

DEDICATION

This is the story of the 100 years of determined effort of St. Michael's Parish to give expression to its love of God.

To all parishioners, both living and dead, whose strong faith, undaunted courage and heroic sacrifice have made this history of St. Michael's Parish possible, this Jubilee Book is gratefully dedicated. We pray and beg God that He continue to shower down His blessings and guidance upon us. We also ask St. Michael to intercede for our parish dedicated to his patronage. We ask his intercession that the next 100 years will be as fruitful both materially and spiritually, as the first.

> Centennial Jubilee Book St. Michael's Parish Port Austin, Michigan

1868 - 1969



Benjamin M. Murawski



William Kennedy



Frank Horetski

Dear God, I have a job to do; A War that must be won. The Sacred land for which I stand Needs Me and my gun.

But God, sometimes it seems so hard To Believe it is Thy will To say, "I love Thy Sacred Name" And live my life to kill.

But I shall go on praying Myself I may redeem, For being proud of what I am: A United States Marine.

> L./Cpl. D. T. Schmidt USMC - Deceased

WORLD WAR I

Benjamin M. Murawski Born Nov. 21, 1895 Killed in France Oct. 27, 1918

William Kennedy Born July 24, 1889 Died Oct. 1918

Nick Brown

WORLD WAR II

Frank Horetski Born Killed July 19, 1944

KOREAN CONFLICT

Bertram J. Yaroch Born April 17, 1930 Killed in Combat October 2, 1952

Henry (Skinny) Ayotte, Jr. Born July 17, 1930 Killed on parachute maneuvers at Camp Drum, New York on February 8, 1952

VIET NAM

Jerry A. Polega Born May 19, 1949 Killed February 13, 1969

Terrance B. Clancy Born April 22, 1950 Killed May 9, 1969





Henry Ayotte, Jr.

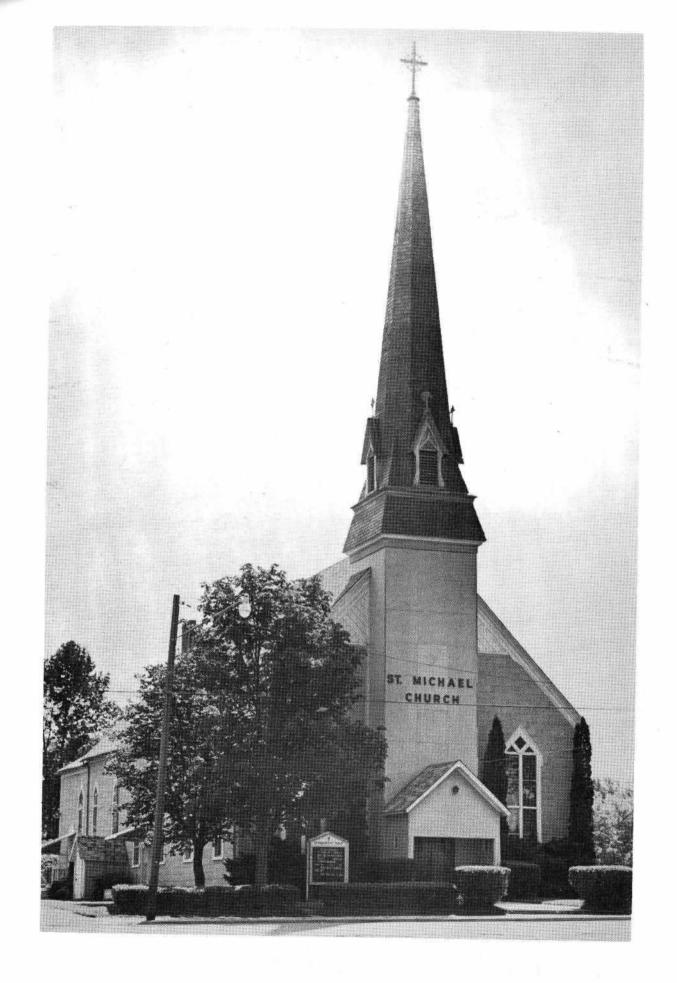


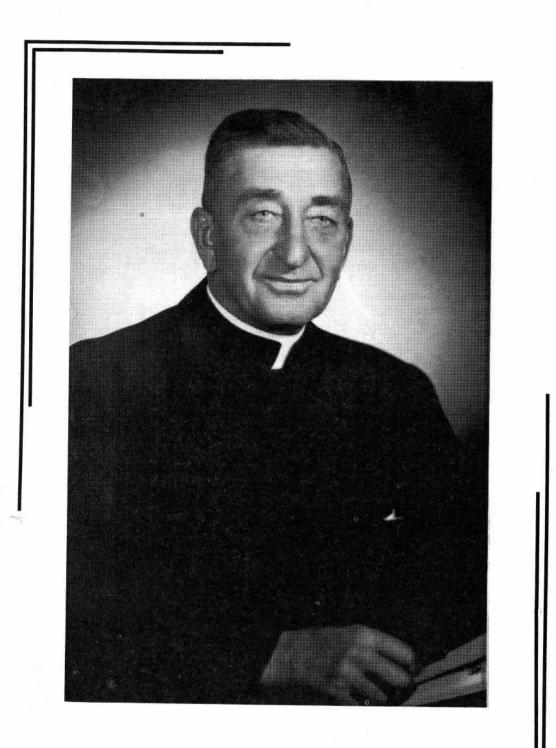
Jerry A. Polega



Terrance B. Clancy

Bertram J. Yaroch





REVEREND FATHER DUDEK

My dear Parishioners:

A centennial jubilee is pre-eminently a time to recognize with gratitude and appreciation those who made St. Michael's Parish what it is today.

It is with great joy that we today can look back over the past hundred years since the founding of this parish. What was begun with very humble beginnings a century ago has certainly brought forth a hundredfold in the last twenty-five years. The pages of this history tell the story of what can be accomplished when a parish works together in sacrifice for a common goal inspired by the zeal and desire to further the honor and glory of God.

The very fact that St. Michael's is still a thriving parish made up of people who have kept the faith is a living tribute to all who made it possible.

The history herein contained is only briefly recorded. So much more could be told, so many of the small human things that make up the heart of a parish, the prayers and sacrifices, the toil and generosities that far more outweigh the bricks and mortar that make up the buildings of the parish.

Let us not forget that we owe a debt of gratitude to those fine Catholic people who spend their summers in Port Austin, the resorters, the vacationers who not only worship in our church, but who by their faithful attendance and reception of the sacraments and their generous contributions have been an inspiration to us all and it is they who are a great help in maintaining St. Michael's as it is today.

My twenty-six years with you as your pastor have been happy because you have been loyal and faithful and generous despite my short comings. It is you, the People of God, and not I, who made the parish. The priest is only an instrument in the hands of God.

But I'm grateful to God to be instrumental in building up St. Michael's parish and that God has spared me that long that I will be able to share with you the joy and happiness in celebrating this great event.

On this solemn occasion Our Most Holy Father Pope Paul VI imparts his special apostolic blessing to the Pastor, the Sisters, school children and to the Parishioners both young and old for one hundred years the blessings and graces were upon this parish.

It is reasonable to suppose that the parish means different things to different people. This is true not only because every person has a different viewpoint but also because their part in the parish is different. However, there are a few things which seem to me to be particularly impressive in the work which the parish has done during the years in which it has been in existence and during which it has served the children of the church. Things which could not have been furnished except through the parish church.

First in importance is, of course, the opportunity to practice our religion. Week in and week out through the years in which the parish has been in existence, it has ministered to the people. Here they have been baptized, confirmed, married and from it they have been buried. These things influence the viewpoint towards the parish as they do in a relation to a home because it takes all of these things to show the color, the joy and the sorrow of life and to round its existence. Most of us grew up with the idea that no matter what happened in the rest of our lives the church always remained the same. But then quite suddenly, it seemed, everything was different and many of us find ourselves wondering how and why it happened.

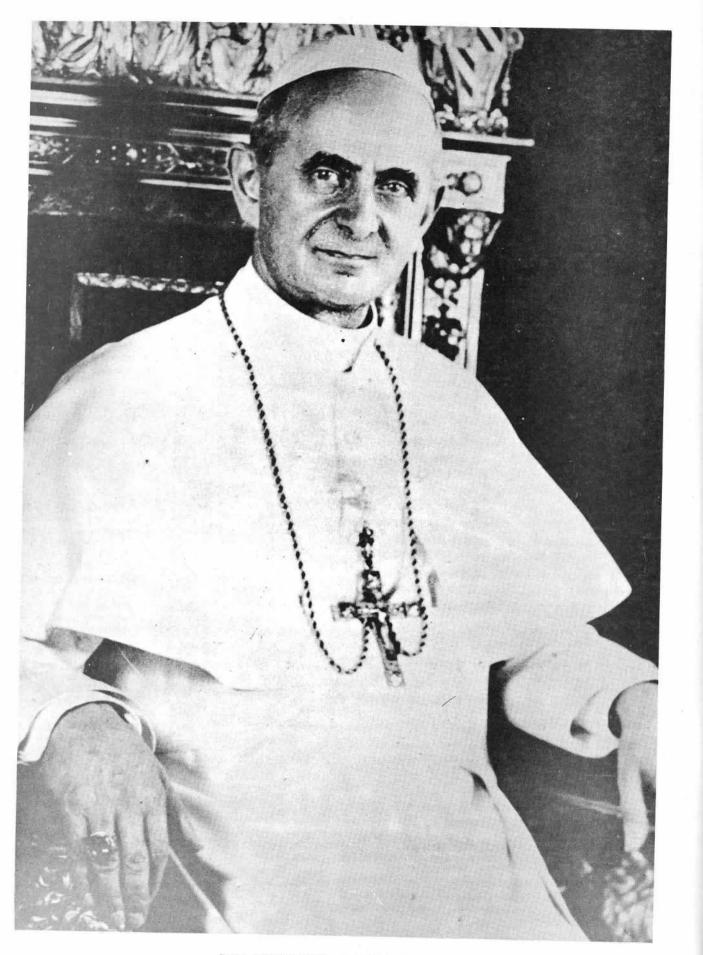
The world is in a period of change unlike any other in history - change comes at us out of the newspaper, the next door neighbor, the radio, television, the university even out of the church. But it is refreshing to feel that here at least we are with people who still have an active interest in their religion and who still owe undivided allegiance to the old and yet ever new truths as established by Christ and taught by his church.

Another thing which comes into consideration when thinking of the work of the parish is the Catholic system of education which is fostered throughout the whole church but which has its inception in the parish school. I feel that our school here in the parish has been a good thing and a great help. Not only has it given to the children the secular education which is required by law, but at the same time, it has taken their lives and so ingrained the teachings of the church that they will always bear them in mind under all circumstances when they go out into the world and come in contact with the problems which will confront them.

Also the church has given us an opportunity to show to the world our belief in the doctrine of charity. In giving to the cause of the parish and in giving to the broader aspects of our work as Catholics, we have been taught in the parish the purpose for which the money which you contribute will be used and the necessity for such gifts.

Today, as never before, more and more lay people, the people of God, are being asked to be involved in the work of the church. They can help so much with their services when called upon as well as with their money and their influence. Would it not be well then when we look back on the glorious history of the parish for one hundred years to envision and to think of the things which we might do to make it even more glorious for the next hundred years? It seems to me that this celebration should call forcefully to our minds the work which the parish can do, which it should do, and which we can aid it in accomplishing.

So in conclusion let me say that the parish has been a lighthouse during the entire time that it has been furnishing service and offering to the world the teachings of Christ. It has had a splendid history and I hope it will continue in the future the good things which it has done. In this effort I ask your prayers that this parish may grow and be abundantly blessed as a church under the favor of our patron saint, St. Michael, the Archangel.



HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI





BISHOP REH

DIDCESE OF SAGINAW CHANCERY 124 N. HAMILTON STREET SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 26, 1969

Rev. Joseph J. Dudek St. Michael Parish Port Austin, Michigan

Dear Father Dudek:

I take this opportunity of extending my congratulations to you and the Sisters and parishioners of St. Michael's Parish on the occasion of your Centennial on August 15, 1969.

Although I am new in the diocese I have heard that St. Michael's Parish was one of the first parishes in the Thumb area of Michigan. I know that this occasion must bring back many memories to the people who recall the past history of the parish.

Your people can be justly proud of the sacrifices they and their forefathers made in order to have a Catholic school in their area. I am sure that your parish school has been very instrumental in providing good Catholic not only for your parish but for many, many other communities.

I extend not only my best wishes but my prayers to the people of St. Michael Parish. I hope that you will be the leaven of Christianity in this area for many, many more years.

Extending to all the members of St. Michael's Parish my episcopal blessing on this joyous occasion, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

tom is

(Most Rev.) Francis F. Reh Bishop of Saginaw



STATE OF MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LANSING

WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN GOVERNOR

June 30, 1969

St. Michael's Parish Port Austin, Michigan 48467

Greetings:

12.

Best wishes to the people of St. Michael's on the very special occasion of this 100th. anniversary.

Michigan's many churches have a profound impact on Michigan's people and I am certain that during this historic 100 years, St. Michael's has immensely aided the people of Port Austin, bringing to them guidance in many times of great need.

May the next century be as rewarding for St. Michael's.

Sincerely,

William J. Tinleiken

Governor



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

77TH DISTRICT QUINCY HOFFMAN BOX 119 LANSING, MICHIGAN 48901 AREA 517-373-0835

BOX 127 APPLEGATE, MICHIGAN 48401 PHONE: HDME, AREA 616-243-9192

July 11, 1969

St. Michael's Catholic Church Independence Avenue Port Austin, Michigan

Dear Parishioners:

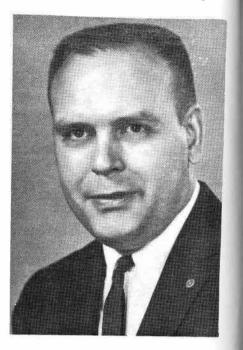
I wish to join the many friends of St. Michael's in offering my warmest best wishes on this happy occassion.

It is my sincere hope that upon the celebration of your bi-centennial, our troubled world will have resolved and long enjoyed the real meaning of brotherhood and peace.

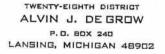
Very truly yours,

QUINCY HOFFMAN State Representative

QH:bt







July 1969

To The Members of the Parish St. Michaels Church Port Austin, Michigan 48467

It is, indeed, an honor and a pleasure to be a small part in the occasion of the celebration of the Centennial of St. Michaels Church, Port Austin, Michigan.

