1882 100th ANNIVERSARY 1982

SAINT LAURENTIUS CHURCH

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
This Book is dedicated to the Founders of St. Laurentius Parish and to the Priests and Sisters whose tireless efforts brought many to the Altar of God.
April 18, 1982

Reverend Anthony F. Ziemba
Saint Laurentius Church
1608 East Berks Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125

Reverend and dear Father Ziemba:

It is indeed a pleasure for me to congratulate you, the religious and people of Saint Laurentius Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as you celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

The continued growth in faith of your entire parish has heralded the spread of God's kingdom and recalls the countless sacrifices of so many dedicated priests and religious who have spent themselves in service to your parish community.

Under the patronage of our Blessed Mother, the parish has been a place where countless numbers of the faithful have been fed with the nourishment of the Word of God and the Body and Blood of Christ, a sanctuary of both public and private communion with God.

That God continue to bless you and the faithful of Saint Laurentius parish with the richness of His graces is the fervent prayer of

JOHN CARDINAL KROL
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Przepraszam i Drogi Książę Prohoszcza,
Unitowane w Chrystusie Bracia i Siostry
Parafii Św. Wawrzyńca w Filadelfii!

W roku 1982 przypada stulecie istnienia Waszego parafialnego kościoła pod wezwaniem Św. Wawrzyńca.

Ten wspaniały kościół jest widocznym znakiem współpracy z Bogiem Waszych Ojców i Was na drogach pielgrzyma polskiego.

Ta współpraca przyniosła obficie owoce dla chwały Bodej i zbawienia Waszego. Jednym z najważniejszych owoców jest przekazanie Was wiary, tak byście idąc przez życie w ciągłości z Chrystusem osiągnęli już na tym świecie uprawnione wyzwolenie i stali się kiedyś uczestnikami szczęścia wiekowego, jakie przygotował Bóg tym, którzy go milczą.

Wasz uroczy obchód stulecia kościoła Św. Wawrzyńca jest szczególonym wyrazem wdzięczności Bogu, za wszystkie dobrodziejstwa którymi obdarzył Waszych Ojców i Was na długoletniej drodze ofiarnej z Nim współpracy. Uczestniczył całym sercem w tym jubileuszowym "Te Deum" dziękując Bogu za Jego Mitociardzki które Was okałał.

W duchu dogłębnej wdzięczności powierzcie z całym zaufaniem Zbawicielowi nasze Waszą teraźniejszość i przyszłość oraz podejmujcie mądrze dalsze wysiłki wiernych z Nim współpracy, abyście podobnie jak Was Ojcowie tak samo i Wy żyli wiara na drogach Waszego życia i byście przekazali moc wiary wami młodym pokoleniom, bo to jest jednym droga wiodąca ku wyzwoleniu w tym i w przyszłym życiu.

Polecam Was wszystkich z ufnością Mitociardzki Bosemu i Niepokalanemu oraz życzę dla każdego najlepsze życzenia i serdeczne błogosławieństwo

+ Władysław Kardynał Rubin
SAINT LAURENTIUS

This is the spelling of the name in Latin. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia there are three parishes under his patronage. Catasauqua, St. Lawrence, 1858; Philadelphia, St. Laurentius, 1882; Highland Park, St. Lawrence, 1917.

The early Fathers of the Church make no mention of his birth or education. His extraordinary virtue in his youth recommended him to St. Sixtus, then arch-deacon of Rome, who took him under his protection, and became his instructor in the study of the Holy Scriptures and the rule of Christian perfection. On being raised to the Papacy as Pope, St. Sixtus II (257), ordained Lawrence deacon; and though he was yet young, appointed him the first among the seven deacons of Rome; hence by several Fathers he is called the Pope's archdeacon.

His duty in this important and difficult office was to administer the Temporals of the Holy See. It included the duty of caring for the poor and afflicted. The prefect of the city of Rome knew about the offerings which the Christians put in the hands of the clergy for distribution among the poor. Lawrence was the guardian of these offerings.

