

"The new church"

DZIENNIK CHICAGOSKI - 1 FEB. 1913  
FROM BALTO MD

The matter of building a new church under the patronage of St. Jan Kanty\* is proceeding. Active parishioners have set about the work in earnest. For a year and a half now there has existed in that parish a Construction Loan Society under the patronage of St. Kazimierz, and it is prospering.

\*also "St. John Cantius"

25 Dec. 1936 Jedność - Polonia

## KOŚCIÓŁ ŚW. KAZIMIERZA w "CANTON"



**Ks. Dr. B. Przemielewski, OMC**  
proboszcz św. Kazimierza

Parafia św. Kazimierza powstała jako filja par. św. Stanisława Kostki. Założył ją w roku 1902 ks. Morys, pracowali w niej ks. Kotlarz, ks. Józef Dulski i inni. Z chwilą objęcia parafji przez OO. Franciszkanów — od roku 1906 do 1920 proboszczem był ks. Józef Bok, a od roku 1920 proboszczuje ks. dr. Benedykt Przemielewski, który w roku 1925, przy ofiarności swej parafji, pociągnął piękną świątynię, uwiecznioną na szkicu obok. Kościół ten został odznaczony w tym roku przez miasto, jako najpiękniejsza budowla w naszym grodzie, wzniesiona w tymże roku. Obok kościoła pobudowano również piękną nowoczesną salę i Dom Sióstr.

*Evening Sun*

May 1, 1952

*1 May 1952*

## 203 Gas Lamps Are Replaced; More Due

Approximately 10 per cent of the current program for replacing 2,370 street gas lamps with electric lights has been completed, according to a report today released by Mayor D'Alesandro.

Work completed included the replacement of 102 gas lamps in the area surrounding Johns Hopkins and Sinai Hospitals; 70 gas lamps in the area bounded by Chesterfield avenue, Clifton Park terrace, Belair road, and Richmond avenue.

Also fifteen gas lamps in the Cloverhill road-Stoney Run area and sixteen gas lamps in the Ashburton area adjoining Lutheran Hospital.

### 803 Lights Replaced

Work under construction includes replacement of 803 gas lights in the area bounded by Hilton street, Edmondson avenue, George street, Franklin street, 8<sup>th</sup> Paul street, and Baltimore street, and 170 gas lamps in the Mount Vernon Square area which is bounded by Howard street, Mt. Royal avenue, Fallsway and Franklin streets.

Conversion to the brighter lighting is to get under way in a large section in northeast Baltimore in October. This project provides replacement of 574 lamps in the area bounded by Guilford avenue, Caroline street, Monument street, Twenty-second street and North avenue.

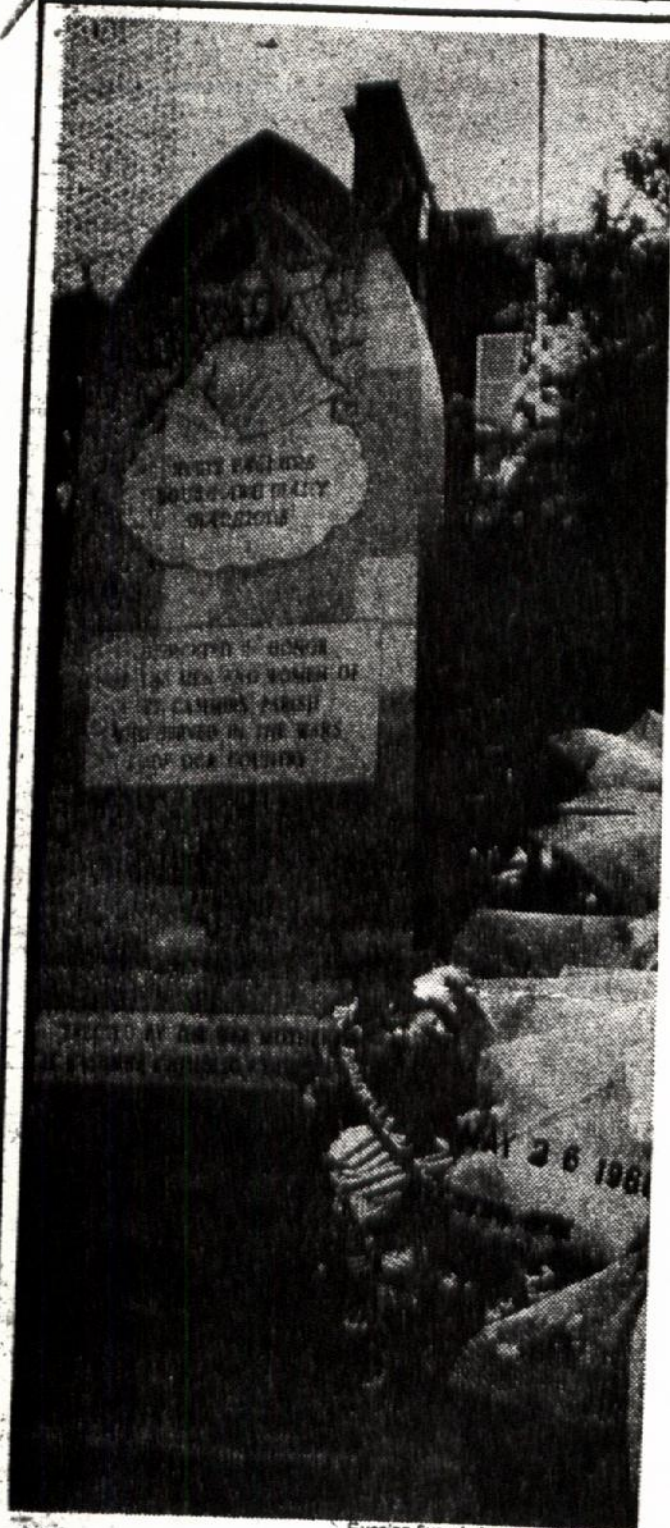
The progress report was furnished by W. Raynor Straus, head of the Bureau of Mechanical-Electrical engineering in response to a complaint about dim lighting adjacent to St. Casimir's Church in the 2700 block of O'Donnell street forwarded to him by the Mayor.

### Frequent Complaints

Councilman William Bonnet (D., First) had told the Mayor members of the church congregation complained frequently about the dim lighting on adjacent streets.

Mr. Straus's schedule calls for replacing gas lamps in this part of the city late in the year. He reported, however, that lighting in the vicinity of the church had been brightened by increasing the candle power of existing installations.





Evening Sun photos—Lloyd Pearson

## Day to remember

Members of the St. Casimir's Catholic Church take time to remember the men and women in their parish "who served in the wars of our country" at Memorial Day services yesterday. A salute is fired, above right, by a team of riflemen while Lenny Adams, right, blows "Taps" on his trumpet.





**EASTSIDE WEDDING** — A social event of note took place recently when Mary Lou Paolino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Paolino, was married to Marco Scardina, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Scardina. Following the wedding ceremony at Our Lady of Pompei Church, a gala reception for family and friends was held in the Normandy Room of Bud's Restaurant on Lombard Street.

that both would offer similar courses and programs), and to develop a "very strict discipline code for both schools." A parents' committee to review faculty and staff assignments would also be established.

Mrs. Deacon mentioned that at a meeting of the Coalition's junior high committee, one of the new School Board members acknowledged that he would not send his daughter to Lombard Junior High.

"However", continued Mrs. Deacon, "it appears that some black politicians are pressuring to have schools like Lombard inte-

## Opposition Aired At I-83 Hearing

Last Tuesday and Wednesday, January 28th and 29th, southeast Baltimore citizens participated in another round of road hearings, sponsored by the Interstate Highway Division. At the hearings, individuals were given at least fifteen minutes to voice their opinion on the proposed extension of the Jones Falls Expressway, I-83, as a six-lane highway, running from Gay

Street, through Little Italy, Fells Point, Canton, and connecting with I-95 in the vicinity of O'Donnell St.

During the two-day hearing, held at Hampstead Hill Jr. High School, over sixty registered speakers, representing numerous civic and community organizations, as well as a number of individual home-owners and residents who live near the proposed route of the expressway, voiced near-unanimous opposition to the multi-million dollar highway project.

The strongest opposition to the Road came from the many community organizations represented at the hearing, such as, the Little Italy Community Organization, St. Leo's Parish Council, the Fell's Point Improvement Association, the Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill, Montgomery Street and Fell's Point, the Canton Improvement Association, the 9th Precinct Improvement Association, St. Casimir's Parish Council, St. Brigid's Church, the Bay View Civic Club, the Finnish-American Cultural Society, the Southeast Council Against the Road, the Citizens for East Baltimore, and the South East Community Organization.

In addition to individual citizens of this area, a number of national groups, state agencies and public officials

because he knows the neighborhoods.

"He used to be an assistant pastor at Holy Roas Church here in West of t Park. He was always out the Street working with people in those days. He v one of the original organiz of SECO and has given a of time to that organizati But I guess there is no roo for a people's man in th big development set-up th have there now."



**HEADS HOSPITAL** — Fr W. Baker, M.D., has been elected president of the medical staff and chairman of executive committee of Joseph Hospital for 1975. Baker, who is also on the of Mercy, Bon Secours, H kins, and Good Samar Hospitals and the Gre Baltimore Medical Center also in private obstetrical gynecological practice Towson and at 2525 East Avenue.



**PNA INSTALLATION** — The Polish National Alliance, Council 21 of Baltimore, held their installation of officers at a gala party on January 26, attended by more than 300 guests, including foreign, federal and local government officials, representatives of Polish organizations in the city and Andrzej Szyz, First Secretary of the Polish Embassy, who served as MC.

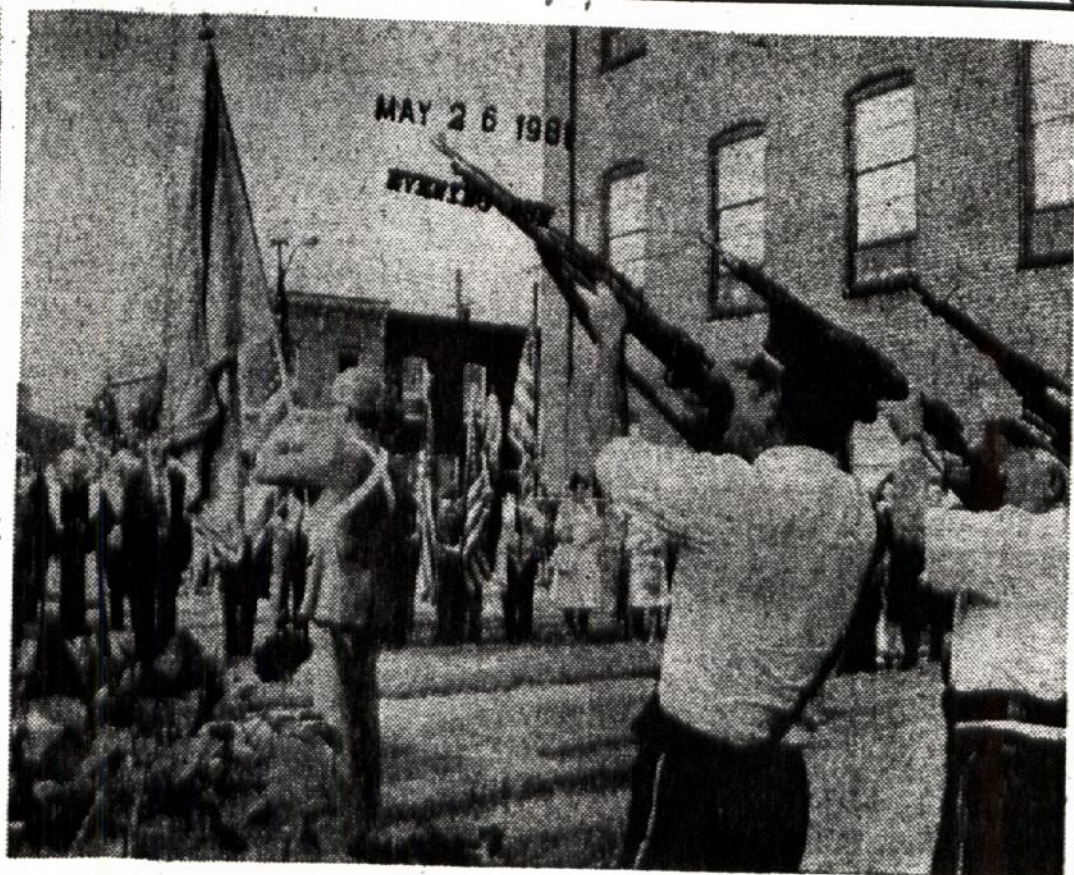
Elected to serve for the coming term are, from left, Tony Podbielski, treasurer; Richard Krzywicki, secretary; Bertha Golembielska and Lenny Andrzejewski, vice-presidents; Louis Chudy-Williams, president; Anastazja Cygier and Lillian Misiora, honorary commissioners; Stanley May, past president; and Janina Kozinska, vice-president.

*East Balto Guide 2/6/75*

(Continued on page 8)



# Metro





# St. Casimir 'renewal' underway

## Staff Report

St. Casimir's Parish in southeast Baltimore will prepare to mark the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir March 4 with a parish mission and renewal program featuring Fr. Albert J. Nimeth, OFM.

The Chicago-based Franciscan will present his program of spiritual awareness in the parish from Feb. 25 through March 2. Father Nimeth will speak during all Masses the weekend of Feb. 25-26 and will meet with local Secular Franciscans at 2 p.m., Feb. 26 followed by a holy hour and possibly a healing service.

The priest will also be the featured homilist during specially scheduled 7 p.m. Masses from Feb. 27th to March 2. Participants in the week-day liturgies will have an opportunity for confession and to hear the Franciscan give a talk after each evening Mass.

Father Nimeth will also speak with St. Casimir's school children during the week.

Father Nimeth is currently a spiritual awareness director for parishes, priests, religious and high schools in the Chicago area. He also works as a lecturer and counselor on personal and marriage problems.

The Franciscan is columnist for weekly publications and a monthly magazine as well as the author of a number of books, pamphlets and booklets.

The parish renewal program in preparation for the St. Casimir anniversary is being described as a time for the people to pray, think and grow, to ask the questions who am I, why and where am I going, said St. Casimir's pastor Fr. Ferdinand Ciszek, OFM Conv.

Also tied in with the parish's upcoming celebration of its patron saint's 500th anniversary are ongoing renovations to the church. The parish has commissioned Blair Bros., a Baltimore painting and decorating firm to restore numerous ceiling paintings in the nave as well as wood

trim and paintings in the sanctuary.

Father Ciszek told *The Review* the sanctuary paintings were executed by Philadelphia artist Anton Albers and the nave panels by local artist

George Nowikoff around 1945. The parish also boasts a Donatello altar that is a 1930's replica of the altar in the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, Italy.

CATHOLIC REVIEW





# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

**Question:** In light of urban development in American cities today, can the traditional ethnic neighborhood survive?

**Place:** St. Casimier's Parish Oplatek Dinner, Baltimore, Maryland



Pozlomek-Maher



Czawlytko



Zaworski



Feltz



Bartkowiak-Hyland



Jugo

## Monica Pozlomek-Maher

I think that the Polish-American community is becoming more and more aware of itself, especially after the rise of the Solidarity movement in Poland. I'm 23-years-old and just getting involved in my Polish heritage in which I plan to spend much more time involved in, especially in the fields of Polish dance, music and art.

When displacement in an ethnic community occurs, I believe that it tends to unify, especially when it happens in a neighborhood that has a sense of identity and tradition.

I believe that there will be a resurgence of spirit, just as witnessed in Poland, and the people in the neighborhoods will rediscover those things that brought them together in the first place.

## Mary Czawlytko

I don't think that the traditional neighborhood

can survive, basically because the people living there will not be able to afford to remain. Right here in Fels Point they have built condominiums and I'm sure that they sell for at least \$170,000. I would love to buy one of those homes but I can't afford it. Those moving in are professional people, not the traditional ethnic homeowners. The professionals are also buying up all the property here and pushing the ethnic neighborhood out. A few years ago, a lot of people were bought out because the mayor said a beltway was coming through. The highway was never built and now they're talking about building something on the vacant land.

## Albert Zaworski

I think this whole neighborhood will be modernized. There are plans to build a super-market which will be good for the Senior Citizens. The high rises that are being built here will probably raise the taxes and some people have lost their

homes to the new development. But the homes that remain have no vacancy. The children buy homes, sometimes just a few blocks away from their parents. It seems that these days everyone wants to live in the city so I believe that the traditional neighborhood will survive.

## Clara Feltz

About 12 years ago we lost alot of our parishoners when an expressway was planned to cut through the old neighborhood and then nothing was built. We live in the suburbs but continue to belong to our old parish. There is more to a neighborhood than who lives there. There are professionals moving in, but over all the Fels Point community is staying the same. There are many activities here that we come in for. One of the most beautiful ceremonies I have ever attended was in honor of the canonization of St. Maximillian Kolbe, we created a floral cross on the street, just as was done in Warsaw.

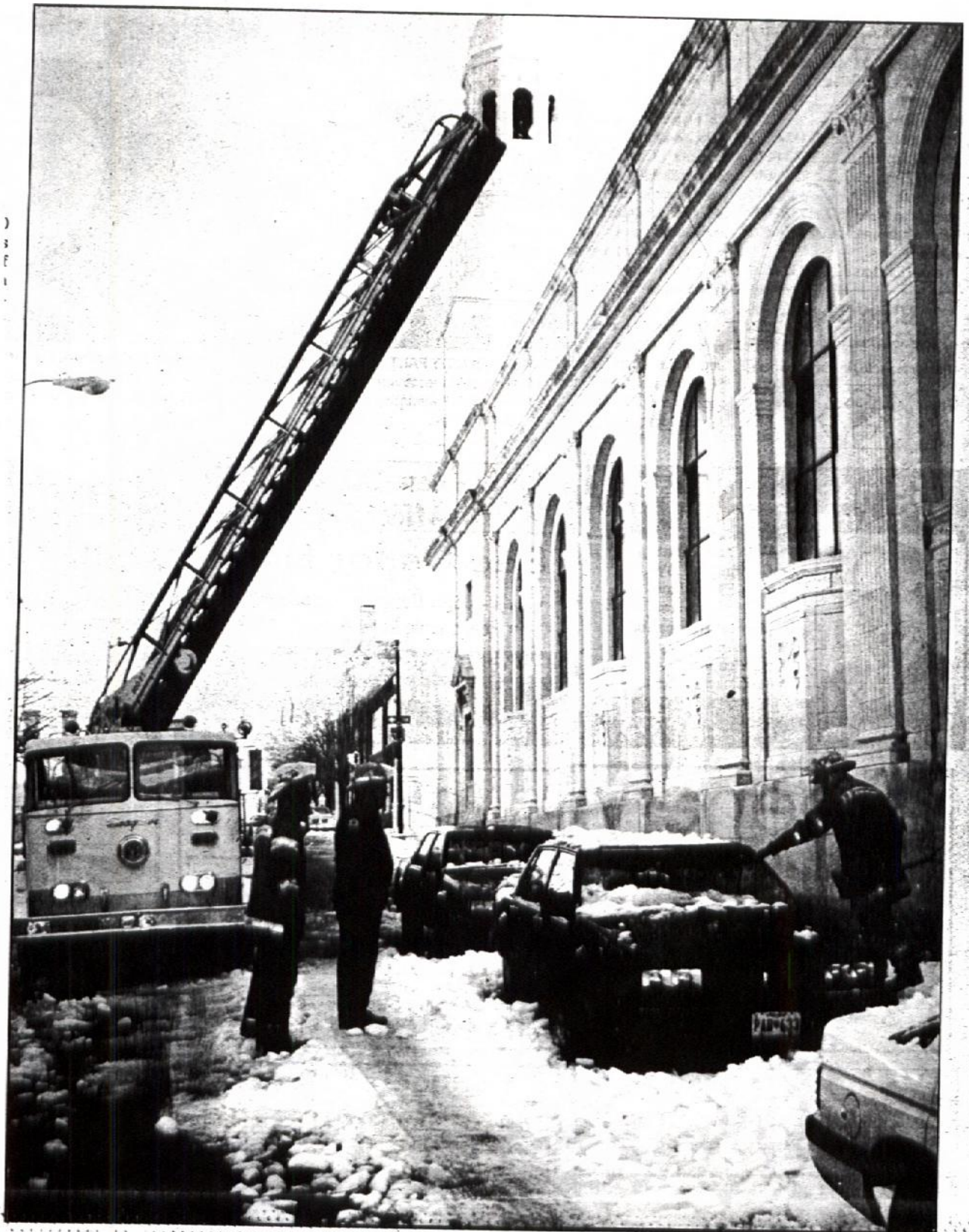
## Barbara Bartkowiak-Hyland

I definitely believe that the traditional ethnic neighborhood will survive because the people in them stick together, they support one another. As with any organization, the people of a neighborhood back each other up. They will fight together if their rights are threatened. When a community gets together, they will protect each other.

## Ludwig Jugo

I see the neighborhood as surviving. The sons and daughters of many of those who live or lived here are moving back in. I would think that with the move back to the old neighborhood will raise taxes and that might make it difficult for some to stay, especially those who are on fixed incomes. But, even if they receive a fair-market value price on their homes, how could they afford a new one, new home costs are high. That is why I don't believe that people of the neighborhood will move out.





THIS WEEK'S FINAL BLOW FROM OLD MAN WINTER: Parishioners emerged from the noon Mass at St. Casimir's Church in Canton on Ash Wednesday to find four cars with their windshields smashed and roofs collapsed under the weight of several tons of ice which had fallen from the roof. Associate Pastor Father Bernard Kuczborski was five minutes from the end of Mass at 12:40 p.m. when he heard a noise like "a helicopter landing on the roof. Fortunately, we were all still inside." There was no damage to the interior of the church. The fire department closed lower O'Donnell Street for several hours yesterday as they tried to remove more snow and ice from the roof of the church.

