

A History of the Poles in America to 1908

PART III
POLES IN THE EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN STATES

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1840; he was ordained in Italy in 1863 and came to America in 1873. Father Monkiewicz administered the parish for some time. He was succeeded by Father J. Godrycz, a doctor of philosophy.

The parish numbers about 300 families. Its church is 133 feet long and 40 feet wide. The parish is valued at \$50,000. The parish school is attended by over 250 children; they were under the care of the Sisters of St. Francis, and then later the Sisters of St. Bernard. The Poles work in mining, just as they do in the neighboring counties of Luzerne and Northumberland.

The settlement of Gilberton near Shenandoah has been on the list of permanent Polish colonies since 1875.

PARISH OF ST. STANISLAUS IN SHENANDOAH

This parish was formed in 1897 by breaking off from the old parish of St. Casimir. They broke away because the priest did not want any committee or subcommittee members, who would want to participate in governing the parish. Therefore, when the supporters of the committees broke away in 1897 and formed the separate parish of St. Stanislaus, they purchased a Protestant church, in which the Lithuanian priest, Father Waclaw Matulajtis first celebrated masses, then Father Kopytkiewicz, and lately, the newly ordained Father Stanislaw Olesiński, who was replaced by Father Józef Kominek for some time.

The parish has 130 families. The school in the basement has 120 children, taught by one lay teacher.

PARISH OF ST. LAWRENCE IN PHILADELPHIA

The list of "permanent Polish colonies" prepared in 1875 already mentions Philadelphia. However, there was no Polish church. Around 1880, a small group of Poles lived on the northern side of the city of Philadelphia. The organizational meeting took place on January 29, 1882. Soon the Poles rented a hall at the corner of Vienna and Memphis, not far from where the church of St. Lawrence is located today; and that is where the first masses were celebrated for this small group of Poles. Father Józef Dudkiewicz was the first, who preached the word of God to the Poles in this hall in Philadelphia. His stay in this city, however, was very short—he stayed just a few weeks. It seems that before Father Dudkiewicz, Father Lenarkiewicz was active here from 1873. The *Kalendarz* published in 1876 lists Father Lenarkiewicz as the priest in Philadelphia (see page 106).

After Father Dudkiewicz, Father Emil Kattein, took over ministry to this group of Polish immigrants. He was a priest who was Silesian by birth but

absolutely a Pole in his soul. In a short time, land was purchased for the church and rectory. A few months later, the cornerstone for the new church was consecrated, and next, after a few weeks (at the end of 1885), the basement was completed (it had cost \$14,000), and the Poles finally had their own little place where they could praise God in their mother tongue.

At that time, contributions were made not only by the Poles from Philadelphia but by those from neighboring settlements: Bridesburg, Frankfort, Camden, Manyunk, Spring Mill, and Bridgeport.

The two adjoining private houses were the living accommodations of Father E. Kattein.

It must be admitted that this Father Emil Kattein, after Julian Andrzejkowicz, made great contributions to the local Poles here. He was the first to lead here in the religious and national field, and it was during his time that the Poles began to be recognized by the inhabitants of Philadelphia for the first time. After a few years of exhausting work, this distinguished priest was laid to rest in a grave at a cemetery close to Bridesburg. Father Kattein had passed away in September 1887, at the age of 47.

Father Wojciech Małusecki succeeded him and began to work wholeheartedly. He performed his task in an exemplary manner. It was under him that the school was founded in 1888, and the two adjoining houses were purchased from Father Kattein's heirs, and in 1889, construction of the church was begun. The magnificent church of St. Lawrence was erected over the basement at a cost of \$75,000, and was consecrated on September 21, 1890. In place of the two houses, a stately rectory was built—both the one and the other were of ashlar. During the eight years of his stay there, he deeply etched his name in the grateful hearts of the people of all of Philadelphia. Then disputes occurred in this parish, and the victim was the above-mentioned priest. Father Małusecki left the city full of clatter and noise, and went to the quiet seclusion of the small city of Reading.

His successor was Father M. Tarnowski, who administered this parish for over two years. Finally, Father G. Kraus took over the parish administration in 1897, and he untiringly followed the footsteps of his predecessors in his work in this parish.