In the year 257, the Emperor Valerian published his bloody edicts against the Church. He gave orders to put to death all bishops, priests, and deacons. The Holy Father, Pope St. Sixtus II, was apprehended in 258. Lawrence stood by, weeping that he could not share his fate. "I was your minister, when you consecrated the Blood of Our Lord; why do you leave me behind now that you are about to shed your own?" The holy Pope comforted him with the words: "Do not weep, my son, in three days you will follow me." This prophecy came true. The prefect of the city demanded from Lawrence the treasures of the Church. The Saint promised, at the end of three days, to show him riches exceeding all the wealth of the empire. He then set about fathering the poor, the infirm, and the religious who lived by the aims of the faithful. He bade the prefect "see the treasures of the Church." When it was found that all had been shared among the poor, the holy deacon was put to the torture, and in the end roasted alive on a gridiron over a slow fire, on August 10, 258. His body rests in the Campus Varanus; but fragments of his relics are found throughout the world.

There are few martyrs in the Church, whose names are so famous as that of the glorious Saint Lawrence, in whose praises the most illustrious among the Latin Fathers have exerted their eloquence, and whose triumph the whole Church joins in a body to honor with universal joy and devotion.

"Grant us we beseech Thee, Almighty God, to extinguish within us the flames of vice, even as thou gavest blessed Lawrence grace to overcome his fiery torments."
HISTORY OF SAINT LAURENTIUS PARISH

After Poland was overtaken by foreign powers in the late eighteenth century, her government destroyed, and her liberties forcibly revoked, the Polish people began seeking refuge elsewhere. In the years 1831, 1846 and 1863, unsuccessful attempts were made to overthrow the foreign rule in Poland, each producing greater sufferings and persecutions. In 1870, the Prussian May Law, prohibiting the use of their native Polish language in schools and churches, was the most devastating blow. Each failure of regaining freedom found the migration of Poles to America increasing in numbers.

In America, where the Poles could enjoy freedom, they found difficulties with the language and customs of the land. To circumvent this condition they sought a place, in the various parts of the country, in sizable groups, to enable them to converse in the Polish language. They brought with them love for their faith and love for their fatherland. The first Polish parishes were accordingly set up wherever settlements were large enough to support them. The first such parishes were those of “Panna Marya” and “Czestochowa” established in Texas in the year 1854. Similarly, a Polish community “Polonia” was formed in Wisconsin in 1855, Michigan in 1857, Milwaukee 1862, Mississippi 1864, Chicago 1864, Buffalo and New York in 1872.

The Polish immigrants settled in Pennsylvania and founded parishes in Shamokin 1870, Shenandoah 1872, Nanticoke and Pittsburgh 1875, Mt. Carmel 1877, and in Philadelphia 1882.

In the scattered localities, the Poles formed distinct societies into one strong national alliance with the founding of the Polish National Alliance (Zwiazek Narodowy Polski) in Philadelphia on February 14, 1880 by Julius Andryzkowicz.

On January 29, 1882, the first meeting of organizers of St. Laurentius Parish was held in Muellersken Hall on Third Street. The urgent need of a church with a Polish speaking priest was thoroughly discussed. There followed a resolution to petition the Archbishop of Philadelphia to send them a priest. The names on Record of those who participated are:

President Xavier Karczewski
Vice President Charles Drehmann
Vice President John Piotrowski
Treasurer John Nepomucene Szweda
Secretary Albert Nowak
Financial Secretary Anthony Symboł
Keepers of the Treasury Stanislaus Robaszkiewicz Michael Ostrowski

There were 47 families that signed up and $31.50 went into the treasury. Those interested in this movement were from Philadelphia, Phoenixville and Camden. Following meetings brought about the formation of a committee to visit and petition the Archbishop. Thus St. Laurentius Parish was founded by the Most Rev. James F. Wood, D.D., Archbishop of Philadelphia in 1882.

The Archbishop invited the Rev. Julian Dutkiewicz from Brooklyn and the new parish was named Holy Cross. Rev. Dutkiewicz, however, stayed only a short time. He was succeeded by the Rev. Emil Kattein, who although of German origin, could speak the Polish language. Rev. Kattein changed the name from Holy Cross to St. Laurentius, the Latin version of St. Lawrence. The first church services were held in the basement of St. Boniface Church on Diamond and Hancock Streets.

Not too long after, the second floor of a three story building on Norris and Sepivva Streets was rented by Father Kattein for a temporary chapel which was blessed by Archbishop Ryan. Soon after, in 1884, the Rosary Society was founded as was also the Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In seeking a place for the erection of a church, various obstacles at that time were placed in the way, especially by the Orange Men who were very strong in this vicinity. Finally, through a third party property located at Berks (formerly Vienna St.) and Memphis Streets was purchased. A church basement was erected and in a joyous ceremony was blessed
by Archbishop Ryan in 1885. The basement church cost $14,000.00.

