversary Book*.



“The solemn blessing of St. Casimir Church and School took place on November 27, 1892, barely two months after the founding of the parish.” *75th Anniversary Book; 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 32. “On the day of the blessing, the first baptism at St. Casimir was celebrated. The newest member was Leo Kaluza. A week later, on December 3, the church was dedicated. Representatives from the neighboring parishes of St. John, Sacred Heart, St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert, and St. Patrick were in attendance and a procession, complete with marching band, began at Sacred Heart and made its way up Forest Street to the new church. It is said that when the parishioners arrived at their new church, they mounted the steps on their knees.” *100th Anniversary Book*. “The first Mass was said on Dec. 3, 1892.” *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 66.

“The first pastor also organized the parish choir with eighteen members. He himself acted as director while Stanley Jambor was elected as first president.” *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 33.

“Realizing that the second essential part of a parish is the school, that after the church it is the most important place because it is the preserver of faith and morals, Rev. H. Jazdzewski took the first steps in organizing St. Casimir School. Secular teachers were at first placed in charge of it.” *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 35-36.

“JULY 1893 Arrival of the first teachers, Sisters of the Order of St. Francis, from Rochester. School opened Sept. 1893 with an enrollment of 50 children.” *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 67.

“In 1894, Father Jazdzewski was transferred to Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and was succeeded by Rev. Father Guzowski who served the parish until 1899. In the same year [1899] Father Casimir Kobylinski assumed direction of the parish.” *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 32.



Fr.. Casimir Kobylinski

“Fr. Kobylinski’s pastorate was to last eleven years. In the few short years of the new parish’s life, its growth in numbers created pressures. The first was the need to provide the teaching sisters with more convent space. Until this time, the sisters had been living in a rented house which still stands at 1130 Forest. They were moved to a house on Jessamine adjacent to the church/school building, which provided them with more adequate room. This was done in 1901.



Fr. Roman Guzowski

“As it turned out, Fr. Kobylinski’s main project ... was the construction of a new church. The need for more worship space had become the most pressing requirement of the growing parish. This proved the wisdom of the founding fathers’ foresight in reserving the corner lot on Jessamine. The space was required probably sooner than anticipated.

“The new church was a fine building of Romanesque design, 115 feet in length by 60 feet in width. Construction began in 1903. The architect was V[ictor Cordella]... and the contractor was Geo. Reiss. The cost of this project was \$35,000.00. ... The cornerstone was laid in September 1903, and the church was solemnly dedicated on November 27, 1904, by Archbishop John Ireland. Some of the parish societies and individual parishioners contributed many of the furnishings of the church such as the pulpit and statues. The bell was blessed a few days later on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.” *100th Anniversary Book*.



“June 21, 1908 Arrival of new teaching staff: Felician Sisters.” *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 67.

“In 1910 Rev. C. Kobylinski was succeeded by Father Paul Kupferschmidt.” *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 33.



Fr. Paul Kupferschmidt

“In spite of his ailing condition [“he was suffering from tuberculosis”], he undertook to provide the relatively new church with a main altar and two side altars whose ornateness was more in keeping with the grand style of the church interior. Fr. Kupferschmidt also had an electric lighting system installed in the church. (Presumably the lighting until then had been by kerosene lamps.) And finally he oversaw the installation of a pipe organ in the choir loft. ... Then, again, St. Casimir lost a young pastor... Fr. Kupferschmidt died at the age of 39 in 1913.”

“Fr. Jazdzewski was called back to St. Casimir after 19 years as pastor of Holy Cross in Minneapolis. ... He converted the hall below the church into three classrooms, giving the school much[-]needed additional space. He also added two grades to the school and increased the presence of the Felician Sisters, who had been staffing the school since 1908, from four to seven. And apparently the church choir was suffering somewhat from neglect, because Fr. Jazdzewski did some reorganizing of the group which he had founded some 22 years earlier.

“And then on a Saturday evening, March 4, 1916, Fr. Jazdzewski was suddenly struck down. He had been hearing confessions prior to an evening service...” People were already making their way to the church from around the neighborhood. William Hourish, a boy of 15, had just finished his confession and was leaving. Father had stepped out of the confessional and took a seat nearby. The church was empty except for William. Suddenly a thirty-eight year old Minneapolis woman named Aniela Dudek approached the sitting priest from the sacristy and fired five times at point-blank range. Fr. Jazdzewski was killed instantly upon the first shot...[For more details see the *100th Anniversary Book*.] At this time, the Archbishop was in New York. Upon hearing by telegraph that Fr. Jazdzewski had been murdered in the church, he directed that the building be kept locked and that no services be



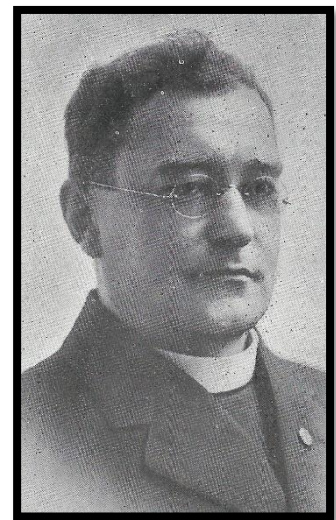
Interior of Church 1912

allowed to take place within it until he himself returned and performed the reconsecration. The next day, St. Casimir parishioners went to St. Adalbert church for worship, and it was there, on March 9, the Thursday after Ash Wednesday, that the funeral mass was celebrated for Fr. Jazdzewski." *100th Anniversary Book*.

"There was a reluctance on the part of many priests to be the one to succeed Fr. Jazdzewski in such a difficult situation. The parish would be engulfed in anger and grief. Now, Archbishop Ireland had come to know the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate over the years because they had readily accepted requests to pastor remote rural parishes, especially in northern Minnesota. Accordingly, when it became difficult to find a pastor for St. Casimir, the Archbishop turned to his friends." *100th Anniversary Book*.

"After the death of Father H. Jazdzewski, the parish was without a pastor until April 15, 1916, when His Excellency, the Archbishop, appointed Rev. Andrew Stojar, O.M.I." *50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Book*, p. 33. "His pastorate, the longest to this day in the history of the parish, was to last over 39 years. Almost as a sign of the parish growth which his years at St. Casimir were going to witness, more than 550 children were confirmed by Archbishop Ireland the following day.

"The first task which faced the pastor, Father A. Stojar, O.M.I.,] was that of providing adequate facilities for the education of the children of St. Casimir Parish. The parish school erected in 1892 had long proved inadequate to serve the needs of the parish and a new building was needed. To advance the establishment of an adequate building fund, Father Stojar solved the problem temporarily in 1917 by the building of two additional classrooms which served for six more years. *75th Anniversary Book*.



Fr. Andrew Stojar, O.M.I.

The Next 25 Years (1917 – 1942)

"In November of [1917]..., the parish celebrated its SILVER JUBILEE. The first historical sketch of the parish was written [in Polish] for publication as a Jubilee album. Bishop Rhode, the Auxiliary of the Archdiocese, was on hand for a liturgical celebration of the occasion on... November [8], 1917. The young parish had experienced the best and the worst during its quarter century and had come through stronger than ever and open to the challenge of the rapid changes which were to fill the coming years.



“In 1920, the CHRISTIAN MOTHER’S SOCIETY was formed to raise funds to take care of the needs of the school, and Mrs. Agnes Tarara was its first President. In 1936, its name was changed to CHRISTIAN MOTHERS OF ST. ANN, and it is now known as the ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY.” *100th Anniversary Book*.

“Priority was given to the construction of a new school, while other, smaller projects were taken care of in the meantime, the replacement of the old two[-]story frame school building was the focus of the parish’s financial planning. Those small projects included the installation of a second bell in the other steeple of the church. Both the rectory and the convent were reroofed. And four lots were purchased for a school playground behind the frame school building, extending to Geranium Avenue. Until now, the parish had relied on a pew rent of nine dollars a year to provide it with operating funds. In order to free monies for other projects, the pew rent was raised to ten dollars a year.

“A committee was chosen to direct the fund raising for the new school. The fund drive began in 1921 and the projected goal was \$96,000. In addition to donations by individual parishioners and by parish organizations, corporation notes at five percent interest were also issued. And, in 1922, a special Fall Bazaar was held lasting the entire week from ...[July 30 to August 7]. A ten cent admission was charged. ...

“The architect chosen to design the new edifice was Mr. Frank Abrahamson, an associate in the firm which designed the St. Paul Cathedral. The contractor was F. Baumeister of St. Paul.

“But first the old building had to be moved. It was bought by Albert Truskolawski and Roman Polski and relocated on Arcade near Rose Avenue, where it was incorporated into a row of buildings...

“Construction of the new school began in March of 1923. The cornerstone was laid in June, and the project was completed in November. It was dedicated on ... November [18], 1923. The dedication celebration consisted of a roast beef dinner in the [N]ew [S]chool [H]all. Over 400 tickets were sold at \$2 apiece and two sittings were required to handle everyone.” *100th Anniversary Book*.

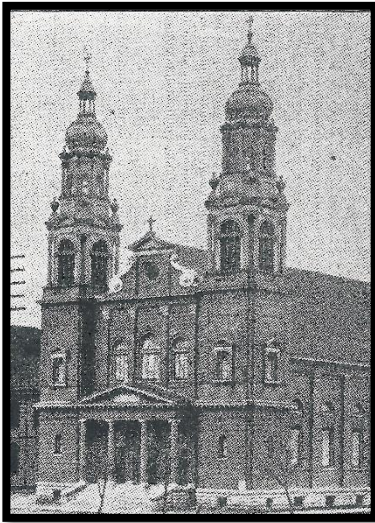
“The magnificent fire-proof structure was completed at a cost of \$100,000.00. The building is two and one-half stories high and has 12 well-lighted and ventilated classrooms, a school auditorium-gymnasium, principal’s and nurse’s offices, school library and kitchen. The building is located on Jessamine Street.” *75th Anniversary Book*.