Photo by Christina Hofmann

EAST BALTIMORE GUIDE 2/17/94

## GET READY



CR/Denise Walker

Parishes are devising creative ways of announcing **RENEW** to their parishioners. At St. Casimir's parish in east Baltimore, the announcement came with a sense of humor. **RENEW**, a parish-wide spiritual renewal process, begins in most parishes this fall.

CATHOLIC REVIEW 29 June  
1994



# New pastor comes home to St. Casimir's

Father Plochiennik, new associate grew up in Canton parish

By Mark Grutkowski  
Catholic Review staff

A new pastor and associate pastor have been appointed to St. Casimir parish in Canton. Father Robert Plochiennik,

OFM Conv., 60, has been named pastor, and Father Berard Dudek, OFM Conv., 67, has been named associate pastor. Both priests grew up in St. Casimir's parish.

"Someone once said that you couldn't go home again. Well, that's not true," said Father Plochiennik. "I went to school at St. Casimir's and was an altar

See CANTON, page 7

## Canton priests come home

Continued from page 1

boy here up until I went into the seminary."

Father Plochiennik was ordained in 1960 at Springfield Cathedral in Massachusetts. He taught in Franciscan high schools for 21 years, including 20 years at Archbishop Curley High School. He was pastor of St. Joseph parish in Mount Carmel, PA, from 1985 to 1994.

"I'm truly ecstatic," Father Plochiennik said. "It is not only an honor to be stationed here, but it's an honor to be named pastor of St. Casimir."

Prior to being named associate pastor at St. Casimir, Father

Dudek was pastor of four churches simultaneously in Shamokin, PA.

Previously, he served as pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Fells Point from 1976 to 1982. He taught at Archbishop Curley from 1982 to 1984. Father Dudek served as vicar provincial of his order from 1985 to 1988, then was on the provincial council from 1988 to 1991.

Father Joseph Grzybowski, OFM Conv., the former pastor at St. Casimir, is now the parochial vicar for Our Lady of the Holy Rosary parish in Taunton, MA. Father Bernard Kuczborski, OFM Conv. is still assigned to St. Casimir as associate.



**AND IF YOU THOUGHT THE COLD WAS BAD-** The February thaw brought tons of ice crashing from the roof of St. Casimir Church during Ash Wednesday, crushing the roofs of several cars. Fortunately, everyone was inside for the Mass, and no one was hurt.

Photo by Christina Hofmann



## an container container tax, Santoni says

With a speech assailing the City its six year old container tax, High-downtown grocer Robert Santoni drew rousing applause at a meeting of City Council's Budget & Appropriations committee Tuesday night. Flanked by other merchants and members of the beverage industry, Santoni blasted the City Council, urging them to immediately repeal the tax which Santoni said has cost millions in City revenues and tens of jobs. "Since Baltimore County lifted its container tax," Santoni told the hearing, "our soft drink sales have dropped by 60,000 cases a year. In sales dollars alone that amounts to \$500,000 per year not including related sales."

Santoni estimate that the container tax has cost merchants more than \$24 million in sales.

During this election year, the air is filled with container tax ideas. Council President Mary Pat Clarke has proposed repeal the tax on a phased in basis, starting in 1996. Other ideas would repeal the tax on small containers.

"I'm saying that if you repeal the tax," Santoni told the committee during, "over \$60-70 million in sales will return to the city and over 1,000



**Robert Santoni**

jobs will be needed."

City Council President Clarke's office predicts that something might happen this year. "I hope so," said Santoni, who fears that promises to do something next year aren't likely to be kept, once the election year pressure is gone.

The container tax was passed in 1989. In 1990 Baltimore County repealed the tax, but the city has kept it in place, saying that fiscal needs require collecting the \$7 million the tax brings in. Santoni and other industry leaders say the \$7 million in taxes will be easily made up by increased sales and jobs.



**CANTON CHURCHES CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK**- Pastor Robert M. Armstrong, left, led his flock in Canton's annual Palm Sunday procession. Several neighborhood churches took part, St. Casimir for the first time, and Chapel of the Holy Evangelists, sadly, for the last time: the church is closing April 23.

Photo by Colleen Wolfe

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## PARISH NEWS

# Little Flower plans a big celebration for St. Therese feast day



Parish Life  
with  
Christopher  
Gaul

that end, Brother John said parishioners have been out and out in the neighborhood, distributing flyers and talking to folks, inviting them to the special Mass and other events.

Parishioners are also telling people about the Little Flower, whose portrait, entitled the "Little Flower in Glory," can be seen in the form of an absolutely lovely 27-by-14-foot single-piece gigan canvas mural which rises majestically from the 69-year-old church's high altar to the ceiling.

After the liturgy, at 2 p.m., the parish's Theatre Therese presents "The Music Man" for its 20th anniversary and, at 3 p.m., there will be tree planting, picnic and eucharistic prayer service.

### This just found

While we're on the subject of St. Casimir, this year marks the 800th anniversary of the birth of another popular holy figure, St. Anthony of Padua. And so the parish of St. Casimir are inviting

the public to view relics of the charismatic 13th-century preacher and teacher at a Mass of "healing from the experiences of loss in one's life" Saturday, Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. at the Canton-area church on the corner of Kenwood Avenue and O'Donnell Street.

St. Casimir's pastor, Father Joseph G. Bochenek, his staff and parishioners have good reason to think their 93-year-old church is an appropriate place to venerate the saint's relics. The main altar is an exact replica of the one the Florentine artist Donatello (Donato Di Niccolò Di Bettor Bardi, 1386-1466) designed and sculpted for the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, Italy. Definitely worth a visit!

St. Anthony is often thought of as the saint of lost property, a reputation he evidently gained (as the story goes) from an incident in which a novice borrowed his

psalter without his permission, and was compelled to return it by a terrifying apparition. St. Anthony is also invoked by barren and pregnant women, the poor, travelers, and is appealed to in preventing shipwreck.

### Faith in the fields

Meanwhile, in Urbana near Frederick, some 200 devoted members of the small parish of St. Ignatius Loyola recently trekked across some rugged Ijamsville terrain on a celebratory mission of a somewhat different kind.

Led by their pastor, Father Thomas T. Polk, some 200 parishioners, young and old, even toddlers, formed a living cross on the field which is to be the site of

their new church.

The parish bought the 12-acre patch of land back in 1981, and since then the Urbana parish community of some 408 families



CR file photo  
St. Casimir's altar is an exact replica of the one in the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua in Italy.



Courtesy St. Ignatius Loyola parish  
Parishioners from St. Ignatius Loyola parish in Urbana mark the spot where their new church will be built. Construction of the new facilities is expected to begin next summer.

has raised more than \$423,000 for the construction, with a second fund-raising campaign scheduled to get under way in November.

Joseph F. Seng, the assistant campaign chairman, tells us that groundbreaking for the new project is anticipated by next summer. Construction will include a two-story structure seating 500 people in the main worship space on the upper level, with parish offices, a

social hall and other facilities, downstairs.

The new site is about three miles from the parish's existing "little white country church" built in 1876 with its small parish center and offices, all of which have now been outgrown.

If you have something of note for Christopher Gaul, write to The Catholic Review, P.O. Box 777, Baltimore, MD 21203 or call (410) 547-5313.



# Shrine of the Little Flower plans a big celebration for St. The

October begins with the feast day of one of the church's most popular and beloved saints, St. Therese of Lisieux, "the Little Flower." On that day, Oct. 1 — exactly one week before the pope's visit — the **Shrine of the Little Flower** parish is inviting the northeast Baltimore city neighborhood it serves to share in what promises to be a beautiful liturgical celebration honoring the loving and gentle 19th-century Discalced Carmelite nun, whose autobiographical writings, *Story of a Soul*, have had such an impact on so many.

The day will also be something of a reunion as the parish has invited school alumni, the Class of '45, for their 50th anniversary. Members of that class, the Baltimore community of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, local Secular Franciscans, the Knights of Columbus honor guard and others will join in a colorful procession entering the Brendan Avenue church just prior to the 10 a.m. liturgy.

"We're really seeing this (St. Therese's feast day) as an opportunity to evangelize in the community," pastoral associate Brother John J. Brady, FSC, told us, "because this is an aging parish struggling with numbers and we really need to do something to revitalize it."



Parish Life  
with  
Christopher  
Gaul

To that end, Brother John said parishioners have been out and about in the neighborhood, distributing flyers and talking to folks, inviting them to the special Mass and other events.

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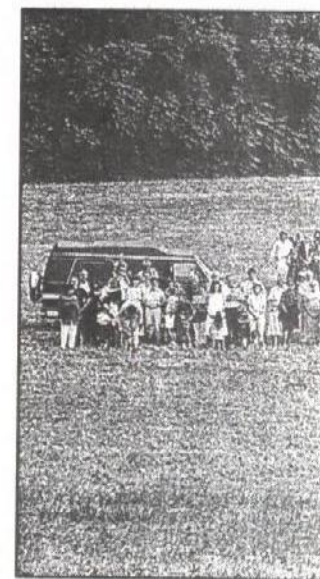


CR file photo

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**Parishioners from St. Ignatius where their new church will be expected to begin next summer.**

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## RENEW SEASON III

# the Spirit

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# St. Casimir's parishioner waxes poetic about RENEW Season III

**By Mark Grutkowski**  
Catholic Review staff

**St. Casimir, Baltimore** — Jackie Tull, a member of the RENEW team, penned the following poem out of inspiration for Season III of RENEW:

*Season III of RENEW will soon begin*

*We are eager to start ... tell us when*

*The papal visit is so exciting  
His holiness and RENEW will have us uniting.*

*Week One is "The Role of the Holy Spirit," in our lives*

*Our sons, daughters, husband and wives*

*We see "The Power of the Holy Spirit" in Week Two*

*As people of God, we must see this through*

*"Our Mission in and for the World" is Week Three*

*Jesus gives us eternal salvation and sets us free*

*Week Four explores "Our Experience of Injustice," that's not fair*

*We must show the poor and oppressed we care*

*Week Five is "The Roadblocks to Our Mission," in our hearts and minds,*

*Christians must strive to nourish the love that binds*

*"Continuing Human Tensions," in Week Six*

*Faith in Jesus ... There is nothing he can't fix*

*St. Casimir's parish reaches out with mercy and love*

*We pray for his guidance from up above*

*The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are near;*

*Join us for RENEW, there is nothing to fear.*

**Nativity, Timonium** — Nativity enrolled 11 new people into RENEW for the third season, which brings the grand total of RENEW participants at that parish up to 171. That makes 17 small faith-sharing groups.

A large-group activity will be held Tuesday, Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m., and will feature Father James Dittillo, a former chaplain at Loyola College. He will speak on the six weekly themes of the third season of RENEW and how they relate to the season's theme. Refreshments will be served afterward.

**St. Thomas Aquinas, Baltimore** — The RENEW team at St. Thomas has prepared an eight-part video presentation in celebration of RENEW and Advent. Parts two and three of the film "A.D." (the sequel to "Jesus of Nazareth") will be shown on Oct. 18 and 25, respectively, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (part one was shown on Oct. 11).

The parish also will show a pre-

sentation by Bishop Fulton Sheen on Nov. 1, 8 and 15. A presentation from Bishop Sheen on the Mass and Eucharist will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 6, and the 1962 film "The Reluctant Saint" will be shown on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Call Father George at (410) 366-4488 for more information.

**St. Luke, Edgemere** — RENEW will be celebrated at St. Luke's on Wednesday, Oct. 18, the Feast of St. Luke, when Father Howard Boyle will lead a healing Mass. Father Chris Egbuleum, an African priest, will present an ecumenical service on Wednesday, Oct. 25. Each evening will begin at 7 p.m. and refreshments will be served afterward. For more information, call Larry at the church, (410) 477-8887.

**St. Rita, Dundalk** — To kick off Season III, St. Rita's RENEW team featured two speakers on Sept. 24: Dr. Jack Buchner, director of evangelism at St. Joseph, Cockeysville, and instructor at the Notre Dame Ecumenical Institute, and Sister Helen Milano, the director of religious education at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish.

Each talk was followed by meditation and a renewal of baptismal vows. The day concluded with a potluck supper.

— Mark Grutkowski

## family experience: Teaching peace and nonviolence to children

are some suggestions on how  
nonviolence to children in the

**good home life.**  
other.

gs, information and experi-  
earn to understand others.

**2. Join a parent support group.** If parents want to provide the proper kind of environment for their children, they themselves should use available resources to work through problems and deal with frustrations.

**3. Provide a good example.** Adults need to be the kind of people they want their children to

**5. Don't buy war toys.** Research shows that playing with toy guns prompts aggression and antisocial behavior.

**6. Avoid entertainment that glorifies violence.** The peace-loving family will shun entertainment based on violence or the acceptance of violent solutions.



ment at satellite locations to accommodate the number of senior

ent consultant with input from a 12-person task force, considered

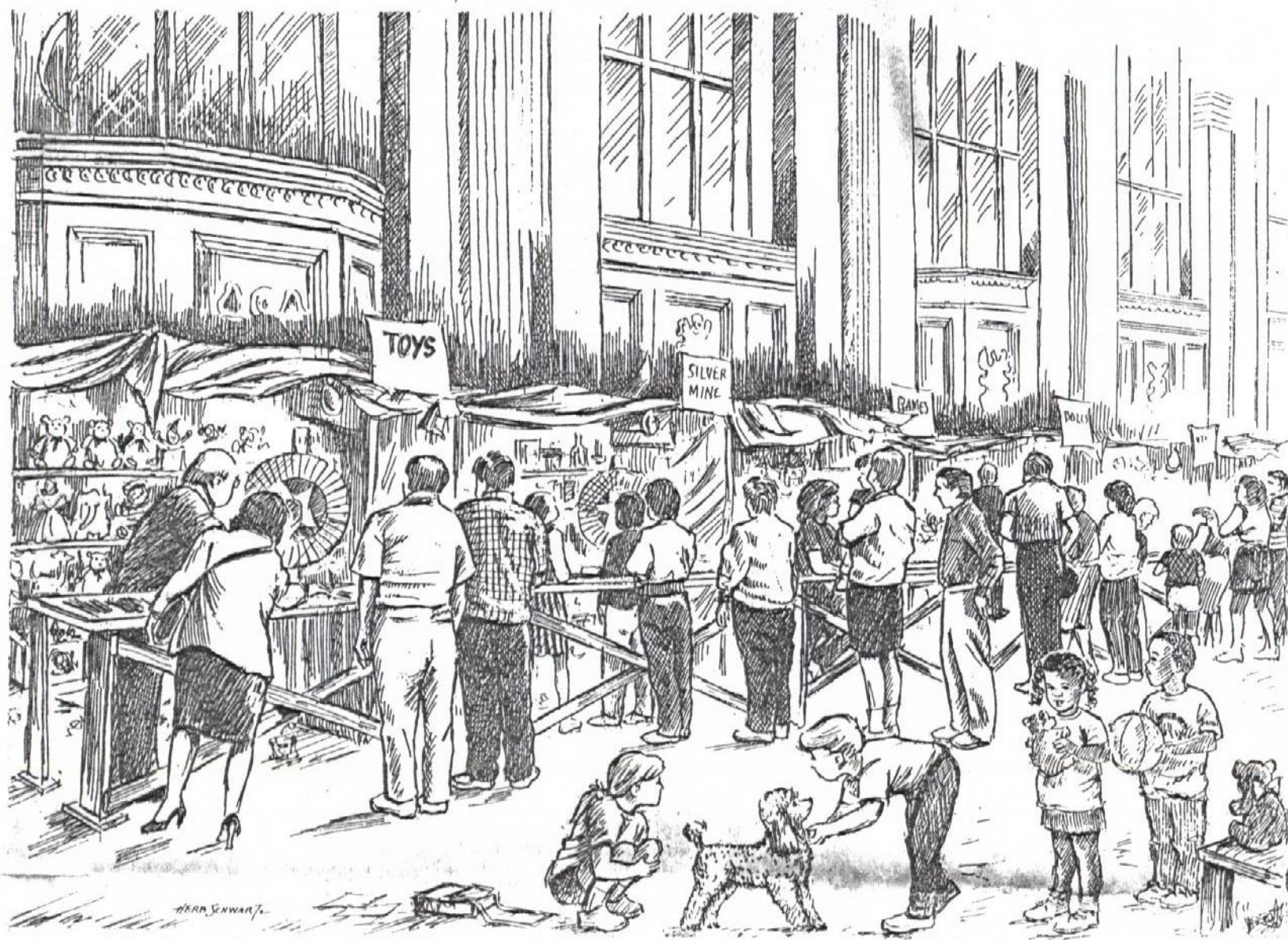
The Harford County Board of Education agreed that the project

The Wakefield Woods site has many attributes. It is centrally lo-

would preserve the remaining 6 acres of woodland through a perpetual conservation easement

## BALTIMORE SKETCHBOOK

Sun 6/13/98



ST. CASIMIR'S FESTIVAL - CANTON

HERB SCHWARTZ

## Rule change patients on t

The article ("Health, federal officials debate organ donor protocol," May 30), on organ transplantation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' regulations may have left some misimpressions.

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is the private community organization contracted by the federal government to make national rules and run allocations. It represents patients, professionals, the public and the federal government.

The public is served by a fair and effective system through UNOS, and the vast majority of the transplant community is in favor of the present rules and process for evolutionary improvement, with appropriate government oversight.

Neither the citizens of Maryland nor the country will benefit from a rapid, ill-conceived change produced by political pressure from a few.

The current rules developed by UNOS are balanced, with local use of organs to provide local availability of life-saving treatment but sufficient wider sharing to provide a good availability for sicker patients. We have a system that saves the most lives year after year, and it is continually evolving to improve fairness and effectiveness.

A few centers have attempted to divert organs to their patients from other patients in need in other programs. The process has thus turned political. Individuals connected with a few centers attempt

## Steer clear

net as quickly as I did. It helps to know that there are others to

cause both parents have chosen to work outside of the home.

cordings. It is sad to see Maestro Zinman departing. His distin-







CIVILISE WALKER

### No parking!

Young drivers from the extended day care center at St. Margaret parish in Bel Air, led by teacher's aide Madonna Lyon put the pedal to the metal.

## Parish News



Father Jude Winkler, O.F.M., Conv., author, teacher and preacher, will be directing a parish mission at the twinned Faith Community of St. Casimir and St. Stanislaus from Nov. 17-20. The mission, presented by the evangelization committee and funded by a grant from the RE-NEW community, will focus on how the Holy Spirit can transform the past and present, making it possible to experience the wonder of God's love now and to share that experience with family, friends, parish, neighborhood and world. The members of the evangelization ministry team recognize that in order to be true evangelizers one must first be evangelized. For this reason the mission is directed both inward, as renewal, and outward toward those who have recently moved into the Fells Point and Canton neighborhoods. The mission will conclude with a special healing Mass on Friday evening, followed by refreshments and fellowship in church hall. St. Casimir Church is located in Canton at 2736 O'Donnell Street. All are invited to attend. For more information, call the parish office at 410-276-1981.

The Knights of Columbus, Thurmont Council, of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Thurmont will hold a family Mass on Sunday, Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. in the parish center on North Church Street. Refreshments will be served immediately following the Mass. Council members will provide also information about the Knights of Columbus and its efforts to serve the church and community.

In order to plan for future reunions and other alumni activities, a committee from St. Joseph School in Fullerton is trying to compile an updated alumni list. Former students are encouraged to call 410-256-0156 or 410-248-0232. Your name, address, phone number and class year can also be faxed to 410-529-1649 or sent by e-mail to lkwest@IBM.net.

An adult education session on the liturgical year will be held at Our Lady of Grace parish in Parkton on Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 7:30-9 p.m. The presentation will be handled by David Flaherty, the parish minister of liturgy and youth.

Father Francis J. Okroy, S. Ch., a priest in residence at Holy Rosary parish in Fells Point is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination with a Mass of thanksgiving at 12 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15. The Mass will be followed by a reception in the school hall. We join with the parishioners in congratulating Father Okroy on this special jubilee.

An outdoor shrine dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi has been constructed near the entrance to St. Ambrose Church in Cresap-town. The shrine, which was blessed on Oct. 4, was made possible through the generosity of several parishioners. The stone pedestal for St. Francis has special significance because the stones were formerly part of the old St. Peter and Paul Monastery in Cumberland, which like its offspring, St. Ambrose, is also staffed by Capuchins.