The Rev. Adalbert Malusecki was the first diocesan Polish speaking priest ordained from St. Charles Seminary in Overbrook on May 29, 1887, and his first assignment was as an assistant to Father Kattain. Soon after, on August 19, 1887, the beloved Pastor, Father Kattain died, and the young assistant Father Malusecki became the new Pastor of St. Laurentius Parish. In this year, Fr. Malusecki with the help of Mr. Joseph Stomkowski, organized the Beneficial Societies of St. Casimir and St. Joseph.

St. Laurentius School had a very small beginning. A certain Mr. Casimir Chwalkowski in 1888 was conducting a school in Polish for about fifty children in a local blacksmith shop. Father Malusecki, seeing the need for a parochial school invited four Felician Sisters from Detroit to take charge of the embryo school. The Felician Order was founded by the Venerable Mother Angela Truszkowska in Warsaw, Poland on November 21, 1855. The first classes were started in 1890 and they were held in the basement of the church after the upper church was completed and blessed solemnly by Archbishop Ryan on September 21, 1890.

The church is a beautiful structure built in Gothic Style, 114 feet long and 60 feet wide. In the interior, there are three naves. The center nave, is 57 feet high. Three Gothic wood carved altars and statues, pulpit and eleven stained glass windows were imported from Munich, Germany. Adorning the ceiling on either side of the center nave are twelve original - now priceless - oil paintings on canvas portraying treasured scenes from the life of Christ and His Saints. These add a crowning touch to the beautifully decorated interior. Three church bells were installed in the left church tower. The right tower facing north and east was fitted with a huge two-faced clock.

As was mentioned before, the school was carried on in the basement of the church with three classes and almost 200 children. Sessions were held in the morning and afternoon. With the church completed and the school in operation, some thought was now given to the building of a rectory. Father Malusecki bought two small homes adjoining the church for $8,100, demolished them and started building a rectory that was completed in 1892. Soon after, Fr. Malusecki was transferred to St. Mary's Church in Reading, Pa. and he was succeeded by the Rev. Matthias Tarnowski who came from Mahonoy City, Pa. He stayed in St. Laurentius Parish for two years and because of ill health, left for Europe in 1897.

In September of 1897, the Rev. Gabriel Kraus was appointed Pastor of St. Laurentius Parish. His stewardship was a lengthy one, 35 years. Many things were accomplished under his guidance. The enrollment in the school conducted in the basement of the church was increasing. The conditions were not ideal for the children and Sisters. The lighting was poor and there was little ventilation that posed a threat to the health of all concerned. Other accommodations had to be found. Two properties adjoining the rectory, 1614 and 1616 E. Berks Street were purchased for $11,000. One was to be converted for additional classrooms and the other as a Sisters' Convent.

The dedication of St. Laurentius School Building on October 29, 1899 was a noteworthy occasion. The dedicatory exercises were partly patriotic and partly religious in theme, and among the societies present were 35 Polish Lodges from Philadelphia and Camden in full uniform. The entire front of the handsome red granite school building was covered with American and Polish flags. Bishop Edmond F. Prendergast blessed the building. The new school had 12 rooms big enough for about 350 children. At that time the faculty consisted of six teaching Sisters. Two classes, however, remained in the basement of the church. The conversion of
the two homes into the school and convent cost $17,000.

In 1902 the Society of the Third Order of St. Francis was founded, and it exists until this day.

In 1912, the lighting system in the church was changed from gas to electricity. The interior of the church was beautifully decorated, including the twelve murals. All that was done by a then well-known artist named Scataglia. The complete cost was $12,000. The solemn blessing of the improvements and the newly painted and decorated church was done by Archbishop Prendegast on December 15, 1912.

The teaching staff of the school was increasing and as a result, Father Kraus purchased two homes at 1648-1650 E. Berks St. and converted them into a home with more convenient quarters for the Sisters.

![Image of the church interior]

In 1919, a new Hall Pipe Organ was installed by the Hall Organ Company from Connecticut, at a cost of $20,000. The organ was solemnly blessed in September of that year.

With a continued increase in number of pupils, it became necessary to plan the erection of a new modern complete school building. This was accomplished in 1923. Ground was broken in March and the cornerstone was laid in May. The new building was a three-story front, with an auditorium located in the basement, and fourteen classrooms in the three stories. The building contained the most up-to-date equipment available. The cost of the building was $150,000.