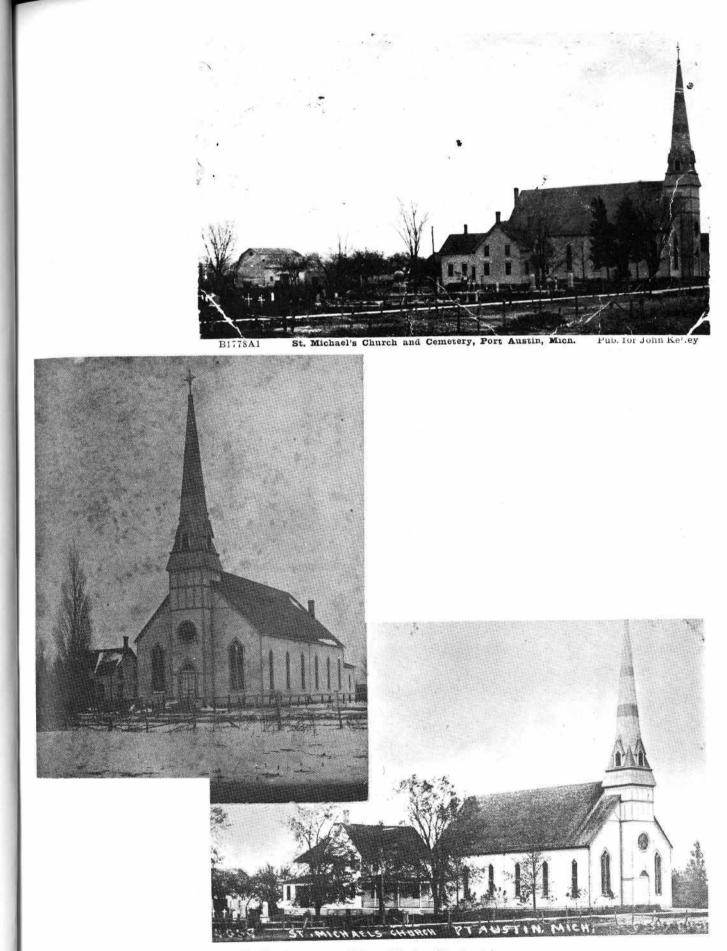
One hundred years of spiritual guidance for the residents of our area, and the religious and moral training of the children in the parish, is certainly a time for jubilant celebration but mixed with an equal part of humility and thanksgiving. The imprint of St. Michaels Church on the well being of this community is impressive.

Sincerely,

alvin De Fron

Alvin J. DeGrow, Pigeon State Senator-28th District

ADeG:ic



Early Pictures of St. Michael's Parish

PROCLAMATION OF MAYOR EDWIN KORN Jr. ON THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH PORT AUSTIN, MICHIGAN

Whereas St. Michael's Church of Port Austin, Michigan will celebrate its 100th anniversary August 15 through August 17, 1969,

and

Whereas during this one hundred year period St. Michael's has been a powerful influence for good in this community, and

Whereas it is recognized that the best type of community supports its churches and Port Austin citizens have over the years been generous in their support of this fine religious institution,

and

Whereas it is in order that the congratulations and best wishes of the people of this community be extended to St. Michael's Church and the Reverend Father Joseph Dudek on the occasion of this important anniversary,

Therefore I, Edwin Korn, Jr., by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Village of Port Austin do hereby proclaim from August 15 through August 17, 1969 as St. Michael's Centennial days for the purpose of celebrating this important occasion. I urge our citizens to participate in all programs. I extend to Father Joseph Dudek the thanks of our citizens for his efforts in building St. Michael's Church to its present position of excellence during his tenure as pastor.

July 1, 1969

Edwin Korn, Jr. Mayor Village of Port Austin, Michigan



VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE FROM ST. MICHAEL PARISH

The parish was blessed with twelve vocations to the sacred Priesthood, all of whom are living and plan to attend the Centennial. The first Priest ordained was R. Rev. Msgr. Stanley S. Skrzycki, L.L.D.; followed by Rev. Carl A. Mayes; Rev. Robert W. Shine; Rev. Gerald S. Ornowski, M.I.C. and Rev. Paul M. Yaroch, O.F.M. CAP.

There are seven Sisters. Sister Hildegarde Miller was the first Sister, followed by her sister, Sister Aloysious Miller; Sister Mary Raymond Hoody; Sister Raymonda Culhane and Sister Mary Thomas Dupee, all deceased, and Sister Margaret Moran, O.P. and Sister Mary Stanislaus Goretski.

In connection with the above history of vocations credit is to be given to Mrs. Stanley Ornowski, who was appointed Vocation Representative for the parish since 1951. She has supervised several different vocational programs.

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH PRIESTS 1869-1969

Father	Peter Kluck	1869-1871
Father	Cornelius Roche	1871-1875
Father	Joseph Meder	1875-1881
Father	George Laugel	1881-1883
Father	Nick Maschino	1883-1887
Father	Anthony Ternes	1887-1890
Father	Francis Kroll	1890-1891
Father	John Gulcz	1890-1893
Father	Appolonius Tyszka	March 1893-July 1893
Father	Francis Gzella	1893-1898
Father	Sylvester Kolkiewicz	1898-1906
	Joseph C. Plagens	1906-1912
	Stanley Skrzycki	1912-1916
Father	John Bonkowski	1916-1919
Father	Joseph Przybyski	1919
Father	Peter Kruszka	1920
Father	Stephen Trepczynski	1921-1923
Father	Albert Mrowka	1922-1925
Father	A. Chmielewski	1925-1926
Father	Xavier Rosinski	1926-1928
Father	Alphonse Kromka	1928-1942
Father	Joseph Dudek	1942-present



Bishop Joseph Plagens

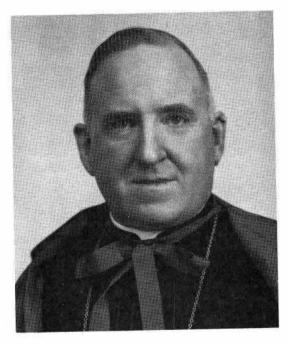
Former Parish Priests



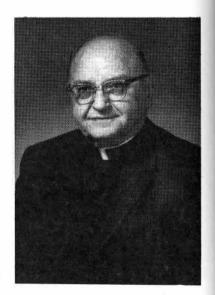
Fr. Alphonse Kromka



Fr. Issac Bunkowski



Bishop Wm. Murphy 1st Bishop of Saginaw Diocese



Fr. Albert Mrowka



Monsignor Stanley Skrzycki

SOME FIRSTS OF ST. MICHAEL'S HISTORY

First Catholic Settlers were the French from Canada.

First Missionary who left records in St. Michael's was Rev. Peter Kluck.

First Resident Pastor was Rev. Cornelius Roche.

First Child baptized was Peter Dan, son of Peter Dan and Helen Generau.

First couple married in the original church were Louie Hebair and Elizabeth Legaski.

- First Church was blessed by Bishop Borgess, in July, 1873.
- First Child baptized in the new Church was Mary Ann Burzynski.
- First couple married in the new church were George Cramer and Paulina Maguire.
- First person recorded in the book of deaths was August Gottschalk, buried Nov. 13, 1869.
- First Priest to be ordained from this Parish was Rev. Stanley S. Skrzycki, now Msgr., retired Pastor of St. Thomas, Detroit.
- First young lady to become a Sister was Minnie Miller, who entered the Dominican order at Grand Rapids.
- First teachers at the first school were Miss Diggman and Miss Harris.
- First organist was Joseph Baranski, Sr., who also built the first organ.
- First Parish Council met in 1952. Officers were: Mary Agnes Krease, president; Bertha Upthegrove, vicepresident; Christine Clancy, secretary.
- First Ushers Club met in 1945. Officers were: John Jimkoski, president; Richard Hawks, secretarytreasurer.

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THE HISTORY OF ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

Great grandfathers and old neighbors are stirring in the Parish Cemetery. The Centennial celebration of St. Michael's is calling back old memories and long time friends and acquaintances.

The tombstone of a Civil War Cavalryman salutes the new grave of a Viet Nam fighter.

The ornate crosses on the Nuns' graves bow to the modern parochial school.

The flowering quince and the plum blossoms shower plastic bouquets with their petals.

The grave of a man who once traded forty acres of land in what is now Palmer Park, Detroit, for eight acres of farm land in Port Austin - this grave lies near the street where modern day people sporting beards, sandals and mini-skirts pass toward the church.

St. Michael's has always been a forward looking parish, as a backward look of a hundred years reveals.

Strange, that some very modern parishes are being given permission to celebrate masses in private homes. The first masses in St. Michael's Parish were celebrated in the home of Mr. and Mrs. MacGuire Freemont.

Strange, early settlers in St. Michael's Parish came from overseas, or from Canada. Today's young parishioners are going overseas. Some are in Europe or Asia in the Armed Forces. Some are enrolled in colleges and universities in Europe. One is enrolled in the University of the Philippines beginning with the year 1969-70. A young priest of the Marian Fathers, a native of St. Michael's, is being sent to Europe, and a mother and daughter took a sentimental journey back to the mother's homeland this year.

Strange, that a movement is appearing towards ecumenical activities. Cooperation between Catholic and public schools is one. Strange, but not new. For many years on August 15, members of the parish were delighted with the appearance of two non-Catholic visitors. Edgar A. Guest, writer of homespun poetry, who made his summer home at Pointe Aux Barques, and Dr. William Lyon Phelps, professor at Yale University, whose summer home at Huron City is now the nucleus of a popular museum attraction.

Dr. Phelps wrote in his Yearbook, published in 1935, that he always attended a Catholic Church on August 15 (Feast of the Assumption) because he felt it was interesting to take a humble part in a religious ceremony that had been regularly observed for so many centuries.

Outside the church, poet and professor would mingle with localites, shaking hands and visiting. St. Michael's seems to have had a head start on the ecumenical movement of about thirty or forty years, thanks to its distinguished guests.

In this centennial year, teenagers, restless with the feeling of non-participation and led by a high school exchange student from overseas, pioneered a movement for parish singing, accompanied by the guitar. This pioneering spirit is not new here. Every now and then in these hundred years the parish had adjusted to meet the needs of the Church militant of Christ's mystical body in a particular time.

St. Michael's is stirring with life as it was a hundred years ago. Although affluence had a lulling effect for a time, we are on the threshold of a new hundred years years of facing crisis like the pioneers did, years of becoming involved and truly sharing Christ's love in brotherhood. There will be more graves and more celebrations and more histories to be written. What will these histories say??

--Ann Schwedler



Edgar A. Guest Cottage Pointe Aux Barques, Michigan

According to the theme set by reports in the Historical Edition of the Catholic Weekly in 1952, concern for the spiritual welfare of the early immigrant population was the force which brought the Catholic Church here in the middle nineteenth century. Left unattended, the immigrant people might lose their faith.

The rigors of frontier life coupled with the language barrier between various national groups posed a difficult problem to church leaders, forcing them to find missionaries who could serve the immigrants in tongues they could understand. These priests and sisters came into this and other Saginaw Valley communities with a two-fold objective: to preserve the strong heritage of faith which the new settler had brought with him from the old country, to keep the best he had brought with him and still realize his potential in the adopted American tradition.

How this job was done here, at St. Michael's, in the last hundred years, encompasses the centennial history. Fragmentary recollections of old timers, coupled with equally fragmentary written documentation, gives us a colorful picture of the early days. As the first church structure built in the village of Port Austin, St. Michael's looked out upon pioneer life at its busiest moments.

Dense woods covered the Thumb region, providing immediate lumbering work for those earliest settlers. What a breed of men these people were!! Many of our present families have heard tales of the strength and endurance of their lumbering grandfathers and stouthearted grandmothers. Down the Indian trail, which later became the shoreline route U.S. 24, walked some of the earliest of our homesteaders to Detroit to establish claims for the land they had purchased, because the wilderness had not yet yielded to roads and railroads. These later gradually became established in the late 1860's and 1870's until by 1884, the time of the building of the new church, Port Austin was a thriving community. A branch of the Port Huron and Northwestern railroad terminated here, and two large docks extended into the lake for the convenience of water vessels, which of course were used since the earliest days to traverse the Thumb shoreline.

When the men were off in the woods lumbering, or in such times of crisis as the Civil War with the departure of Dwight Township men to the battlefield, the women and children stayed in the woods, yielding to no misfortune.

Faith played an important part in their lives. Missionaries traveled the trails of the lumbermen, wading in the swamps and braving the wilderness to bring comfort and hope to those pioneers before easier modes of transportation somewhat lessened their burden. One of the earliest of these priests was Father Peter Kluck.

An immigrant, like those he came to serve, he was from Posen, Poland, born in Sypniewo County of Walcz. Bishop LeFevere, of Detroit, sent him into the Thumb area in 1858 to serve the Germans and the Poles. From a base in Sherman Township, in the Parisville area, he traveled the length and breadth of these peninsular woods, saying Mass in homes and log cabins. Records show his name cropping up in Parish after Parish as they trace their beginnings in the mid-nineteenth century, when settlements of German, Irish, Scotch and Polish pioneers appeared along the shores of Lake Huron and in the woods. For sometime before this, the Frenchmen were here, coureur de bois, descendants of the early French-Canadians who came here to trade with the Indians in the regions traversed by the Great Lakes. These Frenchmen, and later settlers, turned to hunting, trapping and lumbering as an occupation while the land was being cleared. Later they became farmers. Other industries developed such as salt-mining, grindstone manufacture and general trade.

If these early people were strong, because they had to be to survive the wilderness, the missionaries were even stronger. But eventually, after a few years of backbreaking toil, Father Kluck's health began to fail and he left for Mexico in 1863 or 4. Back at this frontier again in the later 1860's, records show that by April 1869, he traveled to Port Austin every six weeks or so to say Mass, which was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. MaGuire Fremont. After retiring, Father Kluck died in 1878.

At St. Michael's the priests continued to come and go. There was Father Cornelius Roche, who attended about twenty stations and missions throughout the Thumb region. He became the first resident pastor of Port Austin from 1871 to 1875, during which time the first church was built.

A check of the origins of many of the surrounding

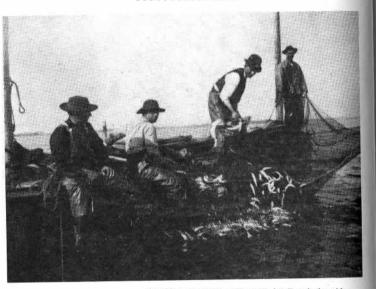
parishes, as reported in the 1952 Catholic Weekly Centennial Supplement, reveals that up until the turn of the century and even later, the resident Pastor of Port Austin attended to the needs of people in Bad Axe, Harbor Beach, (then Sand Beach) Pinnebog, and many other places until those parishes had sufficient familial strength to organize their own churches.