The financial standing of this parish at the beginning of 1900 was as follows: the church, \$100,000; the rectory, \$28,000; the school and convent, \$22,000. This property had a parish debt in the sum of \$70,270 (in 1900). However, in 1904 the debt was already down to \$58,855—despite the fact that the altars imported from Munich, the pulpit from Kraków, and the rich church equipment (the baptismal font for \$1,100) had cost \$27,000. This parish numbers about 1200 families. The parochial school (450 children) is administered by the Felician Sisters.

PARISH OF ST. STANISLAUS IN NANTICOKE

The oldest Polish colony, if not in all of Pennsylvania then in Luzerne County, is undoubtedly the Polish settlement in the city of Nanticoke.⁷ The parish of St. Stanislaus, founded in 1875, whose pastor has been Father Ignacy Benvenuto Gramlewicz from immemorial times, is the oldest parish here and is the true mother of all the other Polish parishes that are so numerous in Luzerne County. No other county in the United States, except Chicago, can boast such a great number of Polish parishes as Luzerne County in Pennsylvania. And among this multitude of parishes, like the sun among the stars, the parish of St. Stanislaus in Nanticoke sparkles and shines.

As the local chronicles and record books state, the first beginnings of the parish of St. Stanislaus reach back to 1875. The parish did not have any clear form at that time because it was only forming in its embryonic state. Father Eugeniusz Żychowicz, who is still living [1906] and is head of one of the French monasteries in America, was the first organizer of the parish in Nanticoke (from 1875–1876). Father Szulak, a Jesuit, commuted here at that time; then, there was Father Józef Juszkiewicz from 1876 to 1877 (he passed away in Chicago).

Actually, however, the beginning of the parish of St. Stanislaus dates back to the time when the Polish settlement in Nanticoke took on the clear form of a parish, that is, from the time of arrival of its permanent pastor, Father Ignacy Benvenuto Gramlewicz on October 1, 1877. Father Gramlewicz found emptiness because there were no parish buildings. He began with the construction of the church in 1877, 60 feet long and 40 wide, which was enlarged some years later, and is now 100 feet long and 60 feet wide in the cross.

Immediately after the church was built in 1878, a small rectory was erected, which was also considerably enlarged in 1893 for the convenience of guests. The parochial school is attended by 175 boys and 215 girls. When I was there, there was temporarily only one male and one female lay teacher, but they were awaiting the arrival of a group of Franciscan Sisters. Many confraternities and societies enliven the organism of this parish. The parish has about 400 families, mainly miners, as well as 10 farmers and a few store owners, that is, grocers, saloonkeepers, and one pharmacist.

Father Ignacy Benvenuto Gramlewicz, a diocesan consultant and the continual pastor of the parish of St. Stanislaus for almost half a century, was born on July 31, 1837, in Żerkow, Poznań district. He studied in Ostrów and was ordained in 1862 at the monastery of the Franciscan Fathers in Chełmno. During *kulturkampf*, he worked as an administrator in Cekcyń Polski near Tuchola, at which time he was interrogated in court almost every month due to the distrust of the Prussian government. And when he helped his fellow

priest Father Jacek Gulski (currently in Milwaukee) to flee abroad, he himself soon had to flee from Prussia, and he came to America in 1875. Here he joined the Diocese of Scranton, and remains there to this day. At first, he was active in Blossburg, and then in Nanticoke from October 1, 1877.

One of the first Poles to settle permanently in Pennsylvania in the vicinity of Nanticoke was Jan Szumowski. After the Crimean war, in which he fought against the Russians on the British side, he came to America in 1855. He took part in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865, and then settled in Nanticoke. He passed away in an invalid's home in 1902 in Hampton, Virginia; through the initiative of Józef Twardowski and T. Butkiewicz, his remains were brought to Nanticoke and buried at the cemetery of the Holy Trinity with the overwhelming participation of his countrymen and members of the G.A.R. society, as well as L.N.G.P. Jan Szumowski, at 82 years of age, came from the Kingdom of Poland.