On Sunday, December 23, 1923, Denis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, in the presence of a gathering of priests and faithful parishioners with their children, solemnly blessed the new school building and delivered an address on the Parochial School System. For the occasion, an English sermon was delivered by the Rev. Joseph M. O’Hara, superintendent of parish schools, the sermon in Polish was delivered by the Rev. Joseph Kuczynski.

In December, 1923, the Rev. Gabriel Kraus was honored by the Polish government with the "Order of Polonia Restituta" in recognition of his services on behalf of Poland during the war. Mr. Ignace Padarewski was in charge of the Investiture.

It was in the year 1926 that St. Laurentius Catholic Young Men’s Club as an infant joined the family of Societies and Clubs within the fold of St. Laurentius Parish. Rev. Julian G. Zagorski, then curate at St. Laurentius, was instrumental in supplying the church’s answer to youth’s clamor for new and expanded leisure time interests, working on the idea that boys want to be able to have a good time as members of an organization, and to become friends with more people of their own age.

He started with an athletic program, because it afforded a healthful activity, plus an excellent opportunity to acquire the rudiments of good sportsmanship. Basketball was his first love, and it was in this category that the club achieved its greatest glories. Basketball, volleyball and bowling flourished under his dynamic leadership.
In 1932, the era of Rev. Bronislaus E. Rutt was ushered in. With zest and inspiring spirit, the new moderator formulated a more extensive but well balanced youth program, adding on spiritual, social and cultural activities.

Celebration of the Golden Jubilee on May 30, 1932 was a glorious day for St. Laurentius parish. Proud of all its accomplishments it had to have a great celebration. The day started with a grand parade, bands playing, flags and banners swaying with the breeze. The parade left the church at 8:30 in the morning, marched to Cedar St., to Cumberland St., to Aramingo Ave., to Girard and Berks St. Here the parade stopped and greeted Denis Cardinal Dougherty and escorted him to church. At 10:30 a.m., a Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Most Rev. Gerald P. O’Hara, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, in the presence of Denis Cardinal Dougherty. The church was filled to its capacity. An inspiring sermon was delivered by the Rev. Stanislaus Sobieniowski. It must be mentioned, that in this Jubilee year, there were 779 children in the parish school and fifteen Sisters.

After thirty-five years as pastor of the parish and after many accomplishments, Father Kraus, during the years of national depression, became overtaken by the financial cares and worries of the parish. On November 25, 1932, he was assigned as Pastor of St. Hedwig’s Church, in Chester, Pa., and he was succeeded by the Rev. Michael Wyborski. Remember that it was the great depression and the following years were indeed trying ones. Much effort was exerted to pay off the financial debt of the parish.

In 1934, the Holy Name Society was founded whose purpose was to foster spirituality among its members, reverence for the name of Jesus, sincere prayer and frequent reception of Holy Communion. It did much for the men of the parish and for the parish itself. During the 60’s and 70’s, the Society contributed extensively with its own program of raising money for the needs of the parish.

On October 23, 1938, the parish commemorated the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the school and 48 years of service by the Felician Sisters. Several generations of the alumni gathered to give thanks to Almighty God for the opportunity granted them for the religious instruction received in a Catholic School and to beg God to shower the Felician Sisters with his choicest blessings for their continued success in their devoted field.

The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by the Rev. Ladislaus Grynia, with the Rev. Casimir F. Lawniczak, as Archpriest; the Rev. Julian G. Zagorski, deacon; the Rev. Walter Psulkowski, sub-deacon; and the Rev. Joseph Jarecki, master of ceremonies. They were all alumni of the parochial school and priest sons of the parish. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Joseph Kuczynski.

In 1950, a new tile floor and new pews were installed in the church. On Saturday, November 19, 1955, the Rev. Michael Wyborski, in preparation for the opening of the Forty Hours Devotions, died suddenly in the rectory.

The appointment of Rev. Stanislaus J. Garstka as Pastor of St. Laurentius Church, became effective on December 28, 1955. Father Garstka was at one time an assistant in St. Laurentius. His immediate concern after observing the physical condition of the parish properties, was to seek ways and means
of preparing a program for improvements. After consultations with the architect and the necessary presentation of these conditions to the Most Reverend Archbishop and the board of Consultors, Father Garstka received permission to proceed with the necessary improvements: a new heating plant that took care of the Church, school and rectory; improvements, on church windows, roof and steeple, removal of the upper choir loft, overhauling of the pipe organ; painting of the main altar and the sanctuary.