Church records were somewhat sketchy in those days, understandably so. Picture the plight of the Priest who had an unbelievable schedule chasing him from one group of Catholics to the next. Weddings, Baptisms, First Holy Communions and Confirmations to be performed and recorded, along with funerals. Instructions had to be given. Land had to be found for future parish churches and cemeteries. The established church of St. Michael's was a place of residence, a base from which to venture forth to the endless task of helping the pattern of faith develop.

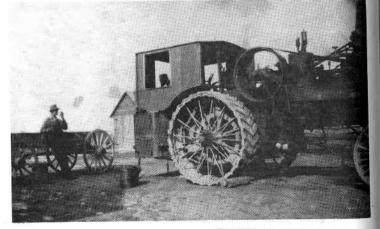
To illustrate this, let us turn to the mention of some of our resident priests in the early histories of surrounding parishes, as recorded in the 1952 Diocesan Centennial paper. Bad Axe reported that Father Laugel, stationed at Port Austin, took charge of their beginning parish for about six years. In 1888, a church was built there. Father Ternes, a later pastor of Port Austin, took care of 36 families in Bad Axe, as did other St. Michael's priests until 1894, when Father Burke of Palms took charge.

When Harbor Beach was still called Sand Beach, Rev. Meder, 1875-1881; Rev. George Lauger, 1881-1883; and Rev. N. L. Maschino traveled there from Port Austin to conduct church services. Fathers Meder and Laugel collected building funds for their first church.





Fishing In Lake Huron At Port Austin



Port Huron Steam Engine



Threshing Grain With A Peerless Engine

Early Pinnebog parishioners relate that Father Gzella rode a bicycle there from Port Austin to say Mass. Our own parishioners relate the tale of Father Laugel trudging on foot to Grindstone for Catechism classes. Since only one horse was available for transportation in Grindstone, for a period of time, he would have to walk home also on those days when the lone horse was occupied.

Those priests had to be skilled linguists in order to handle the language problems which rose in an area where a variety of tongues were spoken. An interesting example of this language barrier occurred in the last wedding performed by Father Laugel in the old church. John Knoblock married Elizabeth Prill. The groom spoke Polish and German, the priest German and English, the bride English and Polish. Vows were spoken in German by the groom to the priest, who translated the German to English for the bride. Her reply was given in English, which the priest then translated to German for the groom.

At the very next wedding, which was the first in the new church, the priest officiated at a ceremony for George Cramer and Paulina McGuire. The groom was a German from Luxenbourg, and the bride was of Irish extraction. In addition, she had arrived in the Thumb area after a period spent in Canada.

Language problems were not the only hazards. The tale is told of the time when the men of the St. Stanislaus Society (the same early society commemorated in a church window) were to assemble at the railroad depot to welcome the visiting Bishop. One group of neighbors climbed into a wagon for the trek down the logging trail, which is now Hunter Road, anxious to greet and meet the Bishop. As they reached the spot where the Carpenter school was later built, a huge bear jumped out of a tree to the ground before them. Frightened, the horses reared backward, trampling the wagon tongue and breaking it. By the time the men completed their hurried repairs and got to the depot, the Bishop had already arrived and proceeded to the church rectory.

Yes indeed! Our parish grew out of a variety of beginnings and a variety of peoples.

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THE FIRST CHURCH

We have taken a look at the early parishioners and priests. Now let us turn to the church buildings. The earliest official records of the Catholic Church date back to April 9, 1869. After a period of time, during which Mass was said in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fremont, the people erected a small church building and a rectory. These were located at the corner of Independence St. and E. Spring St., which was then called Ridge Road. In one of the ledgers of the parish was found this first

hand information: "In the Year of our Lord 1870 the Catholic



Mr. and Mrs. George Cramer daughters Elizabeth and Ann First Couple Married In New Church

Population of Port Austin and vicinity bought from Ayres & Co. one acre of land for the sum of One Hundred Dollars, another acre being donated at the same time by said Company. These two acres were used viz: part of it for cemetery and other for Church and Pastoral residence (then later for School house and Convent of Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids)."

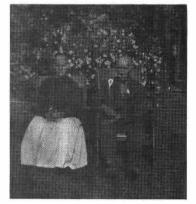
"In the year 1876, another acre was bought from Ayers & Co. for the amount of \$175.00 and on this was built the present pastoral residence and a new church." According to Father Maschino, the second building accomplishment was a very laborious project.



Mr. and Mrs. John Knoblock Last Couple Married In Old Church

Mr. and Mrs. John Prill "King Of The Poles"

One of the first members of the Church



The second excerpt from the ledger refers to the fact that the congregation grew so rapidly that the first small church became inadequate. Also, the parishioners felt that a school was needed. So, after obtaining another piece of adjoining property they built a new church and rectory and converted the old church to a school building containing two classrooms. The old rectory became the Sisters' Convent.

According to the best information which could be gathered, lack of funds caused the school to close down just before the turn of the century, approximately 1899. Later, both of the buildings were torn down.

The completion and operation of the first church buildings required much ingenuity on the part of the parishioners. Everyone's talents could be put to use. Those of Joseph Nicodemus Baranski (1837-1921) were especially helpful.

In Poland he had been a teacher, also an accomplished musician and wood craftsman. He tackled the problem of providing music in the new church. Constructing the first organ by hand, he played for services and was choir master for many years. The original altar and pews



1837 - 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baranski 1838 - 1932

for the church were also made by him. His influence for the church music continued thru the decades. Following his example, other organists have devoted many hours in the service of the church.

Much later, a pipe organ was purchased during Father Plagen's pastorate. In the many years since, organists who have sacrificed time to play for services were Loretta Meagher and Mary Grates, who began when she was only twelve. More recently her sister Gertrude Grates, Irene Mayes, Marie Voss and Josephine Yaroch have faithfully provided music.

THE NEW CHURCH

In 1884, a Portrait and Biographical Album of Huron County was compiled by CHAPMAN BROTHERS, of Chicago, Illinois. In the detailed description of Port Austin was this information about St. Michael's.

We quote: "When, some twenty years ago, a few members of this great religious organization settled in Huron County, this Church, true to her historical character, sent them a missionary to look after their spiritual welfare. A mission was established at Port Austin - by their indomitable zeal they soon had a church building up, which was the first at Port Austin. Their membership rapidly increasing, and the building becoming old, it was decided to erect a larger edifice, to meet the wants of the congregation. This was begun in 1883, and at present it is so far in the course of completion that they are able to worship beneath its roof. It is a large, plain edifice, 110 feet in length by 46 feet in width, with a seating capacity of about 650 persons, and will cost when completed \$4,500. It is called "St. Michael's Catholic Church," and is in charge of Father N. L. Maschino.

This congregation has a membership of about 175

families, from Port Austin and adjacent settlements. It is in the diocese of Bishop Borgess, of Detroit. Services are held only every other Sunday, as the priest has to attend three other missions and two stations. Most of the Catholic societies in the county are attended by the priest from Port Austin. There are also with the Church, four Sisters of the Dominican Order, who have charge of the education of her children. It is a large, flourishing school, of about a hundred scholars.

After obtaining the second piece of property, construction of the church and rectory was begun. Laying of the cornerstone took place in 1883. The new church, following the pattern of most buildings in this heavily forested area, was made of wood.

The blessing of this church took place on October 24, 1885. Present at the dedication were His Lordship C. H. Borgess, Bishop of Detroit; Father M. Dempsey; Father Cornelius Roche and the rector, N. L. Maschino.

The Way of the Cross was erected on March 3, 1887. The same church still exists, serving the needs of the Catholic population of Port Austin, though in the course of years it has been improved upon and remodeled many times. In 1952, its evaluation had risen to approximately \$46,000.



During the early days, many of our senior members can recall traveling to Mass on foot or with horse and buggy. Outside the church, they posted the horses on the long rail fence which bordered the road. Next to the church stood the home of the Miller family. For a period of years, Mrs. Miller kept a small stand out near the road where people attending Mass could replenish and add to their supply of religious articles before beginning the long trek home. The same family gave its daughter to the church for the first time in St. Michael's history, when Minnie Miller entered the Catholic Convent of the Dominicans.





Early Street Scene At Port Austin

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Researching material about the early days of the church Father Robert Shine compiled an interesting paper on the recollections of Miss Emma Hall, an old parishioner who was born in 1881 and now resides at St. Mary's Residence, Trumbull and Grand River, in Detroit. We quote sections of his paper relating to the period prior to the turn of the century.

Father Shine reports:

"She very faintly recalls worshiping in the old church; in fact, her first sharp memory centers on the dedication of the new church when Bishop Borgess, of Detroit, came up to celebrate the First Mass. The Bishop and a number of the clergy gathered with the parishioners at the old church, proceeded to the new building circling around it before entering for the celebration of the Mass. The old church was then converted into a 2-room school operated by four Dominican Sisters.

When she was 13 years old, she made her First Communion and was confirmed. There is an interesting sidenote relating to First Communion. Since she was the lone child from the Grindstone City area preparing for First Communion, Father Gzella, then pastor, brought Emma and a number of the other children to the rectory where they stayed in residence for a few days making preparation for the event. Bishop Foley confirmed some 89 children that same year.

Fund raising has been a traditional activity of parish life. Two great dinners were held each year at Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July. A parish dance always accompanied the dinner. Johnny Krease played the violin and the dance was held downtown at Campbell's Hall.

Special collections were taken up in those early days, even as today. A special collection was taken up among the Port Austin Parishioners to aid in the building of a new Kinde Church. There was always the yearly Seminary collection. People were expected to drop in 10¢ for the weekly Sunday collection.

The Altar Society was composed of adult women; the Sodality of young women. When the Sisters arrived in the parish two choirs were organized, a "little" choir from the school and the "big" choir made up of women.

The strong faith of these early members was evidenced when men who labored all week in quarries, wrestling heavy stone, walked five miles to church in clusters of five to ten.

Father Shine further reports: "With the arrival of the large numbers of people of Polish descent the parish was pastored by Polish speaking priests. Two sermons were preached on Sunday, one in Polish and one in English. In those early days the English speaking people were dismissed during the Polish sermon and vice versa the Polish during the English sermon. Father Plagens discontinued this dual sermon arrangement during his tenure at Port Austin. It was subsequently revived at a later day, only to be permanently discontinued in more recent times."

In 1894, the twenty-fifth milestone of St. Michael's passed uneventfully, in the busy years when Father Gzella was pastor.

The closing of the school at the turn of the century, when Father Kolkiewicz was here, left a temporarily disorganized period for regularity of religious training which the young people had formerly received from the Sisters. However, the church interior received attention with the installation of a new Altar railing.

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A NEW CENTURY

Young, vigorous and ambitious, Father Plagens grasped the reins of the parish in 1906 and chose for his objective the task of making every young Catholic conscious of the value of the sacraments. Septuagenerians in the parish who were part of his program to develop regular First Communion classes well remember how he drove home the lessons of charity, respect for their elders, and truthfulness. This was before the days when Mr. Dewey's credo of permissiveness invaded the halls of education. Our strong and stern forbears adhered to the admonition "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Father Plagens spared nothing. Regular attendance and regular training were an important part of his program. He chose July 5th, his ordination anniversary, as First Communion Day.

The outstanding ability and respect-commanding aura surrounding the man helped his career to flower. Leaving Port Austin in 1912, the man rose to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title Monsignor in 1923 and was consecrated Bishop in 1924. He was the first Bishop consecrated in Detroit and the second of Polish descent in America. After spending the years from 1924 to 1936 as Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, he became Bishop of Grand Rapids on Feb. 18, 1941, dying there at the age of 63, at St. Mary's hospital.

During the years between 1912 and 1916, St. Michael's saw the return of one of its own sons. Father Stanley S. Skrzycki, who was the first priest to be ordained from the parish, came home to be its pastor. And what a homecoming it was! Scarcely had he settled into the routine of the parish when the winds that wailed through the end of autumn raised the terrible storm of November 9, 1913, (well-documented in writing) leaving in its wake a church full of broken windows.

Faced with the dismal prospect of repairing and restoring the church, Father and his people determinedly made things better than before. New stained glass windows were installed with the names of persons who helped to pay for them. These colorful windows, retained in the later remodeling, are a most striking feature of the church on Sunday mornings when the sun sends their warm hues throughout the interior.

In the same period, an examination of drawings made for the original construction of the church revealed that extra bracing had not been installed at that time. Under the expert carpentry of Ed Miller these were built, new side altars were installed and the communion rail extended to cover the front of the sanctuary.

Here are Father's own words telling of his pastorate:

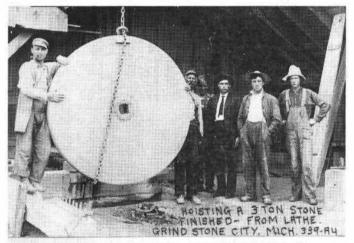
"Memories of my life at Port Austin. The place I hated to leave. Being an athlete I called upon the Sayers boys - their father was a missionary - an Episcopalian minister in Port Austin. From that point we started the Huron County Baseball League. I was a player on the Port Austin team and Igot a great pleasure out of being one of the boys. The towns included Bad Axe, Port Austin, Kinde, Elkton, Ubly, Harbor Beach and Port Hope.

Then the great storm on Lake Huron, which took over 375 lives and many ships. We had a great ship named the 'Howard M. Hanna,' 600 feet, cracked in half, with 18 men on board and another ship, the 'Mantoa,' on the rocks at Grindstone City. I could tell you a lot more. Storm lasted November 9-10-11, 1913 and our St. Michael's Church was a wreck. I had insured the church for \$10,000.00 through the Bill Ryan Agency and when we finished it looked like a new church. That was my first experience in this sort of parish work."

Father Bonkowski led the congregation a shorter period of time, from 1916 till sometime in 1918, during the height of our country's involvement with World War I. Many young men of the parish left for the Armed Forces. Honorary chairman of our Centennial, Bob Moran, remembers that, following custom, he knelt down in his home while the priest blessed him before he left for the war. After leaving our parish, Father Bonkowski replaced the future Bishop Plagens at St. Florian's in Hamtramck. He died there at the age of 53, thirty years a priest.

St. Michael's entered the golden years in 1919, grappling with the restless period following the war when the young veterans were returning home. Fathers Gdaniec, Przybyjski, Kruszka, Trepczynski, Chmielewski and Rosinski followed as pastors in the next decade. During their short appointments little could be accomplished, since they were for the most part biding their time until they could receive appointments to city parishes.