SHARON CREWS HARE

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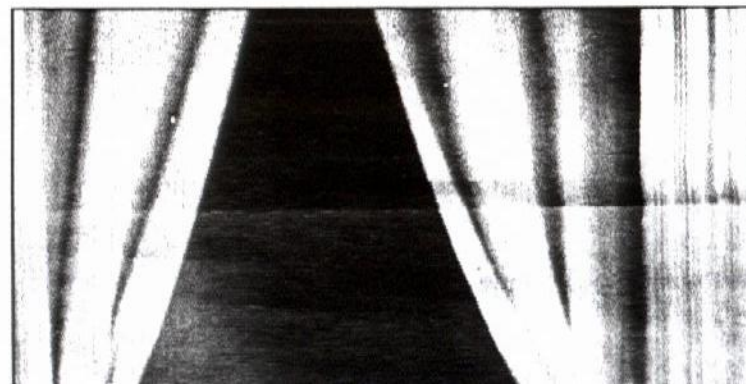
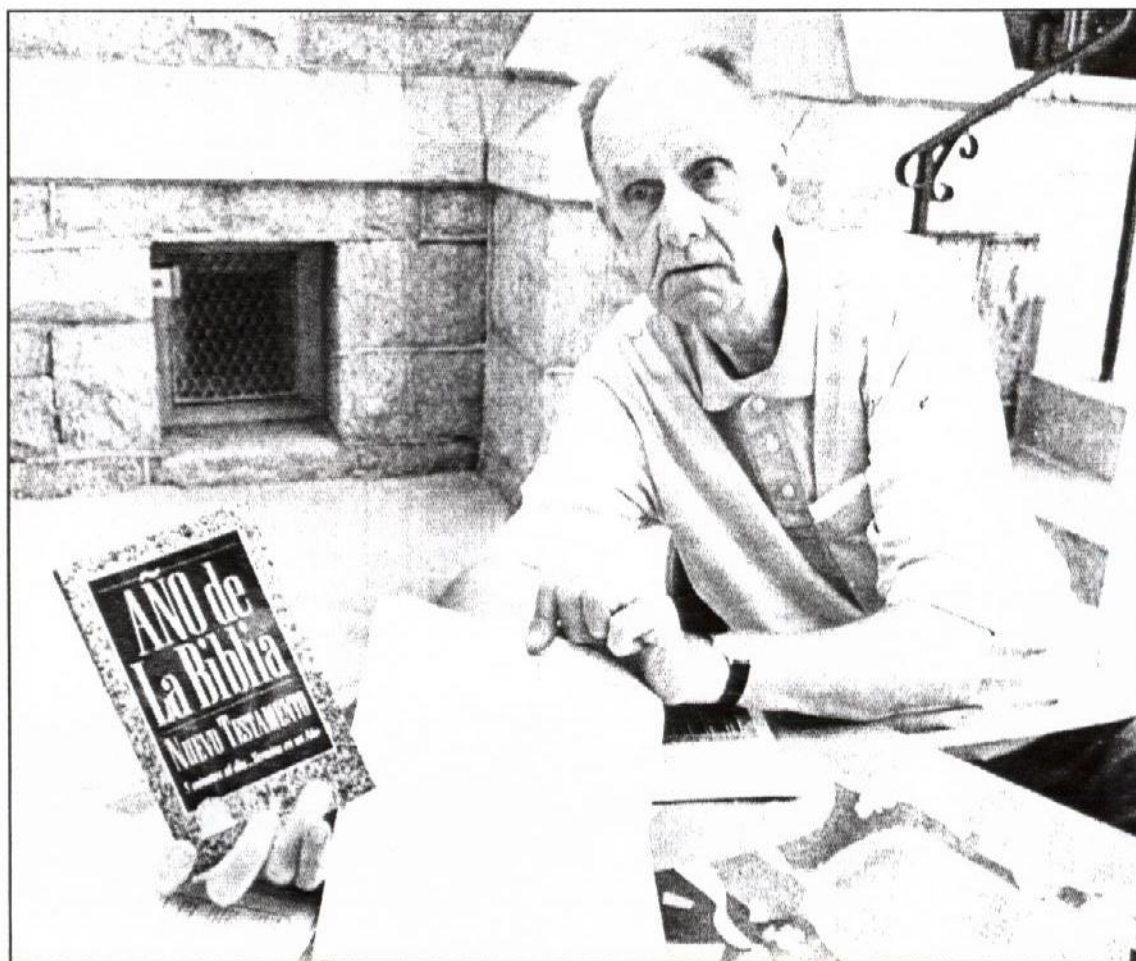
Photos become property of *The Catholic Review*.





CR/OSWALDO JIMENEZ

Marie Hirsch, (above) a parishioner at St. Anthony of Padua/Most Precious Blood, enjoys reading *The Catholic Review* while waiting for Sunday Mass to begin. William Stroble, (at right) parishioner of St. Patrick and St. Michael, Baltimore, volunteers an hour each Sunday to distribute literature in English and Spanish to the public.







CR/OSWALDO JIMENEZ

Members of the choir at St. Casimir, Baltimore, (above) are part of the parish's Music Ministry. They sing every Sunday during Mass. Chelsea Kohlerman, 8, (at right) patiently waits for her mother; DeSales Kohlerman, a member of the St. Casimir choir. Cathy Kocur (at left), tech coordinator at St. Joseph School, Fullerton, puts the finishing touches on the computer room, which she and other volunteers created from the ground up.





*"My idea behind bringing young people in was to help the older people. It would be a shame for this tradition to die."*

March 30, 1999

## Volunteers keep St. Casimir's coddies cooking

A younger generation is taking lessons from the old-timers

By AMY OAKES  
SUN STAFF

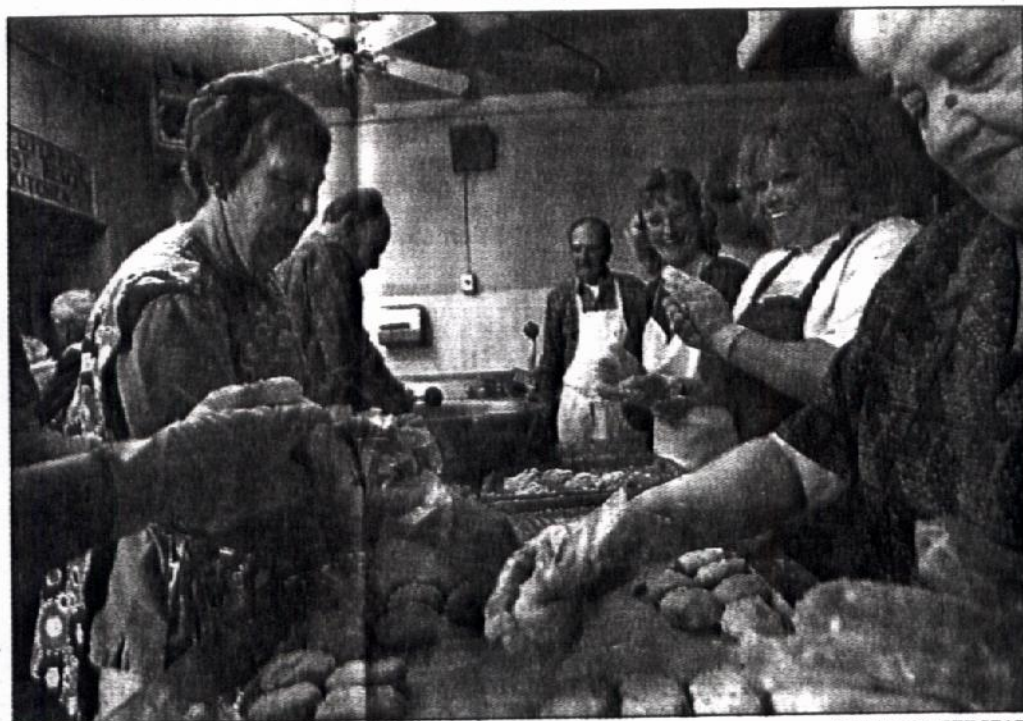
In one fell swoop, Tony Anuszewski dipped the ice cream scooper into the large stainless-steel bowl, leveled off another glob of sticky codfish cake concoction with his right hand and flung it onto an orange cafeteria tray.

A crew of coddie veterans — showing the way to a handful of novices at Canton's St. Casimir Roman Catholic Church — scrambled to pick up the gooey piles and mold them into little discs.

Each of the past six weeks, they have made up to 2,000 of the Baltimore delicacies, with 100 crab cakes and 50 pounds of potato salad, macaroni salad and coleslaw.

"We won't be rookies anymore," said JoAnn Stoffregen, 44, as she peeled off her clear plastic gloves, which were matted with codfish flakes. "We kind of just jumped right in."

If new volunteers like Stoffregen hadn't gotten in-



AMY DAVIS: SUN STAFF

**St. Casimir's volunteers:** Joanne Gregory (left), Tony Anuszewski, Bernard Kuhn, Donna Derkacz, JoAnn Stoffregen and Dolores Gawor make coddies by the hundreds.

volved, St. Casimir's annual coddie fund-raiser, which brings in about \$10,000 each season, would have ended last year, said the Rev. Ross Syracuse.

Each batch of coddies is a weeklong process. A few women take telephone and walk-in orders Mondays and Tuesdays, while the men

shop for the salted file of cod in Jessup. The cod is soaked, cooked and picked clean of bones and soot before being mixed with mashed potatoes, eggs and other ingredients. The mixture is then formed into cakes. On the final day, a few workers come in at 6 a.m. to fry the cakes.

The sale started Ash Wednesday and ends tomorrow. Orders are taken at 410-327-2422.

Syracuse said the regulars — some of whom had been patting cakes for almost two decades — were getting too old to handle the physical rigors of the process, so this year he [See Coddies, 16a]





AMY DAVIS: SUN STAFF

**Baltimore Lenten tradition:** St. Casimir's volunteers make hundreds of coddies, one at a time.

## New volunteers help keep St. Casimir's coddies cooking

[Coddies, from Page 1B]

asked the church's Father Kolbe Academy Parents Association to help out.

"My idea behind bringing young people in was to help the older people," Syracuse said. "It would be a shame for this tradition to die with them."

Stoffregen said the school parents will take over. But after almost six weeks, she's ready for a break. "These are some dedicated people," Stoffregen said. "It just amazes me that they can keep up at their age."

Longtime customer John Wingate, 59, of Overlea said he's relieved that St. Casimir's will continue to sell coddies, which satisfy his annual fix.

"When I was a kid, every corner store had them, and these taste like those," Wingate said.

It took a few weeks for the original crew of about five to warm up to the newcomers.

"They've been great," said 18-year coddie maker Dolores Gawor, 72. "Last year, we wouldn't get done until about 2 p.m., and now we get out about 11:30."

Gawor's daughter, Nancy Jester of Essex, said the kitchen atmosphere has lightened because the crew isn't as worn down. "It was just work, work, work," said Jester, who's been involved for six years.

Jester said the coddie makers probably had needed assistance

for a while.

"They had a hard time accepting help," Jester said. "I think they were afraid of being replaced and not needed."

These five original coddie makers from St. Casimir's, at O'Donnell Street and Kenwood Avenue, are pros who have cleaned and cooked thousands of pounds of codfish.

Picking through mounds of steaming codfish last week, Eleanor Burmeister, 76, said, "I could probably do this with my eyes closed and just feel for the bones."

Her only complaint is that the codfish odor follows her after she leaves the kitchen. "We stink like heck all the way home," joked Burmeister.

Little joking and chatting used to be allowed in the kitchen, said Alex Kulbicki, 83, who with his wife, Frances, 82, are originals. Coddie fund-raiser founder Anna Ziemiński, who died in November at age 86, used to run a tight operation.

"She would say, 'Talk tomorrow, work today,'" said Alex Kulbicki.

When Ziemiński, the "Queen of the Kitchen," died, Kulbicki said they weren't sure they would keep going. "The old guys like us are dying off," he said.

But they did discontinue pirogis, which Ziemiński was known for. "People ask about them, but she took her recipe with her upstairs," Kulbicki said, laughing.



He was able to find sobriety in an inherently Christian fashion," Mr. Maynard said, but that was what particularly attracted him to Matt Talbot's way in his own journey.

Mr. Maynard is a devout Catholic, an involved parishioner at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Mount Washington where he often serves Mass, and a trustee

He was a hard-drinking worker (a messenger for wine merchants in Dublin, a dock worker and a construction worker) who never let his drinking cause him to miss a day's work," Mr. Maynard explained.

"He spent all his wages on drink, and when the money ran out he did whatever was needed

know somehow he needed to draw on his faith if he were going to kick his destructive habit.

But rather than simply giving up his excessive drinking because such behavior was considered sinful, and he might find himself in eternal trouble, he realized he had to find a positive reason for staying sober. He had to find something better than booze.

Matt was accustomed to taking only three and half-hours of sleep on two rough planks and a wooden pillow. He arose at 2 a.m., prayed and then attended Mass at 6 a.m. After work he visited a church, attended confraternity meetings and gave himself to prayer and although not well educated, to spiritual reading.

He ate no meat for nine months of the year. His midday

few of us are untouched by alcoholism and its tragic effects in some way, either personally or through family members or friends. Mr. Maynard's book could make a break-through difference in many lives.

To Slake a Thirst: The Matt Talbot Way to Sobriety by Philip Maynard is published by Alba House, New York, Society of St. Paul, 2187 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314. The web site is [www.alba-house.org](http://www.alba-house.org).

# THE PARISH REPORT

## Advent preparations in Owensville

A family Advent festival was held Nov. 18 after the 5 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows, Owensville, in order to prepare families for the Advent season. More than 30 boxes of Advent activities were distributed to families taking part in the program.

Families first shared a meal of soup and sandwiches which included black bean soup prepared by their pastor, Father Mark Logue, a "pretty good cook" according to Joyce McMillan, administrator of religious education for the parish. Members of the women's guild prepared two other soups and sandwiches for the meal.

After dinner each family checked out completed samples of each project displayed in one of the classrooms and then selected one of the seven activities to work on together.

Boxes included materials to make 3-dimensional Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, special Christmas cards, Christmas angels and many other appropriate crafts.

## New parish center dedication in Canton

Those strolling past the new St. Joseph Cupertino Center at St. Casimir, Baltimore, would never believe it was once a vacant, dilapidated eyesore, the remnants of the first parish school. Today the red brick building has a fresh new look and a new lease on life as the home of a new St. Stanislaus Kostka chapel, parish meeting rooms, the after-school program for Father Kolbe School and space for parish and community activities.

"It ties in not only with the development of the faith community but also with the development going on in the Canton community," said business manager Bernadette Vece.

The new center was dedicated Dec. 17 following the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir. Representatives from various parish organizations joined in the procession that brought the Blessed Sacrament into the new chapel.

Former parishioners of St. Stanislaus, the mother parish of St. Casimir that closed earlier this year, also took part in the celebration.

The building is a good blend of the old and the new, said Ms. Vece. The new center contains the stained-glass windows, altar and tabernacle from the old St. Casimir convent as well as the celebrant's chair from St. Stanislaus and a portion of the tin ceiling from the original St. Casimir Church.

The Heritage of Hope campaign provided a portion of the \$700,000 for the project with the majority of the funds coming from foundation grants and pledges from parishioners, former parishioners and local business owners.



**'TIS THE SEASON:** Ruth Guido displays a Christmas wreath she crafted by hand at St. Patrick in Cumberland. Parishioners have been busy decorating the parish buildings for the Christmas season.

CR/GEORGE P. MATYSEK, JR.

Catholic Review 12/21/00



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# St. Casimir begins work on St. Joseph Cupertino Center

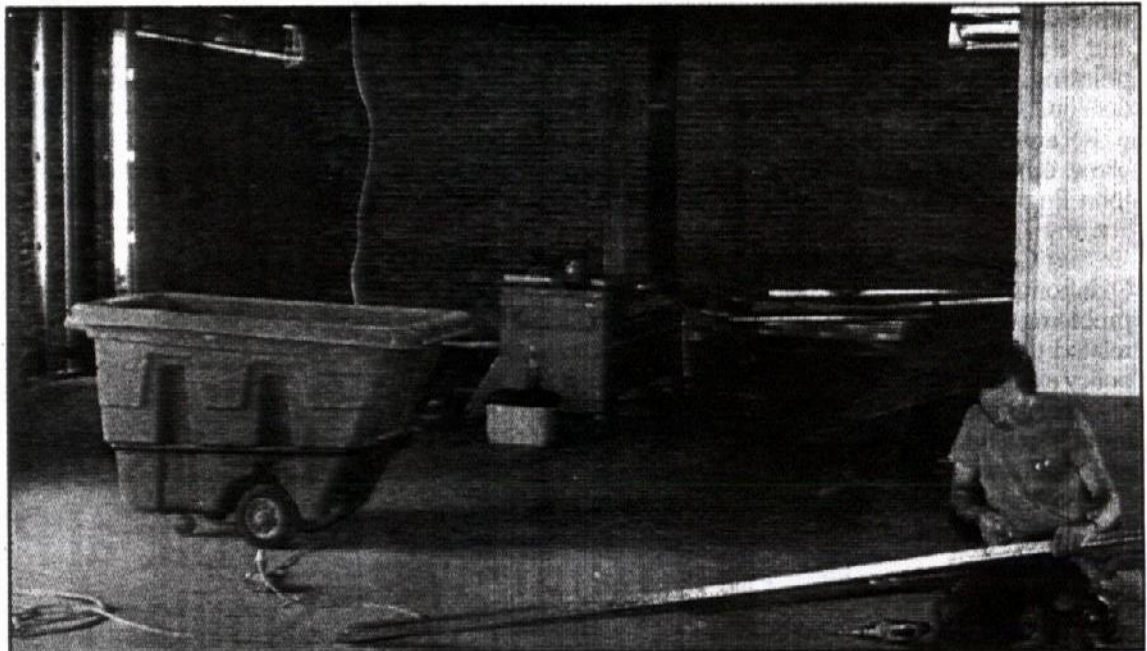
By George P. Matysek, Jr.  
Review staff correspondent

For nearly six years, the old St. Casimir School building in Canton has stood as a vacant, dilapidated eyesore unused by the parish. But by November, the run-down structure will be transformed into a vibrant parish center that will house a new chapel, parish meeting rooms and space for youth activities.

Named the "St. Joseph Cupertino Center" after a 17th-century saint of the Conventual Franciscan order of priests who staff St. Casimir, the centerpiece of the renovated school building will be the new daily Mass chapel.

Seating 50 people, the chapel will be created out of the two rooms on the first floor of the building that runs along Kenwood Avenue. To be called the St. Stanislaus Chapel, the worship space will stand as a special tribute to St. Stanislaus parish — the mother parish of St. Casimir that was closed by the archdiocese May 6 after spending several years as a twinned parish with St. Casimir.

Stained-glass windows from the old St. Casimir convent chapel will be featured in the St.



CR/AMY BUCK

### A place to pray

Workers begin construction on the new St. Stanislaus chapel at St. Casimir in Canton. The chapel, part of the new St. Joseph Cupertino Center, will be open during the day to allow visitors to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Syracuse, O.F.M., Conv., pastor of the 700-family faith community. "The new chapel will recall and preserve the history of both parishes."

The St. Stanislaus chapel will be open during the day to allow people to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Father Syracuse said. The pastor added

A utility classroom with multi-media capabilities for Internet and video projection will be located on the second floor for use by all parish organizations. The classroom will also become the home for the parish's religious education program.

Two other second-floor

system will be installed. All existing windows will be replaced, and several additional windows will be added. The inner courtyard will be converted to a play area for the after-school program.

In addition, the exterior stucco is being removed to expose the original brickwork of the





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St. Stanislaus Chapel, the worship space will stand as a special tribute to St. Stanislaus parish – the mother parish of St. Casimir that was closed by the archdiocese May 6 after spending several years as a twinned parish with St. Casimir.

Stained-glass windows from the old St. Casimir convent chapel will be featured in the St. Stanislaus chapel, along with the altar and tabernacle from the convent chapel. The celebrant's chair from St. Stanislaus Church and a portion of the tin ceiling from the original St. Casimir's Church will also be included in the design.

"We're trying to incorporate as much of both churches as possible," said Father Ross

Syracuse, O.F.M., Conv., pastor of the 700-family faith community. "The new chapel will recall and preserve the history of both parishes."

The St. Stanislaus chapel will be open during the day to allow people to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Father Syracuse said. The pastor added that the new chapel will also save the parish on the high expenses of heating and cooling the main church for daily Mass.

The remaining room on the first floor of the St. Joseph Cupertino Center will be used for the after-school program at Father Kolbe School. That program currently serves about 25 children and is in desperate need of space, the pastor said.

A utility classroom with multi-media capabilities for Internet and video projection will be located on the second floor for use by all parish organizations. The classroom will also become the home for the parish's religious education program.

Two other second-floor rooms will be converted into a youth meeting room for the parish as well as outside organizations like the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. An existing room divider will be maintained so two groups can meet there at the same time.

Heating, electrical and plumbing systems will be replaced throughout the building, and an air conditioning

system will be installed. All existing windows will be replaced, and several additional windows will be added. The inner courtyard will be converted to a play area for the after-school program.

In addition, the exterior stucco is being removed to expose the original brickwork of the structure.

Murphy and Dittenhafer designed the St. Joseph Cupertino Center and F.M. Harvey Construction Company is the builder. The project's total cost will be about \$677,200.

"The St. Joseph Cupertino Center is a sign of where we're going as a parish," said Father Syracuse. "It's a sign of a renewed spirit."

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# Recovering church

## 'Gentrification' of Canton gives boost to its parish

By Christopher Gaul  
Review associate editor

Father Timothy Kulbicki, O.F.M. Conv., was curious. His homily at the popular 10 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir three Sundays ago addressed the issue of "community" and the Gospel, and he wanted to know how long people in the congregation had lived in the Southeast Baltimore waterfront community of Canton which the parish has served for almost a century.

In calling for a show of hands he asked first how many of them had lived in Canton for "a long time," then "for the past 10 years or so" and finally "for the past two or three years."

His last request produced by far the largest number of hands, and the priest noticed that most of them belonged to young adults in their 20s and early 30s.

He and St. Casimir's pastor, Father Ross M. Syracuse, O.F.M. Conv., were stunned. They knew that young people, singles and couples, mostly professionals, had been moving into the community at a pretty steady rate since Father Syracuse arrived there in 1997, but they had no idea the influx was this large.

"It's amazing what's happened here in just the past few years," said Father Syracuse, a lean, 50-year-old marathon runner who makes a regular reconnaissance of the historic 216-year-old neighborhood during his late afternoon jogging jaunts.