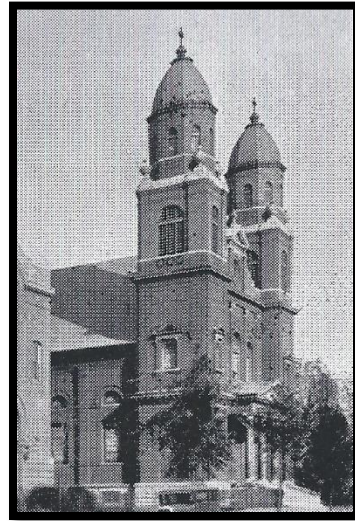
The Old School Building - 1923

“In 1926[,] under Father Stojar’s direction[,] the parish church was renovated at a total cost of nearly \$15,000.00. Principal item was the reconstruction of the old ornamental church spires which were replaced by twin towers of solid brick. *75th Anniversary Book*. “This was prompted primarily by a natural accident. It seems that the twin ornamental iron spires were being struck all too frequently by lightning. There was a growing concern that the building

might catch fire. Action was finally taken when a bolt of lightning struck the steeple containing the bell, knocking it loose so that it fell to the floor. Considerable damage was done, although there was no fire." *100th Anniversary Book*. "In addition, the church received a new fire-proof roof, a second bell was installed and the church property was enclosed with an iron fence." *75th Anniversary Book*.



Before



After

"As a sign of the increased size and vitality of St. Casimir parish during these years, the parish received its first Assistant Pastor in 1926. He was Fr. Francis Kosian, O.M.I., a Polish priest." *100th Anniversary Book*.

"In 1932 a ...[sisters'] convent, of solid brick, was erected at a cost of \$25,000.00. The two[-]story convent consists of 14 private rooms, library, community room and music room as well as a kitchen, dining room, and work room. ... In the same year, the interior of the church was completely redecorated at a cost of \$3,000.00." *75th Anniversary Book*.



Fr. Kosian

"...THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY was organized in 1934 claiming a membership of twenty-four. Al Danish [Danisch] was its first President. They later sponsored a junior unit for boys.

"In 1935, THE USHERS CLUB was started, with its first President being Joseph Szalapski. This group of parish men has been especially valuable down through the years in working for the good of the parish, by their Ushering, counting collections, and working the Fall Festivals, weekly bingo games, and major parish events. ...

“In 1937, St. Casimir Parish became the sponsor of BOY SCOUT TROOP NO. 44....Later on, the parish has become the sponsor to GIRL SCOUTS, as well as Cub Scouts and Brownies...”
100th Anniversary Book.

“Under the direction of Fr. Stojar, the ST. CASIMIR CHOIR reached new heights of achievement. Its contribution to the dignity of church celebrations was immeasurable. In these earlier days, liturgical signing was performed by the choir without the participation of the congregation as we have today. Since 1931... Agnes Grochowski has been the organist, who over the years, has played for many of the weddings, funerals and masses at St. Casimirs [sic]...”
100th Anniversary Book.

The Next 25 Years (1942 – 1967)

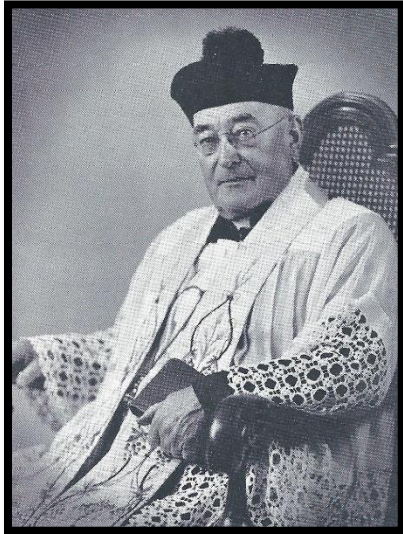
“NOV. 22, 1942 Golden Jubilee of St. Casimir’s Parish.” *50th Anniversary Book*, p. 68.

“It had been the tradition in the Parish to leave the Christmas crib standing in church, surrounded by evergreens, until the Feast of the Purification of Mary, February 2.

“The facts are not very clear, but it seems that one morning in January of 1945 two boys were moved to explore the inner reaches of the stable (it was a much larger set than we presently have). Using candles for illumination, they entered the perilous surroundings and before they could do anything about it[,] the straw and trees were ablaze.

“Running across to the school, they alerted the women who were preparing lunches in the kitchen. When the women arrived in the church, the smoke was so dense they could see nothing. The Fire Department was quickly summoned, and when it was all over \$20,000 worth of damage had been done. However, if the boys had not ...[run] so quickly for help, the entire church could well have been destroyed. As it was, there was soot everywhere, especially in the sanctuary area, and much water damage. The fire’s heat from the burning Christmas trees became so intense... that as it rose to the curved ceiling, the heat built up until the solder joints melted the brass organ pipes, in the choir, which soon began clanging down to the choir-loft floor. The women of the parish spent many days cleaning off the grimy altars and walls. What made this accident the more trying was the fact that the church interior had only recently been redecorated.” *100th Anniversary Book.*

“Only one year earlier, the people of St. Casimir had helped Fr. Stojar celebrate the Golden Jubilee of his priestly ordination. He died on ...June [7], 1955, in St. Joseph’s Hospital.”
100th Anniversary Book.

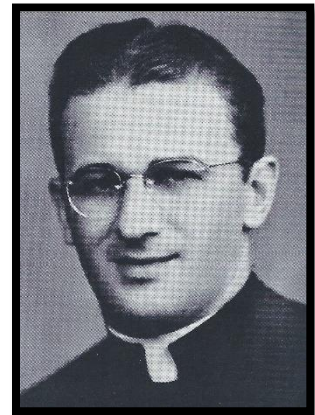


Fr. Andrew Stojar



Golden Jubilee of Rev. A. Stojar O.M.I. 1954

“FR. JOHN MASLOWSKI, O.M.I., was born and raised in St. Casimir’s. Ordained in 1939, he had been named Assistant Pastor in his home parish in 1940. During the intervening years, he had become especially involved with the youth of the parish and was well loved by all. It came as no surprise, therefore, when he was appointed Pastor to succeed Fr. Stojar in September 1955.



Fr. John Maslowski



St. Casimir Rectory 1956

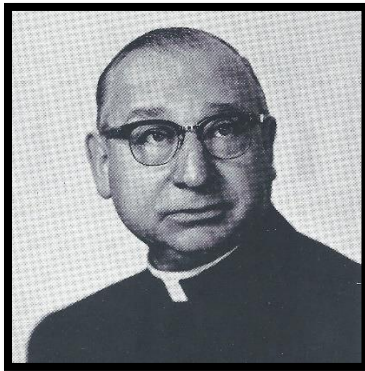
“The new rectory, which had been begun by Fr. Stojar, was nearing completion. The former rectory was moved to 985 E. Jessamine so that its replacement could be built on the same corner lot at Forest

and Geranium..." *100th Anniversary Book*.

"The most pressing need in the mid-50s was, again, the school. Split sessions had become the rule in order to accommodate the approximately 600 school children enrolled. Fifty to sixty students in a classroom. [sic] Expansion of the facility was clearly needed. And the old school building itself was in immediate need of remodeling. But, in addition to these crucial needs, the church was also requiring some attention. As well, the convent was cramped and outdated. And finally it was foreseen that additional adjacent property was also going to be required in the near future.

"The parish response to these varied needs was to begin a Building Fund Drive." *100th Anniversary Book*.

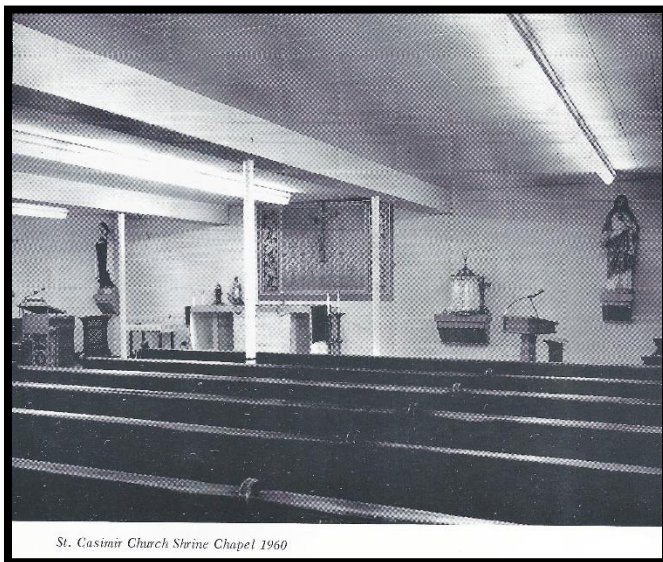
"Then suddenly, death struck again. Fr. John died on October 11, 1956, at the age of forty-three. In the interim, before a new pastor could be appointed, Fr. Alexander Burak, O.M.I., was the Administrator.



Fr. Grzesiak

"The new Pastor, FR. PAUL GRZESIAK, O.M.I., was already familiar to the parish. He had been Assistant Pastor here from 1931 to 1940... Fr. Burak stayed on as his Assistant." *100th Anniversary Book*.

"...Fr. Grzesiak was aware that the young people of the parish of high school age who were not attending Catholic schools were in need of instruction in their faith. Accordingly, he initiated a CCD program which was conducted on Wednesday evenings by generous men and women of the parish. This program was inaugurated in 1958.



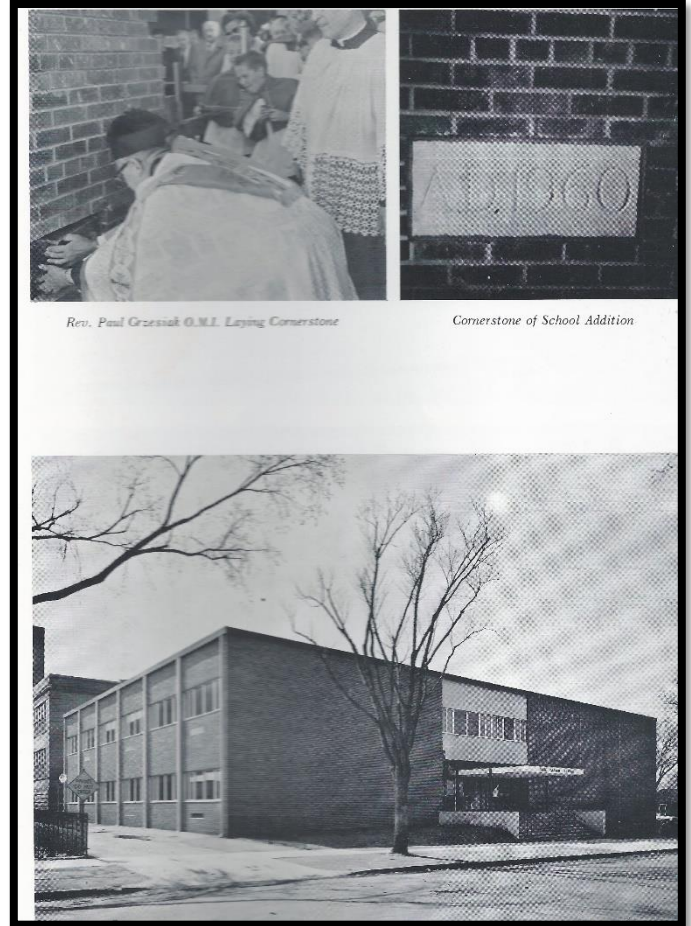
St. Casimir Church Shrine Chapel 1960

"The remodeling of the church was completed. This involved a new floor and new pews[,] as well as new confessionals, a renovated vestibule and repainting of the church. The former pews, which were original to the church, were moved downstairs where a large chapel was fashioned to accommodate the school children and an extra Mass on Sundays. Also a new heating plant was installed in the basement of the school. These things were accomplished from 1956 – 1957.