A group of Scouts in our parish became affiliated and approved by the Boy Scouts of America on Sunday, September 30, 1956 at a ceremony of the granting of a charter, designated as Troop No. 482.

A few men of St. Laurentius Parish became interested in the physical, moral and spiritual growth of our boys, and after several meetings, decided to join hands with millions of young people and adults across the nation who were participating in the Scouting Movement.

Officers and Committee
Rev. Stanislaus J. Garstka - Chaplain
Francis Sergiej - Institutional Representative
Joseph Nowakowski - Chairman
Stanley Stankiewicz - Secretary
Joseph Pacan - Scoutmaster
Benjamin Wencieczewicz - Asst. Scoutmaster

The boundaries for St. Laurentius parish are North to Cambria St., East to Delaware River; West to Broad St., South to Market St. To keep in contact with all the parishioners, the Parish Calendar, the Newspaper of the Parish, was introduced with the first monthly issue on January, 1957.

Within its pages, the parishioners have before them the vital and necessary information concerning the order of Divine Services and policies of the Parish. They are kept informed about the various activities within the parish and about the Sunday and special collections throughout the year. Special feature articles are found in each monthly issue.

The publication of the Parish Calendar is made possible by the generosity of the names and businesses of those advertising in it. The Parish is especially grateful to these friends.

At the insistence of Rev. Stanislaus Garstka, it was decided to organize a Catholic Ladies’ Guild on January 13, 1957 for the purpose of helping the church and the school. The first officers were as follows:

President Mary Olejkowska
Vice President Anna Zachwieja
Secretary Irene Materna
Treasurers Dorothy Kuklinski Emily Sergiej

So that all members could join in the work of the guild, the following committees were formed:
Church Altar, Publicity, Parent Teacher and Entertainment.

Just to name a few achievements of the Guild:
1. Electrification of tower clock and bells.
2. Renovation of the sacristy.
3. Providing complete facilities for dinner functions.
4. Major contributions for maintenance of the parish buildings.
5. For the school children-educational bus trips, school equipment and the annual Christmas Party.

6. Providing flowers for the Church Altar.

The achievements were made possible by the many money-making projects especially the yearly Christmas Bazaar which requires the help of all members. The members of the Catholic Ladies Guild thank God for all the favors and blessings bestowed in the past years.

Sunday, November 17, 1957, climaxed the joy of a Diamond Jubilee celebration of St. Laurentius Parish. It was signally marked with a Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:00 a.m. The Most Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, D.D. Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia was the main celebrant. The assistant priest was Rev. Joseph C. Klosinski; deacon, the Rev. Walter A. Paulkow; sub-deacon, the Rev. Joseph F. Jarecki, (the latter two native sons of the Parish) and master of ceremonies, Rev. Charles F. Manning. The sermon was delivered by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Casimir F. Lawniczak, pastor of St. John Cantius Parish, Bridesburg, another native son of St. Laurentius.

The crown of the Diamond Jubilee of the parish was the erection of a new convent for ten Sisters at the site of the old one on 1648 E. Berks St. The blessing and dedication of the new convent on October 12, 1958, marked another milestone in the glorious history of St. Laurentius Parish. All this will attest to the loyalty and sacrifice of the people of the parish, who gave their offerings generously to the Fund Raising Campaign started by Father Garstka. On May 21, 1961, Father Garstka celebrated his 40th year in the vineyard of Our Lord with a beautiful Mass and then a glorious banquet. On January 10, 1964, he died while administering the Last Rites to one of his parishioners.

In April of 1964, Father Stanislaus A. Polityka was named the new pastor of St. Laurentius Parish. Just as Fr. Garstka was concerned with the improvements in church, school, and convent, Fr. Polityka on the other hand, centered his attention on the renovation of the rectory. A goodly amount of money was spent for this purpose. The first floor of the rectory was connected with the old school to make one unit. The parish office was transferred from the rectory proper to the building that was formerly the old school. Fr. Polityka had the church painted by Mr. Utz, a well-known art figure in the Delaware Valley. In 1968, our altar, cut off from the main altar, was refurbished and placed facing the people following the rules of the new liturgy. In 1974, Fr. Polityka reached the compulsory retirement age of 75 and after a farewell banquet, he retired and became Pastor Emeritus.