"I think it's great," said Bernadette Vece, St. Casimir's music director and business manager, who lives in a Canton row house just down the street from the 100-year-old one she grew up in and in which her parents still live.

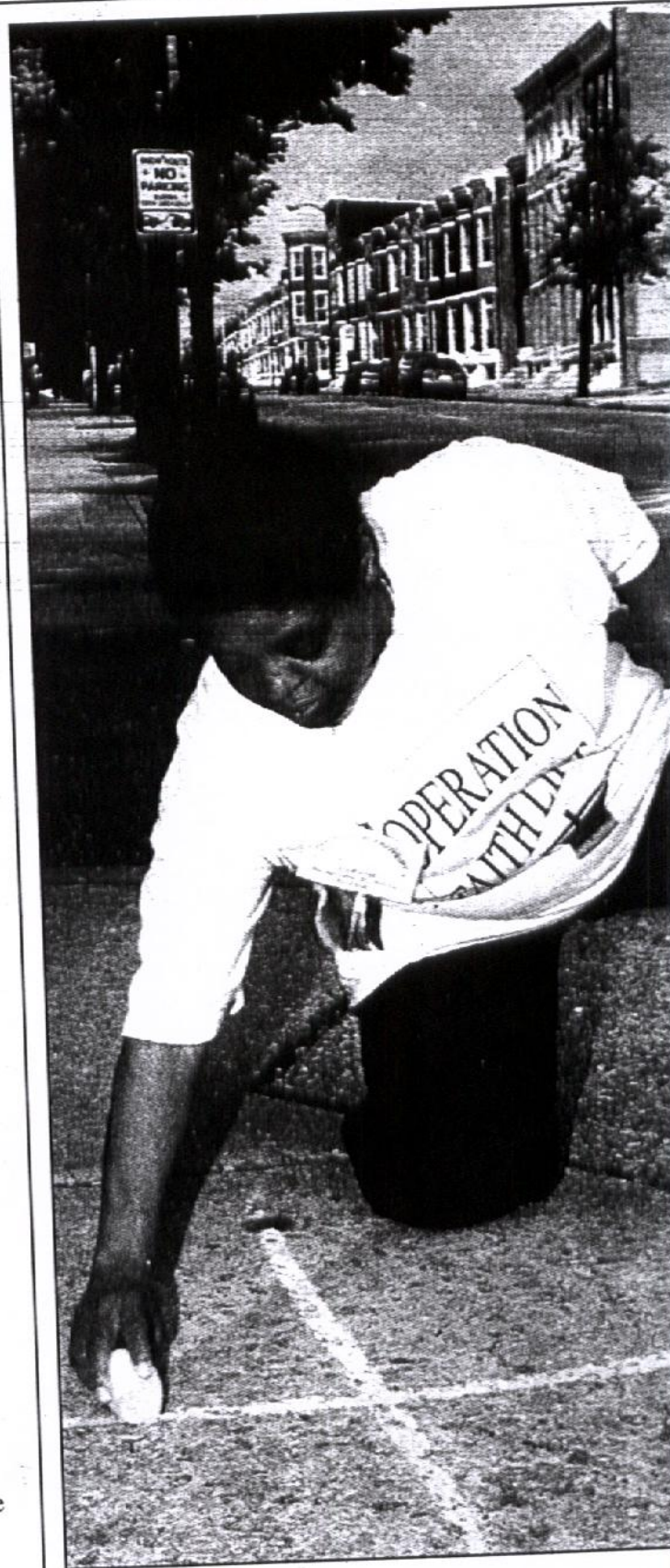
Both she and Father Syracuse see the renovation, restoration and even "gentrification" of Canton, where row homes that not long ago sold for \$30,000 or \$40,000 now go for upward of \$200,000, as new lifeblood for both the community and the parish whose church spires dominate the immediate skyline.

"It's a facelift for Canton, and it's a real shot in the arm for the parish," Mrs. Vece declared.

The parish of some 650 families has steadily grown over the past four years at an annual rate of about 40-50 families, even though there are close to 50 funerals a year, and Mass attendance is up by 20 percent. It is a hopeful sign in a city where many parishes struggle to survive and where, just a few blocks away, the older Polish church of St. Stanislaus Kostka, St. Casimir's mother church, was closed last year by the archdiocese.

Father Syracuse doesn't necessarily see Catholic newcomers to Canton as becoming "pillars of the parish" as such, though.

See REVITALIZATION on page 10



**RECLAIMING THE CITY:** Evette Geiger, a parishioner of St. Jerome and St. Peter the Apostle bless their neighborhood during an Operation Faith Lift prayer walk June 2. For more on Operation Faith Lift, see page 3.

Cause for sainthood opened for Father Peyton, page 7 • Newly ordained priests



# NEWS

THE CATHOLIC REVIEW • JUNE 7, 2001

## Revitalization benefits St. Casimir

*Continued from page 1*

"Their lives are very busy now," he said, "and they're not likely to be coming to church socials, but they like the parish for what it means to them spiritually, and that's why they come to the church."

And that's the case with 28-year-old Thomas J. McHugh and his schoolteacher fiancée, who moved to Canton a year ago to rent row homes a few blocks apart and who plan to get married at St. Casimir next April.

Mr. McHugh is the regional manager of a fledgling technology company. He was living in Perry Hall but was drawn to Canton by its small town, neighborhood atmosphere and its easy access to I-95 for his business trips to Washington and Philadelphia.

And, he said, there's a lot to do in Canton these days, something that would likely have surprised Irish sea captain John O'Donnell who established the community in 1785. Good restaurants flourish there as do the trendy new bars and, said Mr. McHugh, there are "places to take the family when they come to visit" not to mention St. Casimir itself which he and his fiancée fell in love with at first sight.

"We went to a couple of other local churches, but we really liked St. Casimir," Mr. McHugh said. "It had a real feeling of stability to it, that the people were here to stay."

There may not be actual "trouble" per se in paradise, but both older and newer residents and St. Casimir's pastor agree that there is a downside to Canton's growth and development.

Standing in the small, well kept O'Donnell Square park where the usually childless young, newcomer couples walk their dogs, Father Syracuse pointed across the street to a woman leaning against her doorway, watching Canton's sidewalk life.

"It's really noisy on the weekend when the bars get out," he said, "and Mrs. Sanders sits over there, she's been here for a long,



**NEIGHBORS:** Timothy J. McHugh, a recent arrival in Canton and parishioner of St. Casimir, talks with Father Ross M. Syracuse, O.F.M. Conv., pastor of St. Casimir, in a neighborhood park. CR/CHRISTOPHER GAUL

long time, but she's going to be moving because of the noise and the traffic."

And Mr. McHugh says he feels badly for some of the older residents he knows who live on fixed incomes. As property values skyrocketed, so did the taxes, and some of these longtime residents can no longer afford to live in the community where their grandparents were born.

He thinks "something" needs to be done about their oppressive property tax situation, and Mrs. Vece from the parish agrees.

"It's a shame, but maybe that's part of the price we have to pay for all the good things that have happened," she said. "I mean, just look at the rest of Baltimore City and see what we have here."

The emerging new population is not likely to strike its roots in Canton, though,

Mr. McHugh observed. It's a great place to live while you're young and without a family, he said, but when children come along then it's time to pull up stakes and move to the suburbs with their larger backyards.

Father Syracuse is not concerned about this phenomenon, though. Rather, he sees it as a great opportunity for the parish to be involved in ongoing, energetic evangelization of a possibly ever-changing population.

Striding around the neighborhood in his black Franciscan habit and sandals, greeting everyone in sight, Father Syracuse is always reaching out to the people of Canton, hoping to further engage them in the active life of the parish.

"It's difficult sometimes, but we have to call the people forth."

Canton, he believes, is listening.

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# Catholics turn to God and th

## Parishioners, others flock to churches in wake of tragedy

By Christopher Gaul  
Review associate editor

Stunned, fearful and profoundly saddened, Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore turned to God through their parish churches as the horrifying events of Sept. 11 and their aftermath unfolded on television before their incredulous eyes.

Pastors opened the doors of their churches, normally closed during most weekday hours. Many scrambled to organize prayer services and then struggled to find the words of faith and hope that might help make sense out of the evil that had struck the nation's body and soul.

"This horrible act of violence brings home to us all the stark reality of how fragile life is and how, in certain ways, we are so profoundly helpless," Father Ross M. Syracuse, O.F.M. Conv., pastor of St. Casimir, Canton, told some 600 people who flocked to the church for a candlelight prayer vigil on the evening of the attack on America.

At St. Joan of Arc in Aberdeen, near the military complex of Aberdeen Proving Ground, parishioners gathered for an evening prayer service. Earlier in the day the pastor, Father Samuel V. Young, could only find one positive thing that came out of the horror. It was when he saw the parish school students' parents arrive early to pick up their children.

"There was no talk of soccer practice or homework, only a very deep, genuine love and concern for children," Father Young said.

The tragedy hit especially hard at St. Margaret in Bel Air, which has experienced the death of two students this summer.

"It's been like a roller coaster ride," said Father Francis X. Callahan, pastor, noting that parents appeared to be in a state of almost panic when they picked up their children. He said that the morning Mass the day after the terrorist attack was a "powerful" experience, especially when a young man stood up and began

spontaneously to sing "Let there be peace on earth," and the rest of the congregation joined him.

In Highlandtown, Father Thomas Loftus, C.Ss.R., pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus, left open the doors of the church until 7:30 p.m. so that people could come in to pray at any time during the day. About 50-60 people gathered that evening, while Mass attendance at 8 a.m. the next day more than doubled as was the case with most parishes throughout the archdiocese. Father Loftus also led a prayer service with the children of the Bishop John Neumann campus of the Southeast Baltimore Catholic Academy.

"A tragic thing has happened, and out of that tragedy good can come from it," Father Loftus told his parishioners. "We put aside our petty differences to confront an evil."

In Severna Park more than 800 people

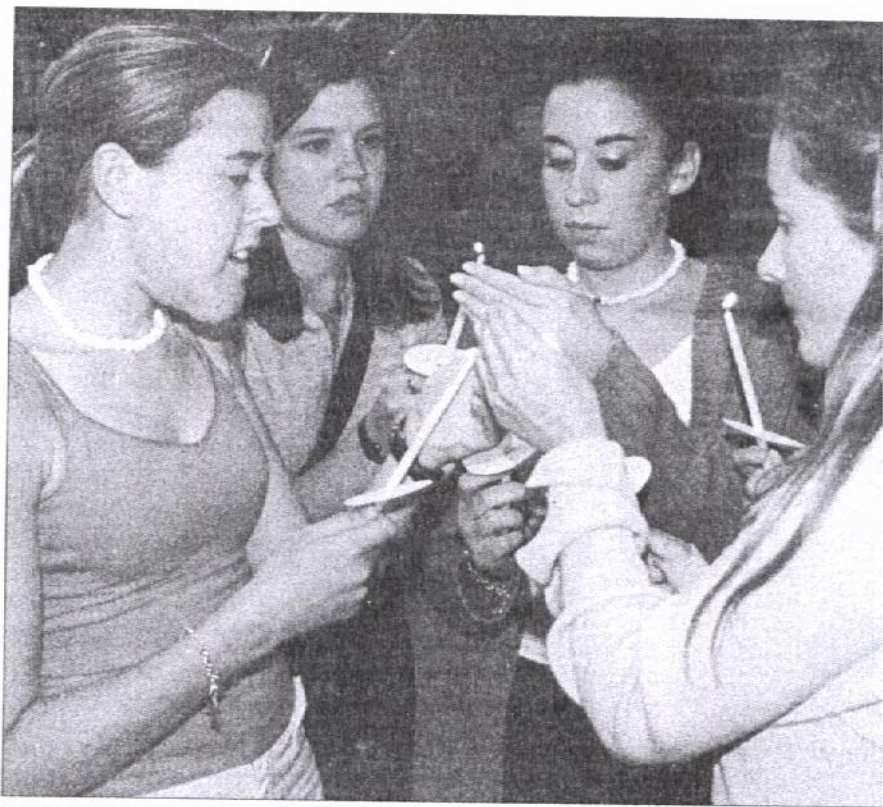
crowded into St. John the Evangelist Tuesday evening Mass. The pastor worded out to its members about the tragedy via phone trees and e-mails, said Mitchell T. Rozanski, pastor.

"The fact that even though this terrible act had happened, and we have seen the worst of humanity and what it can do, our presence was witness to that we follow Christ, the Prince of Peace," Father Rozanski said.

The parish used the prayers in the wake of war and civil disturbance at the time of the Vietnam War. Not far from the National Security Agency, St. John has many military, military and civilian government veterans as parishioners.

Church of the Immaculate Conception, Towson, also celebrated a Civil Disturbance Mass Sept. 11 attended by more than 500 people.

St. Philip Neri, Linthicum Heights, held Mass the following morning Sept. 12 with 200 people attending, five times the number who normally worship on a weekday. On Sept. 13 a morning Mass was celebrated for about 500



**PEACE VIGIL:** Students at Loyola College, Baltimore, participate in a candlelight prayer vigil Sept. 13 in remembrance of the lives lost during the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 (C/Owen Sweeney III)

## THE CATHOLIC REVIEW

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parish's school children.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Edgewater, where pastor Father Frank J. Brauer said the majority of parishioners hold jobs in Washington, also held a prayer service on the day of the attack.

When Monsignor Joseph L. Luca, pastor of St. Louis in Clarksville, first heard of the terrorist attacks, he immediately arranged for an evening prayer service to be held in the chapel. Even though the parish had not advertised the gathering, more than 650 people showed up, moving the event into the main church.

"They sang and prayed with great emotion," said Monsignor Luca, observing that many of his parishioners work for the Defense Department and the Pentagon. "People are feeling the pain. They are trying to encounter the Lord and his healing."

The pastor noted that the sister of one of his parishioners was in one of the World Trade Center towers in New York — on one of the floors directly impacted by the hijacked plane.

"I spoke to her (the parishioner), and she's very concerned," he said. "What comes to mind is the passage in Scripture that says, 'Come to me all you who find life burdensome and find rest for your soul.'"

Father Paul A. Byrnes, pastor of St. Michael in Frostburg, said parishioners of his Western Maryland faith community were shaken because they are less than 40 miles from where one of the hijacked planes crashed in rural western Pennsylvania. In his homilies during the Sunday after the attack, he preached about God "being with his people." And he prayed that terrorists will have a "change of heart."

Parishioners of St. Mary in Cumberland gathered to say the rosary and pray in the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament Sept. 13. Permanent Deacon David A. Conley offered a reflection on the need for God in times of sorrow.

"I've always preached that when you have the Lord controlling life, you have a different perspective," Mr. Conley said. "We need to keep the Lord in our life to give us strength."

Catholic Review staff correspondents Jennifer Williams, George Matysek Jr. and Rachel Richmond contributed to this article.



**PEACE VIGIL:** Students at Loyola College, Baltimore, participate in a candlelight peace vigil Sept. 13 in remembrance of the lives lost during the terrorist attacks Sept. 11. (CR/Owen Sweeney III)

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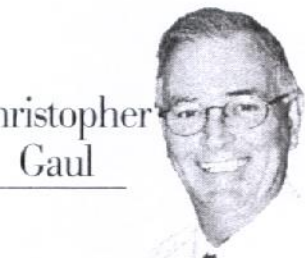
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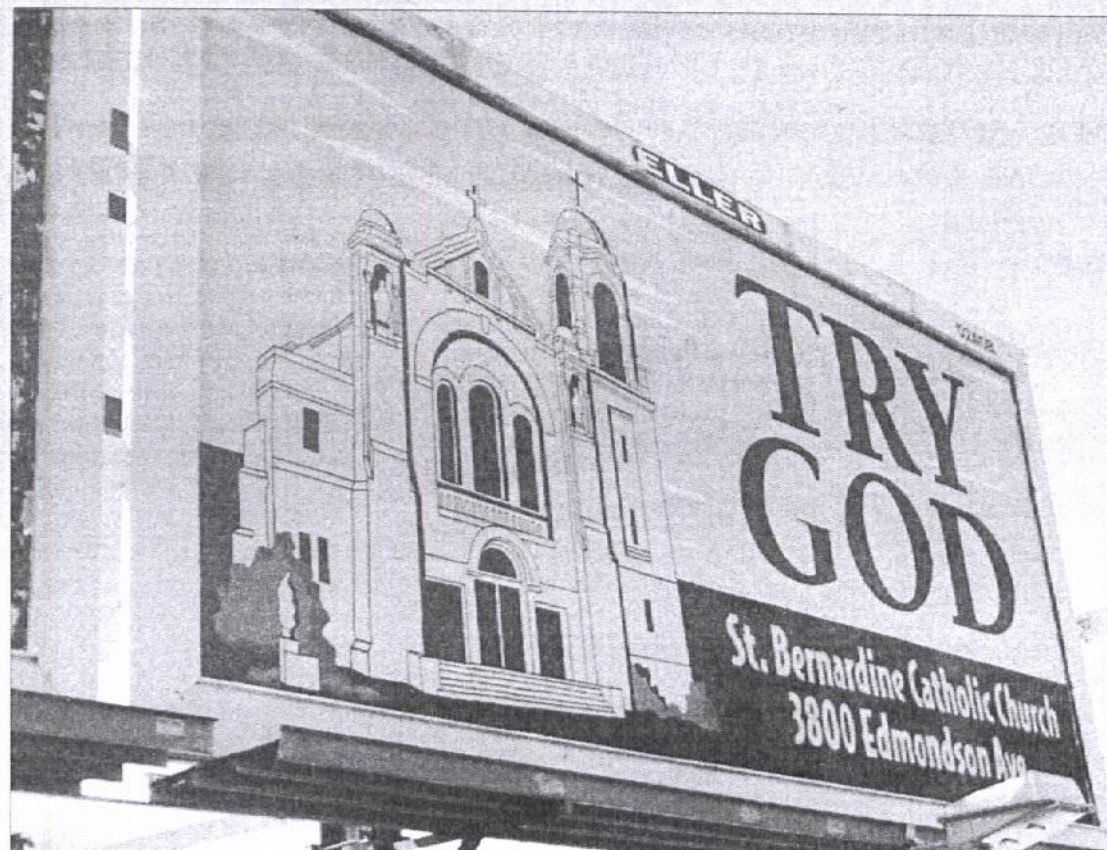
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**GOT GOD?:** St. Bernardine parish in southwest Baltimore has taken a huge step in its evangelization efforts. The "TRY GOD" billboard, located on Route 40 east, just past Western Cemetery, is part of the parish's annual "TRY GOD" month in October. During the month, parishioners are encouraged to invite a family member or friend to Mass or a church event. (CROWEN SWEENEY III)

## St. Francis children find 'wonder'

St. Francis of Assisi, Baltimore is entering its second year of the religious education program, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This Montessori-style program helps young children to understand aspects of the church with hands-on interactive activities.

The Catechesis was started in Europe in the 1950s and has spread all over the world. In the program, children are grouped together according to age and do a lot of creative work with different "tools" of the church that are tailored to their size. For example, when they learn about the Mass, a miniature altar, chalice and other materials are available for hands-on learning.

Beth Cushing, first year catechist whose six-year-old daughter is in the program said, "It isn't so much instructional as it is wonder," where the children can see the awesomeness and glory of Christ. The catechists provide very slow and deliberate illustration of religious principles and biblical stories with a lot of questioning of the children. A special space, called the atrium, is set aside at the parish for the program, enabling the children to have room to explore the materials.

"It's so beautiful and cool to see that enlightenment on their little faces," she said.

The Catechesis will officially begin in the middle of October. To enroll your child, call 410-254-0989.

## Haas to serenade St. Casimir

Catholic Review  
10/14/2001

Renowned liturgical composer David Haas will be in concert at St. Casimir, Canton October 19. Mr. Haas is regarded as one of the preeminent liturgical composers in the English-speaking world and has produced over 30 original collections of liturgical music. In 1991 he was nominated for a Grammy Award for his recording of "I Shall See God." He is currently the director of the Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer and Ministry. Mr. Haas will also give a workshop, "The Foundations of Liturgical Celebration," at St. Casmir on October 20.

## Sacred Heart pastor, knightly chaplain

Father Richard E. Cramblitt, pastor of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Mt. Washington was invested as a Magistral Chaplain of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta on Sept. 22 in a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, archbishop of Washington.

The Order of Malta is a Catholic lay religious order that dates back to the time of the Crusades. It honors those men and women who have an outstanding history of service to the church.

## Windows to Heaven

Helping the Comboni Missionary Sisters repair their new convent and memorializing a family member go hand-in-hand at St. Matthew, Baltimore. The sisters occupy the convent at the parish and many people have assisted them in making needed repairs. One major renovation that still needs to be completed is replacing all of the windows in the convent. To help the sisters, Father Joseph L. Muth, Jr., pastor of St. Matthew, is encouraging parishioners to donate \$300, the cost of one new window, in honor of a deceased family member. The names of those honored will be engraved on a plaque in the convent chapel and the sisters will remember them in their prayers.



## From pirogi to lattes

**St. Casimir's, like its Canton neighborhood, is moving from a Polish past to a yuppies future.**

By Carl Schoettler  
Sun Staff

October 27, 2001

The twin spires of St. Casimir Roman Catholic Church have stood like sentinels in the heart of Canton for 75 years, signposts for the neighborhood, markers for sailors plying the harbor and a comfort for the faithful, pointing ever upward toward the heavens.

The parish, a century old next year, is in the midst of the most profound change in its history. So too the neighborhood. From its beginnings as an urban, ethnic church serving Polish immigrants, St. Casimir now finds itself ministering to young, upscale professionals while still attending to the needs of its aging, more traditional parishioners.