“And then in June of 1960... construction began on the new addition to the school... The addition would be constructed on the former playground area behind the older school building and connected with it by hallways... The cornerstone was blessed and laid in October of 1960, and the new addition was blessed in August of 1961.

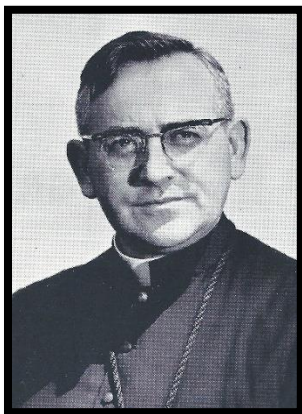
“In that same year, the convent was remodeled and additions to the front and to the rear of the old building were constructed. These provided a chapel, a community room and a dining room and kitchen. There were twelve Felician sisters now in the convent community.

“...In August of 1962, just when all these projects were coming to completion, [Fr. Grzesiak] was transferred to the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in Duluth. ... FR. PAUL LATUSEK, O.M.I., came to St. Casimir from Duluth. ... Fr. Paul was no stranger to our parish. He had served temporarily from 1948 – 1949 as assistant pastor while Fr. Maslowski was away. ...[He came] here as pastor on August 1, 1962.” *100th Anniversary Book.*



Rev. Paul Grzesiak O.M.I. Laying Cornerstone

Cornerstone of School Addition



Fr. Paul Latusek

“[I]t was in 1963 that the hot lunch program came to St. Casimir. The fine modern kitchen in the new addition to the school, constructed in 1960, was going unused. Most children were going home at the noon hour, though a few brought their lunch. Fr. Latusek decided that the school should take advantage of the Government hot lunch program since the kitchen facility was already in place... When the program began, the price of a hot lunch was just 30 cents... *100th Anniversary Book.*

“The parish was gifted with a new pipe organ in 1964 due to the generosity of a number of parishioners.

“In 1964, the first impact of Vatican II thinking on the parish took the form of calling upon men (only) of the parish to serve the community as commentators and lectors at Mass on Sundays and Holy [D]ays. A similar program was begun with boys, grades seven and eight, for the weekday Masses.” *100th Anniversary Book.*

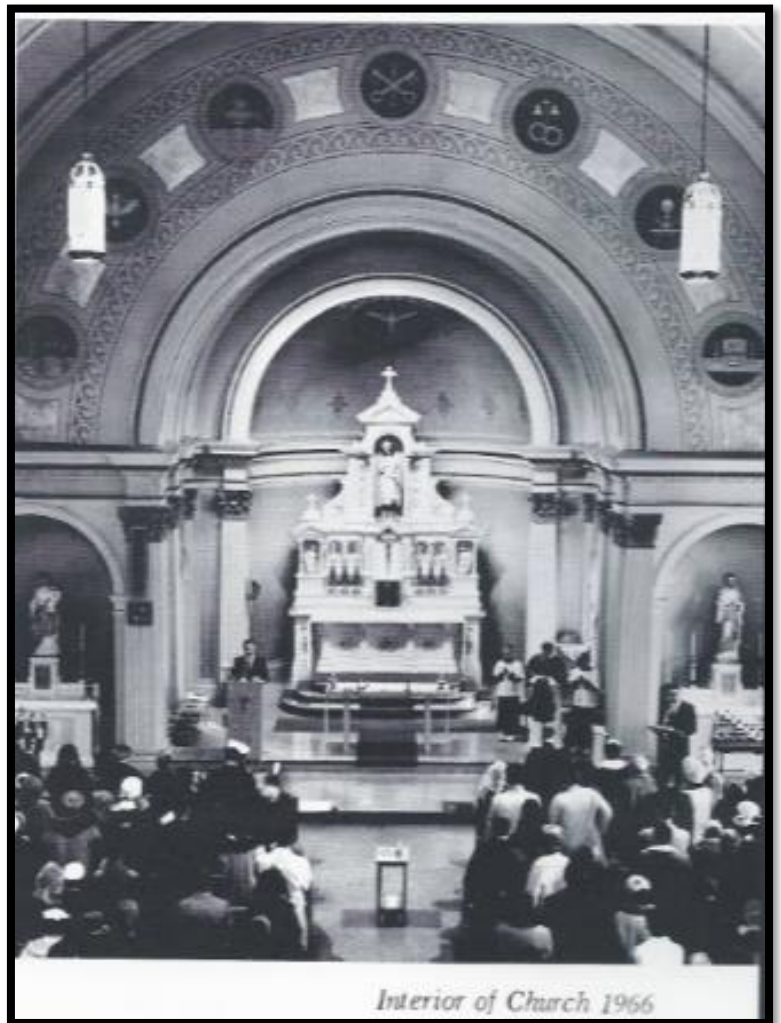
“The Mayor of St. Paul proclaimed May 3, 1966, as Millennium Day, commemorating 1[,]000 years of Christianity in Poland. On that evening, a Mass in Polish was celebrated [at St. Casimir’s]. KSTP-TV taped the concelebrated Mass for later airing. The following Sunday... a parish program was presented in the school gymnasium. The history of Poland, songs, poems and dances made up the celebration. *100th Anniversary Book*.

“That same year [1966], the vernacular tongue was introduced into the celebration of Mass. The Common Prayers and the opening and closing rites were now in English at St. Casimir. It was in 1968 the entire Mass would be celebrated in [English]. These were important further steps in bringing the people back to an active participation in the sacred liturgy, a primary goal of the Vatican II Council. *100th Anniversary Book*.

“A Parish Mission was conducted in the Fall of 1966, by a Franciscan missionary, Fr. Herman Ziemba, O.F.M. He conducted the services in Polish the first week, and in English the second week. *100th Anniversary Book*.

“In the Fall of 1966 new stained glass windows were installed, replacing the original windows in the church. One side of the new windows features the seven Sacraments, while the other side depicts the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This improvement was made in preparation for the 75th Jubilee. In addition, planning was begun for redesigning the sanctuary area in keeping with directives guided by the Vatican Council.” *100th Anniversary Book*.

“Already in 1966 the first steps had been taken toward remodeling the sanctuary area...[a] simple altar of sacrifice was placed out toward the people and facing them. A lectern replaced the imposing preacher’s rostrum of the old church. The communion rail was removed, thus eliminating a barrier between the people and the focus of their worship area.



“In early 1967... final plans for remodeling the sanctuary... were carried out...[T]he sanctuary was simplified. Its focus was to be strictly liturgical and Eucharistic. No statues, no elaborate backdrop. Even the tabernacle was better located off to the side and not in the sanctuary itself (although this move was not made right away).

“Now, some months later, in preparation for the Jubilee celebrations, the full plan for the sanctuary renovations was carried out. The temporary altar facing the people was replaced by a[n]... altar with carvings. The rear[-]facing altar with its ornate reredos [a large altarpiece] at the back of the apse was removed, and replaced by a small tabernacle table. The small lectern was replaced by a somewhat larger one which matched the other pieces. Finally a large carved wooden crucifix was hung high on the rear wall. Then the sanctuary and aisles were carpeted. This work was done in the Spring of 1967.” *100th Anniversary Book*.



The Next 25 Years (1967 – 1992)

“In May... 1967 we celebrated our Diamond Jubilee as a faith Community. On Sunday morning, the 21st of that month, the celebrations began with Mass at 11:45 [a.m.]. Because Archbishop Binz was unable to attend, he was represented at the Mass by Bishop Cowley. The homily was delivered by Fr. Alphonse Simon, O.M.I., in which he recounted important

milestones in the history of the parish and encouraged us to continue our faith journey together. By all reports, the choir sang exceptionally well.

“Mass was followed by a grand dinner at the Prom Center in St. Paul. Bishop Shannon represented the Archbishop at this gathering. There were many speakers including the Bishop, Mayor Thomas Byrne and the Provincial Superiors of the Oblates and of the Felician Sisters. Judge Harold Schultz was Master of Ceremonies. The Krakowiak Dancers and the Eighth Grade Choir entertained. In the evening, a Polka Party was held in the Arizona Room where much dancing was enjoyed by all. ...



Leaving St. Casimir Church after Mass



Jubilee Cake-Courtesy Walter Grochowski

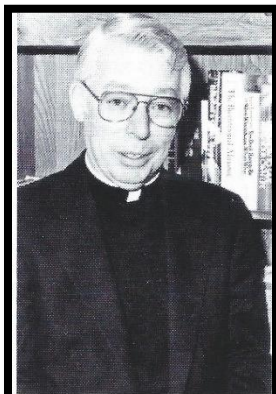
“A new chalice, enhanced with diamonds, was donated by the members of the Holy Name Society in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee. As well, new ...[vestments] for the concelebrated Mass were donated by the Altar and Rosary Society....

“And then in the Fall of 1967, a “Catechetical Nursery” was inaugurated for our children ages three [3] through Kindergarten. Joyce Petersen was Chairwoman of this endeavor. Its innovation for our parish was that it adhered to the Montessori method of teaching. The classes were held Sunday mornings during the 9 [a.m.] Mass. Teachers were volunteer mothers who were trained in the Montessori method...