His place as Pastor was taken by the Rev. Anthony F. Ziembka, who at this time was Pastor of St. Hedwig’s Parish in Chester, Pa. It should be noted here that Father Ziembka previously served as an assistant under Fr. Polityka at St. Laurentius. Father Ziembka greeted the parishioners on Sunday, June 9, 1974. It was during his stewardship that many beautiful things happened to the Catholic Church, the city of Philadelphia and to St. Laurentius Parish. First of all the Eucharistic Congress took place in the city of Philadelphia in August of 1976. It was a joyous and spiritual renewal of our faith in Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament with thousands upon thousands participating openly in the uplifting devotions and ceremonies. The country also celebrated in the same year its bi-centennial existence, with year-long historical observances.

Already in his first three years as Pastor, Father Ziembka encouraged the people to pay off a large debt that had accumulated through the years and had the plumbing, electricity and boiler checked and repaired at the convent. With the help of the P.T.A. the school library was remodeled, new lighting was put in the hallways of the school, water coolers were installed on the two top floors and new shades were purchased for the entire school.

Seeing his enthusiasm and interest in their parish the people supported Father Ziembka with the purchasing of new desks for grades five through eight. Grateful for Father’s undying dedication, the sisters and children of the school willingly helped during a few summers to clean out some unused rooms and to help form them into a Science room, Teacher’s room and Art room.
Father Polityka died on May 30, 1977. His Eminence John Cardinal Krol was the main celebrant at a con-celebrated funeral Mass. It was during this visit that the first mention of the Parish centennial was made.

On October 16, 1978, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla, Archbishop of Cracow, Poland was elected by the College of Cardinals to succeed Pope John Paul I who died suddenly. Cardinal Wojtyla chose as his name Pope John Paul II. The entire Polish world was overjoyed, to put it mildly, at the great honor bestowed upon one of Poland’s sons. Many of us had the occasion to meet him and to speak with him during the Eucharistic Congress. On October 4, 1979, His Holiness visited Philadelphia. Words cannot describe the feelings of the faithful of Philadelphia on that wondrous occasion. A concelebrated Mass was said in Logan Circle with almost a million people around the beautiful altar, a day that no one will forget.

Since many things had to be done in preparation for the jubilee, work went on as planned. The school was painted by some dedicated parents; the school, rectory and church roofs were repaired and new sidewalks were put in on Berks and Wilt Streets. Trying to conserve on energy, the heating system was switched from oil, to gas or oil, the vestibule of the convent was enclosed; the convent was renovated and painted, and the floors carpeted. New rugs were put in the vestibule and rear of the church; the side walls of the church repainted; new steel doors on both sides of the church were put in and the church hall, school hall and rectory kitchen were painted and badly needed floors put in.

Physical renovations are not the only jobs that Father Ziembba did well. As Spiritual Leader, he drew many souls to the Church by his cheerfulness, understanding and openness. Under his watchful eyes, families were drawn together, marriages were corrected and with the help of Sister M. Juliette, converts were taught and guided.

A strong Community of Faith was slowly being formed: Priests helping parents, parents helping teachers, teachers helping children - and all helping one another in prayer, guidance and charity.

Father Ziembba loves children. His daily visits to the school made him well known. He instilled in the children a love and desire to praise the Lord in song and word, and as a result a beautiful choir was formed under the direction of Mr. Duane Rutkowski, a former student of St. Laurentius. Believing in the ability and willingness of children, and in the education of the whole man, Father Ziembba encouraged the children to participate in the Liturgy by being lectors at Mass, which they do willingly. Heeding to Father’s suggestions a strong and dedicated Student Council was also formed.

In 1980, Father Ziembba wrote a letter to John Cardinal Krol asking His Eminence to honor the parishioners of St. Laurentius with his presence at the Centenary Mass of the Parish in April of 1982. His Eminence readily agreed in his letter of confirmation, setting the date for April 18, 1982.

On Wednesday, January 28, 1981, the first meeting for the Jubilee Year took place, with thirty-one persons present. Mr. Stanley Stankiewicz was chosen as a general chairman and Miss Helen Bukowski as secretary. Mrs. Jean McCloskey was elected chairperson of the Events Committee; Mrs. Marie Nessler and Mrs. Doris Rutkowski - chairpersons of the Book Committee, Mr. John Zarzycki and Miss Stella Krystopowicz - chairpersons of the Banquet Committee: Mr. Duane Rutkowski and Sister M. Assunta - chairpersons of the Music Committee; Sister M. Benigna and Sister M. Rosalita - chairpersons of the Decorating Committee. The Jubilee kick-off banquet which took place on Sunday, May 3, 1981 in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m. was a huge success.