PARISH OF THE HOLY TRINITY IN NANTICOKE

When the bees are too crowded in the mother hive, they begin to form another colony and look for another habitat. Usually such swarming is accompanied by unusual movement and a dull humming in the old hive. Similarly, it hummed like in a hive long before 1894 in the mother parish of St. Stanislaus in Nanticoke, which undoubtedly predicted the forming of a new swarm of parishioners. This swarm was delayed due to a lack of a new mother, until finally in 1894, it erupted without a mother. The reason for this were disputes with Alliance members. Father Gramlewicz was an avowed enemy, not so much of Alliance members as people, but rather of the ideas and objectives represented at some time by the Polish National Alliance in America—ideas that can be summarized in the following godless stanza:

Tak zemsta, zemsta na wroga
Z Bogiem, a choćby i mimo Boga!

Being of the opinion that the Alliance members or at least their leaders are encompassed by such a spirit as quoted above, Father Gramlewicz conducted a constant battle with them, until a majority of Alliance members resolved to end this war by building a separate, new church in 1894. However, the old Bishop O'Hara did not want to permit this. The issue went to the current apostolic delegate, Satolli, who had let the Alliance members open the Church of the Holy Trinity in Chicago. He also decided to allow them to build a church here. Then, the vicar general, representing the bishop of Scranton, arrived in Nanticoke and laid and consecrated the cornerstone of

the new Church of the Holy Trinity on May 29, 1895; it was probably so named in memory of Holy Trinity in Chicago. The church is brick. Upon Father Gramlewicz's recommendation, the notorious Father Hodur became the first pastor. It was he who, for a year and a half (until the beginning of 1897), remaining in body, wandered in soul around Scranton and exalted the shady doings of Łopatynier with his party of malcontents in Scranton. When Father Hodur phisically left Nanticoke on the sly, like a fugitive, not informing either the bishop or the parishioners, some time later the parish of the Holy Trinity obtained Father Józef Dudkiewicz as its pastor. Father Adolf Nowicki became the next pastor; he was the one, who had laid the foundations for the parish of St. Michael in South Chicago. In 1900, Father Nowicki resigned as pastor of Holy Trinity, and with the permission of the bishop, founded a new, third Polish parish in Nanticoke—St. Jadwiga. The parish of the Holy Trinity was then taken over by Father B. Iwanowski in August 1900.

The parish of the Holy Trinity has about 400 families—that is, as many as in the parish of St. Jadwiga just being organized.

Father Bronisław Iwanowski, the current pastor of the parish of the Holy Trinity, was born in 1867 in Rzeszotary, the Kingdom of Poland. He studied in Wymyślino and was ordained in Wilkes Barre in 1891 for the Diocese of Scranton. He was first Father Gramlewicz's assistant and then the pastor in Priceburg until 1899. In 1899, he went to visit the old country. After returning, he became the pastor here in August 1900.

PARISH OF ST. JADWIGA IN NANTICOKE

Father Adolf Nowicki, the organizer of the new Polish parish in Nanticoke in 1900 (residing temporarily with an Irish pastor), was born in Podole in 1860. He completed high school in Kiev, and then studied medicine and philosophy at the university for two years. He then worked as a high school teacher in Poltava, and from there "by administrative means" he was transferred to Tiflis, Caucasus, for six months. Since the government would not cease to persecute him (for his faith), he left for America in 1887. He completed his theology studies in St. Francis, Wisconsin, and in Berlin, Canada, with the Resurrectionist Fathers. He was ordained in Chicago on November 20, 1890. He was an assistant there for 9 months and then the founder and pastor of the parish of St. Michael in South Chicago for five years. Having resigned from this position, he left for a long trip to Russia on important business. After returning, he settled in Nanticoke, from where he fled in 1907. He was succeeded by Father Franciszek Nowakowski.

PARISH OF THE BIRTH OF OUR LADY IN PLYMOUTH

The parish of the Birth of Our Lady in Plymouth was founded in 1884 by Father Wawrzyniec Spryszyński (who passed away in 1887 in a hospital in Oshkosh, Wisconsin). The Poles lived here peacefully with the Lithuanians, and together they praised God. The next pastor was a Lithuanian, Father Warnagyris, and after him, there was another Lithuanian, Father Burba (who is no longer living). It was during Father Burba's administration that disturbances within the parish occurred. The peace of the parishioners thus far was disturbed, and fighting even broke out. Father Burba separated the Lithuanians from the Poles and founded the separate Lithuanian parish of St. Casimir for his compatriots, whose current pastor is Father J. Zieliński, a Lithuanian. The Polish parish was then administered by the following: Father Szymanowski, Father Tomkiewicz, and lately Father Andrzej Smelsz, the current pastor of the Polish parish of the Birth of Our Lady in Plymouth, who was born near Bydgoszcz, Poznań district, in 1870. He was ordained in Rochester, N.Y., and was an assistant in an Irish parish for some time.