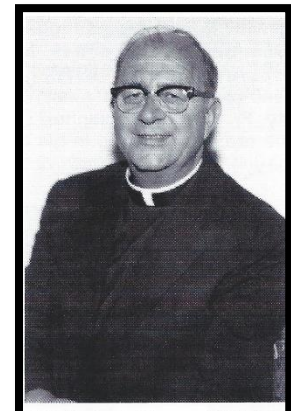
“At the end of an eventful Jubilee year, the parish celebrated with its Pastor [Fr. Paul Latusek, O.M.I.] his 25th anniversary of ordination. This took place on December 10...

“In October of the following year [1968], Fr. Latusek left St. Casimir Parish... FR. CHARLES SELLARS, O.M.I., was appointed Pastor upon Fr. Latusek’s departure. He was here until 1971 and was succeeded by FR. ROBERT EIMER, O.M.I. During the decade of the ‘70s, the Oblate

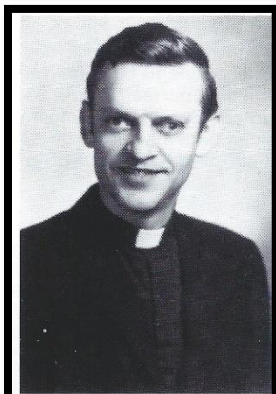
Central Province began a program of Deacon internship whereby ... [deacons preparing] for priestly ordination would spend some time prior to their ordination in parishes or other ministries to acquire pastoral experience. This resulted in three or sometimes four Oblates, not all of them priests, living and working in St. Casimir.



Fr. Charles Sellars, O.M.I.
1970



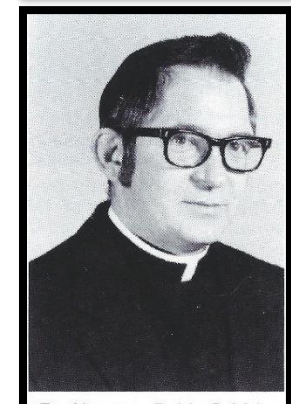
Fr. Robert Eimer, O.M.I.
1971



Fr. Wayne Like, O.M.I.
1977

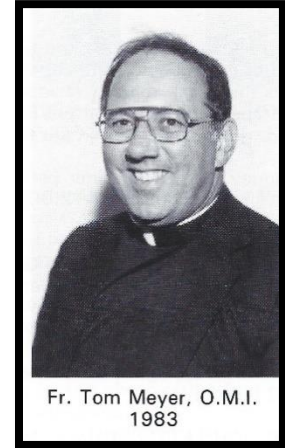
“Fr. Eimer was pastor for six years, until 1977. During that time, some work was done on the church building. A side entryway was added, giving access both to the church above and to the rooms below the church. The chapel downstairs was reduced in size and the extra space was devoted to a much[-]needed meeting room. Also the confessionals were moved downstairs to the chapel. The church interior was redecorated.

“In 1977, FR. WAYNE LIKE[,] O.M.I., came to St. Casimir following Fr. Eimer, and in 1980 he was succeeded by FR. NORMAN PAHL, O.M.I.



Fr. Norman Pahl, O.M.I.
1980

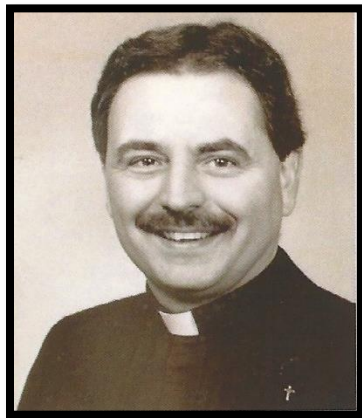
“In 1983, FR. TOM MEYER, O.M.I., was appointed pastor. In the summer of '85, all of the school offices were moved to the old school building and the parish offices moved from the rectory to the second floor of the new school building. *100th Anniversary Book.*



“It was also in 1987 that our beloved Felician Sisters completely left St. Casimir School. Until the 1960's, they provided all the staffing of the school program. Then, with decreasing numbers in their own ranks, it became necessary to hire lay personnel to fill out the staff. By 1987... only four Felicians remained: Srs. Julitta, Carmensitta, Loretta and GERALYN. In 1980, a lay Principal was hired for the first time. Since 1987 to the present, a Notre Dame sister, ANITA KOLLES, SSND, has been the very capable and much appreciated Principal of St. Casimir.” *100th Anniversary Book.*

“To occupy the former convent, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mankato Province[,] took a ten[-]year lease from the parish for the purpose of operating a shelter for homeless women... In honor of the founder of the Notre Dame Sisters, Sister Theresa Gerhardinger, the shelter has been named The Theresa Living Center [TLC]....

“Also in the summer of 1987... the parish offices were again moved from the new school building to the former convent, occupying rooms which TLC did not lease.



Fr. John Ettensohn

“In 1990... Fr. Meyer was reassigned and FR. JOHN ETTENSOHN, O.M.I., ... was appointed to St. Casimir, the fourteenth in succession of pastoral leaders since the founding of the parish.

“Already in Fr. Meyer's time, preparations for celebrating the parish's 100th Anniversary were begun. ... Events ...[were] planned for each month of the centennial year beginning in November of 1991. ... In the last summer of 1991, the new roof was put on and in the Fall of that year the church was completely redecorated. National Church Redecorating of Minneapolis did the job, the main feature of which was the redesigning of the apse area of the sanctuary. The sanctuary floor received ceramic tile and the aisles were recarpeted. Even the statues were repainted by parishioners. Some new lighting was installed for the sanctuary area, and the pews were refinished. All this work was done in time for celebrating Christmas.” *100th Anniversary Book.*

“A significant development in recent decades has been the gradual decrease in school enrollment. From over 600 children in 1960, the enrollment ... dropped to about 160 students in the 1991-92 school year. Similar decreases have been recorded in neighboring Catholic grade schools. This has prompted a group endeavor on the part of three area parishes, Sacred

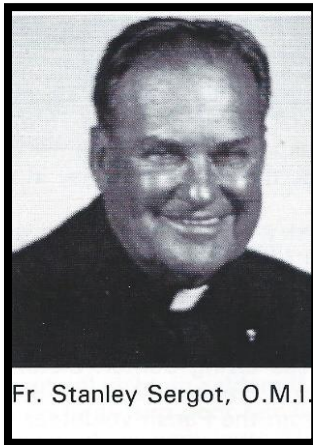
Heart, St. Patrick and St. Casimir, to [pursue] the possibility of amalgamating their schools. Such a prospect seemed the only alternative to closing the schools in the near future.

“The pastors began to study the idea in 1990, drawing upon the resource personnel of the Archdiocesan Office of Education. At several points along the way, parishioners, especially parents, were invited to contribute their input and in early 1992 the decision was made to amalgamate the school efforts of the three parishes. A new school will be created and it will be known as Trinity Catholic.

“This means that the Centennial year of the life of St. Casimir parish will also be the year in which the parish says farewell to St. Casimir School. The final graduation of an eighth grade class from the school will be celebrated on May 26..., 1992. The last school Mass was celebrated on June 4..., the closing out of a fine and proud tradition.

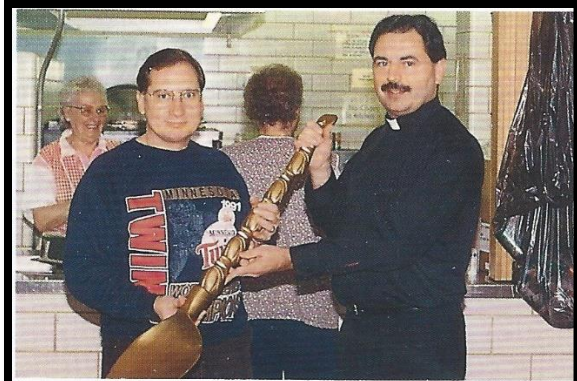
“Ordinations to the Priesthood have been celebrated at St. Casimir Parish. Fr. James Deegan, O.M.I., the current Provincial of the Central Province, along with Robert Moosbrugger, O.M.I., were ordained in June... 1970. ... Theirs were the first ordinations to be held in the parish. And in July 1976... Fr. Allen Courteau, O.M.I., son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Courteau of the parish, was ordained at St. Casimir. He is the first son of the parish to be ordained in our church. And, most recently, Fr. Gregory Gallagher, O.M.I., son of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Gallagher[,] was ordained here in August of 1992. The ordaining bishop in his case was Bishop Roger Schwietz, O.M.I., of Duluth and also a son of St. Casimir parish...

“Fr. Stanley Sergot, O.M.I., is one of the first sons of St. Casimir called to the Priesthood. As of this writing, he is 83 and still remaining active. In his later years, he was a friendly and prayerful support to those of our parish in hospitals, nursing homes or who are confined to home... *100th Anniversary Book*.



Fr. Stanley Sergot, O.M.I.

“The 1992 monthly celebrations started with a Booya, then a Valentine Dance. The St. Casimir Day Celebration by the Ushers Club, started with a Polka Mass, followed by a brunch, and Polish dancing by the ...[Dolina]Dancers. A musical play by the school children... was presented the following month. The June Ice Cream Social, by the Altar Rosary Society, was followed by an Outdoor Mass at Phalen Park, with a Parish Picnic.



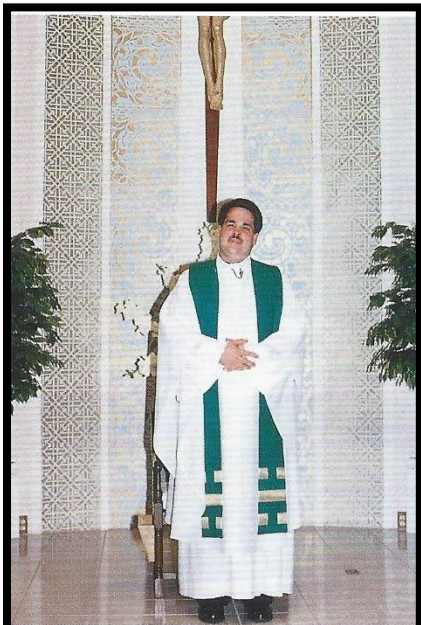
Centennial Booya - Chef Zabel receives Golden Spoon for excellence from Fr. John.

“Next came the “All Class[-]Reunion” with dancing in both the Old and New School Halls. The two[-]day Fall Festival... featured many booths, a turkey dinner, Casino Night, and Carnival rides.