During the twenties, many people remember the pastorate



P.M. STATION - GRIND STONE CITY, MICH. 339-A5.





of Father Albert Mrowka. Only here for three short years in his early days as a priest, Father wrote recently that they were "perhaps the best years of his priestly life." At the time Father arrived here from St. Thomas the Apostle where he served under Monsignor S. S. Skrzyski, St. Michael's was still part of the Detroit diocese. Leaving us late in 1925, Father returned to Detroit and spent most of his remaining 45 years before retirement at Our Lady Queen of Heaven parish. In looking back, Father recalls many happy experiences when he participated on the Port Austin baseball team.

Over the years the people forced themselves to function co-operatively. Close knit family groups helped themselves and their neighbors to harvest crops and complete farm chores. When work was done, few diversions awaited them, except those of their own making. Church and village happenings assumed great importance, perhaps in contrast to life in a city parish where many distractions absorbed the lives of parishioners and work often separated a father from his family for many hours each day.

In this frontier life, local politics, village chit-chat, the baseball game with rival towns, the 4th of July celebration, church services, Holy Communions, weddings, funerals, and Baptisms were prime events, not to be missed. They were life at its hilt. Paved roads, cars, radio and electricity did not infiltrate St. Michael's territory in any great way until the 1930's, well past the half-century mark and into the golden years of our history. People in their forties can remember when modern conveniences made the local scene.

People took great pride in their church connections. The best evidence confronts us from the lips of almost everyone, from the old-timer approaching eighty or more to the vacationer from the city, who comes to visit the shore and/or relatives, or to tend an old family plot in the cemetery. Chuckling, they reminisce about when Father "So and So" was here, how they remember that Father

played ball with the town team, how Mr. "Such and Such" helped repair the church after a storm, or how their family donated some item for church improvement. Their interest verifies the fact that St. Michael's placed importantly in the lives of this community.

Often the priest, who had traveled a wider path than most of his parishioners and had absorbed information of various kinds, would be called upon for practical advice in many fields. For example, one young lady born and raised in the parish can remember how Father Kromka taught her some exercises for strengthening weak eye muscles. Her success at straightening her eyes has caused her to be ever-grateful for Father's practical knowledge as well as his spiritual guidance. The pastor's concern for the physical well-being of his parishioners, as well as their spiritual state, can be authenticated countless times by stories such as these.

As the "Roaring Twenties" fell into the crash of '29 and the following depression, Father Kromka entered the scene, in 1928 to be exact. Life everywhere painted a disheartening picture. To guide a group of people through this period when spirits and energies would be cruelly taxed before the country got back on its feet presented a tremendous challenge to our new spiritual leader.

In being asked to tell about Father's early days here, his sister could vividly recall the muddy, muddy roads, the long bus trip to Bad Axe and the jitney north over the terrible road to Port Austin when she came to visit.

Neither the economy nor the weather, never at its best in this spot where Saginaw Bay mingles with the great waters of Lake Huron, co-operated with Father Kromka. A short year or two after he arrived here, the winds struck again. Though not as drastic as the wellremembered storm of 1913, they managed to twirl off the top of the steeple.

Since times were so hard, the repairs so expensive, Father had to consider the possibility of tearing down the torn steeple. But the good people of the parish rallied round once more. With willing hands, they volunteered labor and time. Under Father's supervision they built a new top and placed a new cross at the apex of the tower. During Father's tenure here, beautiful pictures were painted on the interior walls and dome. A reed organ was installed in the church. Later it was removed to the school. Father Kromka also spent some years at Pigeon and later went to West Branch, where he died suddenly of a heart attack at the foot of the altar on August 9, 1959.

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Father Kromka had obtained the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan to come to prepare the first communicants. The Sisters would spend two or three weeks teaching the children catechism, while residing at the Deegan's house.

During this time the Saginaw Diocese was formed and Bishop Murphy became first Bishop of Saginaw, taking control of Thumb parishes and ending St. Michael's life under the Detroit Diocese.



Josephine Yaroch, Organist



Crganist and Choir L. to R. , Anise Baumann, Genevieve Yaroch, Cecelia Baranski, Mary Branske, Nellie Bodis and Josephine Yaroch, Organist.

The new Bishop soon became a familiar figure to Port Austin residents. His summer home at Pointe Aux Barques attracted church dignitaries such as Archbishop Dearden of Detroit, now Cardinal. Sister M. DeChantal, Bishop Murphy's sister, was one of the catechism teachers during the summer sessions after her Order, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth, took over this annual duty. At eightysix, she still returns to Port Austin during the summer and continues to correspond with friends she made here.

THE LAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY Father Dudek came to us in 1942. A young priest, he had served only a few years at Schwartz Creek, and eight years at Argyle before being appointed to St. Michael's. While the whole nation engaged in a mighty struggle against Asiatic and European powers, Father surveyed the conditions in our small parish and planned for the large jobs waiting when the war was over.

St. Michael's was growing old. The church was beginning to show signs of wear and tear and becoming too small too crowded. But during those years of tight gas rationing, shortage of materials and labor, not much could be done. Guiding the parishioners thru the war years continued to be his main task in the forties - through the turmoil of young men leaving and returning, the many marriages and new families established after World War II, as was evidenced all over the United tates.

After the war, Port Austin seemed to come alive again. A growing tourist industry in Michigan reached our town. New factories were established. Jobs were more plentiful. Incomes were higher. It was time to move forward, to build St. Michael's into a modern parish organization. Father accepted the challenge bravely, laboring hard and long through this transition period.

The success of his efforts can be seen today as we survey the new school, convent, and rectory - the emerging triumph of the last quarter of a century in our parish. We owe a lot to Father Dudek.

On June 5, 1951, Father celebrated his 25th anniversary in the priesthood with a solemn Mass, dinner and program. Not resting on his laurels, he launched a decade of building programs.

EXCERPT FROM THE CENTENNIAL SUPPLEMENT (Catholic Weekly) 1952

"By 1950 St. Michael's was composed of about 250 families, with an overwhelming influx of summer visitors, whose numbers made the standard two masses on Sunday inadequate during the resort season. Father often had to seek a summer assistant who would offer an additional two Masses to accommodate the worshippers.

In 1951, a remodeling project was begun which would cover the immediate needs of the church and rectory and later extend to a building drive for a new school, convent, rectory and ultimately a new and larger church. All but this last have been accomplished before the celebration of the Centennial.

Between April and June of 1951, the interior of the church was painted and decorated. A beautiful 8' main altar of Italian marble was installed, also 6' side altars



25TH ANNIVERSARY Father Norman Dukette - Fr. Dudek - Fr. Michael Kujawa



Bishop S. Woznicki Msgr. A. Zadala FATHER DUDEK

of Italian marble, with canopied Reredos for all three altars. The new communion rail was of marble and oak, the thirteen lanterns in bronze. In addition, the church received a new set of stations, electrical chimes, new tabernacle and candelabra for all the altars, and many other items which add to the dignity of appearance when one enters the church. Naturally these command the admiration and respect of all who see the well-executed plan in interior decoration.

1963

After completing the remodeling of St. Michael's church interior in June, 1951, the task of remodeling the exterior of both church and rectory were undertaken simultaneously. New roofs and asbestos siding were put on the buildings,

enhancing the appearance and valuation of both structures



Father Dudek presenting the keys to Sister Euphronia for the new 1969 Chevrolet Impala.

God had been good to us. By 1956 the school and convent were built and dedicated. In 1962 the large mortgage was burned. That same year, the Church committee were out canvassing to buy a new car for the Sisters. A new era of Catholic education was underway.

In 1963 there was more remodeling of the church, the cost amounting to \$18,000.00. The men of the church

Msgr. C. Roark Msgr. E. Szumal

and thus eliminating frequent upkeep by paint and repairing.

In April, 1953, the main project of the decade began. (Details are related in the school history.) Organizing a drive to raise funds by pledges, putting on a series of summer festivals and dinners, organizing the ladies into fund-raising circles and confident in God's guidance to a successful completion without disaster, the parish embarked upon a series of building projects which still continue to keep us busy.

Inspired with the momentum for improvements, organist Josephine Yaroch and her choir members undertook the raising of funds for an electric organ, capable of imitating many instrumental sounds. Through bake sales and personal donations their goal was reached in 1954 when the new organ was installed.



DINNER TIME

laid "Battleship" linoleum purchased from the Kawkawlin Lumber Company. Padded pews and kneelers were also installed at this time, contrubuting to many a visitor's conversation. The old pews went to Sanford, to a mission church where Father Shine officiated. Here was the established church renewing the faith by helping the next congregation.

In the spring of 1967, work started on the new Rectory. Architect Fred Wiggin-Tinknell and Associates designed the structure. Bids were taken up by nine contractors, with a high of \$95,000 and a low of \$61,800. Richard Pettit was given the contract with the Bishop's approval. The ground-breaking of the third rectory in our long history took place on May 1, 1967.

There were many difficulties and heartaches involved in the rectory's construction because of General Electric's strike, the cabinet builder's strike, and numerous details. But after the long struggle Father Dudek moved in on December 1, 1967. In 1968, the Moore Landscaping Company of Ubly, Michigan put the sod on the lawns and did a partial landscaping of the grounds.

In looking back at one whole century in our development, it may seem that we over-simplified the story. For the sake of those young parish members who say "Tell it like it is - or was!," and the sophisticated middle-agers who can remember the stories told of the rivalrous battles fought by their two-fisted forbears, let us set the record straight.

The story of St. Michael's, like the course of American history during the immigrant period, or the tale of true love, did not always run smooth. From the early days on, through the assimilation of the second and third generation, there were times when tempers flared and cultures clashed.

Those people who conquered this recent wilderness held powerful convictions about their right to the land and the wealth. Their convictions in their faith and hope in God were no less powerful. When they disagreed, their very basic pioneering instincts would tempt them to a show of physical strength, the thing upon which their survival depended. Or lacking muscles, they might use a wellcoordinated tongue. But for any lack of self-control with its resulting friction, remember this: they cared. Church was important to them.

Surely there must have been times when a strong priest, struggling to weld his fledgling flock of parishioners together, must have cried to God on his knees for help in what must have seemed an impossible task. God must have answered. For the job got done. Over the span of one hundred years, St. Michael's grew. It is still growing. The church stands.

Now that the job of establishing the physical presence of the church in America has been well taken care of, as exemplified by these past hundred years at St. Michael's, which have culminated in a beautiful set of buildings, we are faced with other tasks. The challenge is here for keeping pace with the world wide-renewal, for striving toward a clearer, deeper awareness of the nature of the church and its mission in the parish. And we have building to do - a new church is needed. We pioneers are ready.

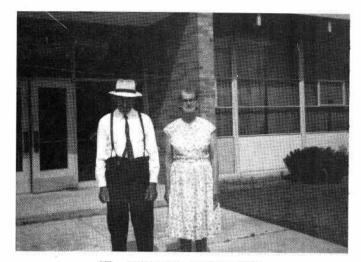
Our main source of statistical information regarding the church buildings and pastors have been parish records, as reported in the Historical Editions of the Catholic Weekly, our Diocesan newspaper. All the "local color" material in our early history was supplied by children and grandchildren of our early parishioners. In later history, sometimes, the persons directly involved have supplied information. We wish to thank all those persons who have given so generously of their time and interest in helping us to compile this story. A special thanks is in order to Father Robert Shine, whose written reports were extensive and especially helpful.

However, in the interests of accuracy, oral reports of historical happenings have been verified for reference to place and date by checking them against standard Thumb historical material. For this purpose, the following sources have been most helpful.

A History of Michigan's Thumb, by Gerard Schultz, 1964.

The Catholic Weekly, Diocesan publication, Historical Editions of 1952 and 1963.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Huron County, Chapman Brothers, Chicago, Illinois, 1884.



ST. MICHAEL CUSTODIANS Tony Kozlowski Susie Kozlowski

HISTORY OF ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

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When anyone mentions St. Michael's School we think of the beautiful brick building across from the cemetery, but there are a few who still can picture in their minds the old school. It was a white, two floor building which was first our mission church, then later converted into our school. The location was somewhere near the driveway of our present cemetery. The school was large and at one time had an attendance of 100 students. Miss Diggman and Miss Harris were the first lay teachers. Some of the students of the old St. Michael's School are still living.

In the year 1879, Mother Hyacinth of the Dominican Order of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Marywood, assigned Sr. Amelia Kempter, Sr. Baptista Phelan, Sr. Walburga Hagan, and Sr. Gonsalva Bankstahl to Port Austin. The Sisters traveled by train from New York to Detroit, and by an act of Divine Providence missed the boat which they had intended to take to complete their long journey - this boat was lost, as well as every passenger, as the result of a severe storm. Soon Sr. Raymond Hudzinski and a postulant, Mary Dorsey, joined the Sisters in Port Austin, where Mary later received the habit and the name of Sr. Mary Blanche.

People of St. Michael's parish were saddened because times became hard. Money was scarce, the Sisters were unable to draw their salaries. Finally in 1899 due to the lack of funds the school closed and was later torn down.

Defeat was not accepted because the spirit of Christian teachings stayed with the people, and they never gave up the hope of a new school in the future.

In April of 1953 at the Lakeside Hotel, a meeting of concerned parishioners was held. This was the result of a talk given by Rev. Joseph Dudek. He told the people that there was an urgent need to install a solid religious background in the hearts of the young.

A committee canvassed families of the parish soliciting pledges of Three Hundred dollars each, payable in three years. A total of \$35,000 was promised.

years. A total of \$35,000 was promised. On March 15, 1955 the church committee: Harold Knoblock, Frank Syzmanski, Bernard Baranski, Stanley Polowski and Joe McNally met at the rectory with contractors Nick Bambach and Walter Rozych. The approximate cost of a new school, furnished, was \$140,000.

On September 15, 1955 Bishop Woznicki authorized a loan of \$80,000 and on December 1, 1955 the Northwestern Insurance Company sent a check for the said amount.