Numerous meetings were held throughout the summer months. Our theme for the new school year was “Joy and Celebration” and all the activities in Church and school were centered around the Centennial. The enrollment for this year was 291 students with five sisters.

In preparation for the Centennial, a three day retreat was held in November of 1981, preached by Father Stanley Miekina, C.M.

Plans were made for a concelebrated Celebration Mass with John Cardinal Krol as main celebrant at 4:00 p.m. on April 18, 1982. A banquet followed at the Four Chefs at 6:30 p.m. attended by the parishioners, present and former teachers of St. Laurentius school, and friends.

What more can we say now - but “Glory to God for His Goodness to Us.”
Those Who
Care
Those Who
Teach
Those Who Help and Share
### Pastors of St. Laurentius Parish

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<tr>
<td>1918 - 1919</td>
<td>Rev. Bronislaw Gobert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919 - 1920</td>
<td>Rev. Michael Arminski</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920 - 1921</td>
<td>Rev. John Mioduszewski</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921 - 1922</td>
<td>Rev. Stanley Sobienowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922 - 1923</td>
<td>Rev. John Dekowski</td>
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<td>1923 - 1924</td>
<td>Rev. Alexander Konus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924 - 1925</td>
<td>Rev. Leonard A. Lewandowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>1925 - 1926</td>
<td>Rev. Gabriel Kraus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926 - 1927</td>
<td>Rev. Michael Wyborski</td>
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<td>1927 - 1928</td>
<td>Rev. Stanislaus Garstka</td>
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<tr>
<td>1928 - 1929</td>
<td>Rev. Stanislaus A. Polityka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929 - 1930</td>
<td>Rev. Anthony F. Ziembra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assistant Priests of St. Laurentius Parish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Assistant Priest Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1903 - May 1904</td>
<td>Rev. Stanley Garstka</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1921 - June 1924</td>
<td>Rev. Aladburg Chrzanowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1921 - May 1924</td>
<td>Rev. Teofil Lewandowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1924 - Jan. 1933</td>
<td>Rev. Julian Zagorski</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1925 - June 1932</td>
<td>Rev. Bronislaw E. Rutt</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1932 - April 1948</td>
<td>Rev. Joseph Bidus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 1933 - June 1933</td>
<td>Rev. S. J. Zywicki</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1933 - Oct. 1933</td>
<td>Rev. Edward Tomaszewski</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1933 - Oct. 1943</td>
<td>Rev. Charles A. Stelmach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1948 - June 1950</td>
<td>Rev. Adam Bydlon</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1950 - May 1952</td>
<td>Rev. Henry F. Krzywicki</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1950 - June 1955</td>
<td>Rev. Albin E. Yodzis</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1952 - Nov. 1956</td>
<td>Rev. Leon E. Jaworowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1955 - June 1956</td>
<td>Rev. Michael Augustyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1959 - June 1960</td>
<td>Rev. Anthony F. Ziemba</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1966 - Sept. 1968</td>
<td>Rev. Francis A. Gawlawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1975 - June 1977</td>
<td>Rev. Jerome Pohl</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Principals of St. Laurentius School

- S. M. Pia
- S. M. Modesta
- S. M. Scholastica
- S. M. Adjuta
- S. M. Ambrose
- S. M. Francis
- S. M. Sylvestra
- S. M. Berarda
- S. M. Lucine
- S. M. Felicia
- S. M. Benjamin
- S. M. Egidia
- S. M. Beatrix
- S. M. Mecytylea
- S. M. Berarda
- S. M. Albina
- S. M. Pauline
- S. M. Augustine
- S. M. Immaculata
- S. M. Leontine
- S. M. Fides
- S. M. Regina
- S. M. Celsia
- S. M. Sperantia
- S. M. Paulette
- S. M. Estelle
- S. M. Antonia
- S. M. Benigna

### Native Sons of St. Laurentius Parish

- Rev. Walter Grynia
- Rt. Rev. Monsignor Casimir F. Lawniczak
- Rev. Lawrence Faber
- Rev. Joseph Jarecki
- Rev. Wacław Pszczółkowski
- Rev. Joseph Piotrowicz
- Rev. John Zybniowski
- Rev. Chester Kochanski, C.M.
- Rev. Stanley Zebrowski, O.F.M.
- Rev. Marcel Kołakowski, O. F.M.
- Rev. Jerry Romanowski
- Rev. Francis Barszczewski