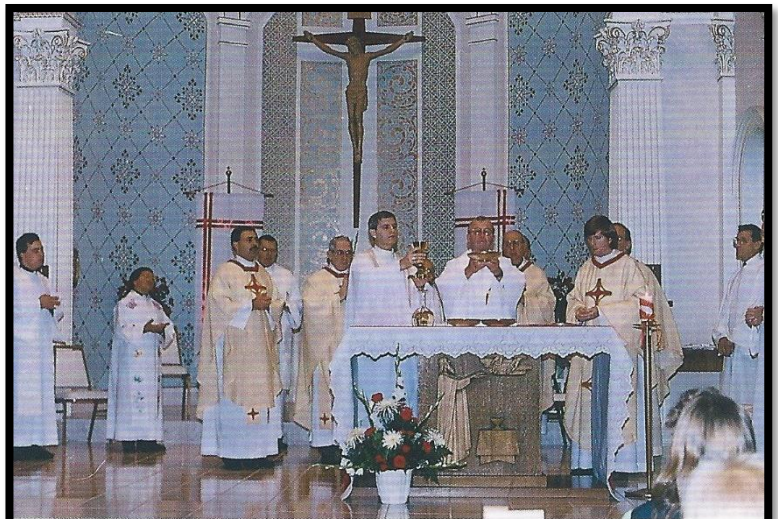


All Class Reunion, August 1992
Appetizer Table

“A Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by newly[-]ordained Fr. Greg Gallagher. *100th Anniversary Book.*



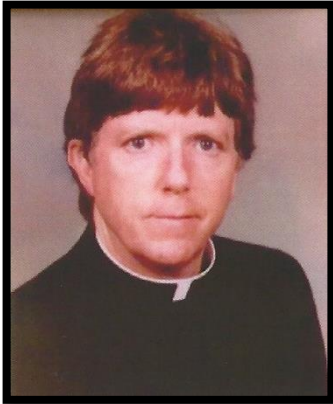
Fr. Greg Gallagher, O.M.I.
1st Mass, October 8th, 1992



“Grand Finale” Celebration Mass

The Last 25 Years (1992 – 2017)

“The year[-]long celebration ended with a special Concelebrated Mass, by Archbishop [John] Roach, Bishop Roger Schwietz, and many of the former pastors and assistants. The Mass was sung by our beautiful Adult Choir, with a special song by the Children’s Choir. The “Grand Finale” Banquet in the [N]ew [S]chool [H]all... climaxed this 100th year, with a reading of the history of the church and a presentation to the Parish of the papal blessing from the Pope.”
100th Anniversary Book.

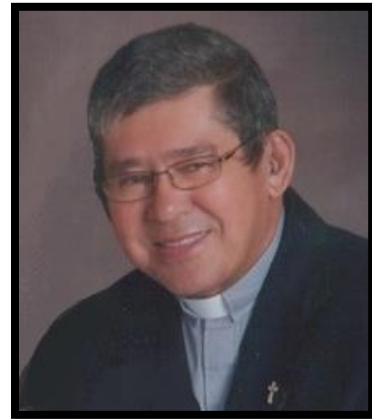


Fr. Patrick Casey

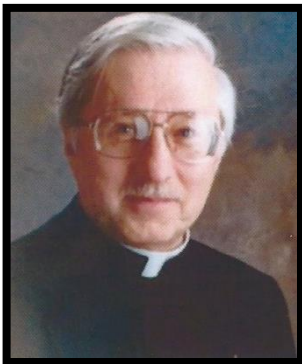
From 1992 to 1998, Fr. Pat Casey, O.M.I., served as Pastor. Fr. Casey and some parishioners acquired religious articles such as candle stands and items we use now in our celebration of the Mass. Fr. Pat, who was a woodworker, along with parishioners Dan Cylkowski and Joe Zimlich, created many larger decorations for holiday celebrations, especially Christmas and Easter.

On June 10, 1995, Fr. Anthony Wroblewski, O.M.I., native of the parish, was ordained at St. Casimir Church. Fr. Tony is the son of Bill and Alice Wroblewski. Fr. Tony now is a diocesan priest in the Archdiocese of Duluth.

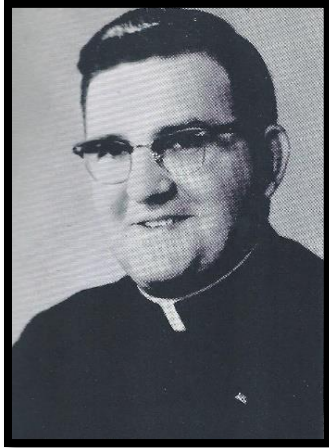
Fr. Casey had asked the Archdiocese for a deacon to be assigned to St. Casimir’s. In 1996 one of our own parishioners, Thomas Semlak, who had recently been ordained to the Deaconate, finally was assigned. Deacon Tom and his wife, Marge Semlak, faithfully served the parish through 1999. He and Marge assisted Fr. Casey with wedding and baptism preparation, with Deacon Tom performing the wedding and baptism ceremonies. Deacon Tom also assisted at funerals.



Deacon Thomas Semlak



Fr. Martin Machovec, O.M.I., served as Pastor from 1999 to 2000.



Fr. James Dakto

From June through December 2000 Fr. James Dakto, O.M.I., a native of the parish, served as the parish administrator. Fr. Chester Cappucci, O.M.I., who had been an Associate Pastor from 1984 to 1989, followed Fr. Dakto, serving as parish administrator from December 2000 to July 2001. In June 2001 Fr. Greg Gallagher, O.M.I., also a native of the



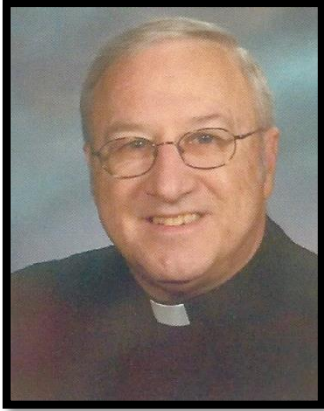
Fr. Greg Gallagher

parish, returned to St. Casimir and was appointed pastor. Fr. Stanley Zowada, O.M.I., a recent arrival to the United States from Poland, served as the associate pastor until August 2003. Fr. Stan was one of the priests who came from Poland in the 1990s referenced in ***St. Casimir Church: A Parish Made by Immigrants***. The other one was Fr. Andrew Knop, O.M.I., who was an associate pastor in 1991.

Numerous improvements were made to the Church and School building while Fr. Greg Gallagher was Pastor. Parishioners generously contributed to building maintenance projects. The steeples were tuck-pointed and re-roofed with about 500 copper “memorial” shingles. Anyone who donated could add memorials to the back of the shingles. The copper roof cost \$9,000. The money raised was \$11,211. The parish also made great strides in making our facilities handicap accessible. An elevator project, which included a four floor elevator and a wheelchair lift in the church, and a three-floor elevator in the school, began April 8, 2003. A new side entrance to the school was added, ramped between the two schools, and accessible bathrooms were added in the church and school. In June 2004 air-conditioning was added to the church by Margaret Kuzma.

Deacon Tom and Marge Semlak returned again, assisting Fr. Gallagher from 2003-2006. It was such a joy to have them here a second time to minister to our parish. Deacon Tom and Marge Semlak then moved on to serve at St. Pious X Church. Deacon Tom passed away in 2015.

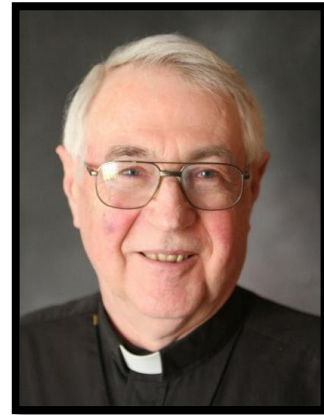
The 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church, like the 100th Anniversary of the Parish, was a year-long celebration beginning in November. Monthly celebrations were held. The purpose of the celebrations was two-fold: special events and ministry. The year began with a Parish Mission on November 16 – 20, 2003, and concluded on November 28, 2004, Dedication Day. Mass was concelebrated by Bishops Roger Schwietz, O.M.I., and Bishop Frederick Campbell, and was followed by a brunch.



Fr. Joseph Ferraioli

In July 2007 Fr. Greg Gallagher moved on to Belleville, IL, where he became the Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, and Fr. Joseph Ferraioli, O.M.I., was appointed pastor.

Fr. Harry Winter, O.M.I., arrived at St. Casimir's in 2007. He was the Sacramental Associate at St. Casimir's from 2009 to 2014, and at St. Patrick's from 2011 to 2014. He was in residence at St. Casimir's until July 15, 2014, when he became Director of the Oblate Residence in St. Paul. From



Fr. Harry Winter

July 15, 2014, to July 15, 2017, Fr. Harry continued to celebrate Masses with us as a "Supply Priest" for St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches. Besides his parish work, he also served as the District Superior for the North Central District USA for the Oblates from December 8, 2011 – July 15, 2017, and as Coordinator, Mission-Unity-Dialogue, US Province, since July 15, 2014.

In June 2009, Trinity Catholic School closed. Despite efforts taken to maintain a grade school for the parishes of Sacred Heart, St. Patrick, and St. Casimir

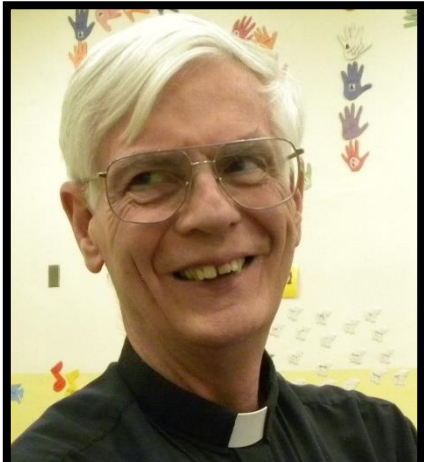
Enrollment declines and financial losses at Trinity Catholic School "overwhelmed any possible viability or sustainability for the future of the school," said Deacon Mick Humbert, canonical administrator at Trinity.

<http://www.twincities.com/2009/03/16/st-paul-east-side-trinity-catholic-school-to-close/>

For the first time since St. Casimir Church was established, it did not have a school.

And there were more changes to follow. In November 2010 the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis announced a reorganization plan, merging some parishes and clustering others. Under the plan more than 30 parishes, including St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches, were identified to enter into a cluster relationship. A cluster relationship was described as one where two or more parishes shared one pastor. The parish clustering was to take place gradually in coordination with the clergy assignment process. Prior to clustering, parishes were encouraged to prepare for clustering by collaborating on programs and ministries.