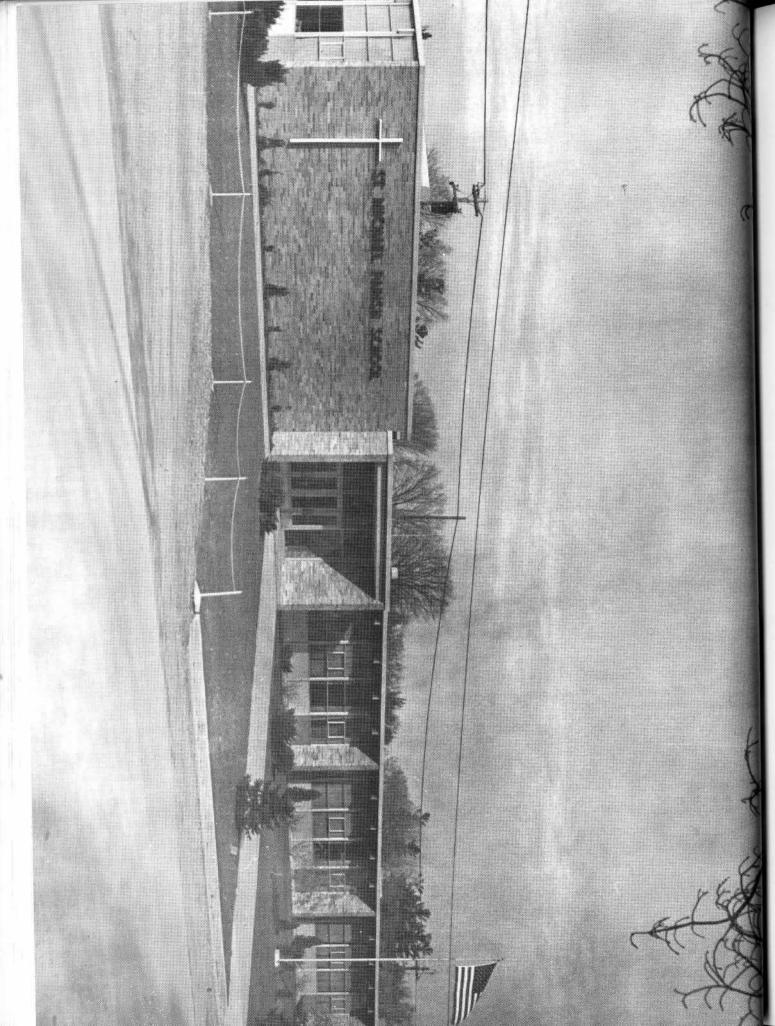
It was a difficult task to find Sisters to teach. An appeal was made to over forty different religious communities

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Richard Andreski Gerald Andreski Barbara Knoblock

to no avail. Finally the kindhearted Mother Anuncia, the Mother Provincial of Livonia, agreed to supply Sisters for our school.

August 18, 1956 the first three Sisters arrived. They were Sister Mary Carissima, Superior; Sister Mary Isabelle and Sister Mary John. Sister Mary Carissima was Superior or six years. She then was replaced by Sister Mary Elleen.

The entire first week was spent enrolling children. The final enrollment was 145 students, 63 girls and 2 boys.

School was officially opened on September 5, 1956 fith Holy Mass. That same year, October 14, at he 8:30 Mass, thirteen children received First holy Communion. At 3:30 that afternoon the Most Rev.

dishop Stephen Woznicki solemnly blessed the new school.

School colors were selected and on May 26, 1956 six raduates wore the ribbons of blue and gold. Richard ndreski, Gerald Andreski, Kenneth Smith, Leo Fisher, ichard Knoblock and Barbara Knoblock were the first raduating class of St. Michael's School.

The year 1960 was an eventful year. St. Michael's had a F. High Basketball team. Blue and gold uniforms were orn by the boys. Willet Schmidt was the coach.

On November 1, 1962 there was a small but eventful re in the school. It was started under the scrutiny of arry Clancy, a fireman, Edward Kennedy, Harold osnoski, Gary Goebel and John Baranski, all church

ti Leo Fisher Richard Knoblock sk Ken Smith Father Dudek

> committeemen, and last but not least, Fr. Dudek. No one was too eager to put the fire out. They just let it burn. The only damage was a small piece of paper containing the Mortgage. Over 200 people attended this event. The school children, under the direction of Sister Mary Eileen, Superior; Sister Mary Romuald, Sister Mary Carissima and Sister Mary Conceptia, gave a fine program depicting the events leading up to the building of the school. A special attraction on the program was Tony Hosang, formerly with the Detroit Police Traffic and Safety Division, and his trick poodle dogs.

> Twenty-eight graduates received their diplomas on May 31, 1964. This was the first group to complete all eight grades at St. Michael's.

> The following year, September 9, 1964, 145 eager children returned to school, but due to lack of teachers, the seventh and eighth grades were discontinued.

"Guardian Angels" is often heard around our parish. It is the nickname of our Home and School Association. The first meeting was held on November 15, 1967.

At the present time we have grades one through six, with 102 children enrolled.

Forty small, white Angel-robed children made their First Holy Communion on May 18, 1969 Centennial year. It was the largest Communion class at St. Michael's in many years.

The Sisters who taught this year were Sister Mary Euphronia, Superior, first and second grades; Sister Mary Virginis, third and fourth grades; Sister Mary



Bottom Row: D. Knoblock, R. Upthegrove, L. Sosnoski, Don Knoblock.

Top Row: T. Finan, D. Chagnon, N. Gembarski, Mr. Schmidt, J. Schwedler, R. Steinman, F. Jaworski.

Deloria, fifth and sixth grades.

Some of the other Sisters who taught in the past years are the following: Sr. Mary Firmina, Sr. Mary DePaul, Sr. Mary Admirabilis (Colleen), Sr. Mary Audrey and St. Mary Damasius.

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The halls of St. Michael's school hold on their walls all the pictures of the past graduating classes, a statue of St. Michael and an American Flag. One looks at the pictures, at St. Michael the Archangel, the Defender, and back to the flag. He recognizes the face of a young boy whose name corresponds with the memoriam plate on

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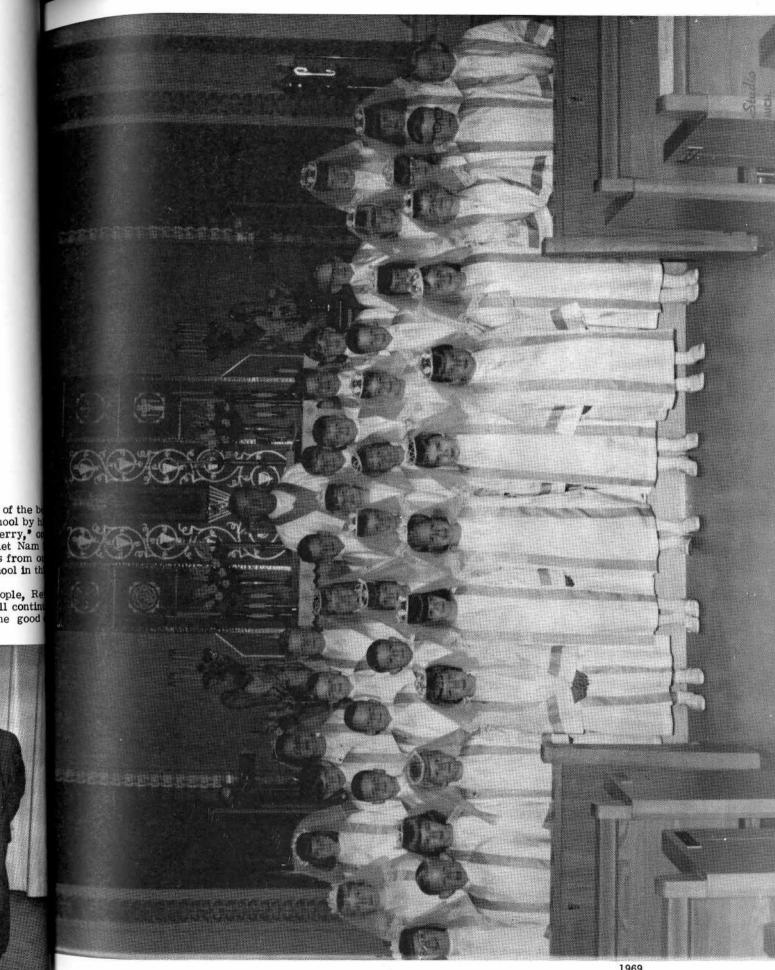
the flag stand. The picture, taken in 1963, is of the boy Gerald Polega. The flag was donated to the school by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albin Polega, after "Jerry," one of the American defenders, was killed in Viet Nam in 1969. He is the only victim of the cruel wars from our school. This is the only sad note for our school in this centennial year.

Through the efforts of many interested people, Rev. Father and the Sisters, St. Michael's school will continue to flourish and produce worthy fruit for the good of God, of our Country and our Community.

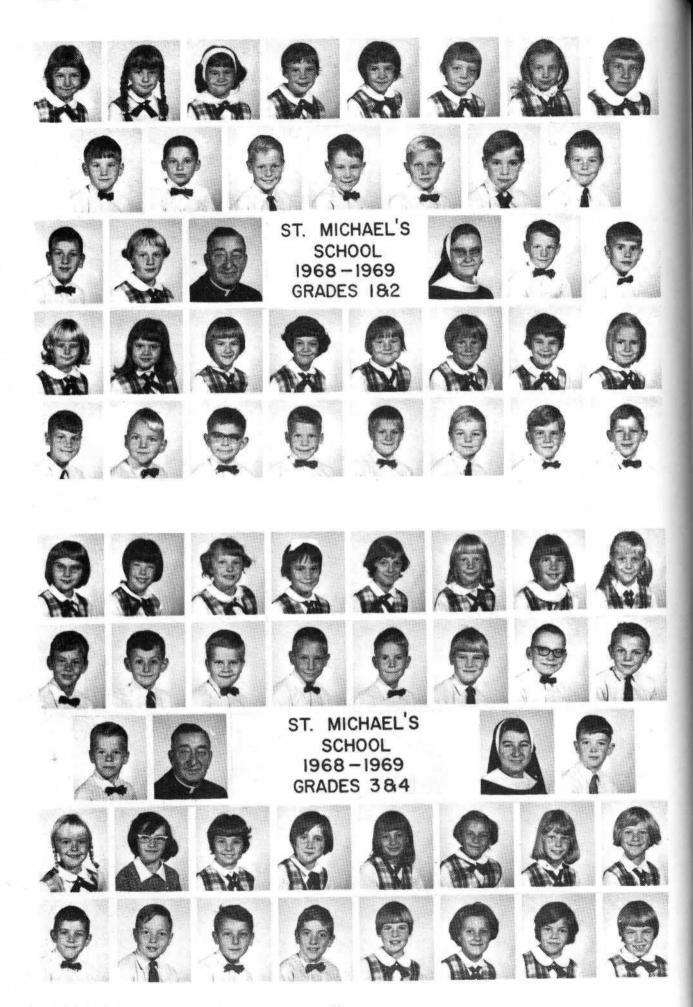


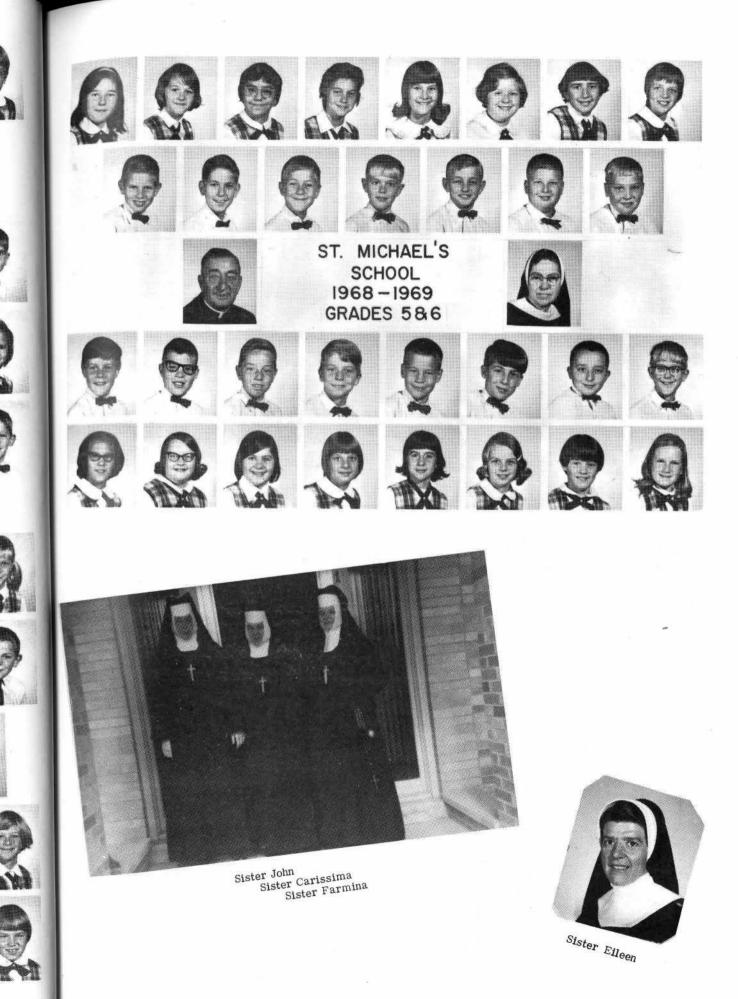
Harry Clancy, Ed Kennedy

Harold Sosnoski, Father Dudek Gary Goebel, John Baranski



1969 1st Communion Class Centennial Year

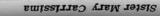






Sister Mary Carrissima

Sister Mary DePaul



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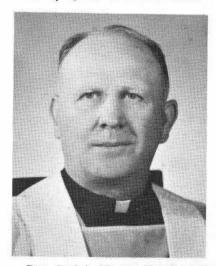
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Stanley S. Skrzycki, L.L.D., Detroit, was born to John J. Skrzycki and Mary Ann Bussa Skrzycki, in Port Austin, on September 2, 1886 and was baptized in St. Michael Church, September 8, 1886.

A member of a family of twelve, Father has two living sisters, Mrs. Lillian Skrzycki Konczal, Anaheim, California and Mrs. Angelia Skrzycki Lipinski of Port Austin. He was the first priest from this parish.

He graduated from St. Mary's High School in June, 1905, and from Assumption College, Windsor, Canada, in 1907. He studied Theology at Orchard Lake from 1907 through 1910 and was ordained a secular priest on June 29, 1910 at St. Peter-Paul Cathedral.

His first appointment was at St. Francis Church, Detroit, followed by St. Casimar Church, Detroit; and St. Michael's in Port Austin on Feb. 1, 1912. He went to St. Thomas the Apostle on Sept. 18, 1916, where he built a complete parish, including auditorium, school, temporary rectory, addition to school, temporary Sister's convent in 1921, a large school in 1928, that housed 1800 children, St. Thomas High School for 350 students and a new Sister's Convent housing 33 Sisters.

Msgr. Skrzycki was appointed consultant under Cardinal Mooney in 1944 and served for 21 years, including 10 years under Archbishop Dearden, now Cardinal. After completing 50 years of work with a great deal of pleasure, Father is Pastor Emeritus of St. Thomas Parish in Detroit, a parish of 3600 families.