### Native Daughters of Our Parish Who Served and Are Serving in the Felician Order

- S. M. Jozefa Szwedra
- S. M. Donata Nowicka
- S. M. Pacylka Grawiał
- S. M. Fidelis Bukowska
- S. M. Pius Piotrowicz
- S. M. Annuncjata Bretschneider
- S. M. Clementine Tomaszewski
- S. M. Bernadette Bomberska
- S. M. Swietosława Gawinska
- S. M. Giolede Kieżnič
- S. M. Tobia Gawinska
- S. M. Marcianna Karolczak
- S. M. Alice Szypper
- S. M. Raymond Fronczak
- S. M. Jeromin Jendaszek
- S. M. Nathaniel Zarzyka
- S. M. Prokla Kowaleska
- S. M. Leonarda Pendrak
- S. M. Saturnia Goch
- S. M. Emanuela Figianda
- S. M. Mavilla Zagorska
- S. M. Justitia Lawniczak
- S. M. Edelburg Dombrowska
- S. M. Elma Szatny
- S. M. Benedict Chelminieyicz
- S. M. Rosaire Dombroska
- S. M. Germana Zawadzka
- S. M. Junipera Duszak
- S. M. Apolonia Saviaka
- S. M. Susanna Moszyńska
- S. M. Alberyka Prolijko
- S. M. Ładysława Cieleć
- S. M. Zefiryna Michalska
- S. M. Melonia Tomaszewska
- S. M. Agnes Marie Kochanska
- S. M. Hiltrude Koba
- S. M. Bernard Szatny
- S. M. Elenore Drybala
- S. M. Dolores Sobocińska
- S. M. Benigna Szczepanska
- S. M. Charitine Spitalnicki
- S. M. Assunta Szczepanska
- S. M. Rita Marie Aponik
- S. M. Alan Barszczewski

### Nazareth Order

- S. M. Camille Kwiatek

### Carmelite Order

- S. M. Jean Marie Pisula

- S. M. Bernadette Tomaszewska
BAILEY
Robert & Anna
Louis Cassidy
Beth Cassidy
Anthony Cassidy
Barbara Jean
Bernadette

BAJ
Theodore J. & Irene G.

BANFORD
Anthony & Theresa
Theresa Melissa
Anthony

BARSZCZEWSKI
Walter & Elizabeth
Sr. Alan
Monica Lynam
Gene Lynam
Theodore
Betty
Daniel Lynam

BECK
George & Rosemarie
Christopher
Jeffrey

SZCZEPANSKI
Sister Mary Assunta
Sister Mary Benigna

BERARDI
William & Theresa

SZATNY
Sister M. Bernard

BLACK
John & Rita
Jennifer
Paula
Nicole
Allyson

BOBITSKI
Joseph

BOC
Genevieve
Dr. Stanley
Elizabeth
Sandra
Steven

BOC
Stanley
CLIFFORD
James & Patricia
Deborah Ann
James
Julienne

COYLE
Raymond & Marie
Marie
Raymond

COHEN
William & Linda
William
Gabrielle
Jennifer

CROMPTON
Edward & Ellen
Barbara
Dawn

CONWAY
Robert & Kathaleen
Robert
Mary Kate
Christine

DALICANDRO
Anthony & Madge
Karen
Antionette
Michael
Anthony

COOPER
Lawrence & Elaine
Lawrence

DAMIAN
Albina

CORRELL
Francis & Dorothy
Frank
Kenneth
Christopher
John

DAMICO
Dominic & Caroline
Dominic
Caroline
Michael

COSTICK
John & Eleanor
Anita
John
Kimberly
MaryAnn

DANIELCZYK
Genevieve
FIGANIAK
Steven

FISHER
Robert & Edith
Christopher
Elizabeth
Loren

FLISAK
Bronislaw & Stefania
Maria
Dorothy
Anna

FLOODY
Joseph & Ruth Anne
Joseph
Melissa
Jacquelyn

FORISH
Joseph & Elizabeth

FORISH
Joseph & Marie
Joey
Marisa

FORISH
Richard & Shirley
Jennifer
Jacklyn Beth

FORDAL
Edward

FRANK
Walter & Helen
Wanda

FUSCO
Anthony & Donna
Anthony, Jr.
Angelo
John

GABOR
Edward & Kathleen
Michael
Kathleen
Heather
Eric

GAJDOWSKI
Jean

BUDZICHOWSKI
Theodore, Jr.
Marignne
Harry
Nina
Theodore, III
Anthony Gajdowski