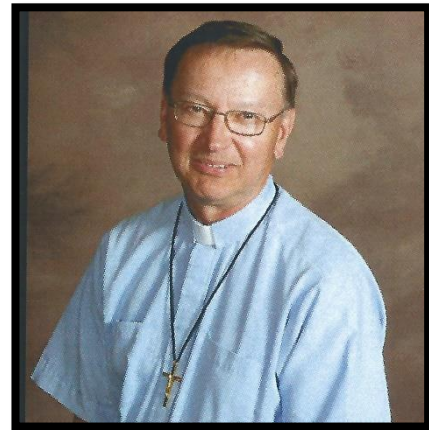
The Churches of St. Casimir and St. Patrick were clustered In August 2011 when Fr. Joe Ferraioli left St. Casimir and Fr. William O'Donnell, O.M.I., arrived. With the clustering of the parishes, Fr. Bill became the first priest to be appointed Pastor of both St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches.



Fr. William O'Donnell

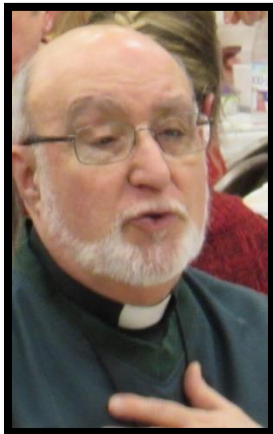
[Oblates' mission a good fit in eastside St. Paul parishes](http://thecatholicspirit.com/archdiocese/archdiocese-planning-process)
thecatholicspirit.com/archdiocese/archdiocese-planning-process.

Fr. Bill left for Rome on June 4, 2013. He was replaced by Fr. Greg Cholewa, O.M.I., who was appointed the new Pastor of St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches on July 15, 2013.



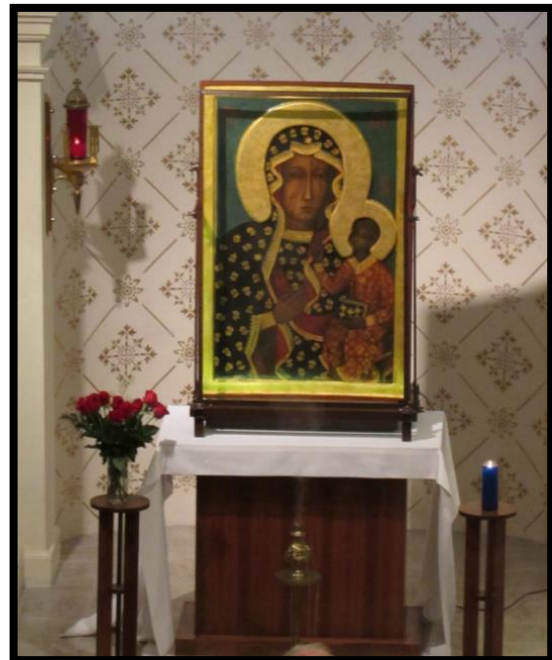
Fr. Greg Cholewa

Fr. Robert Morin, O.M.I., also arrived in July 2013 and was in residence, assigned to the itinerant preaching ministry for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate.



Fr. Robert Morin

The Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Black Madonna, visited St. Casimir Church on June 7 and 8, 2014. The Icon of the Black Madonna arrived on Saturday afternoon of Pentecost weekend and was carried in procession at the beginning of the 4:30 p.m. Mass. The Icon processed out at the conclusion of the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday.



June 30, 2014 the Franciscan Brothers of Peace {FBP} assigned three brothers to the new St. Crispin's Friary on the East Side of St. Paul. The FBP have a Catholic Karen outreach apostolate (religious activity/mission).

Fr. Greg Cholewa left in August 2014. On August 28, 2014, Fr. Jim Loiacono, O.M.I., arrived and was appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches.



Fr. Jim Loiacono

Fr. Jim welcomed the Karen community to St. Casimir Church and the Hmong and Spanish communities to St. Patrick Church. More information about the Karen community can be found in *Karen Catholic Community (History) and Activities at St. Casimir* by Bro. Seraphim FBP.

Karen language Masses are celebrated every 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month at 12:30 p.m. The other Sundays, the Karen join in the celebration of the morning Mass. The Karen Choir, along with the Contemporary and Traditional Choirs contribute to the liturgy through song. And, the second reading is often read in the Karen language. There are many Sunday Masses when the music is sung in three languages: English, Polish, and Karen.

Archbishop John Nienstedt made a pastoral visit to St. Casimir Church, celebrating the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, on Saturday, January 24, 2015. This Mass was a liturgical celebration described in the Book of Revelation – “of every tongue, nation, tribe and people”. As stated in the program:

“St. Casimir was established as a Polish parish a century after the powerful Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth had been partitioned, and Poland disappeared as a nation for over a century. Because of the attempt to exterminate Polish identity with the suppression of Polish culture, language and even the Catholic faith, the Church became a fortress and safe haven to maintain their sacred faith, beloved language and sovereign identity. Polish churches and their schools were established in the USA toward this end. This is the very *raison d’être* and is the historical roots of St. Casimir. Now, we are a people with roots in Germany, Ireland, Italy, Wales, Slovenia, etc. Still, we remain conscious of our parish history.

“In this Mass, we celebrate the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, who went from trying to exterminate the faith to being an avid missionary for Jesus Christ proclaiming our Lord and Savior among many peoples, conquered and oppressed by Imperial Rome. Now, we embrace Catholic brothers and sisters who also left their homelands in suffering to find refuge in the USA, animated by their faith. The Karen and the Hmong also suffered ethnic cleansing and the real threat of extermination. The Hmong have

suffered for their support and assistance of the USA during the Vietnam War; the Karen have suffered because of racism by the Burmese, military government. Founded for this very reason almost a century ago, St. Casimir opens its Polish, Catholic heart to our brothers and sisters....”

The first reading was in Karen; the second reading in Hmong; the Gospel in Polish; and the prayers of the faithful in Spanish. Music was provided by the Traditional, Contemporary and Karen choirs in English, Karen and Polish.

Fr. Jim Loiacono left in February 2015 and was replaced by Fr. Gregory Gallagher, O.M.I., who was appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches. He is a native of St. Casimir parish and was a former Pastor of St. Casimir from 2001-2007. Maintenance on the church and school buildings continued with new roofing, boilers, repairs to window lentils, the addition of air conditioning in the Old School Hall, and new lighting along the outside aisles of the church. It also was while Fr. Greg was here that we began alternating morning, Saturday evening and some Holy Day Masses between St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches.

World Youth Day 2016 Krakow Poland

Ten parishioners (5 youth and 5 adults) along with Fr. Greg Gallagher attended World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow Poland held on July 25-31, 2016. Events started with Oblate WYD in Wroclaw, Poland, celebrating with Oblates around the world. Then they continued on to Krakow where they participated in the World Youth Day events, including the Mass celebrated



by Pope Francis. The parish generously supported their pilgrimage through prayers, fundraisers and generous donations.

In June 2016 Fr. Greg Gallagher and Fr. Bob Morin left. Fr. Michael Powell, O.M.I., arrived the end of June 2016. He was appointed as Parochial Administrator of St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches.

“At St. Casimir’s Mass Jan. 7, Father Michael Powell will mark the lintel of the main church door in the vestibule with “20 + C + M + B + 17.” During Mass Jan. 8, the feast of the Epiphany, he will do the same to the church’s side doors. After the Masses, people may pick up bags containing the blessed chalk, incense, holy water and prayers to take home to perform the ritual.” From interview of Cindy Pasiuk by [Jessica Trygstad](#), January 6, 2017. <http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/st-paul-parish-marks-epiphany-doorway-blessings/>



Fr. Michael Powell

On January 7, 2017, Fr. Mike was photographed marking the lintel of the church vestibule door with the 20 + C + M + B + 17 and preformed the Epiphany blessing ritual of the chalk, water and incense. Dave Hrbacek of the Catholic Spirit newspaper was the photographer.



On March 5, 2017, the parish celebrated **the Feast of St. Casimir and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate 100 Years of Ministry to the Church of St. Casimir**. The Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Roger Schwietz, O.M.I., Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Fr. Terry Figel, O.M.I., and Fr. Michael Powell, O.M.I. Also present was Brother Patrick McGee, O.M.I. Archbishop Schwietz and Brother McGee are natives of the parish.



(l to r) Cindy Pasiuk, Archbishop Schwietz, Archbishop Hebda, Bro. McGee, Fr. Mike, and Joe Zimlich

The Knights of Columbus led the procession. Music was provided by Nate's Old Time Band, and the Contemporary and Traditional choirs. The Mass was followed by a pancake breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus.

A Mission for the Parishes of St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches was presented by Fr. John Ettensohn, O.M.I., a former pastor of St. Casimir, on April 2-5, 2017. The location for the Mission alternated between the two churches, beginning at St. Patrick and ending at St. Casimir.

The parishes of St. Casimir and St. Patrick also held their first joint parish picnic at Lake Phalen Pavilion on Sunday, June 25, 2017. A committee with members of both parishes worked together to plan and put on the event.

In July 2017, after 10 years of service to St. Casimir Church, Fr. Harry Winter moved to Immaculate Heart of Mary Residence, Tewksbury, MA. He is now semi-retired. For the first time since the clustering of the Parishes of St. Casimir and St. Patrick, only one priest serves both parishes on his own.

Fr. Michael Powell was officially installed as Pastor of St. Casimir and St. Patrick Churches on October 29, 2017. Fr. John Paul Erickson, Director of Worship, St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese, presided over the installation on behalf of Archbishop Hebda.



Coming soon – Our 125th Anniversary Celebration.