REV. CARL A. MAYES

Rev. Carl A. Mayes, Oblesby, Illinois, was born in Port Austin to Michael Henry Mayes and Anna Sikora Mayes. Father Mayes has one brother, Albin Mayes, and two sisters, Misses Irene and Helen Mayes.

He was ordained May 22, 1932 as Diocesan Clergy for the Peoria Illinois Diocese. His assignments were: assistant at St. Hyacinth, LaSalle, Illinois 1932-1934; assistant at St. Valentine, Peru, Illinois 1934-1937; pastor Sacred Heart, Warsaw, Illinois 1937-1943; pastor, Immaculate Conception, Ohio, Illinois 1943-1951; pastor Sacred Heart and St. Constantine, Oblesby, Illinois 1951; pastor, Holy Family, Oglesby, Illinois; Merger of Sacred Heart and St. Constantine 1951.

Father Mayes also serves as a member of the Diocesan School Board and Diocesan Clergy Men's Aid.



Rev. Robert W. Shine's principal memory of St. Michael's is collapsing into a faint on the varnished floor the first time he served as altar boy. A lady thought he was allergic to the odor of burning candles. (He thinks it was the excitement).

He remembers Father Kromka's "remarkable tenderness with children." He remembers "the great variety of Sisters" at the summer

catechism classes. He remembers the "goodness of Father Dudek" and, one summer during his seminary days, "the painting of the cemetery fence that seemed interminable."

Father Shine was born in Port Austin to Mrs. Theresa Bubar Shine and the late John R. Shine. He has one sister, Mrs. Kathleen Shine Yaroch, Filion, Michigan and two brothers, James, of St. Clair Shores, Michigan and John, of Port Austin.

He was ordained June 4, 1955 for the Diocese of Saginaw. His assignments were St. James, Whittemore 1955 summer; Visitation, Bay City 1955-1958; St. Andrew 1958-1960; St. Philip Neri, Coleman, with Missions at St. Agnes, Sanford, and St. Anne's, Edenville 1960-1966; St. Joseph, West Branch 1966-1968. He is presently serving as chaplain at St. Mary's Residence, Detroit, and attended Wayne State University in 1969, to pursue an M. A. degree.

REVEREND GERALD S. ORNOWSKI, M. I. C.

Father Gerald Ornowski, M. I. C., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Ornowski. He has two sisters, Mrs. Donard Brecht of Port Austin and Mrs. Earl Alent of Lincoln Park.

Father Ornowski was born in Port Austin on January 18, 1935.

He spent the final three years of high school at St. Mary's Prep in Orchard Lake. Here he confirmed his decision to study for the priesthood.



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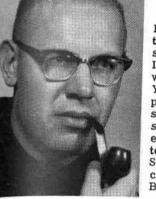
Graduating from St. Mary's in June, 1953, he entered the Marian Fathers the following September. After completing a one-year noviceship in Stockbridge, Mass., he pronounced his first temporary vows and was sent to the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. to pursue studies for the priesthood.

In 1957 he professed perpetual religious vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience and in the following year graduated from Catholic University with an A. B. degree in Philosophy. His dream of the priesthood was realized on June 9, 1962 in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C. Father Ornowski's first Solemn High Mass took place on June 17, 1962 in St. Michael Church. Since ordination, he has been primarily a counsellor of novices and instructor in spiritual theology at the Marian Fathers' Novitiate in Brookeville, Maryland. He originated a national vocation magazine called "Info," which he edits.

In 1967 Father Ornowski was elected to the Provincial Council of the Marian Fathers in the U.S. As a member of the council, he is part of a five-man board of directors which determines policy and personnel for the Congregation's schools and missions in Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Washington, D. C., Portugal and Brazil.

This summer, Father is spending two months in Rome as a participant in the General Chapter of the Marian Congregation.

REVEREND PAUL M. YAROCH



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"Having been away from Port Austin since I entered the seminary, I still feel a sense of belonging whenever I return to town for a visit." wrote Rev. Father Paul M. Yaroch recently. He has pleasant memories of going to summer catechism classes, serving as an altar boy, enjoying his classmates and teachers in Port Austin Public School, peddling papers, caddying at Pointe Aux Barques, swimming, fishing,

roaming the fields, hunting and trapping. He feels that his feeling of closeness to the people of Port Austin was a source of wholesome strength as he grew up.

Now, as a Capuchin priest, he finds that strength is being put to use in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, helping diocesan priests in the ministry, serving the neighborhood people in Apostolic work, and taking part in civic organizations in the city. Father Yaroch even drives a cab as a part-time job. He lives with another Capuchin priest, Rev. Robert Bertram. The community is their parish.

Father Yaroch was born to Paul P. Yaroch and Stella Nadolski Yaroch in Port Austin, December 2, 1935 and baptized in St. Michael Church. He has two sisters, Mrs. Bridget Yaroch Smukala, Port Austin, and Mrs. Mary Yaroch Davis, Detroit; and two brothers, Ervin, of Detroit and Melvin, of Port Austin.

Father Yaroch entered the (Cap). Order of St. Joseph Province in August, 1955. He spoke his temporary vows in September, 1956 and solemn vows in September, 1959. He was ordained May 16, 1964.

His first assignment was Associate Pastor at St. Benedict the Moor Parish, Milwaukee. He was chaplain at Milwaukee County Jail for two years and associate pastor at St. Elizabeth Parish, Milwaukee for two years before being assigned to his present position in the City of Milwaukee.



SISTER MARGARET MORAN, O. P.



SISTER MARY STANISLAUS GORETSKI

Sister Mary Stanislaus Goretski, formerly Judy Goretski, daughter of Felix Goretski, Detroit, and the late Lucille Goretski formerly of St. Michael Parish, entered the Congregation in November of 1958.

Sister Stanislaus has one sister, Mrs. Mary Lou Goretski Landless of Detroit.

Having made her novitiate at Devon, Pennsylvania, in May, 1962, she was assigned to St. Paul's Priory in Newport, Rhode Island, the second United States foundation, where she is an active member of her community. She participates in the life of prayer to which she is dedicated, and fulfills the secretarial tasks of the Community and their laboratory. They operate a Cytology Laboratory for Cancer detection.

SISTER HILDAGARDE MILLER

Sister Hildagarde Miller, formerly known as Minnie Miller, was the first young lady to become a Sister from St. Michael Parish of Port Austin. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Miller. She entered the Dominican Order at Grand Rapids.

SISTER ALOYSIOUS

Sister Aloysious Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Miller of St. Michael Parish, Port Austin, was a nun in the Dominican Order at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sister Margaret Moran, O. P., Detroit, Michigan, daughter of William J. Moran and the late Mae Kennedy Moran was born in Port Austin where she lived eighteen years before entering the Sisters of St. Dominic Order, Adrian, Michigan. Sister Margaret has one sister, Mrs. Dorothy Moran Heinen, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and one brother, Harry Moran of Roseville, Michigan. She received first vows August 24, 1938.

Sister Margaret has taught in parochial schools in Detroit and Chicago, Illinois. She was superior and principal at St. Laurence, Chicago, Illinois, for six years. For the past eight years she has been Community Supervisor for the schools staffed by the Dominican Sisters in Michigan, New York, and Ohio. Sister has just been assigned as principal of Guardian Angels School, Clawson, Michigan.

She received her bachelors degree from Siena Heights College, Adrian; her masters degree from De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois. She has done post graduate work at the University of Detroit and the University of Dayton at Dayton, Ohio.

SISTER MARY RAYMOND



Sister Mary Raymond Hoody, formerly known as Anna Hoody, was born to Frank Hoody and Mary Murach Hoody in Port Austin. She entered the Dominican Order in 1893, from St. Michael Parish.

An epoch of 66 illustrious years in the Dominican Congregation ended for Sister Raymond when she passed away in September, 1959. She was buried from Marywood Convent at Grand Rapids.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Chairman	Judy Goretski (Mrs. Michael)
Honorary Chairman	Robert Moran
Co-Secretaries	Jane Mayes (Mrs. Edwin H.) Theresa Shine
Treasurer	Judy Goretski
Program Committee	Rev. Fr. Dudek Anthony Baumert Eugene Clancy James Greene Edward Horetski Frank Szymanski
Book Editorial Committee	Rev. Fr. Joseph Dudek Tony Fisher, editor Charles Parks, co-ordinator Members of the Church Board, advisors
History	Harold Sosnoski, ch. Christine Clancy (Mrs. Harry) Ann Schwedler (Mrs. Jack)
Statistics on Religious Vocations	Helen Ornowski (Mrs. Stanley), ch. Helen Brecht (Mrs. Donard)
School History	Janice Knoblock (Mrs. Edwin, Jr.) ch.
Photographs	Ethel Upthegrove (Mrs. John Jr.) ch. Bertha Upthegrove (Mrs. John Sr.) Ron Knoblock
History of Church	
Organizations	Charles and Dorothy Parks
Advertising	Raymond Mayes, ch. Harold Knoblock Tillie Discher (Mrs. William) Mary Branske Venice Clancy (Mrs. Eugene) Jack Schwedler Mary Rynearson (Mrs. B.E.)
Patrons	Adelaide Baranski (Mrs. Anthony)
Memorials	Tillie Discher (Mrs. Wm.) Evelyn Weiss
Dinner Souvenirs	Gertrude Knoblock (Mrs. Edwin Sr.) ch. Dolly Sosnoski (Mrs. Harold) ticket ch. Helen Ignash Janice Knoblock (Mrs. Edwin, Jr.) Crystal Fisher (Mrs. Stanley, Jr.) Eugene Clancy, ch. Theresa Murawski (Mrs. Raymond)
Bazaar	Agnes Baranski (Mrs. John) Guy Bailey Leonard Yaroch, ch. Louis Knoblock
Bazaar Publicity	Agnes Baranski (Mrs. John) Guy Bailey Leonard Yaroch, ch. Louis Knoblock Joan Yaroch (Mrs. Fred)
	Agnes Baranski (Mrs. John) Guy Bailey Leonard Yaroch, ch. Louis Knoblock



SISTER RAYMONDA CULHANE

Sister Raymonda, formerly known as Mary Elizabeth Culhane, was born to Patrick Culhane and Margaret Condon Dominican Congregation at Adrian on Dec. 8, 1893, from St. Michael Parish, Port Austin. A solemn Requiem was

A solemn Requiem was chanted for her funeral in Lumen Ecclesiae Chapel on Christmas Eve, in 1963. Burial was in the Sister's Cemetery, ending a career of 70 years in religious life.

SISTER MARY THOMAS DUPEE

Sister Mary Thomas Dupee, who was known as Anna Dupee before her entrance into the religious order of Sisters of St. Dominic of Adrian, Michigan, in 1897, was born at Port Austin on October 16, 1881, to William and Elizabeth Dupee. She was one of a family of nine children. Sister Thomas is at present survived by one sister, Mrs. Lucille Dupee Snyder, of Birmingham, Michigan.

Sister Thomas passed away on Dec. 17, 1932, at Aquinas Convent. Funeral services were conducted at Aquinas Convent and St. Philip Neri Church. Burial was at Adrian.

Cover Designed	
By Richard Wolfgang	
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Harbor Beach Times	
Print	

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES



Mrs. M. Goretski Chairman

visors

ch.

h.

ch. h. Robert Moran Honorary Chairman Mrs. E. Mayes Secretary





CHURCH COMMITTEE

Left to right: Anthony Baumert, Edward Horetski, Fr. Joseph Dudek, Frank Szymanski Gene Clancy, James Green



GUITAR CHOIR

Standing: Mrs. E. Mayes, Tom Brock, Annette Durocher, Pam Lowe, Linda Krumenaker, Marlene Sosnoski, Sharon Sosnoski, Mrs. C. Parks. Seated: Sally Strozeski, Rebecca Greene, Lea Santos,

Gloria Brock, Geraldine Horetski.



MASS COMMENTATORS

left to right: Dale Schramski James Greene Father Dudek Marvin Goretski Carl Loewe

ST. MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL National Council of Catholic Women



Pictured (from left to right, standing) Mrs. Stanley Ornowski, Mrs. Tony Baranski, Mrs. Michael Lazarowicz, Mrs. William Discher, Mrs. Michael Goretski, Mrs. Edward Indo, Mrs. Raymond Ignash, Mrs. Floyd Knoblock, Mrs. Robert Yaroch and Mrs. Edwin Knoblock.

Seated (from left to right) Mrs. Edward Krease, Mrs. Edwin Knoblock, Jr., Reverend Father Dudek, Mrs. Gene Clancy. St. Michael Parish Council, National Council of Catholic Women was organized April 13, 1951, with Rev. Father Dudek and the officers of the various Sodalities attending. The following officers were selected for two year terms: President, Mrs. Edward Krease; Vice-President, Mrs. John Upthegrove, Sr.; Secretary, Mrs. Harry Clancy; Treasurer, Miss Florence Lazorowicz.

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The council has been active in all Deanery and Diocesan projects and have sent representatives to all conventions and meetings.

The council provides a medium of communication between the pastor and the parishioners, also between the parish and the school.

The council has been active in trying to eradicate indecent literature from the local news stands and has encouraged special devotions through Block Rosaries, Study Clubs, etc.

The group has taken part in all Catholic charities work and in the encouragement of vocations.

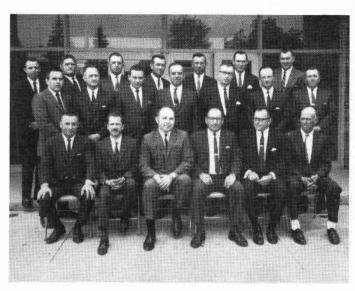
Publicity has been given to all activities of the parish through the publicity chairman, Mrs. Stanley Ornowski, who has been Parish Publicity Chairman since 1951.

Meetings are held the first Friday of every month.

The present officers of the Council are: Mrs. Michael Goretski, President; Mrs. Raymond Baranski, Secretary-Treasurer.

ST. MICHAEL'S USHERS

ALTAR BOYS



From left to right, seated: Gerald Baranski, Alger Horetski, Edwin Knoblock, Jr., Raymond Braun, Irvin Stockoski, Louie Knoblock.

Second row from left to right: Richard Szmanski, Ernest Jandreski, Daniel Souva, Stanley Knoblock, Bernard Schramski, Edward Kennedy, Chester Baranski.

Back row from left to right: Frank Jaworski, Alfred Jandreski, Bernard Jaworski, Sylvester Inda, Chester Jaworski, George Szmanski, and Harold Sosnoski.

Ushers not present on the picture: Eugene Clancy, Ronald Knoblock, Marvin Goretski, Donald Zimmerman, Eugene Smeader, Arthur Schramski, Stanley Goretski, Mark Fisher and Daniel Horetski.