The job of guiding this transition has fallen to the Rev. Ross M. Syracuse, the youthful pastor who arrived at St. Casimir's four years ago when the church attendance was in a nose dive and the Canton resurgence was taking off.

He's perhaps the ideal priest for the job. Like lots of the "new people" moving into Canton, he's a dedicated runner, doing six miles around the neighborhood nearly every day. He's completed 73 marathons, including the city's race last Sunday, where he offered the invocation prayer, then took off with the throng and finished with a time of 3:43:55. He works out at a local health club. He's a vegetarian. And he flies a Cessna 152 for recreation.

Yet he's a deeply spiritual priest with a warm respect for tradition. He pads through Canton in the dark robe, bound by a knotted white cord, and the open sandals of the Franciscan order. He conducts a healing service Thursday evening at the church, and he's just back from a religious retreat.

"Father Ross," says Bernadette Vece, St. Casimir's business manager, "he's around the clock almost."

She ticks off four Masses on the weekend, daily morning Masses Monday to Friday, funerals, weddings, pre-nuptial classes. Father Ross, the only priest assigned to the parish, has just added a third Mass on Sunday at 5 p.m. to attract the new people, who may find even a noon Mass too early after partying late Saturday night.

"We have a lot of good ministers, people who help with the Masses and the different services we have, our ushers and eucharistic ministers, our lecturers," Vece says.

And yet, Father Ross still has plenty to do. When he arrived at St. Casimir's, Mass attendance had been dropping by almost 15 per cent a year for 10 years. Younger people were moving away; older parishioners were dying off.

"We had between 40 and 60 funerals a year," Father Ross says. "And although we still have the same amount of funerals, we are increasing in our Mass attendance."

Coming down the aisle after the popular 10 o'clock Mass recently are two of those young professionals who have found a new spiritual home in St. Casimir's, Amy Williams, 28, and Christopher Hickey, 29. He's a stockbroker and she's a social worker. They're planning a June wedding at the church with Father Ross.



"He has a nice way about him," Chris says.

"He does a good job," Amy says. "He includes everyone, makes everybody feel comfortable."

Amy, who came here from Akron, Ohio, to go to grad school at the University of Maryland, has a place on Milton Avenue, a half-dozen blocks from the church. Chris, originally from New York, lived in Fells Point five years before he was recently transferred to Wilmington, Del. They both think the new 5 o'clock Mass on Sunday will bring younger people back to the church.

"It's part of the whole change in the community," Chris says. "That Mass will kind of round out the weekend. It's a very good idea."

Father Ross thinks that St. Casimir's offers newcomers something they might find lacking in their lives.

"Many," he says, "don't come from backgrounds where they have had a lot of tradition in their families, or even in their belonging to the church."

"And our St. Casimir's is kind of steeped in ... a lot of tradition, culture and spirituality. You look around the church with all the paintings and statues and you can't help but have an experience of the tradition and of the past."

## **The interior**

The spacious church, with its bell towers reaching skyward 110 feet, culminates in an altar that replicates flawlessly Donatello's altar at the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, Italy. The centerpiece is a bronze statue of the Virgin Mary rising from a throne with the infant Jesus in her arms. She is flanked by St. Anthony and St. Francis, patrons of the Franciscan Order, which has administered the church since 1905. Overhead rises an extraordinary reproduction of Donatello's Crucifix.

The nave is a grand space, airy and filled with light colored by more than a dozen stained glass windows. Murals overhead depict scenes from the church in Poland and in America, including a tableau with Baltimore's Mother Seton, the first American-born saint.

"This was once a Polish church," says Betty Piskor, a St. Casimir's parishioner for 50 years and a tour guide who loves the church. And it's not without significance that she uses the past tense. "As you can see from the names [under the stained glass windows]."

Kazimerz and Michalina Sobczak, for example, donated the money for the window that depicts St. Casimir, the patron of both Poland and Lithuania, holding high his attributes, the cross and the lily.

Polish parishioners like the Sobczaks, Piskor says, "they're the ones whose pennies and nickels and dimes built this church."

St. Casimir's began in 1902 as a missionary parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, on South Ann Street, to serve Polish immigrants spreading east from Fells Point. The present church is a sort of grand add-on to the red brick building at its back, which was the first St. Casimir's in Canton.

"Immigrants needed a place where they could come," Piskor says. "That's the story of all churches, German, Italian. Everyone had to have a foundation and usually it was the church. Your social life was your church, too, your weddings, your meetings. Everything was your church."

"And they all spoke the same language."

The Polish immigrants and their children worked in factories and canneries right in the parish - like Gibbs', Libby's, Maryland Chief, American Can and the Tin Decorating Co. Later the men would go down to Sparrows Point and work in the steel mills.



"Most of them only spoke Polish," says Piskor. "I lived right down here for a long time. If you walk down these small streets, like [South] Belnord Avenue, you can see these small houses, [where immigrants lived], packed with children."

Father Timothy Kulbicki, the dean of theology at St. Mary's Seminary and a church historian who lives at the rectory, grew up in the parish. He says that St. Casimir's actually hit its high point in 1934, when the parish numbered more than 5,000 "souls" and nearly a thousand children went to the church school. Attendance at weekend Masses these days totals between 500 and 600.

"From 1934 it exhibits a long and slow decline," says Father Tim, the son of a North Glover Street grocer. "Partly because it was an ethnic parish designed without territorial boundaries to serve a linguistic group, i.e. Polish-Americans."

By 1934, he says, the second and third generation no longer described themselves "completely and thoroughly as Polish-Americans." What starts slowly in the 1930s accelerates rapidly after World War II.

"Polish sons," Father Tim says, "go off and then come back and have the GI Bill of Rights and move out to Rosedale and Dundalk and Fullerton and Overlea and Gardenville."

So the parish is left with three groups: a core element that never left the neighborhood.

A second group grew up in Canton, left and comes back regularly. Father Tim says: "It's a kind of a center of identity for them."

"And then you have another grouping that is very new to the neighborhood, that has no historic roots, no historic Polish background or anything like that. But this is where they've settled and this is where they worship."

"So what you've really got is a kind of Polish village into which a lot of people have moved."

## **Real estate boom**

This village is among the hottest real estate markets in the city. The rowhouses thrifty Polish factory workers bought for a couple of thousand dollars have become prized homes for the young architects and doctors and stockbrokers, who want to live an urban lifestyle.

In March, one of those small immigrant houses on South Belnord Avenue sold for \$155,000.

Renovation is rampant. Brand-new houses pop up wherever builders can find or make an empty lot. Canton Crossroad II with houses "priced from the \$290s" stands at Fleet and Essex streets, which Piskor says once wouldn't even have been considered Canton.

Symbolizing the change is O'Donnell Square, which begins just beyond the Father Kolbe parochial school across from the church. Trendy bars, boutiques and restaurants line the square where Canton Market once stood and August Bender served up fine delicatessen, Walter Milanicz sold meat and Robert Bethke hawked produce.

The factories and can companies where immigrant Poles worked - Continental Can Co., or the J.S. Young licorice plant, or the Tin Decorating Co. - have become the Tindeco Wharf and Canton Cove apartments and condominiums and The American Can Company shopping and office complex.

The new people are young singles or married couples without families, mostly professionals, better off and less rooted in the community than the traditional St. Casimir's parishioner.

But one could hardly have deeper roots in the parish than "Bernie" Vece, the business manager. She grew up in Canton at 3138 Elliott St., where her parents still live. When she got married, she just moved down to the other end



of the block. She was christened, confirmed, received first communion and got married at St. Casimir's. And her son, Paul, 20, received all his sacraments here, too.

But Vece knows the reality of the parish is that St. Casimir's is not the Polish church anymore.

"We have people kind of set in their ways," she says. "But I think for the most part it has been pretty progressive. We're moving along with the change. We're all learning as we go."

A Polish-American Heritage Committee still sponsors several events during the year. And the older, mostly Polish, members of the Beautiful Years Club eat lunch together, then play bingo after the Wednesday Mass, which is scheduled at 11 a.m. especially for them. Vece's father calls the numbers for the bingo.

But the days when a Polish polka band plays at the dances in the parish hall are numbered. Fewer and fewer people dance. One member of the parish council suggested swing dancing, the emblematic dance style of the yuppie generation.

No one quite remembers when the last Mass was said in Polish. In the 1980s, Father Tim suggests. Vece agrees. The last vestige of that era is a Polish hymn that's sung at the 8 o'clock Mass on Sunday.

At the popular 10 o'clock Mass, Fred and Sarah Kawa, two of the new people in the church, volunteer as Eucharistic ministers and distribute bread and wine during communion. Fred started coming to St. Casimir's about four years ago when he moved into Canton, and Sarah came after she met Fred.

"St. Casimir's is where we got married," Fred says, just a year ago on Sept. 23. "It's a very welcoming church."

Sarah's 24 and a nurse at St. Agnes Hospital. She grew up in Westminster. Fred's 31 and an engineer who came to Baltimore from a town near Corning, N.Y. They lived at Tindeco Wharf for a while after they got married, then moved out to Woodstock in Howard County. But they come back every Sunday.

Although nominally a Catholic all his life, Fred was actually confirmed at St. Casimir's in preparation for the wedding.

"We really like the parish and the people," Sarah says. "It just feels right."

"And Father Ross is one of our favorite people," Fred says. "He can relate to us as younger people and to the people who have been there all their lives. Father Ross has done an excellent job of rolling with the punches, rolling with those changes. He doesn't exclude anybody."

"At the end of Mass he comes out and asks if anybody's there for the first time. He says that at every single Mass."

### **Making new friends**

Several weeks ago, Father Ross took his welcome a little further. He stopped after the first part of his homily. "Now you're going to preach the second part of the homily," he told the congregation. "And they're looking at me like I had two heads."

"I want you to get up out of your seats," he said, "and introduce yourself to people you don't know. Don't go to people you know. Go to people you don't know and spend some time with those people."

"I was real nervous about that," he confides later.

But people got up and fanned out across the church. "It was wonderfully noisy and people were having a grand time," Father Ross says. "We could have gone on for a long time. I eventually had to call them back. But it was a wonderful experience."



"People said I've never done that before and they went beyond themselves and their shyness. Everyone left the liturgy really uplifted, and it was a real honest to goodness experience of what it means to minister, to reach out."

And what it means to go to the new St. Casimir's Church.

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## INSIDE



### Flute-playing ghost plays Christmas carols

Some say the ghost of Larry Dielman is still playing his flute. [Page 2D]

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**Ann Landers:** A reminder about fire safety. [Page 4D]

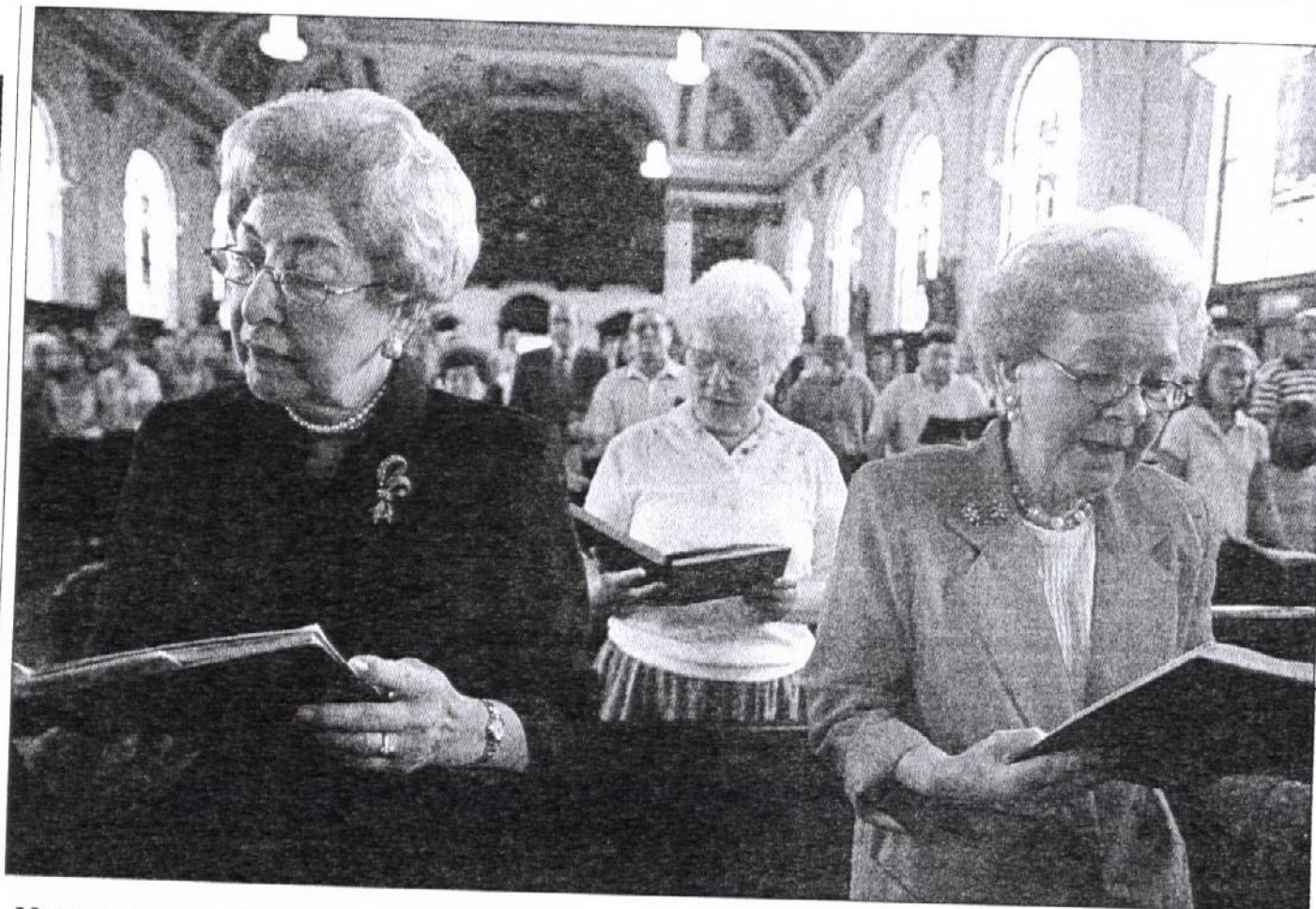
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The Sun on the Internet:  
<http://www.sunspot.net>

# ROB KASPER



**Mass:** Sisters Christine (left) and Irene Kujawa (right) attend the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir's Roman Catholic Church. ALGERINAPERNA: SUNSTAFFPHOTOS

# FROM PIROGI TO LATTES

St. Casimir's like its Centennial... idled...

## Rachmaninoff in BSO turns elegant

■ **Review:** Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes and conductor Yakov Kreizberg show steel and polish

By TIM SMITH  
SUN MUSIC CRITIC

The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's current "Favorites" program looks like a case of choosing one from column A (favorite symphonies), one from column B (favorite concertos). After there isn't too much Mendelssohn and Rachmaninoff have in common. But tonight's performance of former's *Scottish Symphony* and the latter's Piano Concerto No. 3 brought out a rather surprising bond between them — elegance.

Maybe that shouldn't have been surprising. Mr. Rachmaninoff's music is

## Opera captures



Spaces.”

I was particularly intrigued about features on historical and contemporary religious figures which allow young Internet travelers to vote on whether they are “Saints or Ain’t” and a chance to challenge their knowledge of church history in “Trivia Inferno.”

I discovered, for example, that young adult visitors to the site overwhelmingly considered Anthony of Padua to be a saint yet, curiously, were split over Katharine Drexel, who was listed as “Trust fund baby makes good.”

Paulist Father Brett Hoover, C.S.P., who is in his early 30s and who calls himself, tongue in cheek, the “Exalted Grand Poobah” of Paulist Young Ministries, is rightly proud of BustedHalo.

“While there are other sites aimed at young adults, there are no others that are focused on spirituality in such a dynamic way,” he said. “People are finding us through search engines and word-of-mouth and through some Internet and print advertising we’ve done, and they’re pleased with what they see.”

Chris Ashby, the archdiocese’s director of young adult ministry and youth activities, thinks BustedHalo is the greatest thing since sliced bread, and he’s getting the word out to parishes.

E-mail Christopher Gaul at [cgaul@catholicreview.org](mailto:cgaul@catholicreview.org)

## Begging for grace in annual novena

As part of their tradition, **St. Ignatius, Baltimore**, and **St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, Woodstock**, are sponsoring the novena of grace March 4-12.

The novena was begun by Father Marcellus Mastrilli in 1634. He was very near death after suffering a brain injury when he was cured instantaneously through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier. Churches around the world celebrate the novena for nine days until March 12, the anniversary of the canonization of St. Francis Xavier.

## Speak Polish in Canton

A new feature on the **St. Casimir, Canton**. Web site is LingvoBit, which will translate any English word you type into Polish and vice versa. Check out the site at <http://www.stecasimir.org>.

## Govans parish helps motherless children

**St. Mary of the Assumption, Govans**, will host a memorial benefit dinner March 9 at 6 p.m. for the children of Katrina Smith and Kenya Wilson who were killed by a drunk driver in September 2001. Proceeds will benefit Ms. Smith and Ms. Wilson’s children, Marvin and Marcus Smith and Daija Wilson. Tickets cost \$15 per adult and \$7 per child in advance. For more information, call John and Linda Butt at 410-532-6713.

E-mail Rachel Richmond at [richmond@catholicreview.org](mailto:richmond@catholicreview.org).



# Of kings, popes and Scottish bagpipers

Ah, the glorious skirl of the bagpipes. What a sound! Well I suppose some may liken it to a sort of screeching, caterwauling sound since, after all, it was designed to frighten an enemy. Personally, though, I love it. Sends shivers up my spine. Tunes of glory, don't you know.

At any rate, the sound of the pipes will once again grace the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary April 7. It will be during the 10:45 a.m. Mass to be celebrated by Cardinal William H. Keeler who no doubt looks forward to this day as his ancestors were keel makers in the Glasgow shipyards and must surely have danced to the piper from time to time.

The event is the St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore's fourth annual "Kirkin' (blessing) of the Tartan" in honor of Tartan Day (April 6), which was named the national Scottish American holiday by the United States Senate in 1998.

I had a chance to chat with Kevin Rand Gillespie, longtime member of the local St. Andrew's group and a past chairman of the U.S. association of his family clan, Clan MacPherson, who had some interesting Catholic history to relate.

That was after he rather sternly corrected my pronunciation of MacPherson as Mac-feer-son. "There is no 'fear' in Mac-fur-son," he told me. Very touchy, these Scots, about that sort of thing.

Anyway ... it seems that the April 6 date was chosen because it was on that day in 1320 that a group of Scottish noblemen petitioned Pope John XXII to recognize the independence of Scotland. They actually petitioned the pope with what was called the Declaration of Arbroath, a document that — Kevin emphatically assured me — "for the first time in history proclaimed the God-given right of an entire nation to live in freedom."

That was, of course, the era of the "Divine Right of Kings," but the Scottish declaration insisted that the king ruled at the sufferance of the people, and if he betrayed that trust they had the right to replace him with a ruler more to their liking.

The pope recognized Scotland's independence in 1329 more, perhaps, for political reasons than his love of democracy for he was a deci-

Christopher  
Gaul



**DINNER AND DANCING:** Joe Pietanza and Jean Ritchie dance the afternoon away at an oplatek dinner and dance at St. Casimir in Canton Jan. 6. (CR/Owen Sweeney III)

## Baby bottles at work for life out west

As the 29th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision approaches Jan. 22, **Church of St. Peter the Apostle, Oakland**, and its missions, **Immaculate Conception, Kitzmiller**, and **St. Peter**

**of the Lake, Deep Creek**, are encouraging the support of life through a unique fund raiser to support the Mountain Top Pregnancy Center in Garrett County.

The parishes are inviting their members to place a baby

bottle on their dinner table and put loose change in it, a similar sacrifice to the "rice bowls" during Lent. The bottles, provided by the parish prolife committee, will be returned full at the end of January.

## Old sewing machines bound for Haiti

Chuck Moranville, a parishioner of **St. Joseph, Sykesville**, has been collecting sewing machines to donate to the Mortel

machines collected by Mr. Moranville had been sitting unused in Carroll County homes and will now be sent to Haiti.

Mortel, head of the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood Association for the Americas, is helping to



vative, evangelical and apocalyptic than their northern counterparts. Mysticism, Puritanism, belief in prophecy, faith-healing, exorcism and dream-visions – concepts which more liberal western churches have traded in for progressive political and social concerns – are basic to the newer churches in the south. And the effects of such beliefs on global politics, Jenkins argues, will be enormous, as religious identification begins to take precedence over allegiance to secular nation-states.

Indeed, as Christianity grows in regions where Islam is also expected to increase – as recent conflicts in Indonesia, Nigeria and the Philippines reveal – we may see a return to the religious wars of the past, fought out with renewed intensity and high-tech weapons far surpassing the swords and spears of the Middle Ages.

Western commentators have recently and depressingly declared that Christianity is declining or that it must modernize its beliefs or risk being abandoned altogether. Writing in a style that is both vivid and incisive and with impeccable research to back him up, Philip Jenkins contends that just the opposite is true: Christianity is on the rise again and in more traditional forms that we have seen in many years. But to understand this rise requires a new awareness of what is happening in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

When it comes to the largest single religious structure on the planet, the billion-strong Roman Catholic Church, the conservatism of our church, so often denounced and derided, must partly be seen as a response to the changing demographics of world religion. It is what it is, Jenkins insists, because it speaks for its members, who are so concentrated in the Third World.