Pioneer Members

Abisch, Jacob	Koleski, Peter	Schwietz, Lawrence
Bialucha, Frank	Krawczewski, Stanley	Sierakowski, Vincent
Bieniak, Valentine	Kroll, Michael	Skweres, Ignatius
Chlebek, Joseph	Kubiak, Albert	Sobanski, Joseph
Cichocki, Andrew	Kubiak, Anthony	Sokolowski, Joseph
Cierna, Charles	Kujawa, Martin	Stachowiak, Jacob
Cierna, Ignatius	Kujawa, Michael	Stachowiak, Stanley
Cylkowski, Vincent	Kusztelski, Joseph	Strzeszynski, Casper
Danisch, Charles	Leda, Michael	Strzyzewski, Stanley
Datko, Frank	Lewandowski, Frank	Szczepaniak, Anthony
Drewnik, Jacob	Lijewski, Anthony	Szczepaniak, Leo
Dross, Frank	Lijewski, Stanley	Sznajder, Jacob
Drozdowski, Frank	Lukaszewski, Albert	Szwenkler, Charles
Elias, Albert	Malecki, Albert	Tarara, Daniel
Gierok, Casper	Maradzinski, Jacob	Tomaszewski, John
Glombitza, Peter	Maslowski, Michael	Tyburski, John
Golaksi, John	Maslowski, Simon	Urbanski, Andrew
Gruchot, Joseph	Mierwicki, Martin	Urbanski, Michael
Grzegorowski, Albert	Milanowski, Alex	Walczak, Thomas
Grzegorowski, Joseph	Mosik, Joseph	Wasielewski, Ladislaus
Grzybowski, John	Mroszczak, Norbert	Wermus, Joseph
Hajer, Casimir	Mularczyk, Michael	Wirth, Anthony
Helminiak, John	Nalipinski, Leo	Wodaszewski, Peter
Helminiak, Michael	Osinski, Martin	Wodaszowski, Jacob
Hilla, Andrew	Pawelski, Joseph	Zajackowski, Frank
Hudalla, Anthony	Pazderski, Bartolomew	Zajackowski, Joseph
Hudalla, Joseph	Pella, Rochus	Zawacki, Edmund
Hudalla, Steven	Pilarski, Andrew	Zielinski, John
Hurysh, John	Pilarski, Stanley	Zientek, Joseph
Jambor, Frank	Pobozny, Andrew	
Jambor, Stanley	Prentkowski, Thomas	
Jasinski, Frank	Ratajczak, Mattias	
Jasinski, Joseph	Ratajczak, Thomas	
Jurek, Michael	Rowanowski, Thomas	
Kaczmarek, John	Rozycki, Anthony	
Kaluza, Frank	Rozycki, Ladislaus	
Kaluza, Joseph	Rutkowski, Matthias	
Kasprzak, Peter	Rygwalski, Frank	
Kiszka, Frank	Schulz, Frank	

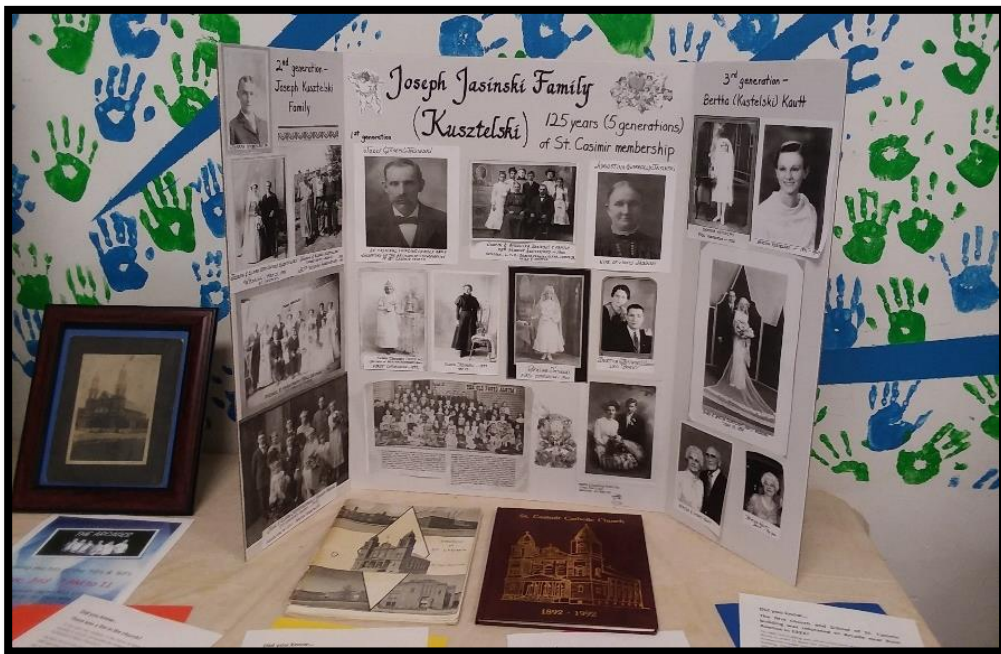
Pastors/ Pastoral Administrators (PA)	Years	Assistants/Associates Brothers & In Residence (IR) & Deacons	Years
Rev. Henry Jazdzewski	1892 – 1894		
Rev. Roman Guzowski	1894 – 1899		
Rev. Casimir Kobylinski	1899 – 1910		
Rev. Paul Kupferschmidt	1910 – 1913		
Rev. Henry Jazdzewski	1913 – 1916		
Rev. Andrew Stojar, O.M.I.	1916 – 1955		
		Rev. Francis Kosian, O.M.I.	1926 -- 1928
		Rev. Casimir Hollick, O.M.I.	1928 – 1930
		Rev. John Czujak, O.M.I.	1932 – 1933
		Rev. Stanley Puchniak, O.M.I.	1932 – 1933
		Rev. Francis Kosakiewicz, O.M.I.	1933 – 1934
		Rev. Paul Grzesiak, O.M.I.	1934 – 1940
		Rev. John Maslowski, O.M.I.	1940 – 1948
		Rev. Paul Latusek, O.M.I.	1948 -- 1949
		Rev. John Maslowski, O.M.I.	1949 -- 1955
Rev. John Maslowski, O.M.I.	1955 – 1956	Rev. Zygmunt Dzierzek, O.M.I.	1955 – 1956
Rev. Paul Grzesiak, O.M.I.	1956 – 1962	Rev. Alexander Burak, O.M.I.	1956 – 1957
		Rev. Jerome Datko, O.M.I.	1957 – 1958
		Rev. Lawrence Antus, O.M.I.	1958 – 1961
		Rev. Joseph Svobodny, O.M.I.	1961 -- 1963
Rev. Paul Latusek, O.M.I.	1962 – 1968	Rev. Lawrence Rosebaugh, O.M.I.	1963 – 1964
		Rev. James Datko, O.M.I.	1963 -- 1964
		Rev. Ralph Goniea, O.M.I.	1964 – 1965
		Rev. Paul Kabat, O.M.I.	1964 – 1966
		Rev. Donald Bargaen, O.M.I.	1966 – 1967
		Rev. Joseph Knoeber, O.M.I.	1966 – 1967
		Rev. Frank Ryan, O.M.I.	1967 – 1969
		Rev. James Rellihan, O.M.I.	1967 – 1969
Rev. Charles Sellars, O.M.I.	1968 – 1971	Rev. Gabriel Biondolillo, O.M.I.	1969 – 1971
		Rev. James Fox, O.M.I.	1969
		Rev. Elmar Mauer, O.M.I.	1970 – 1972
Rev. Robert Eimer, O.M.I.	1971 – 1977	Bro. Patrick McGee, O.M.I.	1971 -- 1973
		Bro. Ron Knobbe, O.M.I.	1972
		Rev. Robert Aaron, O.M.I.	1972 -- 1973
		Bro. Joseph Felker, O.M.I.	1972
		Rev. Joseph Felker, O.M.I.	1973 -- 1975
		Rev. Joseph Romero, O.M.I.	1975 -- 1978
		Bro. Bob Allanch, O.M.I.	1975
		Bro. Greg Banz, O.M.I.	1975
		Bro. Greg Cholewa, O.M.I.	1975 – 1976

Pastors/ Pastoral Administrators (PA)	Years	Assistants/Associates Brothers & In Residence (IR) & Deacons	Years
Rev. Wayne Like, O.M.I.	1977 – 1980	Rev. Thomas Wrzos, O.M.I.	1977 -- 1979
Rev. Norman Pahl, O.M.I.	1980 – 1983	Rev. Robert Reitmeier, O.M.I.	1979 -- 1982
		Rev. Francis Zachman, O.M.I.	1981 -- 1983
		Rev. David Kalert, O.M.I. (In residence, Vicar Provincial)	1980
		Rev. Stanley Sergot, O.M.I. (IR, Homebound & Hospital Chaplain)	1980
		Rev. Thomas Wros, O.M.I. (IR, Chaplain to Correctional Facilities)	1981
Rev. Thomas Meyer, O.M.I.	1983 – 1990	Rev. Allen Maes, O.M.I.	1983 -- 1984
		Rev. Chester Cappucci, O.M.I.	1984 – 1989
		Rev. Marek Stroba, O.M.I.	1987 -- 1988
Rev. John Ettensohn, O.M.I.	1990 – 1992	Rev. John Ettensohn, O.M.I.	1989 -- 1990
		Rev. Paul Whightman, O.M.I.	1990 -- 1991
		Rev. Stanley Sergot, O.M.I. (IR, Ministry to Sick and Elderly)	1990 -- 1996
		Rev. Lon Konold, O.M.I.	1991
		Bro. Paul Daley, O.M.I.	1991
Rev. Pat Casey, O.M.I.	1992 -- 1998	Rev. Andrew Knop, O.M.I.	1991
Rev. Martin Machovec, O.M.I.	1999 -- 2000	Deacon Thomas Semlak	1996 -- 1999
Rev. James Datko, O.M.I., (PA)	2000		
Rev. Chester Cappucci, O.M.I. (PA)	2001		
Rev. Gregory Gallagher, O.M.I.	2001 – 2007	Rev. Stanley Zowada, O.M.I.	2001 – 2007
		Rev. James Deegan, O.M.I.	2001
		Deacon Thomas Semlak	2003 -- 2006
		Bro. Juan Ayala, O.M.I.	2006 -- 2007
Rev. Joseph Ferraioli, O.M.I.	2007 – 2011		
Rev. William O'Donnell, O.M.I.	2011 – 2013	Rev. Harry Winter, O.M.I. (IR)	2007 -- 2017
Rev. Greg Cholewa, O.M.I.	2013 – 2014		
Rev. James Loiacono, O.M.I. (PA)	2014 – 2015		
Rev. Gregory Gallagher, O.M.I. (PA)	2015 -- 2016	Rev. Robert Morin, O.M.I. (IR)	2013 -- 2016
Rev. Michael Powell, O.M.I.	2016 -- present		

125th Anniversary Celebration

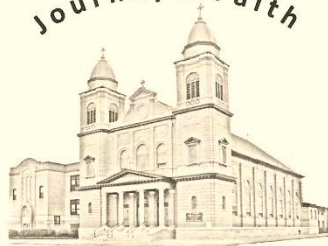


For over a year, a small but dedicated group of parishioners, along with Fr. Mike, have been planning for the 125th Anniversary celebration. A preview was displayed at the Fall Festival on October 8, 2017.