The definition of usher, in the dictionary states: one who escorts persons to seats in a church, theater, etc. The definition of an usher in St. Michael's Parish states: one who escorts persons to seats, catches fainting people, sells Catholic papers, has a strong arm for lifting collection baskets, has money making events for the benefit of church and school, and a cheerful smile.

The first ushers date back a long way. They were the trustees of the church.

St. Michael's Ushers Club originated in January of 1945. Rev. Fr. Joseph Dudek appointed twelve men: John Jimpkowski, President; Richard Hawks, Secretary-Treasurer; John Schwedler, Harold Sosnoski, Chester Baranski, Louie Knoblock, Bernard Jaworski, Albin Murawski, Harold Yaroch, Felix Veginski, Bernard Baranski and Thomas Meagher. Of the original twelve men, four are still ushers. These four men will be celebrating the church's one hundredth anniversary and their twenty fifth anniversary as ushers. This is a proud accomplishment. They are Chester Baranski, Bernard Jaworski, Louie Knoblock and Harold Sosnoski.

On January 5, 1947 the first annual ushers Banquet was held at Minnick's Lakeside Inn, with twenty-three members present.

Various projects were accomplished through the years. They purchased new pews and playground equipment. Hard muscles were put to work constructing the basketball and tennis courts, which were also bought by the ushers. Numerous articles for the church were gifts to St. Michaels.

The reigning officers for the Centennial year are Edwin Knoblock, Jr. President; Alger Horetski, Vice President; Raymond Braun, Secretary-Treasurer; Irvin Stockoski and Louie Knoblock, Trustees.

With the help of these present day Ushers Club members, St. Michaels will continue to be an organized, courteous, and friendly place of worship.



Mark Clancy Scott Clancy Patrick Finan Len Horetski Jerry Horetski Tim Jandreski Ted Loewe Michael Mayes Kirk Pettit John Rzyhak Michael Schramski Ken Smeader Richard Smeader David Steinman Gerard Wills William Wood

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THE SODALITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality was organized in 1905 by Mrs. Jacob Miller, and its first name was the "Married Ladies Sodality." Mrs. Miller served as it's first president. The original membership numbered forty members and the purpose of the Sodality was to be an association founded by the ladies of St. Michael's Church, to foster ardent devotion to our Lady; to aid the members in living a more Christian life by attending Holy Communion in a body; to raise monies for the needs of our church; such as flowers for the Altars, Vestments and Missals for our Pastors and any need that arises in assisting our Priests and Nuns.

Our first five years of history are very sketchy, and the record books are missing; but in 1918, at the suggestion of Reverend Father Bunkowski, the name of the organization was changed to the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality, thus opening the membership to the unmarried ladies of the Parish.

Mrs. Valentine Ryan was president and the meetings opened and closed with prayers for our boys and girls in the Armed Services. Each member was assigned one decade of the Rosary, to recite daily. This custom remains the same at our meetings today. Garments of sweaters, stockings, helmets, and gloves were knit and sent overseas for the men and women of World War I. In 1919 Mrs. Dennis Morgan was elected president and many acts of charity are recorded. Wood was purchased for an elderly lady; overshoes, blankets, clothing, and milk are a few of the items mentioned. Lace is purchased milk are a few of the items mentioned. Lace is purchased for Altar linens and an American Flag was presented to for Altar linens of Columbus. A dozen linen napkins, sheets, and pillowcases were purchased for the Rectory and hemmed by hand by the ladies of the Sodality.

hemmine the seven years of our history has been lost, but The next seven years of our history has been lost, but we can assume that the Sodality kept at it's aims and the work of the members continued as usual.

the work Eliza Shine was elected president in 1926. The question of acquiring Sisters to teach summer school was presented to the Pastor. Many times road conditions prevented the members from attending the meetings. Several occasions are mentioned where the husbands brought the ladies and everyone stayed for the meeting and a party in the evening. The members were broken up into groups and nine Circles formed within the Sodality.

Four cassocks were purchased for the Altar Boys; money was sent to the Mississippi Flood sufferers, raising the total of \$2,000 from Huron County for this fund. Box Socials were a very popular way to raise money, one social netting \$100.

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In 1929, Mrs. Felix Bleicher was the president. Father Kromka requested the ladies to take over the care of the Sanctuary. A new Vestment was purchased for Father Kromka and goblets were acquired for the Rectory. A victrola was donated to the Knights of Columbus by the Sodality. The members met in the church on Good Friday from 12 noon until 1 p.m. with Miss Shine leading the prayers. Catholic literature was provided by the Sodality to be distributed at church on Sundays.

Mrs. Dennis Morgan was again the very capable president in 1930 and 1931. A large donation was made toward the purchase of new curtains for the Rectory. A new chair was purchased as a personal gift for the Pastor. The Baptismal Font was presented to the church this year by the Sodality. A Christmas Bazaar was planned and proved very successful. Christmas gifts are given to deserving and needy families.

Mrs. George Pettit, Sr., was elected to serve as president from 1931 to 1933. The Sodality pledged \$50 toward the purchase of a new Tabernacle for the church. With this goal in view, card parties and box socials were held to acquire the money.

The Sodality was given over to the capable leadership of Mrs. Edward Krease in 1933-1935. A dance, card party, and ice cream social was planned and magazines were sold. The ladies voted to purchase the rug requested by the Pastor, and a donation was sent to Epiphany Apostolic College. \$60 was given for the floor runners for the Church and a \$25 donation was given to the Seminary Fund. Linens were donated for the Altars. Father Kromka spoke to the ladies about the League of Catholic Women.

The Sodality applied to the Motherhouse for the Dominican Order of Nuns at Adrian, Michigan for Sisters to teach summer Catechism to the children of St. Michael's Parish. The Nuns were sent for the summer session, the ladies of the Sodality driving to Adrian to get them and driving them back at the end of the session. A cash gift was given the Motherhouse and a personal gift to each Nun. This summer school was then carried on each year by the Sodality until the present school was constructed.

Mrs. Robert Moran was the elected president in 1936. At this time it was suggested that a cottage be built across the street from the Church, for the Sister's home when they were teaching summer Catechism. Estimates, blueprints, and general plans were acquired, but the idea was tabled and nothing further developed until the present Convent was built. A Christmas party was held for the Children of Mary; six new cassocks were purchased for the Altar Boys and the Sodality had the Chalice relined.

Mrs. John Upthegrove, Sr., was president in 1938 and 1939. In May, 1938, the third Sunday of each month was set aside for a Mass for the members of the Sodality. All members are to attend the Mass, receiving Holy Communion as a group.

Eight folding chairs were purchased for the use of the Sodality members at their meetings and a donation was given toward redecorating the Church.

During 1940-1941 Mrs. Lawrence Yaroch was our president. At this time the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sodality were revised, brought up-to-date, and printed. The Sanctuary lamp and Altar candleholders were regilted. A donation of \$25 was given toward the purchase of dark curtains for the Port Austin Public School Gymnasium.

Once more the ladies were active in Red Cross work as war clouds were in our future. National Defense was a common topic. This year our Communion Sunday seats were moved from the right side of the Church to the left side; thus enabling us to sit in front of the Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1942 saw Mrs. George Schwanitz as president. A \$25 donation was given toward the purchase of a new organ for the Church, and \$25 was sent to the Shrine of St. Jude for our boys and girls in the Armed Services from Port Austin.

Mrs. Harry Kennedy was elected president during 1943 and 1944, and because we were at war in Europe, many of our activities were curtailed. We no longer sent material gifts to our ill members, but remembered them with a year's enrollment for Spiritual Blessings at the Shrine of St. Jude. Instead of playing cards and games for entertainment, the ladies worked on surgical dressings for the Red Cross. Money donations were sent to Father Flannigan's Boys Town.

Mrs. Henry Clancy was president for the year 1945, and much of the same work continued. A membership drive was conducted and ten new members joined our ranks.

During 1946-47 Mrs. William Schwanitz led the Sodality. A tea was held to raise money for the Community Chest Drive and to buy new linens for the main Altar. Mrs. John Mayes offered to donate a lot for the building of a cottage for the Sisters. Eleven new members were added to the roster at one meeting. Newsworthy items and announcements were published in the Public School paper. A Church Flag was purchased and donated to St. Michael's Church.

Mrs. Walter Brining was elected president in 1948-1949. The offer of the lot for the Sister's Home was accepted from Mrs. Mayes. A huge Bazaar was held at the Public School Gymnasium, featuring many different booths. Proceeds from the Bazaar were over \$1,000. During this year Masses were offered for the Conversion of Russia, and World Peace. New vestments were purchased for the Pastor.

In 1950 and 1951, under the capable leadership of Mrs. John Clancy, the Sodality purchased two new capes for the Altar Boys; money and clothing were contributed to Catholic Charities and the Bulletin Board for the front of the Church was purchased at a cost of \$595.

The presidents of the Church Sodalities were called together by Father Kilar of Ubly, Michigan and plans were formulated for a Silver Jubilee celebration for our Pastor, Father Joseph Dudek. A new cape was given Father Dudek for his Silver Jubilee of Priesthood from the Sodality.

The new Blessed Virgin Mary Altar was purchased through the joint efforts of the Young Ladies Sodality, the Holy Rosary Sodality, and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1953-1954 saw Mrs. Andrew Reilly as our president, and \$1,000 was paid into the Parish Building Fund. A huge Fourth of July Parish Festival was held and and our Sodality had a part in the planning.

Mrs. Harry Schmidt, Jr., succeeded Mrs. Reilly as president in 1955-1956. The annual Fourth of July Festival was held and our Sodality members studied the "Structure of the Mass." A statue of St. Michael was purchased and presented to the Church.

With Mrs. George Schwedler as president in 1957 and 1958, a Pantry Shower was given for the Sisters of St. Michael's School. The Sisters received an abundance of food, fresh and canned, and many articles for the kitchen.

When Mrs. William Discher took over in 1959 and 1960, Father Dudek needed new Altar linens, so once more the linens were purchased. The book, "The Catholic Youths Guide to Life and Love," was placed in the Public Library.

Mrs. Kenneth Smith was president during 1962-1963, but most of the records have disappeared. The Sodality members did sponsor a Christmas Party at the Huron County Health Center for the patients there.

Mrs. Michael Goretski received the gavel from Mrs. Smith and very ably led the organization through 1964-1965. One of the new pews for the Church was purchased in the name of the Sodality. A dinner was served to the members of the Michigan State Legislature, their wives, and the Huron County Tourist and Resort Association. We have actively supported the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and its functions.

A portable Altar, candlesticks and a hanging crucifix were donated to our Church by our Sodality. A record player was purchased and presented to the Sisters for use in the school.

In 1966 Mrs. Edwin Mayes, Jr., led our group. \$100. was given to St. Michael's School for library books and records were purchased to help build a record library. A transistor radio was added to the list, along with \$200. for art and music supplies.

The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary felt at this time that possibly the Holy Rosary Sodality and the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality could combine their memberships into one Altar Society. A committee of ladies visited the Holy Rosary Sodality meeting with the suggestion, but the offer was rejected for the present time.

Mrs. Louis Yaroch joined the ranks of presidents in 1967 and 1968. A new missal and vestments were purchased at the suggestion of Father Dudek. A donation was given to the Port Austin Area Beautification program to aid in the fixing up of our Village.

A request was received from the Chancery Office that the fiscal year and election of officers of our Sodality be changed from January 1 to May 1, to coincide with the Deanery. Our By-Laws were adjusted to the change.

St. Michael's Church will celebrate it's 100 year Centennial in 1969 and we have been requested to assist with the celebration.

Mrs. John Upthegrove, Jr., is president in the Centennial Year of 1969. A donation of \$100. has been given by the Sodality as a Patron of the Centennial. We will sponsor a "Country Store" booth at the festivities. A donation will be made toward the purchase of a new car for the use of the Sisters of St. Michaels.

Throughout all these years many items pertaining to the history of the Sodality have been lost, due to the lack of not keeping complete records. A valiant effort has been made to make this as true a history as is possible.

Flowers have been placed on the Altars at Christmas Time, Easter, during the month of May, and many other occasions. Our Pastors, their housekeepers, Nuns, janitors and Altar Boys have all been remembered with gifts and prayers.

We may have many separate organizations in our Parish, but when we work with love, we bind ourselves together, and to God.

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HOLY ROSARY SOCIETY

A zealous group of migrant ladies from Poland gathered in St. Michael's Church to pray the Rosary in their native Polish language. Father George Laugel, highly impressed by this heavenly sound, approached the group of sixteen to inquire of their purpose. It was then, in 1881, that Father Laugel gave his endorsement to organize the Holy Rosary Society and Nellie Yaroch (Mrs. Lawrence, Sr.) was named the founder. Records show the Constitution and By-Laws were complied and are written in Polish by Mrs. Yaroch. Times were hard and money scarce, but the members managed to pay the yearly dues of sixty cents. Membership grew rapidly as new migrants entered the area to total the present membership to one hundred and five, ranging in age from twenty to ninety two years.

The Society speaks with a sense of pride about having three Priests, one Brother, and one Sister, born to members of the society. They are Father Carl A. Mayes to Anna Sikora Mayes; Father Gerald S. Ornowski, M.I.C. to Helen Knoblock Ornowski; Father Paul M. Yaroch, to Stella Nadolski Yaroch; Brother Eugene Lucian Dix, F.S.C., to Cassie Chaplinski Dix and Sister Mary Raymond Hoody to Mary Murach Hoody.

The Holy Rosary Society became affiliated with the World Wide Confraternity on May 5, 1956.

Three High Masses are offered for the repose of the soul of each member after her death and the group Rosary is recited at the wake for the departed sister. Following the funeral and burial service, a dinner is served to the family.

The members receive Communion on the first Sunday of each month and at the monthly meeting the Rosary is recited for World Peace. Prayers are recited for in members, as well as for deceased members.

The society makes generous contributions to the Parish for Altar linens, flowers, vestments, Chalices, new Altar, library, Nun's auto, school building fund, as well as other church necessities.

The present officers are Delphine Leavine (Mrs. Frank), president; Agnes Morehouse (Mrs. Thomas), vicepresident; Theresa Murawski (Mrs. Raymond), secretary; and Lillian Wills (Mrs. LeRoy), treasurer.



Mrs. Lawrence Yaroch, Sr. Founder Of Sodality

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Mrs. Michael Lazarowitz Mrs. Stephen Yaroch Mrs. Anthony Baranski, Sr. Mrs. Stanley Ornowski Mrs. Raymond Murawski Mrs. Frank Leavine

ST. MICHAEL'S HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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Our Association began in October of 1966 in the minds of some conscientious parents and Sisters of St. Michael for the well being of the school and enjoyment of it's students.