There is an independent church in Plymouth. Its members were believers in Hodur's faith. In 1902, the preacher here was W. Szumowski, a believer in Koźłowski's faith. In 1905, Father Hodur counted 1450 independents.

PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN EAST PLYMOUTH

This church in Luzerne County was purchased from the independents in 1899. Father Ługowski from Wisconsin was here for a few months. Toward the end of 1899, Father Leopold Suchowski, a serious and respected priest, from Galicia by birth, took over as pastor. Then in 1901, there was Father Józef Karpiński, and next Father Jan Malarz, under whom the church was embellished and the school opened.

The parish of St. John the Baptist numbers about 80 families. It has a great future. It is close to Nanticoke (8 miles).

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY IN SCRANTON

This parish was founded in 1885 in the city of Scranton, numbering over 100,000 inhabitants. In Lackawanna County, in the bishop's capital of the

colonies in this county, if not as numerous, are certainly as old, if not older. While the oldest parish in Nanticoke, Luzerne County, was only being organized and had not yet hatched, the parish of Our Lady in Blossburg, Tioga County, was already completely organized in 1875 through the efforts of Fathers Strupiński and Kandyd Kozłowski. After them, the famous wanderer, Father Klawiter, arrived for a short time. Incidentally, regarding this Father Klawiter—unfortunately a fallen-away priest today—it would be easier to state where he hadn't been rather than try to enumerate the places where he had been and where he had organized Polish parishes. And everywhere, he came as he went. In Blossburg also, he did not stay long, since soon after him, came Father Gramlewicz, who had freshly arrived from Poland and who administered here until 1877. After Father Gramlewicz, who moved on to Nanticoke to remain there permanently, Father Spryszyński administered in Blossburg as pastor. Next, in 1885, Father Teofil Klonowski arrived here, and when he moved to Wilkes Barre, where he remains to this day, he was replaced in Blossburg by Father Siedlecki in 1893. Finally, in 1898, came Father Dembiński, who, after the storm in Scranton, found a safe haven here. Then, the pastor was Father Bron. Iwanowski, and from 1906, Father Andrzej Łopato, known to us from Wisconsin. Father Jan Kubacki has been here since 1907.

Already in 1888, Blossburg numbered 280 Polish families. About 100 children attended the school in 1906. The mission in Arnot, and prior to 1906, Morris Run belonged to Blossburg.

Father P. Dembiński, the former pastor of these three parishes, had been born in the Poznań district in 1866. He was ordained in Scranton in January 1893. Father Dembiński serviced a fourth orphaned parish in Morris from here.

THE POLISH CHURCH IN ARNOT

It is located in Tioga County. A priest from Blossburg commutes here. There is a Polish school here, attended by 80 children.

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART IN MORRIS

A Polish parish can be found in Morris, Tioga County, together with the mission in Antrim and Landrus. The parish in Morris was founded in 1896. Its pastor until 1899 was Father Antoni Lipiński; then, Father Jan Balcewicz was there for two years (until 1900), but he was already quite old, and since the mission here was tiring, he resigned. Next, Father Stanisław Szpotański

was here for three months, followed by no pastor for the next ten months. During that time, Father Dembiński from Blossburg took care of it. Finally, in 1901, Father Bronisław Walter arrived, and he immediately got to work energetically, bringing in nice equipment and adorning the church.

In March, 1902, the church burned down. The pastor, Father Bronisław Walter, barely had time to save the Holy Sacrament. The damage from the fire came to \$7,000, while the church had been insured for only \$2,500.

The new church of the Sacred Heart in Hoytville, rebuilt at the cost of \$3,000, was consecrated on November 9, 1902.

Disturbances ceased when the courageous preacher Father Hieronim Błażyński, became the pastor here. After him, came Father Feliks Nowak in 1906, already known to us from Torun, Wisconsin.

In 1901, there were already over 250 Polish families in Morris and Antrim. 30.

THE MISSIONS IN ANTRIM AND LANDRUS.

They belong to Morris. The settlement in Antrim must be old because it is already listed as a permanent Polish colony in 1875.

PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH IN MORRIS RUN

Morris Run was a mission belonging to Blossburg until 1906. In 1906, Father Hieronim Błażski settled here as the first permanent pastor. There is a Polish school here attended by 150 children. So much for Tioga County.

THE POLES IN HILLS GROVE

The chronicle for 1889 wrote: "About 40 miles from Blossburg, among the rocky mountains covered with thick woods, lies the Polish settlement of Hills Grove. When Father Klonowski visited this settlement in 1889, there were 41 Poles working in a tannery."

Let us now turn to Lackawanna County, adjoining Luzerne County, and also having numerous Polish settlements.

PARISH OF THE VISITATION IN PRICEBURG

Father Gramlewicz also founded this parish in Priceburg, Lackawanna County, in 1890. The first permanent pastor here was Father Bronisław

Iwanowski until 1899. Father Józef Dudkiewicz took over the parish after him. The parish numbers 430 families, and has 100 boys and as many girls attending its school.

In 1898, Hodur's independent church was founded here. Despite this, the "old" parish under the energetic administration of Father Dudkiewicz is doing well and is well run. In the last few years, many have returned to their mother church. In 1899, the church was rather empty, but today, it can not fit in all the faithful.

Father Józef Dudkiewicz, born in Nowa Huta, Kielce province, on March 14, 1849, received his high school education and entered the seminary in Kielce, where he was ordained on July 13, 1873, by Bishop Kuliński. After working for seven years in Jędrzejow and at the cathedral in Kielce, he continued his studies at his own expense in Innsbruck, for which he got into trouble with the Russian government. However, through persistent efforts, he became the pastor in Solec Kuracyjny in 1888; then, in 1890, due to a vacancy, he was transferred to a parish with 23,000 souls in Dąbrowa Góncza, Piotrków province. Here, he built a rectory and got permission from the government to build a new church for 200,000 rubles. However, Father Dudkiewicz's activities displeased the government, and on April 16, 1896, he was forced to flee by night from the parish and leave the country. The government requisitioned his remaining personal property and his money. He arrived in America on June 22, 1896, and not having an "Exeat" from his bishop or a certificate from Propaganda, he could not obtain any position as a priest. Having some money saved up, he purchased 200 acres of woods in Crivitz, Marinette County, Wisconsin from H. Zech Co., and worked there himself in the beginning, in this way laying the foundations for the founding of a new Polish colony, where today there is a church and there are about 70 Polish families (see Part IV, Wisconsin). He finally obtained a certificate from the Prefect of Propaganda, Cardinal Ledóchowski, with which he got the position of assistant to Father Flaczek in Buffalo on December 8, 1896; on April 6, 1897, he became the pastor at the parish of the Holy Trinity in Nanticoke; from there he was transferred to Priceburg on August 5, 1899.

THE POLISH CHURCH IN RIDGE

A church in Ridge was erected through the efforts of Father Dudkiewicz, who works as a priest there.

THE POLISH CHURCH IN DICKSON¹¹

In Dickson, Lackawanna County, according to the chronicles for 1890, "the cornerstone for a Polish church was consecrated on November 9, 1890."

THE POLES IN THROOP

The Poles in Throop (Lackawanna County) and vicinity keep together. They form one parish with the Slovaks.

PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN CARBONDALE

Located in Lackawanna County. A separate Polish parish has existed here since 1905.

PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL IN OLD FORGE

This is in Barberton, Lackawanna County. The cornerstone for the Polish church was laid here in 1905 when Father Doctor Kominek was the pastor. Father Tomasz Kuryłowicz has been the pastor since 1907.

PARISH OF ST. STANISLAUS K. IN FOREST CITY

This settlement is located in Susquehanna County. Father Leopold Suchowski was the pastor here until 1906. Then, in 1906, Father Jan Gryczka became the pastor.

Poles in the Diocese of Pittsburgh

The Diocese of Pittsburgh (*pittsburgensis*) was formed in 1843, the same year as the Chicago and Milwaukee dioceses, and it encompasses the western part of Pennsylvania.¹² The first bishop here was M. O'Connor (1843-1860), who resigned in 1860, joined the Jesuit Fathers and passed away as a Jesuit in 1872; the second was M. Domenci (1860-1876); the third, M. Tuigg (1876-1889); the fourth, Richard Phelan (1889-1904), and the fifth is J. F. Regis Canevin. His diocese has 280,000 Catholics, of whom 102,200 are Poles;

began to bother them that they got on their feet and began to ask the bishop for a legitimate Polish priest. The bishop consented in 1898 and sent them Father Cichocki, known to us from Chicago and other settlements.