Journey in Faith



1892 – 2017
125th Anniversary

You and your guest are cordially invited to
Saint Casimir Church 125th Anniversary Celebration
of our **Journey in Faith**

Beginning with a **Parish and All-Class Reunion Dance** on

Saturday, December 2, 2017

American Legion Post 577, 1129 Arcade Street, Saint Paul MN

Live music by The Arcades

Appetizers 6 pm; Dance 7 pm to 11 pm

Cost \$10 per person

RSVP (Space is limited)

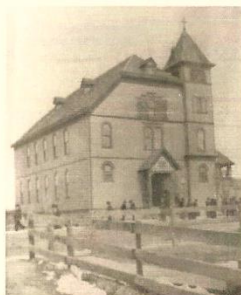
Our **Journey in Faith** continues on

Sunday, December 3, 2017

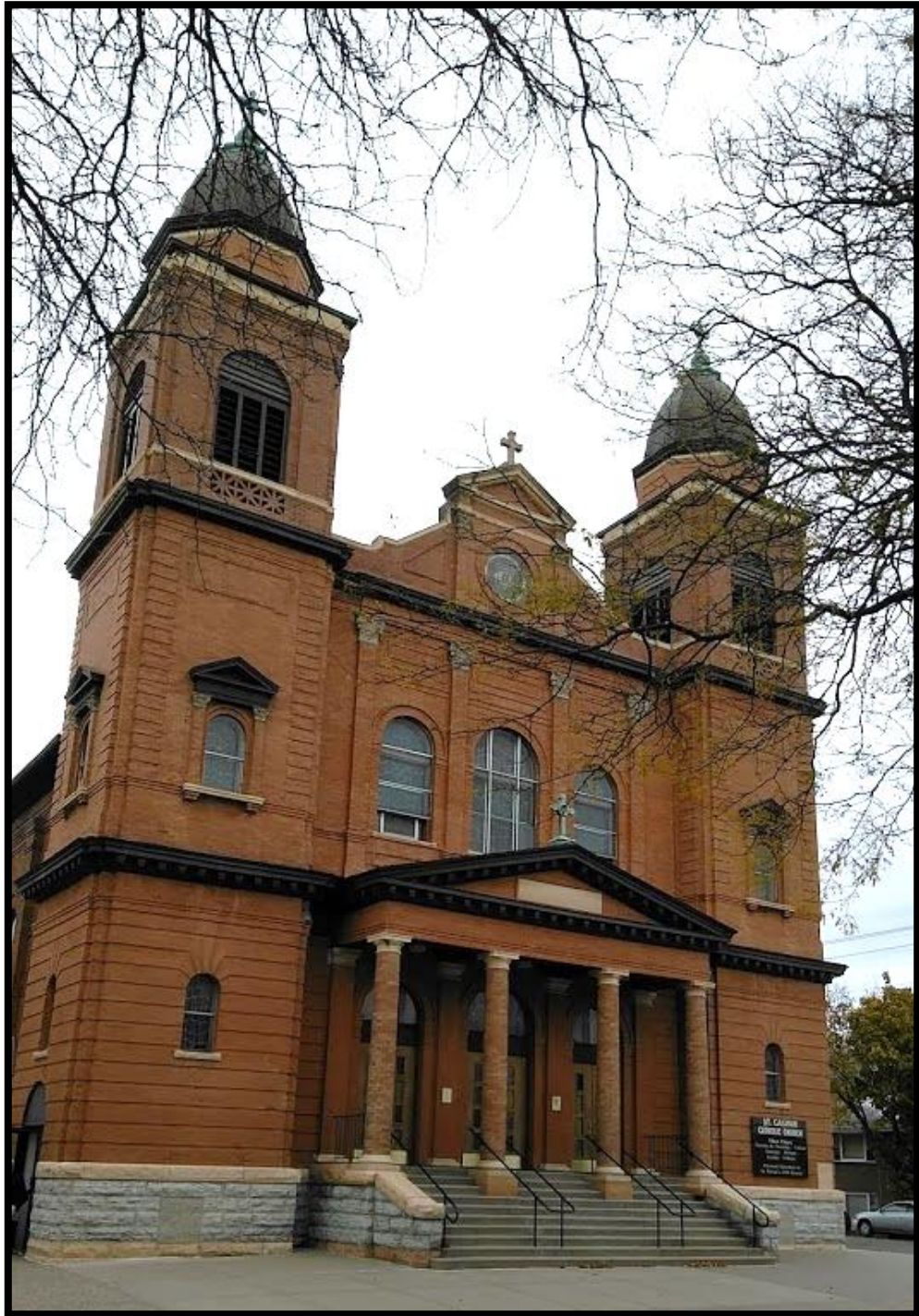
Mass 9 am

Brunch 10 am following Mass, School Cafeteria

Brunch \$5 per person

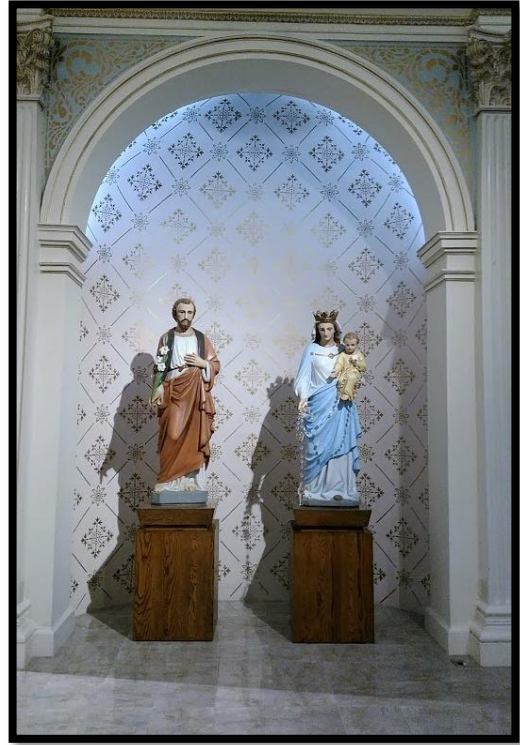


St. Casimir Church 2017











Stain Glass Windows



Parish Council (2017-2018)



l to r: Julie Morales, Cathy Rajtar, Deb Blee (President), Fr. Mike Powell, Sandy Conroy, Kathy Domeier, Dale Massop, Cindy Pasiuk (Vice President), and Dyann Klemann (Secretary).

Trustees (2017-2018)



Dawn Zamora, Fr. Mike Powell, and Tony Young

Traditional Choir



I to r: Sue Spahl, Terry Spahl, Barb Jacobson, Ron Kroll, Kim Kroll (Music Director), Jeff Vogel, Theresa Pugaczewski, and Marilyn Litschke (Organist). Absent: Audrie Connolly.

Contemporary Choir



I to r: Mary Degel, Craig Hecht, Mary Mealey, Dave Doepner, Tamara Massop, Tony Young, Ron Kroll, Andrea Barrett, Julia Rajtar, and Kim Kroll (Music Director) behind the piano.

Karen Choir



Cantors

Emilia Godinez, Barb Jacobson, and Mary Jaeger

Altar & Rosary Society



2013

*Not present:
Cindy Pasiuk
and Sandy
Conroy*

Ushers Club



2013

St. Casimir Staff



l to r: Suzanne Aschittino, Building Maintenance Engineer; Fr. Mike, Pastor; Christina Richardson, Business Administrator; and Bailey Rhein, Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Coordinator. Not present: Kent Fadness, Custodian

125th Anniversary Committee



*Gene Larson and Fr.
Mike Powell*

top row: Julia Rajtar, Gloria Chada, Judy Barrett, Marilyn Litschke, Jonette Kreideweis, Cathy Rajtar, Tom Chenoweth, Joe Zimlich

bottom row: Kathy Domeier, Cindy Pasiuk, Sandy Conroy, Deb Blee

Not present: Tom Schwietz

Acknowledgments

These photos are but a snapshot in time. In addition to recognizing those pictured above, we recognize and thank everyone who has volunteered their time and talents in support of our parish over the last twenty-five years including, but not limited to:

- ❖ Servers, choir members, eucharistic ministers, lectors, commentators, ushers, greeters.
- ❖ Members of parish ministries including: Altar & Rosary Society, Children's Liturgy, Fall Festival Committee, Finance Committee, Liturgy Committee, Maintenance Committee, Parish Council, Parish Picnic Committee, Senior Club, and Trustees.
- ❖ Faith Formation catechists (teachers), catechist aides, sacramental preparation and safety monitors.
- ❖ Volunteers at parish events such as the Fall Festival, Hospitality, Mardi Gras, the Seder Meal, Turkey Bingo – setting up, cooking, serving, cleaning up.

And a thank you to Sue Vanyo, who retired in 2017 after serving as the Faith Formation and Youth Coordinator for 13 years.

Your participation has made it all possible.

Closing Thoughts

Our Journey in Faith was started by a small group of Polish families who, because of the strength of their faith, were emboldened to seek a spiritual home on St. Paul's Eastside, where they felt safe to build their faith community. They chose to name the church for St. Casimir, the patron Saint of Poland, who fought for social justice for his people.

Throughout this Journey in Faith, St. Casimir parish continued to follow in the footsteps of St. Casimir. The parish welcomed Polish families who were displaced from their homeland due to World War II and the terrible abuse and hardship that followed. And again, in the 1980s St. Casimir parish welcomed members of the Solidarity movement in Poland, who had spoken out against the Communist government there and been imprisoned. And most recently, the Karen, who also fled their homeland due to tyranny, abuse and oppression, were welcomed into the Church. The parish also has given aid and support to its members and others in need in countless ways, such as volunteering at Feed My Starving Children, the Shoe Box Mission, and contributing to Trinity Mission Food Shelf, to name just a very few.

As we continue Our Journey In Faith, may we continue to follow in the footsteps of St. Casimir, working for social justice by being a giving and welcoming parish community.