Our first business meeting was held at St. Michael's auditorium on November 15, 1966. Our first elected officers were President, Edwin Korn, Jr.; First Vice President, Judy Goretski; Second Vice President, Gene Clancy; Secretary. Dolly Sosnoski; Treasurer, John Rzyhak; Spiritual Advisors, Reverend Father Joseph Dudek; Sister Mary Euphronia (Principal), Sister Mary Virginis and Sister Mary Doloria. We adopted the nickname of St. Michael's Guardian Angels for our organization. Our charter membership consisted of ninety-one regular members and eleven honorary members. We had an enrollment of 104 students that year.



Front row: (L. to R.) Christine Clancy, Mary Beth Loewe, Josephine Schramski, Norma Smeader, Gertrude Flume. Center row: (L. to R.) Ann Scoviac, Dolly Sosnoski, Janice Knoblock, Venice Clancy.

Back row: (L. to R.) Mrs. Felix Veginski, Dolores Braun, Peggy Hinds, Harold Sosnoski, St. Michael, John Rzyhad, Merrily Jimkoski, Orceil Yaroch, Eleanor Miller.

In the short time we have been together, our organization has sponsored a trip to the Detroit Zoo, to the Shrine Circus in Saginaw, to the Pioneer Museum in Port Austin and a trip to our local airbase.

To finance these enjoyable trips for the children, we have held "Pay-to-play" parties, a school sweatshirt and jacket sale, feather parties, summer raffles, candy sales and formed a 50-50 Club.

A few of the major donations made to the school are as follows: Film Strips, Movie Projector repaired, Science projects, Record Player, Educational Records, Books for the Library, Art supplies and text books for all classrooms.

We haven't been too busy to have fun. For instance, we have an Annual Harvest Potluck Dinner with games for young and old alike. The End-of-the-Year Picnic is another affair to which parents and children look forward each June. Father's Night is held each February and Mom's Night is held in April. Treats and games are sponsored by the "Angels" for the children every Halloween, Christmas, Easter, and for the School Picnic at the Beach.

The officers serving us in this Centennial year are Janice Knoblock, president; Harold Sosnoski, first vice president; John Rzyhak, second vice president; Dolly Sosnoski, secretary; and Venice Clancy, treasurer.

So far, with the grace of God, our organization has prospered and reaped many educational and enjoyable gifts for the children. Our newly elected officers for the 1969-70 school year are eager to carry on the old traditions and go on to higher goals in the future with the aid of the parents and grandparents of St. Michael's. These servants are Janice Knoblock, president; Carl Loewe, first vice president; Patricia Bruce, second vice president; Ann Scoviac, secretary; and Venice Clancy, treasurer.

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ORDER OF MARTHA

St. Martha household Number 676 of the Order of Martha was organized November 11, 1958 with the following officers elected to their respective posts. Mrs. Edward Krease, president; Mrs. Edward Nicholson, secretarytreasurer.

The first year there were fourteen members. The group met once a month for ten years and hundreds of small linens, many altar cloths and vestments have been sewed and sent to the Catholic Church Extension Society to be distributed to the needy missions in the United States.

In November 1968, the group celebrated their tenth anniversary and now have thirty members.

Present officers are Mrs. Edward Krease, president and Mrs. William McNabb, secretary-treasurer.



Picture (left to right standing) Mrs. Ann Smith, Mrs. Michael Lazarowicz, Mrs. Tony Baranski, Mrs. Walter Brining, Mrs. Edwin Knoblock, Mrs. Edward Indo, Mrs. Robert Yaroch.

Seated (from left to right) Mrs. John Clancy, Mrs. Dan Meagher, Mrs. Stanley Nowicki, Mrs. Floyd Knoblock, Mrs. Ernest Dumas, Mrs. William McNabb (treasurer). Front row (left to right) Mrs. Stanley Ornowski, Mrs. Edward Krease (chairman, Mrs. Tony Baumert.

ST. CECELIA CIRCLE



Seated (left to right): Mrs. Edwin Knoblock, Sr., Mrs. Tillie Krajenka, Mrs. Michael Lazarowicz, president; Mrs. Gene Clancy, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. William Discher.

Back row (left to right): Mrs. Edwin Knoblock, Jr., Mrs. Harold Sosnowski, Mrs. Helen Ignash, Mrs. Louis Knoblock, Mrs. Ed. Krajenka, Mrs. Raymond Murawski, Mrs. Eleanor Fisher, Mrs. Raymond Baranski, Mrs. Edward Kennedy, Mrs. Robert Yaroch, Mrs. William Kuhn, Absent: Mrs. Bernard Baranski, Mrs. Ray Braun, Mrs. Gerhard Goebel, Mrs. Alex Greyerbiehl, Mrs. Chester Goretski, Mrs. Andrew Horetski, Mrs. Alfred Jandreski, Mrs. Cass Jandreski, Mrs. Ernest Jandreski, Mrs. Stanley Knoblock, Mrs. Ted Koroleski, Mary Krajenka, Mrs. John Miller, Mrs. Charles Murawski, Mrs. Sam Miller, Mrs. Frank Navock, Mrs. Albin Polega, Mrs. Frank Polega, Mrs. Arthur Schramski, Mrs. Pete Sosnowski, Mrs. Alex Strozeski, Mrs. Jerome Strozeski, Mrs. Felix Veginski, Mrs. Harry Ventline, Mrs. Joseph Ventline, Mrs. Leroy Wills, Genieve Yaroch, Mrs. Richard Pettit.

St. Cecelia Circle was organized in 1956. Officers were Mrs. Raymond Baranski, president and Mrs. Harry Kennedy, secretary-treasurer.

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ST. MARY'S CIRCLE

St. Mary's Circle No. 5 was organized on August 13, 1956. The first officers were Mrs. John Gottschalk, chairman; Mrs. John Clancy, co-chairman; Mrs. Adrian Martin, secretary and Mrs. Clarence Ruth, treasurer.



Picture (left to right, back row): Mrs. Edwin H. Mayes, chairman; Mrs. Marvin Goretski, Miss Doris McGuire, Mrs. James McGuire, co-chairman; Mrs. Clarence Ruth, treasurer.

(Front row): Mrs. Andrew Reilly, Mrs. Bernard Kennedy, Mrs. Harry Clancy, incoming treasurer. Other members not pictured: Mrs. Henry Antoszewski, Mrs. Alice Berquist, Mrs. Orville Bubar, Mrs. John Clancy, Mrs. Cecil Clancy, Mrs. Phillip Clancy, Mrs. Thomas Clancy, Mrs. George Daley, Mrs. Charles DeHondt, Mrs. Jay Deman, Mrs. Robert Discher, Mrs. Robert Finan, Mrs. Stanley Fisher, Jr., Mrs. Leonard Goretski, Mrs. Lawrence Hebert, Mrs. Albert Hewitt, Mrs. Athlene Hodges, Mrs. Edwin Korn, Jr., Mrs. Edwin E. Mayes, Mrs. Harold Mayes, Mrs. Raymond Mayes, Mrs. Joseph Mitch, Mrs. Albin Murawski, Mrs. Charles

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Parks, Miss Bernice Polowski, Mrs. Kenneth Ruth, Mrs. E. E. Rynearson, Mrs. Willet Schmidt, Mrs. John Shine, Mrs. Fred Yaroch, and Mrs. Leonard Yaroch.

Deceased members are: Mrs. Leonard Bushway, Mrs. Nellie Deegan, Mrs. Joseph Dupont, Mrs. Frank Goretski, Miss Mattie Herbst, Mrs. Ed Parks (Hattie), Mrs. Stephen Radlinski (Mercedes), Mrs. Glenn Wahl, Mrs. Enoch Yaroch.



ST. ANN'S CIRCLE

Picture (left to right, back row): Mrs. Fred Krease, Mrs. Walter Brining, Mrs. John Jimposki, Miss Mary Baranske, Mrs. Joe Carpenter, Mrs. William Schwanitz, Mrs. George Swanitz.

Present Officers (seated from left to right): Mrs. Floyd Knoblock, treasurer; Mrs. Stephen Yaroch, chairman; Mrs. Edward Krease, secretary.

Other members not pictured: Mrs. Michael Burns, Mrs. Ernest Duman, Mrs. George Baker, Mrs. Ronald Knoblock, Mrs. Harold Knoblock, Mrs. Robert Moran, Mrs. Michael Goretski, Miss Elizabeth Gottschalk, Mrs. John Pettit, Mrs. George Pettit, Mrs. Agnes Morehouse, Mrs. Jack Schwedler, Miss Evelyn Weiss, Miss Irma Weiss, Miss Rose Strozyk, Mrs. Lawrence Yaroch, Mrs. Helen Yaroch.

St. Ann's Circle No. 1 was organized August 13, 1956. The first officers were Mrs. Martin Partika, chairman; Mrs. William Schwantz, secretary; Mrs. Joseph Carpenter, treasurer.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus are represented in St. Michael's Parish by the following men: Chester Baranski, Anthony Bauman, Anthony Baumert, Raymond Braun, Donard Brecht, Herbert Conrad, Jay Deman, George Finan, Harold Finan, Philip Finan, Gerhard Goebel, Marvin Goretski, Alex Greyerbiehl, Alger Horetski, Sylvester Indo, Alfred Jandreski, Ernest Jandreski, Bernard Jaworski, Edward Kennedy, Harry Kennedy, Louis Knoblock, Ronald Knoblock, Benjamin Kuhn, Mike Lazarwicz, Robert Moran, Albin Murawski, Raymond Murawski, Val Ornowski, Norbert Polk, Stanley Polowski, William Schwanitz, John Schwedler, Harold Sosnoski, John Upthegrove, Sr., and Leonard Yaroch.

A few of these members have been with the Fraternity for twenty five years and are sixty five years of age or older. The Honorary Life Members are Harold Finan, Harry Kennedy, Benjamin Kuhn, Robert Moran, and John Upthegrove, Sr.

Four men from St. Michael's Parish have had the distinction to be Past Grand Knights. They are Harold



Harold Finan Finan, Michael Lazarwicz, Robert Moran, and Harold Sosnoski. Harold Sosnoski has also been appointed District Deputy for four consecutive years by the State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus in Michigan. Councils under his jurisdiction are No. 1546 of Bad Axe, Pius XII of Sandusky and No. 3823 of Ruth.



Harold Sosnoski



Michael Lazarowicz



Robert Moran



ST. THERESA CIRCLE

Picture (left to right) standing: Mrs. Anthony Baranski, assistant chairman and Mrs. Louis Yaroch, chairman. Seated: (left to right): Mrs. John Upthegrove, Jr., Mrs. John Upthegrove, Sr., Mrs. Stanley Ornowski.

Members not pictured: Rita Andreski, Mrs. Chester Baranski, Mrs. Leo Choplinski, Mrs. Ann Franzel, Mrs. Phillip Finan, Mrs. William Goretski, Mrs. Leonard Goretski, Mrs. Stanley Fisher, Mrs. Sylvester Indo, Mrs. Albert Indo, Mrs. Ed Indo, Mrs. Tony Krajenka, Mrs. Harry Kozlowski, Mrs. Frank Leavine, Mrs. Leo Pinkoski, Mrs. Norbert Polk, Mrs. Roman Stockoski, Miss Georgina Stewart, Mrs. Ann Smith, Mrs. Bernard Schmanski, Mrs. William Wood.

Present officers: Mrs. Louis Yaroch, chairman; Mrs. Baranski, assistant chairman; Mrs. William McNabb, secretary-treasurer.

St. Theresa Circle was organized on August 13, 1956. The first officers were Mrs. Norbert Polk, chairman; Mrs. Anthony Baranski, assistant chairman; and Mrs. John Upthegrove, Sr., secretary-treasurer.



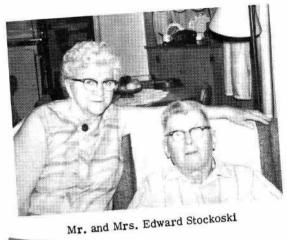
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Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Szeszycki Age 90 - 91

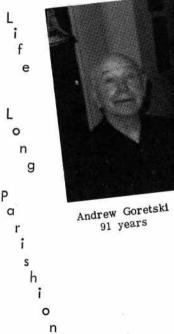




John Upthegrove, Sr. and son, John, Jr. Age 87



Rose Murawski



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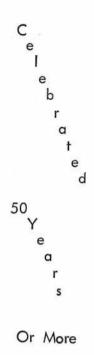


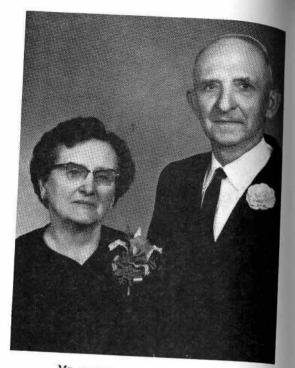
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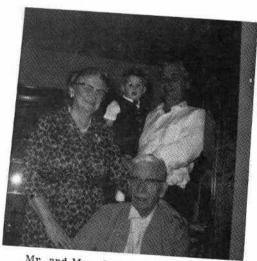


Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Stockoski Married Oct. 13, 1909





Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Knoblock Married April 16, 1917



Mr. and Mrs. John Upthegrove, Sr. Nov. 18, 1918



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kuhn Sept. 5, 1911



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Veginski Oct. 2, 1911

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The People of St. Michael's Parish Port Austin, Michigan

100th Anniversary August 16-17, 1969

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Mrs. Joseph Gottschalk	1849-1945
Edward Krease	1900-1965
John and Martha (Schwedler) Krease 1867-1938,	1869-1949
Michael and Mary Ellen (Meagher) Kennedy Elizabeth E. Shine	1869-1930 1873-1912 1859-1947
James and Mary (Walsh) Moran 1854-1906,	1856-1926
Michael and Julia (Hogan) O'Brien	1843-1925
Arthur and Agnes (Clancy) O'Brien 1881-1958,	1883-1929
Walter Brining	1900-1963
Joseph Glen Jimposki June 1965, Septe	mber 1965
Mary (Klebba) Jandreski	1894-1967
Balbina Jendrzejewski	1844-1884
Fred J. Yaroch	1906-1967
Matthew and Della Ruth 1877-1956,	1889-1937
Mr. and Mrs. William (Sunny) Dupee	
Henry and Mabel Clancy	
Den and Mary Ann Morgan	
Mr. and Mrs. William Lundy, Sr.	
Andrew and Agnes (Ignash) Horetski 1880-1942,	1885-1918
Edwin E. Mayes	1895-1958

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