The conservative tone of African and Latin American Catholicism suggests why the hierarchy is less than concerned when Catholics in Boston or Munich threaten schism. In the traditionalist view, adapting to become relevant or sensitive to the needs of Western elites would be suicidal for the long-term prospects of the church. It is the so-called traditionalists, rather than the liberals, who are playing the political game of the new century.

By 2025, Africans and Latin Americans combined will make up about 60 percent of Catholics, and that number should reach 66 percent before 2050. European and Euro-American Catholics will by that point be a small fragment of a church dominated by Filipinos and Mexicans, Vietnamese and Congolese (although, of course, the north still provides a hugely disproportionate share of church finances). The 20th century was clearly the last in which whites dominated the Catholic Church: Europe simply is *not* "The Church." Latin America may be.

If you're interested in Christianity and in the changing world of the 21st century, check this book out. It is to be published by Oxford University Press in April.

## St. Timothy teens take on the web

The youth group at **St. Timothy, Walkersville**, has a new Web site. The site, [www.stimym.CatholicWeb.com](http://www.stimym.CatholicWeb.com), contains news and information about the group, complete with a calendar of meetings. On the home page is a reproduction of a poster that says, "St. Timothy Rocks. We are living stones." The site also has links to other Catholic organizations.

## Spirit shines in Frederick, Bradshaw

**St. John the Evangelist, Frederick**, and **St. Stephen, Bradshaw**, will host Life in the Spirit seminars for seven weeks beginning in early January.

The sessions contain the basic message of Christianity in the form of music, personal witness talks, small faith-sharing groups and learning about the spiritual gifts of God. This seventh-annual event helps people gain a renewed commitment to God.

Topics for the seminars include God's love, salvation, receiving God's gifts and prayer for fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. For more information, call St. John at 301-662-7510 or St. Stephen at 410-592-7071.

## St. Ann, Hagerstown, teens go hungry

The young people of **St. Ann, Hagerstown**, will participate in their annual food fast from Jan. 4 at 6:30 p.m. until Jan. 5 after the parish's 5:15 p.m. Mass. The activity helps the teens become aware of what it means to be homeless and hungry. During the fast, a canned food drive will be held plus activities for the youngsters. All money collected from pledges will be given to Catholic Relief Services.

## Fun for families at the cathedral

**Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Homeland**, will hold its monthly Family Friendly Friday Jan. 11 from 6-9 p.m. The family-oriented events, hosted by the parish's Family Life Committee, include dinner and range from fairs to bingo to spiritual presentations to movie nights. About 200 people attend the events, held in the parish center. For more information, call 410-464-4000.

## Blessings abound at St. Casimir

In honor of the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, the priests of **St. Casimir, Canton**, will bless the home of anyone interested. This Polish tradition is also employed by other churches in the archdiocese. To have your house blessed in the month of January in the neighborhood of St. Casimir, call 410-276-1981.

## Holy oils have a special place at Laurel

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Laurel**, has installed a new ambry to the left of its altar. The place of reservation for holy oils was crafted by parishioner Al Kruez. Parishioners Rudy Augustine and Tom Maggenti helped mount and light the ambry.

Catholic Review 1/13/02





<http://www.sunspot.net/news/local/bal-md.dome28jun28.story?coll=bal%2Dlocal%2Dheadlines>

## Beacon of the community

**Project: For some in Canton, the restoration of St. Casimir, which includes regilding its domes, is symbolic of the area's resurgence.**

By Jay Parsons  
Sun Staff

June 28, 2002

Above the domes atop Canton's St. Casimir Roman Catholic Church, more than 100 feet in the air, gusts of wind occasionally send Michael Kramer's thin flakes of gold flying into the sky.

"There goes a couple bucks," jokes Kramer, a gilder who is putting the finishing touches on a three-month, \$40,000 restoration project at the church that symbolizes the resurgence of St. Casimir and the once-bustling Polish settlement it was built to anchor. After 50 years of slow deterioration, both are growing.

For the Rev. Ross M. Syracuse, the gilding of the domes -- part of an overhaul of the church's exterior that includes structural and masonry work -- has particular meaning.

"While aesthetic, the domes are a sign of stability and growth," said Syracuse, pastor of St. Casimir's. "This is an external manifestation of what's happening inside."

The congregation will celebrate the church's 100th anniversary in November, and exterior renovations will have been completed by then, serving as symbols of Canton and of St. Casimir's revitalization during the past decade.

Once the centerpiece of Canton, the church had 5,000 members in the 1930s. With the community's decay came the decline of St. Casimir. Sunday Mass attendance is 650, up from 550 five years ago, when Syracuse took over at St. Casimir.

"Instead of seeing the old buildings as an albatross around its necks, Canton sees it as a tremendous source of pride," said John Srygley, architect for the renovations. "The church, the center of the community, is a symbol for that."

As part of the gilding project, Kramer and his team use brushes to smooth 8-inch-wide sheets of 23.5 karat gold, thinner than aluminum foil. Each 40-square-foot roll is custom-made in Florence, Italy, and costs \$600.

Peeling gold sheets off a piece of paper, as if removing adhesive labels, the gilders mold them contiguously across and around domes, each with a surface area of 675 square feet. A belt of jagged designs around the domes slows the project, most of which is done by hand. Rarely does an entire sheet stick, and the rest glides to the ground.

The shimmering gold serves as Syracuse's vision for the church -- a beacon that he hopes will shine as a public reminder of the church's role in the community.

Syracuse jogs daily five miles to Fort McHenry, stopping to gaze at the sunlit gold exterior. He said, "I can see the outline of the church, and the domes look like a light. I run up there and say, 'Man, this is ...' " Grinning, he doesn't finish the sentence.

The best view of the domes is from towering temporary scaffolds, where three artisans from the Gilders' Studio Inc. spent two months stripping and toning the structure before the gold could be applied. The Olney-based company's resume includes the cross on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the state capitol dome in Atlanta.

Syracuse, an avid rock climber, is one of a few who will be able to view the domes up close. He occasionally climbs to the church's roof for views of the [Inner Harbor](#) to the west and the historic Canton community that has changed drastically since the building's birth in 1925.

The idea to renovate was conceived during one of his treks to the roof. Syracuse spotted decaying joints between the large stones and contacted an architect, who suggested gilding the two domes and cross as part of a four-phase revitalization.

The gilding is the only purely aesthetic stage of the renovations. Most of the process is intended to plug leaks and stop decay.

St. Casimir's 75-year-old domes were gilded with lower-grade materials in 1982, and the gold quickly blew away. Kramer said his coating will last 35 to 40 years because it is 98 percent gold.





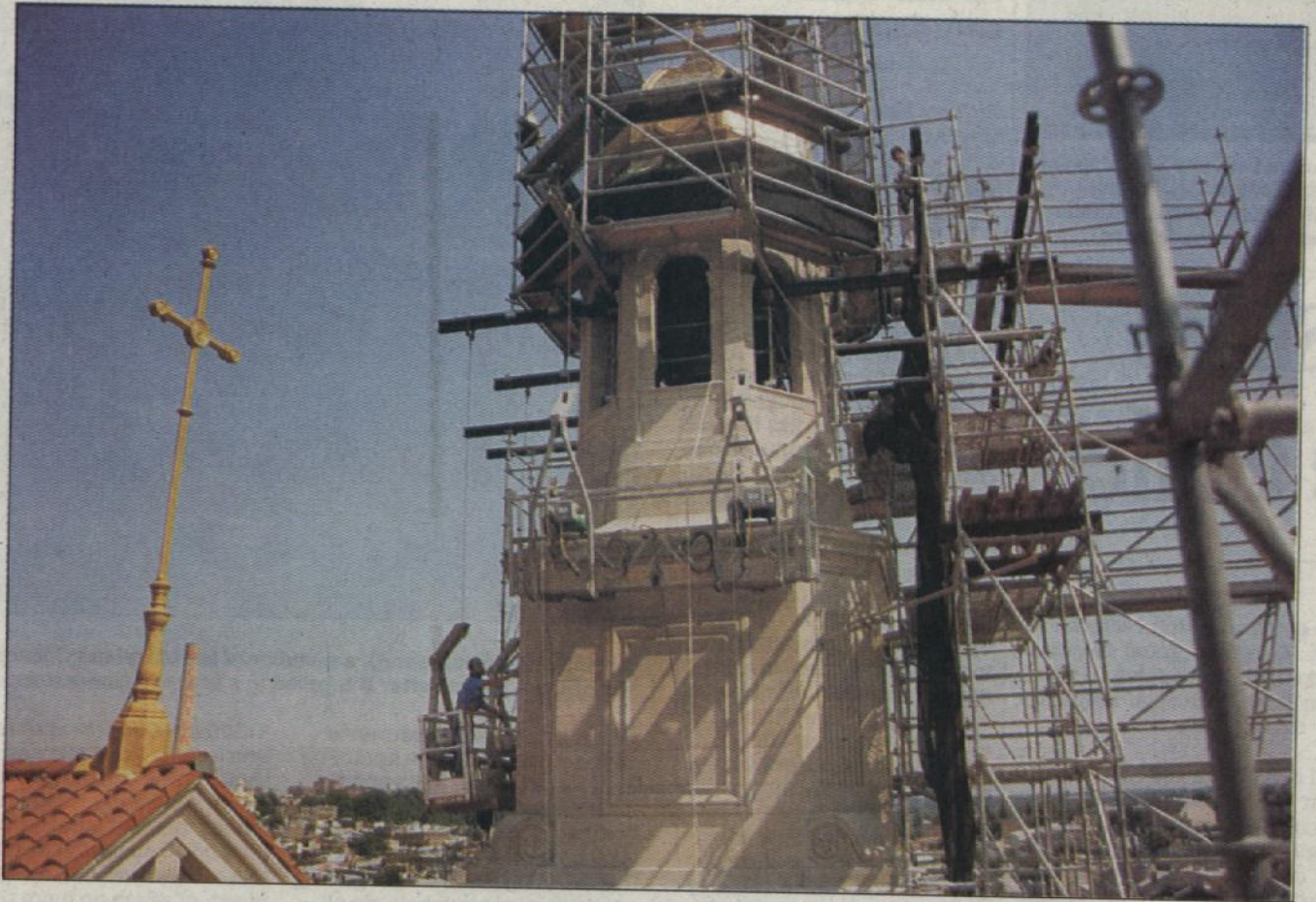
◀ **Jason Gaynor (left) and Pat White work on a structure under the south dome to keep birds at bay.** (Sun photo by Alyssa Cwanger)

Jun 27, 2002

 [The Day in Pictures](#)

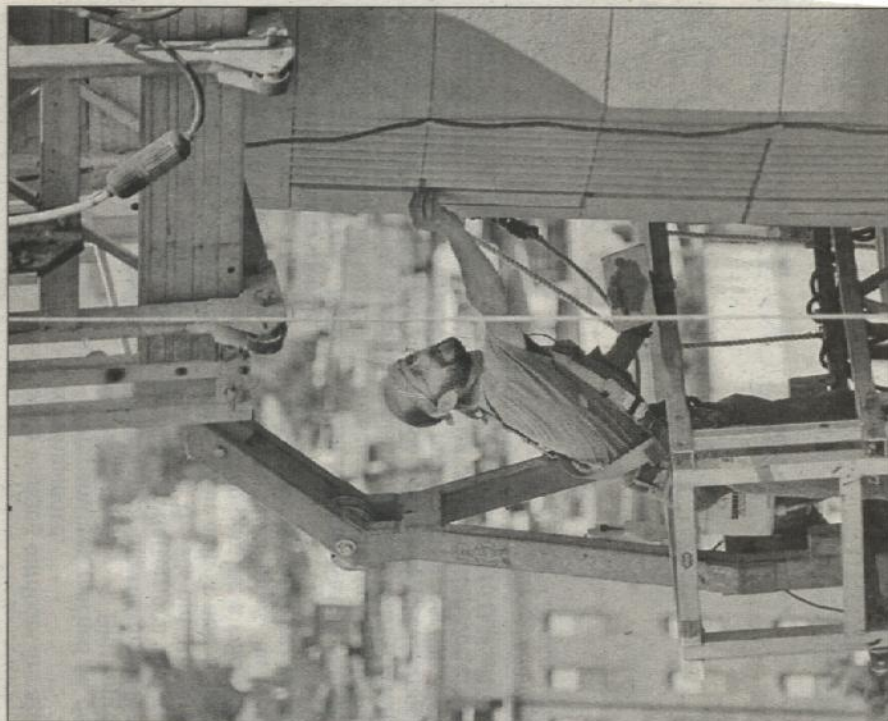
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Extensive renovations are under way at St. Casimir Roman Catholic Church in Canton. Attendance at the church, once an anchor for a booming community, declined as the area changed, but is on the rise.

ALYSSA CWANGER : SUN STAFF PHOTOS



Ron Palango works on renovations at St. Casimir in Canton. The congregation will celebrate its 100th anniversary in November.

ALYSSA CWANGER : SUN STAFF



# Neighborhood revitalization + initiative = parish renewal

## City parishes prosper with area improvement while others falter

By Rachel Richmond

Review staff correspondent

Parishes like St. Mary, Star of the Sea and Holy Cross in Federal Hill have long been what generations of pastors have called anchors for the neighborhood. But as the Irish and German communities grew older in the 1980s, deaths and flight to the suburbs left the parishes struggling. Yet a little over five years ago, after city and citizen efforts to make the waterfront community more attractive, single young adults began moving into Federal Hill looking for the community feeling that they couldn't find in the suburbs. As the neighborhood has grown, new businesses have opened and housing prices have skyrocketed to upwards of \$350,000. And like parishes experiencing renaissance all over Baltimore City, the now 1,000-family St. Mary and Holy Cross are enjoying new life, thanks to city government efforts and parish ingenuity.

Since Baltimore Mayor Martin J. O'Malley took office in December 1999, his administration has launched a series of initiatives aimed at fostering quality neighborhoods. This involves providing

Father Ross Syracuse, O.F.M., Conv., pastor of the 100-year-old St. Casimir parish in Canton, said that new, often younger, members have been "building on the tradition and the faith and the hard work of the people who have come before."

St. Casimir is a parish that has combined good location—just blocks from the waterfront—with evangelization. Reaching out to the young professionals and families who have made up the Canton renaissance has boosted Mass attendance from 450-550 people a weekend in 1997 to about 700 today.

Before Father Syracuse came to St. Casimir in 1997, the southeast Baltimore parish had been losing 10-15 percent of its membership each year as older parishioners died or others moved away.

But now Father Syracuse has had to add a 5 p.m. Sunday Mass to accommodate the large crowds and has been happily presiding over many more weddings and baptisms, a nice balance to the some 50 funerals a year the parish still offers.

Across town, Father James P. Farmer, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas in Hampden, said that the Baltimore Main Streets Project, a city initiative which spearheads commercial revitalization tailored to business districts, has increased the number of young families in the north Baltimore parish and its school since being enacted in late 2000. Sunday Mass attendance has nearly doubled over the past 10 years.

Hampden has been generally a very stable neighborhood, Father Farmer said, but over the years drugs and crime have been problems. St. Thomas adapted to meet people's needs with a large Narcotics Anonymous group, Alcoholics Anonymous and outreach to prostitutes.

"So while there are many problems, each of them is an opportunity as well," Father Farmer said. "God is blessing us abundantly."

And according to the mayor's office, the Main Streets project is making a difference, even if much of the success is still anecdotal.

"The sort of net effect of new residents to areas, as well as the increase in pedestrian traffic, is having an effect," said Alex Hughes of the Mayor's Office of Economic Development. "At this point we haven't really quantified it."

But she said that over 80 façade improvements have been made in the seven Main Streets neighborhoods and that 29 private dollars are spent for every dollar in public investment.

### More than location, location, location

It's not just location that makes a parish thrive.

"They are still vital parishes because they are in a vital neighborhood. I think that's the secret," said Father Thomas Malia, recent former pastor of St. Mary/Holy Cross.

town is a parish on the edge of neighborhood revitalization. Located on Baltimore Street in southeast Baltimore, it's on the other side of Patterson Park from Canton and Fells Point. Houses in St. Elizabeth's neighborhood sell for \$150,000-300,000 less than in Canton, only a mile away. Prosperity has yet to hit the older community where drugs are plentiful and prostitutes set up trade on the steps of the church, rectory and nearby homes.

"Some of the people are just fearful to go out," said Father Robert Sisk, T.O.R., the associate pastor who recently completed personal visits to the 250 families that live within parish boundaries. Some parishioners told him they are afraid to walk around the block because they could be robbed.

"We're still trying to make our neighborhood the best possible one so it will be attractive," Father Sisk said. Attendance has remained steady at 275 people per weekend over the past year but parishioners are still concerned that St. Elizabeth has diminished from the thriving parish it once was, especially now that the school has been closed.

### 'The city really can't do any of this alone'

Ms. Hughes in the mayor's office said that Mayor O'Malley's new Baltimore Believe campaign is designed to counteract the prevailing notion that "people



skyrocketed to upwards of \$350,000. And like parishes experiencing renaissance all over Baltimore City, the now 1,000-family St. Mary and Holy Cross are enjoying new life, thanks to city government efforts and parish ingenuity.

Since Baltimore Mayor Martin J. O'Malley took office in December 1999, his administration has launched a series of initiatives aimed at fostering quality neighborhoods. This involves providing funding, face-lifts and support to neighborhood associations.

Pastors of parishes fortunate enough to be located in revitalized areas say that their churches benefit.

50 funerals a year the parish still offers.

Across town, Father James P. Farmer, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas in Hampden, said that the Baltimore Main Streets Project, a city initiative which spearheads commercial revitalization tailored to business districts, has increased the number of young families in the north Baltimore parish and its school since being enacted in late 2000. Sunday Mass attendance has nearly doubled over the past 10 years.

"The revitalization has also brought with it many new restaurants and different shops on the streets," Father Farmer said. "So there's a certain gentrification which has been brought with it."

private dollars are spent for every dollar in public investment.

### More than location, location, location

It's not just location that makes a parish thrive.

"They are still vital parishes because they are in a vital neighborhood. I think that's the secret," said Father Thomas Malia, recent former pastor of St. Mary/Holy Cross.

"People will not automatically come," Father Syracuse of St. Casimir said. "They might come once but there has to be a real reaching out, welcoming, inviting, fostering a spirit of belonging. And I think that in turn makes the neighborhood more attractive."

### 'We're not seeing it here'

Yet, while parishes in Canton, Federal Hill and elsewhere are thriving, parishes in the city's depressed areas are barely holding on, hoping that city government, police and their own people will step up to stem the alarming problems of drugs and poverty.

"Housing is very dilapidated. Drugs are rampant and trash is everywhere," said Father Peter Lyons, T.O.R., pastor of St. Wenceslaus and St. Ann in east Baltimore. "We hear from the mayor that things are getting better but we're not seeing it here."

Plans are underway for St. Wenceslaus' neighbor, John Hopkins University, to build a biotech park that would bring new jobs into the area.

Father Lyons' hope is that such efforts will not drive out current residents but give them a better quality of life and more opportunities for housing, recreation and education.

"I think it's discouraging for people who come to church to see the condition of the neighborhood," Father Lyons said.

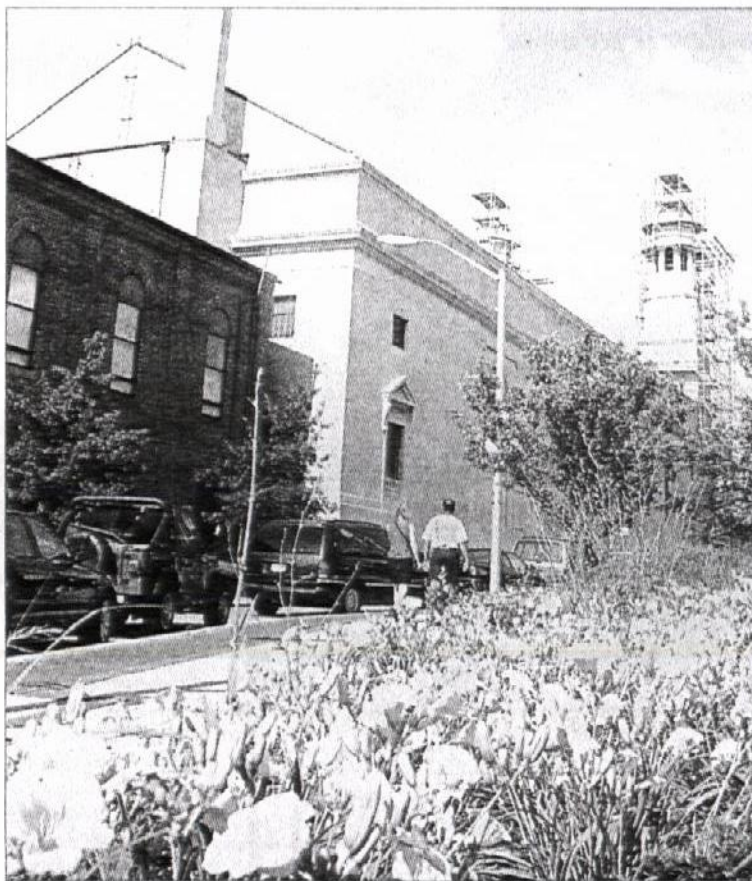
St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Highland-

ioners are still concerned that St. Elizabeth has diminished from the thriving parish it once was, especially now that the school has been closed.