Father Cichocki got to work in earnest. In the beginning, he celebrated mass in a rented hall. Then he began to collect contributions, and seeing that "exempla trahunt," he offered \$900 for the church out of his own pocket. And so, the Poles in Homestead paid \$2,500 cash for two lots on July 10, 1899, and, having obtained a loan from the parishioners of St. Stanislaus in Pittsburgh (\$5,000), began seriously building the church, which was completed and consecrated on February 20, 1900.

The church is beautiful. It is 90 feet long and 40 feet wide; the school with two classrooms is on the first floor, and the church on the second floor can accommodate 500 people.

In February 1901, Father Cichocki left Homestead and Father Julian Luniewski succeeded him.

In December 1904, Father Franciszek Miśkiewicz took over this parish; he remained here until the end (1907). He was succeeded by Father Stec.

There are many children in the school.

PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS IN GLASSPORT

The Poles in Glassport, numbering 40 families, also began to think of organizing their own parish in August 1902. Their first pastor, Father Garstka, rented a house temporarily to be used as the chapel. A 95 by 45 foot church was built in 1905, which was consecrated in 1906; however, it burned down totally together with the rectory on January 21, 1907. The parish of the Holy Cross indeed had a difficult cross to bear. They began to rebuild the church and rectory, and the cornerstone was laid on October 20, 1907. The pastor was Father S. Jastrzembki.

Wilmerding also lies in Allegheny County, and there a substantial group of Poles are part of the Irish parish. On Easter 1901, Father Albert, a Carmelite from Baltimore, conducted a Polish mission here. The Poles here form group 535 of the Polish National Alliance.

So much about the Poles in Allegheny. In the neighboring county of Westmoreland, there are 7 Polish centers: New Kensington, Mammoth, Mt. Pleasant, Latrobe, Export, Claridge, and Vandergrift.

PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN MT. PLEASANT

Mt. Pleasant, several miles north of Everson, already in another county (Westmoreland), had initially Belonged to Everson. However, the Poles here soon became tired of commuting so far to church; they therefore decided to found their own parish in 1887. The first permanent pastor was Father Henryk Cichocki (known from Chicago) in 1890; he was succeeded by Father Dudkiewicz from Baltimore, who passed away in this parish. During Father Dudkiewicz's illness, Father F. Pikulski commuted here from Pittsburgh, and soon after the former's death, he took over administration of this parish.

Father Franciszek Pikulski purchased a piece of beautiful land and built a splendid brick church in the Roman style. He also erected a spacious school. The old, original church serves as a meeting hall today, and the old rectory has been turned into housing for the organist.

After Father Pikulski, Father Siwec became pastor in Mt. Pleasant in the fall of 1902. On September 1, 1903, Father Siwec brought in three Felician Sisters, who taught 230 children in 1906. The parish numbers 500 families and as many single people.

PARISH OF ST. STANISLAUS, THE BISHOP IN MAMMOTH

Near the above-mentioned Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County, lies the beautiful village of Mammoth, whose stately wooden church can be seen from all sides, and it seems to reign over the entire vicinity. This temple was founded in 1894 through the efforts of Father N. McNellis, an Irish pastor from Mt. Pleasant, who built it with the help of the local Polish and Slovak working people. This little church was left without a permanent priest, and it began to deteriorate. It began to recover only in 1898 when the brave Father Józef Wielgus came here as pastor.

From September 1, 1904, in the spacious school building, two English teachers taught; Father Wielgus himself and the organist, Mr. Kupkowski, taught Polish and catechism both in Polish and in Slovak. The house, built for the sisters, was occupied by the organist. However, on November 5, 1904, the distinguished and zealous Father Wielgus passed away at the age of 42. Father Józef Wielgus, born in 1862 in the Kingdom of Poland, studied in Rome. He was ordained there on December 22, 1895, and then came directly to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

His successor in Mammoth was first Father Julian Luniewski, age 48, and then Father M. Krupiński.