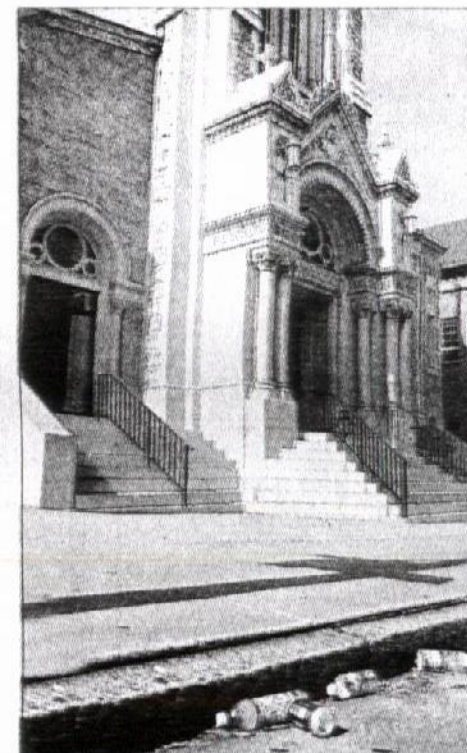
### 'The city really can't do any of this alone'

Ms. Hughes in the mayor's office said that Mayor O'Malley's new Baltimore Believe campaign is designed to counteract the prevailing notion that "people who live in Baltimore don't believe that there is any hope." Neighborhoods can be restored through teamwork, she insists.

Father Joseph Del Vecchio, S.S.J., pastor of St. Peter Claver, agrees. "It's really the people who have to seek out change," he said. "Everything else is just a face lift to me."



**IN BLOOM:** St. Casimir, Canton parishioners are greeted by blooming flowers along their Sunday walk to Mass. (Photos by Owen Sweeney III)



**RENEWAL NEEDED:** Bottles and cans line the gutter outside St. Elizabeth of Hungary in Highlandtown.



# St. Casimir Church's renovation reflects parish's revival

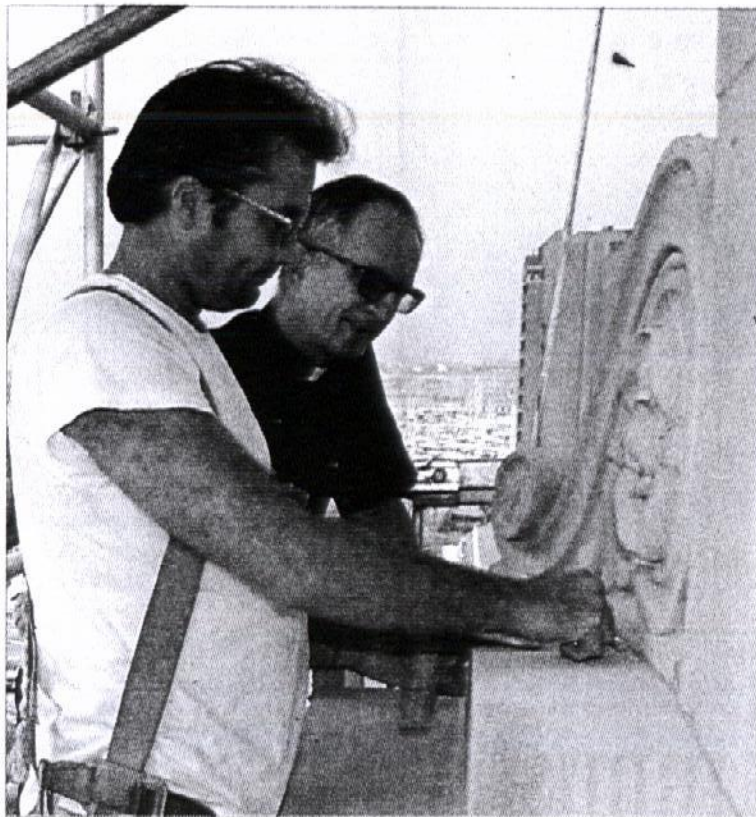
By Rachel Richmond

Review staff correspondent

One recent evening Father Ross M. Syracuse, O.F.M., Conv. climbed the scaffolding robing St. Casimir, Canton, like a stairway to heaven, swinging his legs over the side and sat down. Passersby may have wondered if the Franciscan pastor had finally reached the end of his rope and considered jumping. But in fact, Father Syracuse was peacefully contemplating the view across the water to the Inner Harbor, Fort McHenry and beyond. And, he said, he was quietly giving thanks for the generosity of parishioners that enabled the \$60,000 scaffolding to be in place for much-needed masonry work and re-gilding of the twin domes that are visible from all over Canton.

"This is all possible because of the generosity of the people of the faith community," said Father Syracuse safely on the ground in the rectory. "It's a tribute to their faith, their love for God."

Renovations began in April on the two tall, cream-colored domes, which were suffering wear and tear after 77 years. Chunks in the



**EXACT MEASUREMENT:** Father Ross M. Syracuse, O.F.M., Conv., pastor of St. Casimir in Canton, checks in with Rob Stahl during the renovations to the church June 25. (CR/Owen Sweeney III)

stone needed to be repaired and the gold domes and crosses atop the towers were faded.

The multi-part process included sandblasting the copper domes to remove gold-colored plastic, which had been applied

instead of real gold in 1982. It then took two weeks to apply the thin layer of 23.5-carat gold, which cost \$9,000 and was specially made in Florence, Italy. Construction workers also cleaned the brick and installed

pigeon deterrents and lightning protection.

"I like to think of this as the exterior expression of what's happening in the internal life of the faith community," Father Syracuse said. St. Casimir has blossomed in the past few years as young adults have moved in and, with longtime parishioners, strengthened the 100-year-old historically Polish parish.

The construction is phase two of an at least three-part project that began with the replacement of snow guards and repairs along the sides of the church. Phase three will involve making the front of the church more attractive and installing permanent ramps for handicapped accessibility. The parish is also working with Baltimore City to see if the domes could be lit. It's all part of a five-year plan enacted in 1999.

"It's such a landmark and we want to try to highlight that," Father Syracuse said, noting that he's looking for donors to the parish's capital endowment fund. Already one major donor provided funds specifically for the dome gilding.

And the renovations have become a labor of love for the

workers.

"St. Casimir's is one of the most beautiful churches in Baltimore," said John Srygley of J.R.S. Architects. "For an architect it's just such a real prize to work on."

"We love the church too," said Michael Kramer of the Gilders' Studio, Inc., who applied the gold to the domes. "You don't see churches like this often."

From his perch hundreds of feet in the air, Mr. Kramer said the domes should look like new up close for 20 years and not show visible wear for 30-35 years.

"It's like a metamorphosis of a butterfly," said Gil Barker, a lifelong parishioner and president of the parish's Holy Name Society. "I think it brings stability to the structure of the church. It means it's going to be here for a while."

E-mail Rachel Richmond at [richmond@catholicreview.org](mailto:richmond@catholicreview.org)

## On the Cover

**SKYWALKER:** Father Ross M. Syracuse O.F.M., Conv. pastor of St. Casimir in Canton, climbs the scaffolding that surrounds the front of the church during the renovations June 25. (CR/Owen Sweeney III)

# Lessons in leadership flourish at 50th High-LI session



## RELIGION

## Catholics in Russia: Gains and Losses

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

A third Catholic priest had his visa taken away forcing him to suspend his ministry of service to Catholics in Yaroslavl, north of Moscow and Orthodox Church officials reiterated their suspicions that Catholics are attempting to convert Orthodox faithful. Russian Orthodox leaders share a perspective with former communists in Russia that looks for a restoration of political and religious uniformity and control for all in Russia. At the same time they find themselves unable to match the appeal of the more forward-looking message and methods of Western Christianity, both Catholic and Protestant.

On the plus side, four Polish disclaled Carmelites under their superior, Mother Urszula Kapusta, former prioress of the Monastery in Kalisz, Poland, established a monastery in Usole, in exiled Bishop Mazur's diocese in Eastern Siberia. The city was the place of detention in the 1800s of St. Raphael Kalinowski, under whose protection the new monastery is placed. Likewise in Novosibirsk, in Bishop Werth's diocese in Western Siberia, initial steps have been approved for the establishment of a Carmelite monastery with one sister and several postulants.

**STO LAT TO ... Kinga Perzynska**, a church archival specialist from Austin, Texas, on her appointment to the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Goods of the Church. The Commission is responsible for coordinating the protection of the universal

celebrating 50 years as a Felician sister. A longtime teacher and principal in Michigan, Sr. Mary Laurene was named one of the 25 most influential individuals in Catholic education over the past 25 years in "Today's Catholic Teacher" magazine in 1997. She is currently co-principal of St. Thecla Elementary Catholic School in Clinton Township.

**Fr. Robert Zawacki**, of Brooklyn, N.Y., on his 25th anniversary of priesthood.

Pastor of Holy Family RC Church in Natchez, Ms., Fr. Zawacki is a member of the Josephite order, which focuses on ministry among African-Americans, largely in the southern United States.

**St. Casimir's** RC parish in Canton, Md., on its 100th anniversary. To prepare for the November anniversary celebration, the church's cross and domes are being re-gilded as part of a three-month overall renovation project. The parish is enjoying a revitalization with increased membership and parish activity. The refreshed buildings will be a symbol of the restored pride of the community and its parish, says current pastor Ross M. Syracuse.

**NEW BOOK FEATURES POL-AM ILLUSTRATOR.** "S is for Saints" features the work of Sacramento, Calif., illustrator **Lawrence Klimecki**. The book introduces children to the lives of 52 saints from various countries. Megan Dunsmore, the book's author, aimed the book at children aged 4-8 and briefly summarizes the life of each saint in simple language. Mr. Klimecki, a devout Catholic, uses his art to help spread

for October 2003 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of John Paul II's pontificate. The pilgrimage, to be led by Detroit's Adam Cardinal Maida, will take place on October 18-26. A trip to Padre Pio's monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo will be included, along with visits to sites in and around Rome connected with Polish heroes and saints, including St. Stanislaus Kostka, Adam Mickiewicz, Jacek Odrowaz, etc. A special audience with the pope and Mass at the tomb of St. Peter will fill out the cultural and spiritual activities during the pilgrimage. Further information: Polish American Tours 1 (800) 388-0988.

During the **World Youth Day** vigil in Toronto, thousands of young people gathered at 2:00 a.m. before a huge TV screen in the pope's hometown of Wadowice and joined in the prayer service. The pope told them via TV, "I want to pass greetings to all Poles who have come here (Toronto) and many thousands from Poland and other countries from eastern Europe, participants in the Youth Forum in my hometown in Wadowice, who are joining us in our prayer."

One of the persons proclaimed Blessed by the pope during his visit to Krakow in August was Jesuit **Fr. Jan Beyzym** (1850-1912), born in what is now Ukraine, who worked for the last 13 years of his life in the leprosarium of Ambahivuraka, Madagascar.

## Rosary Hour



**JACEK SYKULSKI**, conductor of University Academic Choir **Mezyk, OFM Conv.**, Director of the home in Athol Sp. for a future broadcast work.

**Fr. Wladek** also hosted the 100th anniversary of the Polish American Society of America (PSAA), the Choir, and three students.

Pictured are (l. to r.): **Geary OFM Conv.**, guardian of the Shrine; **Kij**, president PSAA; **Ani Wladek OFM Conv.**; **Urszula Pasterkiewicz**, choir member.

When contacting advertisers, be sure to you saw their ad in the Polish American Journal.

## OL Schools Chancellor Appointed Rector of Semina



## PARISH NEWS

Catholic Review • November 14, 2002

## less what I heard ....

I discovered this until just now, but it seems that Nov. 6 was "International End-Gossip Day." So, it's too late for me to spread the s it were.

Actually I don't think this was an "official" day, like Groundhog Day, Flag Day or even Bastille Day, but Lori Palatnik and Bob Burg took it upon themselves to so name it. They are the authors of "GOSSIP: Ten Pathways to Eliminate It From Your Life and Transform Your Soul."

Checked with our voluminous Webster's Third International Dictionary and discovered that "gossip" in its primary definition is related to God rather than rumor-mongering. It refers to someone who is "spirited" or "related to another through baptism."

Apparently, it isn't what Lori had in mind, though. Their definition of gossip, as we understand it, can have a devastating impact on people's lives and we ought to be wary of it. The outcome of gossip is never good, they maintain, and I'd people say that is so.

Are you willing and able to drop gossip, yes. But can you actually do it, the authors wonder.

Maybe people find out how good they feel afterwards, there will be a lot more people willing and ready to swear off the habit," he noted, noting that that was exactly why he and Lori wrote the book, which is published by Simcha Press.

Anyway, as I stood around the water-cooler the other day, a colleague told me that Bob Burg is himself a former gossip. "You're kidding," I said. "Yup, that's what I heard," my colleague told me, and I was just a little hushed. "Well, no wonder," I said.

Christopher  
Gaul



## It's time to go

Fr. Pacione knows a lot about young people; what makes them who they are, how they develop and approach their spirituality, among other things. After all, he's the archdiocese's director of the division of youth.



MY FAVORITE SAINT: Melanie Conley (right), a teacher at the Father Kolbe Campus of the Southeast Baltimore Catholic Alliance, escorts students Katherine Malkowski (left), Juliette Brunelli, and Robert Ross, after All Saints Day Mass at St. Casimir in Canton Nov. 1. Students in kindergarten and first grade dressed as their favorite saint to celebrate the day.

CR/Owen Sweeney III

## Cathedral youth parade for retired sisters

The little ones of Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Homeland, wore their Halloween costumes as



# St. Casimir celebrates 100th anniversary in Canton

By RACHEL RICHMOND  
Review staff correspondent

The neighborhood surrounding St. Casimir, Canton, has changed a lot in the 100 years since the parish's founding. At the beginning of last century it was a bustling industrial area, home to Irish, Poles and other immigrants who worked at the Tin Decorating Company (Tindeco), S.J. Young Company and the many packing and canning houses that dotted the waterfront community.

St. Casimir parishioner Leocadia Kucinski Comeau grew up in the 1930s amongst the tall row-houses of Canton. Her mother and grandmother canned tomatoes and shucked oysters for a company on Binney Street, while her father was a blacksmith for the B&O Railroad in west Baltimore. Mrs. Comeau was baptized at the Polish parish of St. Casimir, which kicked off its 100th anniversary celebration Nov. 9 with a commemorative postmark ceremony.

Today Canton has been gentrified. A mix of young professionals, seniors and empty-nesters have flocked to the restored row-houses and popular nightlife scene along Boston Street and O'Donnell Square. The canning and packing houses have been turned into apartments, restaurants and businesses.

St. Casimir, located at O'Donnell Street and Kenwood Avenue, has revamped its mis-

sion to include a spirit of welcoming while remembering the traditions of old. The 700-family parish is proud of its thriving young adult population.

Mrs. Comeau, 77, said seeing St. Casimir reach 100 years is "something I never would have expected would happen."

The 1939 graduate of St. Casimir School lives in Fullerton, but still returns for Sunday Mass and to clean the church with eight other women. And she appreciates the fact that St. Casimir's pastor, Father Ross Syracuse, O.F.M., Conv., still welcomes her involvement.

"We had to gotten to a point where a lot of us had got too old to do anything and yet wanted to participate somehow," Mrs. Comeau said, "and he said (the parish) was open to everything and anybody."

Molly Hubbard is one parishioner who has taken advantage of the open doors of St. Casimir. She and her husband moved to Canton about three years ago.

"We started going to St. Casimir and I immediately felt like I'd come home," said Mrs. Hubbard, who serves on the 100th anniversary committee.

Cardinal James Gibbons dedicated St. Casimir in 1902. It was the daughter church of St. Stanislaus Kostka, which closed in 2000. The first parish building housed a school on the first floor and a church on the second. The Felician Sisters originally ran the



LEAVING ITS MARK IN CANTON: A commemorative postmark from the post office was issued to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Casimir in Canton Nov. 9.

school, which was later taken over by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamburg, N.Y.

In 1905 the Conventual Franciscans of St. Anthony Province in Ellicott City assumed administration of St. Casimir and still run the parish today. The current church was constructed in 1926 and underwent renovations this year. St. Casimir and St. Stanislaus parish schools were merged in 1975 and became Father Kolbe School, which today is home to 160 some students.

At the Nov. 9 celebration, which started with Mass, the U.S. Postal Service installed Father Syracuse as an honorary postmaster. A commemorative post-

mark featuring St. Casimir, the patron of Poland, was stamped onto visitors' envelopes and postcards. Parishioner Joe Imbierowicz delivered a talk written by Father Timothy Kulbicki, O.F.M., Conv. about St. Casimir's contribution to Canton. The parish will have an anniversary Mass Nov. 17, at 3 p.m., with Bishop Gordon D. Bennett, S.J., urban vicar.

"We're celebrating the fruits of the faith, the dedication and the devotion of the thousands and thousands of people who began the parish, who were the first parishioners," Father Syracuse said.

For more information on St. Casimir's 100th anniversary events, contact the parish at 410-276-1981.

sis pregnancy.

Before moving to the parish center, where they heard from speakers including Nancy Fortier, the associate director for justice, prolife and human rights for the Maryland Catholic Conference, the group attended Mass in the Cathedral celebrated by Father P. Blair Raum, director of Project Rachel for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Many of the people in attendance are already involved in the respect life movement.

Sarah Rogers, a 16-year-old Holy Trinity, Glen Burnie, parishioner, has been attending prolife marches since she was a baby. One of 10 children, she has tried to promote the importance of respecting life in her parish youth group.

"I think this conference helps people who are prolife to talk to other people and to show them more ways to help their parents and others to become active," Sarah said. "I help out with some of the stuff at church like selling roses at Mother's Day to raise money and I've been attending marches every single year."

Sarah, who is home schooled, said she can't wait until she is old enough to vote.

Thomas E. Hurd, a St. Mary, Annapolis, parishioner and member of the archdiocesan Respect Life Committee, said he doesn't think the conference is "preaching to the choir," but rather "reaching out to everyone."

See 200 on page 4

Catholic Review 11/14/02



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## RELIGION

## Mixed Signals from Moscow

by Benjamin Fiore, S.J.

Russian Orthodox **Patriarch Alexy II** sent Christmas greetings to **Pope John Paul II** in which he said, "Let us take up our fraternal contacts and direct our joyful praise to the newborn Divine Child, who came to earth for our salvation."

The warm greeting contrasted with recent rejection of Catholic efforts at dialogue and the expulsion of a bishop and five clergy from their diocese and parishes in Russia. The chill returned quickly when an Orthodox spokesperson said that the greeting contained standard phraseology and did not signal a change in the Moscow patriarch's attitude toward Rome.

The Russian orthodox authorities have even begun protesting the activities of Caritas, the Catholic church's international relief organization. Claiming that the charitable works aim to convert people away from Orthodoxy, these leaders have spread fear that the foreign caritas directors will find themselves expelled along with the foreign Catholic priests. The Russian people will be the losers since Caritas' medical-social activities provide otherwise largely unavailable treatment for

understand this for the good of Christians."

**PAPAL NEWS.** Since Pope John Paul II's deteriorating health has forced him to halt his plan to visit all the parishes in the Diocese of Rome, he has instituted a plan whereby the remaining unvisited parishioners are invited to visit him at the Vatican.

Before he suspended his plan, the pope had visited 300 of the parishes under his care.

• Pope John Paul II's historic peace-making speech to the **Italian Parliament** called on Italians to work for world peace, uphold their Christian values, and have more children. The speech had unexpected results: a fugitive Mafia boss turned himself in after being inspired by the Pontiff's remarks on family values.

Lawmakers in Parliament interrupted the speech almost two dozen times with applause, and gave the Pope a standing ovation at its conclusion, some shouting "Viva il Papa!"

• A photo exhibit "Poland: The Homeland of Pope John Paul II" was on display in October at the Pius XII Library at **St. Louis University**. The exhibit was prepared by the Polish Information Agency and was presented by the Consulate General of

### ROMAN URSULINE NAMED "RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS."

Mother Mary Xavier Marteau, then secretary-general of the Ursuline sisters in Rome, opened the doors of the motherhouse from 1943 on to give refuge to 103 Jews. This rescue work of the Ursulines began three years earlier in August, 1940 when the Gestapo began persecuting Polish refugees wherever they found them. At that time, **Mother Maria Stanislas Polotynska** distributed aid to the refugees with money she received from Pope Pius XII. The pope sent another donation to Mother Mary Xavier in 1943 to assist the life-saving work.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ... St.

**Casimir RC Church** in Canton, Md. A three-month renovation prepared for the celebration in the Baltimore area parish. A special commemorative postmark to mark the occasion was designed. Fr. Ross Syracuse, the pastor, was authorized by postmaster Kelvin Mack to serve as a postal clerk to cancel letters at the church on the anniversary.

• **St. Stanislaus Kostka RC Parish** in Youngstown, Ohio, celebrating their 100th year. Some 80 families were served by the south side parish. As the Polish American popu-



**FIFTEEN NEW SEMINARIANS** enrolled for the fall term at **Ss. Cyril & Methodius Seminary** at Orchard Lake, Mich. Ten are from Poland, four from Ukraine and one is from the United States. They are (l. to r.): **Brother Emilian Dorosh, O.S.B.M.**; **Mariusz Wolf**; **Brother Eugene Khomyn, O.S.B.M.**; **Brother Theodosy Martynyak, O.S.B.M.**; **Dawid Pieprzycza**; **Brother Methodius Saroka, O.S.B.M.**; **Jacek Ploch**; **Ryszard Biernat**; **Lukasz Kozlowski**; **Lukasz Libera**; **Tomasz Zalewski**; **Jeremi Wodecki**; **Przemyslaw Jednaki** and **Lucjan Szablan**. Not present for the photo were **Jacek Elzner** and **Brother Richard Baranski, O.F.M.**

The **Basilian brothers** are from Ukraine; the **Franciscan brother** is from the Detroit area. The total fall enrollment for the seminary is 39 seminarians, an increase of 11 from a year ago, and 48 lay ministry students.

awarded to students from Holy Trinity PNCC cathedral in Manchester, N.H.

• **Fr. Henry Orszulak** and **Mrs. Clara Delecki**, both of St. Hyacinth's RC parish in Lackawanna, N.Y., who appeared on the Buffalo TV program

themselves, the Szalkowskis began volunteering to help conduct weekends for other couples. "Retrouvaille was such a shot in the arm for us and for our relationship," Lorie said, "that we wanted to give something back." Mark added, "For information: Bill &



in this area," said Kyle Bivens, St. Ann's Youth Alive youth minister. "It's really close to my heart, and I realize so many kids come from divorced homes or have parents who are separated or remarried."

The weekend is free. For more information, call Kyle Bivens at 301-791-2339.

## St. Ignatius prays for peace and the military

To remember to actively pray for peace and those in the military, **St. Ignatius, Hickory**, has put a "tree of prayer" next to the American flag in the church. Next to the flag is a basket of yellow ribbons and the "Book of Those Called to Serve Our Country." Parishioners are invited to write in the book the names of loved ones being called up to military service and to place a yellow ribbon on the large ficus tree as a sign of prayer for their safe return.

## St. Casimir returns to its Polish and Latin roots

As part of its 100th Anniversary celebration, the faith community of **St. Casimir, Canton**, will celebrate a Polish and Latin Mass in honor of the parish patron saint. Father Marion Tolczyk, O.F.M., Conv. will celebrate the Mass March 2 at noon. The St. Casimir Holy Name Society will sponsor a bull and oyster roast following the Mass. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased by calling the parish office at 410-276-1981.

## Pipes and kilts at the basilica March 30

The St. Andrew's Society of Baltimore will hold its fifth-annual Kirkin of the Tartan March 30 at the 10:45 a.m. Mass at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Cardinal William H. Keeler will celebrate the Mass and bless the tartans. The public is invited to attend. Contact kevin.r.gillespie@verizon.net

E-mail Rachel Richmond at richmond@catholicreview.org.

life and faith that was to have a profound impact on her. It led to her forming and running the Hispanic Apostolate in Baltimore in the early 1960s along with Father Manuel R. Roman, pastor of the Church of the Ascension in Halethorpe, and with the support of Cardinal Lawrence Shehan.

The well-known Baltimore painter and art teacher, once a member of the now-closed parish of St. Stanislaus, Fells Point, and current sojourner at St. Vincent de Paul, Baltimore, remembers with fondness when she and other young YCWers joined some 30,000 of their colleagues in Rome in 1957 for a rally with Pope Pius XII.

Anyway, today, years after the

*place in humankind, with a unique role to fulfill ...*

YCW faded away in the United States (although it remains very active in some 70 other countries around the world), Nancy is determined to help effect a resurgence if not resurrection of the organization that grew out of the 19th-century worker movement in Europe in the wake of the industrial revolution and which was later to help in the development of the educational method of liberation theology.

Nancy believes the YCW can live again and flourish in Balti-

the cardinal's red h: Second Vatican Cou Paul VI "because o but not enough spac

Briefly, then, it is belief that each i unique individual, s unique place in hum a unique role to ful person's role or pu confined to their ty nor to the "good wo achieve in their life. compasses the whol and their actions in c ing. And so it is th that young workers reflect on their own that of others.

See, judge, act YCW's credo and

# St. Monica Ministry offered at St. Jo

Dr. Jack Buchner knows that oftentimes the family members of those away from the church experience great pain. So the director of evangelization at St. Joseph, Cockeysville, organized the St. Monica Ministry which is held in conjunction with the parish's welcome back program for inactive Catholics.

For many of these adults, this experience is a source of hurt and deep disappointment and many time these people wonder "How can this be? What should I do about this?" Dr. Buchner said.

During the one-on-one sessions, Dr. Buchner encourages the individual to imitate the virtues of St. Monica, who prayed for the conversion of her fallen-away son, St. Augustine, who eventually went on to be a bishop. He said praying for a relative away from the faith can be a source of personal faith growth as well as help for the lapsed Catholic.

Dr. Buchner answers questions from the family member and attempts to help them heal from the pain of someone who may not be Catholic because of lack of belief, laziness, indiffer-

ence or they have joined another religion or chosen a destructive lifestyle.

The St. Monica which has been off years, will begin th



MAKING MUSIC: Emily Grimsley (left) and Kristen DiMercurio, before the school's talent show.

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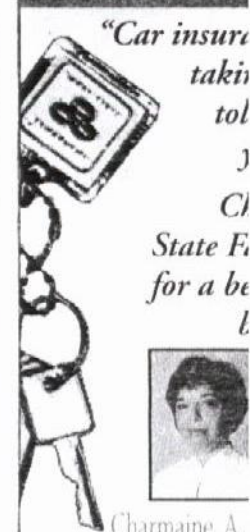
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"TASTY FOOD"

BY ELIZABETH LARCE



## St. Casimir ends 100th anniversary

*By Stefani Manowski*

Staff correspondent

It is a regular weekend Mass at St. Casimir, Canton, and pastor Father Ross Syracuse, O.F.M. Conv., asks the customary question: "Who is here for the first time?"

Regular parishioners immediately begin to look around to see if there is anyone they can personally welcome to the harborside church.

At first the parishioners "would just stay where they were," said Father Syracuse with a quick laugh. "Now they wait for it and go talk to them."

This is the spirit that has helped St. Casimir weather a century of change.

Four generations after Cardinal James Gibbons dedicated St. Casimir, current and old parishioners and the surrounding community will gather for a Mass to officially conclude St. Casimir's 100th anniversary celebration year Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.

Jerry Czarski, a member of the 100th anniversary committee who also serves as the parish's information technology guru and Web master, said everything about the parish had a feeling of freshness after the Mass that opened the celebration.

"There was such a renewal," he said. "It was amazing to see something that lasted for 100 years, and it felt like new."

Mirroring the revitalization of the Canton/Fells Point area of Baltimore City, the parish has a healthy 625-family roster and is also home to the interparish Father Kolbe School that serves 158 students.

In the past 10 years, St. Casimir has seen a significant increase in young families entering the parish, weddings and two to four baptisms per month, according to Father Syracuse.

Pastoral assistant Bernadette Vece said people come to St. Casimir because of the friendliness of the parishioners and the diverse and vibrant liturgies.

"Each of the Masses has its own flavor," she said, noting there is a traditional Mass at 8 a.m. on Sunday with the Communion meditation in Polish and a 10 a.m. family Mass with a 12-member contemporary musical ensemble. "There's a great combination of ministry, spirituality, activity and service here."

If a genuine welcome and liturgies attract people to St. Casimir, the parish's efforts to remain relevant in their lives keep them coming back. For example: the parish Web site receives approximately 400 hits a month; parishioners can register online; a newly-



formed women's group meets monthly; youth lectors proclaim the word during liturgies; and the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday attracts a younger crowd.

One of the highlights of the Nov. 9 Mass will be a children's corner, where parents can take their kids if they need quiet time during Mass, and the children can even select a religious-based, age-appropriate book to take back to their pew.

"There is always something happening here," said Donna Derkacz, parish secretary. "It all just brings people together."

"The liturgy is the heart and spirit that connects everything, and things flow out if it and back to it," Father Syracuse said, noting that lay leadership is crucial to the success of the parish.

Catholic Review – November 6, 2003



## **Catholic Review**

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### **Mystery play at St. Casimir**

*BY* Catholic Review staff

On March 19, The Franciscan Mystery Players will present the Way of the Cross at 7:45 p.m. at St. Casimir, Canton. The group of mystery players from New Jersey consists of 13 teens and three adults. Through the use of special lighting and sound, this dramatic meditation promises to be a high point in the Lenten journey. Adults and teens are encouraged to attend. A free will offering will be taken to defray expenses. For more information, call 410-342-2310.

St. Casimir will also hold a parish mission with Father Paul Zilonka, C.P. associate professor of theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Roland Park, from March 21-24. Discussions focusing on Jesus in the Gospel of Luke will take place at 7 p.m. on March 21, 22 and 23. On March 24 at 7 p.m., there will be a healing service with Father Ross M. Syracuse, O.F.M., Conv., pastor of St. Casimir. Several priests will be available for confessions.



# St. Casimir convent becoming Children's House

By STEFANI MANOWSKI  
Staff correspondent

Hundreds cheered as ground was broken for The Children's House at St. Casimir in Canton Oct. 12, a facility that will provide housing to pediatric patients and their families while undergoing treatment, mostly at nearby Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Using St. Casimir's convent building, the Believe in Tomorrow National Children's Foundation is leading renovating the structure into seven two- and three-bedroom apartments with common areas, a courtyard and a rooftop deck.

The facility will house sick children and their families, including bone marrow transplant patients, who must undergo a medical regimen of 60-120 days and need to live within 15 minutes of their treatment facility.

Believe in Tomorrow purchased the convent's four adjoining row homes, across the street from the church, from the Archdiocese of Bal-

timore for \$150,000. Approximately \$900,000 in renovations is primarily being funded and completed by John Erickson and Erickson Retirement Communities.

St. Casimir parishioners, parish staffers and Father Kolbe School students were joined at the groundbreaking by representatives of Believe in Tomorrow, Erickson and political dignitaries including Lt. Gov. Michael S. Steele.

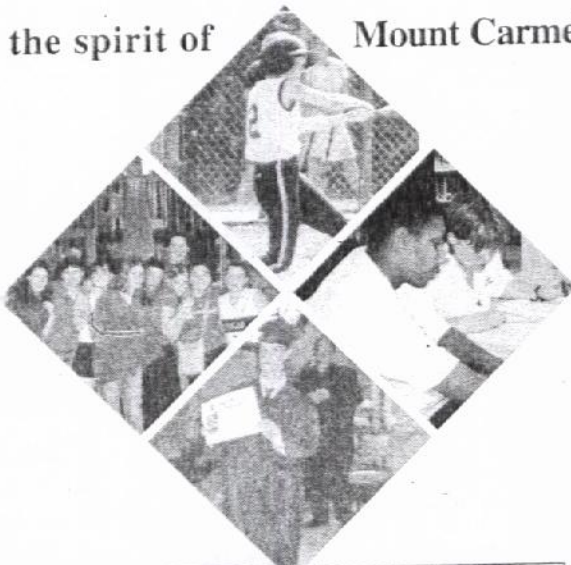
Father Ross Syracuse, O.F.M. Conv., pastor of St. Casimir, said the parish had been searching for a good use for the vacant building for several years, and considers its new neighbor a chance to put the welcoming aspect of the parish to greater use.

"Our intent was not to make money on the deal, but to be responsible in terms of using the building and to welcome another community that could really benefit from being here," said Father Syracuse. "This is a way the parish can tithe the use of the building in thanks for our blessings."

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The Polish Gift of Life, Inc. would like to thank all of our generous supporters, who, for over 26 years, have made it possible for us to help sick Polish children. Many children have been brought to the United States for live-saving heart surgery, which was not available to them in their own country. This year, we sent therapy equipment and medical supplies to an Orphanage, also an EKG machine was sent to a rehabilitation center. We provided much-needed medical equipment and supplies to several hospitals in Poland. A 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitor with software, cuffs, battery charger and batteries, an ambulatory Doppler machine, and a pulsometer was sent so that more children can be helped. Your financial support will allow us to continue to give Polish children the precious "gift of life." Thank you.

e, S.J.

## nes of St. Faustina

and help marshal necessary resources for the future development of the university. Dr. Knysz is associated with Great Expressions Dental Centers. Madonna University's Polish heritage is recognized in "Cardinals Square," a plaza honoring Cardinals Szoka and Maida outside the science and media center.

**Dr. Mary Ann Boyarski** on receiving the Blessed John XXIII Award at the annual convention of the National Organization for the Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC) in Palm Springs, Calif. Dr. Boyarski is director of the Office of Continuing Formation of Priests as well as director of the Office for Adult Religious Education in the RC Diocese of Harrisburg, Penn. She declared, "For me (the award) really was a wonderful affirmation of my care, concern and love for priests, not only in our diocese but priests worldwide." ... **Fr. Eugeniusz Zdrojewski** on his return to active priestly duty after having his suspension lifted. He is attached to the Bishop's Chapel of St. Silouan the Athonite, Johnstown, ON, Canada ... **V. Rev. Gregory Szyrnyski** on his appointment as rector of Holy Myrrhbearing Church, West Sacramento, Calif. ... **Fr. Józef Barszcz**, a Polish-born priest, on the dedication of the expanded section of St. Peter and Paul Church in Weyerhaeuser, Wis., the oldest Polish parish in Wisconsin. The expansion was made possible by a grant from Catholic Extension.

**ICON OF KRAKOW BISHOPS ENSHRINED.** St. Stanislaus RC Church in Cleveland's Slavic Village has enshrined a 3x2-foot icon of St. Stanislaus and Pope John Paul II, Kraków's two saintly bishops. The first is patron of Poland, while the cause of John Paul II has been moving steadily ahead, with investigation underway of a miraculous cure from Parkinson's disease of a French nun

American Priests' Association. The shrine also houses an ornate miter, donated to the church by Cardinal Dziwisz, the pope's longtime secretary.

**HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE/PROCESSION.** St. Casimir's RC Church in Canton, Md., was the start of the 14th annual youth pilgrimage. The 1,000 young participants followed a large cross, prayed as they passed the Holocaust Memorial, reflected on faith and justice at Baltimore's War Memorial Plaza, and concluded with Palm Sunday Mass in the newly renovated Basilica of the Assumption. Reacting to the gathering of pilgrims from Baltimore and nine surrounding counties, Kelly Stetka, 14, of Perry Hall said, "You get to realize how many other people are involved in their faith."

Also in Baltimore, a Good Friday procession in Little Italy stopped at 14 stations of the cross. **Sr. Jadwiga Pikuta** of the Sisters of Merciful Jesus carried the cross at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Fells Point.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO...** Detroit's St. Hyacinth RC Church on the parish's centennial celebration. **Fr. Janusz Iwan**, newly appointed Polish-born pastor, said, "In all those (30) years as a priest, I haven't seen a parish with this much feeling of unity among the people." Once the ninth Polish house of worship in Detroit, St. Hyacinth now houses artifacts taken from many of those other churches after they were closed. ... **St. Joseph PNCC Parish** in Stratford, Conn., as they join Bishop Anthony Kopka in celebrating 100 years of service.

**RESOLUTION FOR CHURCH PROBLEMS IN POLAND.** Ordered by the Vatican and the Archbishop of Lublin to vacate the convent they occupy in Kazimierz Dolny, Poland, rebellious Sisters of the Family of

## For Nearly Five Years, Polish Catholic Had a Jewish Sister



**NEW YORK**—Edward Pieniak (center) tells Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn (r.) of Kansas City, Missouri the story of the Jewish sister he had during the German occupation of Poland in World War II.

Rabbi Cukierkorn is in the process of writing a book about Polish Christians who helped Jews during the Holocaust. He came to New York City to interview individuals like Pieniak and record their experiences. Co-author of the proposed book is Bill Tammeus (l.), faith columnist with the *Kansas City Star*.

With only boys in the family, Pieniak's former parents jumped at the chance to add a girl when they were asked to take in an 8-year-old Jewish girl and hide her from the Germans. They lived in a little village near Lublin, Poland known at the time as Wlasnosc.

Soon after the war ended and

the Germans left, Edward Pieniak's "sister" was returned to her relatives and never heard from since. His subsequent attempts to locate her were unsuccessful.

Before coming to New York to gather material for his book, Rabbi Cukierkorn asked the Polish American Congress for its assistance in meeting Polish rescuers like Pieniak. The Congress also helped to arrange interviews with Michael Madejski and Wanda Lorenc of Sea Cliff, N.Y., who aided Jews during World War II.

Anyone who was, or knows Polish persons involved in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust and feels their story could be of interest to Rabbi Cukierkorn and Mr. Tammeus should contact: Holocaust Documentation Committee, Polish American Congress, 177 Kent Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11222, tel.: (516) 424-4547.

The diocese of Plock, most recently led by Archbishop Stanislaw Wielgus who was forced to resign after allegations of collaboration with the Communist regime, received a new bishop in **Bishop Piotr Libera**, auxiliary of the Warsaw archdiocese

Each needle worker makes a shawl and prays for the recipient while knitting/crocheting. A special blessing for the recipient and the maker is given before the shawls are distributed to those in need of comfort and solace. Over 30 shawls have been made and



**PARISH NEWS****Get set for fun at St. Casimir**

**St. Casimir, Canton,** will hold its parish carnival June 8-11. Proceeds will benefit deserving families with the education of their children. The festival will feature food, games, and music. On Sunday, there will be a silent auction and classic car show. There will also be a grand raffle drawing on Sunday. The church is located at the corner of O'Donnell Street and Kenwood Avenue.

**St. Mary stroll to help those with cancer**

On June 11 at 10 a.m. at Centennial Lake in Columbia, MD, walkers will participate in the 4th annual Heart and Sole Stroll. The walk benefits the Red Devils, who supply food, transportation and housecleaning to Maryland families living with breast cancer. This year, the Red Devils would like to have a team of **St. Mary of the Assumption, Govans,** parishioners – the St. Mary Strollers – participate in the walk.

To register for the stroll, volunteer or make a donation, visit [www.The-Red-Devils.org](http://www.The-Red-Devils.org). Or call 410-435-8016.

**Ellicott City parish hosts Holy Hour**

Anyone seeking a deeper appreciation of Jesus in the Eucharist or wondering what Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is all about, is invited to attend the Jim Cowan Concert/Holy Hour at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ellicott City,** on June 27 at 7 p.m. Mr. Cowan, a Colorado native, converted to Catholicism and graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music. He has traveled extensively doing concerts and holy hours. An optional offering will be taken up. For more information, call 410-750-7964.

**Millersville parish to host Italian festival**

An 11 a.m. outdoor Italian Mass followed by a procession honoring St. Anthony will kick off the

second annual Italian festival at **Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville,** June 10. Guests can fill up on lots of favorite home-cooked Italian foods. There will also be Italian music and games for children and adults. Call 410-721-6199 for more information.

**Companions in Mission form locally**

Parishioners of **Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Thurmont,** and **St. Anthony Shrine, Emmitsburg,** who feel a need to connect to something bigger in life are invited to join Companions in Mission, a faith-sharing group, with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. Companions in Mission are Christian men and women who share in and live out the spirit and mission of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia within their own vocation and lifestyle. For more information, visit [www.osfphila.org](http://www.osfphila.org).

*To submit information for parish news, please contact Jennifer Williams at [jwilliams@catholicreview.org](mailto:jwilliams@catholicreview.org).*





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*From the Baltimore Sun*

## Walk displays young people's faith

### Archdiocese of Baltimore's 14th annual youth pilgrimage brings more than 1,000 to city

By Sandy Alexander  
sun reporter

April 1, 2007



The sound of more than a thousand singing voices spilled out the doors of St. Casimir Church in Canton yesterday afternoon as 10 young people emerged into the sunshine carrying a 10-foot wooden cross on their shoulders.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, archbishop of Baltimore, emerged next with several other members of the clergy. And then hundreds of young Catholics poured out onto the sidewalk and started proceeding down the street.

Mae Richardson, coordinator of youth ministry for Sacred Heart Parish of Glyndon, looked at the noisy, briskly moving sea of young people stretching for blocks along the edge of Patterson Park.

"That's hope," she said. "That gives me a lot of hope that this generation is not bad, that this generation has a lot to give."

The 14th annual youth and young adult pilgrimage organized by the [Archdiocese Of Baltimore](#) was the largest one ever, drawing more than 1,000 youth participants and adult chaperones for the first time. It followed a new route this year, from St. Casimir to Holy Rosary Church on Chester Street to the War Memorial Plaza downtown.

It ended with a Mass and a blessing of palms for Palm Sunday at the newly renovated Basilica of the Assumption, which was not available for the past few pilgrimages.

So many young people gathered together "can't help but celebrate," said Mark Pacione, director of youth and young adult ministry for the archdiocese. Organizers worked to keep the event fun and engaging, with live music at several locations and a comedian to entertain at Holy Rosary.

But as an event to mark the start of Holy Week leading up to Easter, the pilgrimage had elements of reflection and reverence as well.

A Eucharistic Adoration at St. Casimir, with prayers, songs and a sermon, followed an opening gathering outdoors. Participants were asked to say a prayer as the procession passed the Holocaust Memorial, and to pray



and reflect on issues of faith and social justice at the War Memorial Plaza.

Several speakers were asked to talk about their faith, including 18-year-old Juana Landaverde of Edgewater, who was raised in Guatemala by her grandmother when her parents came to the United States.

Now reunited with her family and planning to attend college, Landaverde said, "Faith is important to me. I see it as the motor of my life."

Keeler started the local pilgrimage after seeing thousands of youths participating in World Youth Day in Denver in 1993.

"I've found in talking to young people they are very happy when their goodness is being accented," Keeler said yesterday. He recalled that Pope John Paul II remarked to him at the Denver event that when young people plan something and have a role in implementing it, they enjoy themselves more.

Participants, who came from nine counties as well as Baltimore, said the chance to be with other young people was a large part of the appeal of the pilgrimage.

"You get to realize how many other people are involved in their faith," said Kelly Stetka, 14, of Perry Hall."

Kelly, who was with about 70 other confirmation students from St. Joseph Fullerton Church in Perry Hall, said she enjoyed seeing friends from her Catholic middle school who went on to different high schools, and she liked visiting several Baltimore churches she had not seen before.

Pacione said that "young people today are much more in tune with spiritual issues than 10 years ago."

But participants said it is not always easy to express that faith on a daily basis.

"This is an opportunity to be with a group of kids who do want to show their faith," said Katie Walsh, 16, of Westminster. "You get to hear other people explain what their faith means to them."

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