

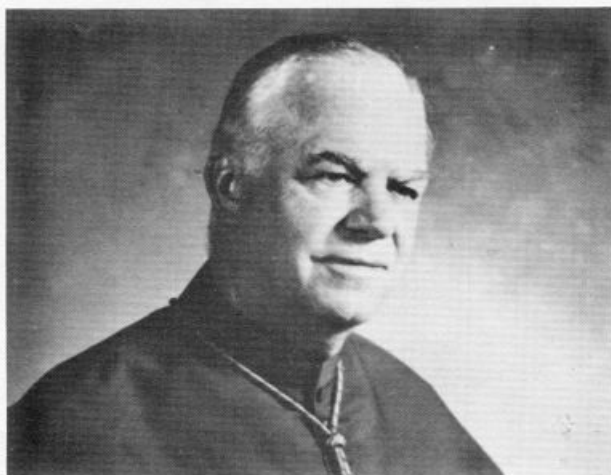
St. John
Cantius Church

1902-1977

Diamond Jubilee

Souvenir Pictorial
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August 11, 1977

Dear Father Szczygiel and Parishioners:

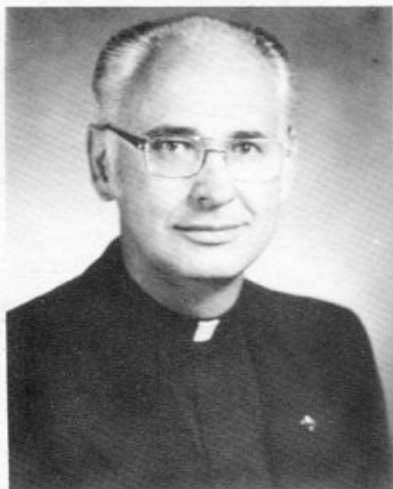
Soon you will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the establishment of St. John Cantius Parish - seventy-five years of sharing a tradition of strong faith and national heritage.

I welcome this opportunity to express my cordial congratulations to you on this happy and historic occasion. Surely it is a time to look back over the years and to thank God for the blessings that have come to so many people through this parish.

At the same time, we beseech God's abundant blessings upon those who form the present parish community. I join my prayers with yours that the faith nourished at St. John Cantius Parish may enable you to be the "leaven" and the "light" in the communities in which you live and work.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

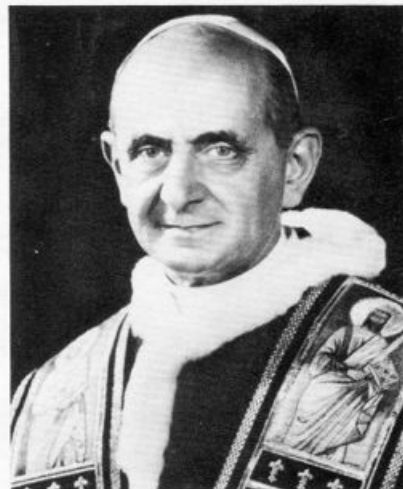
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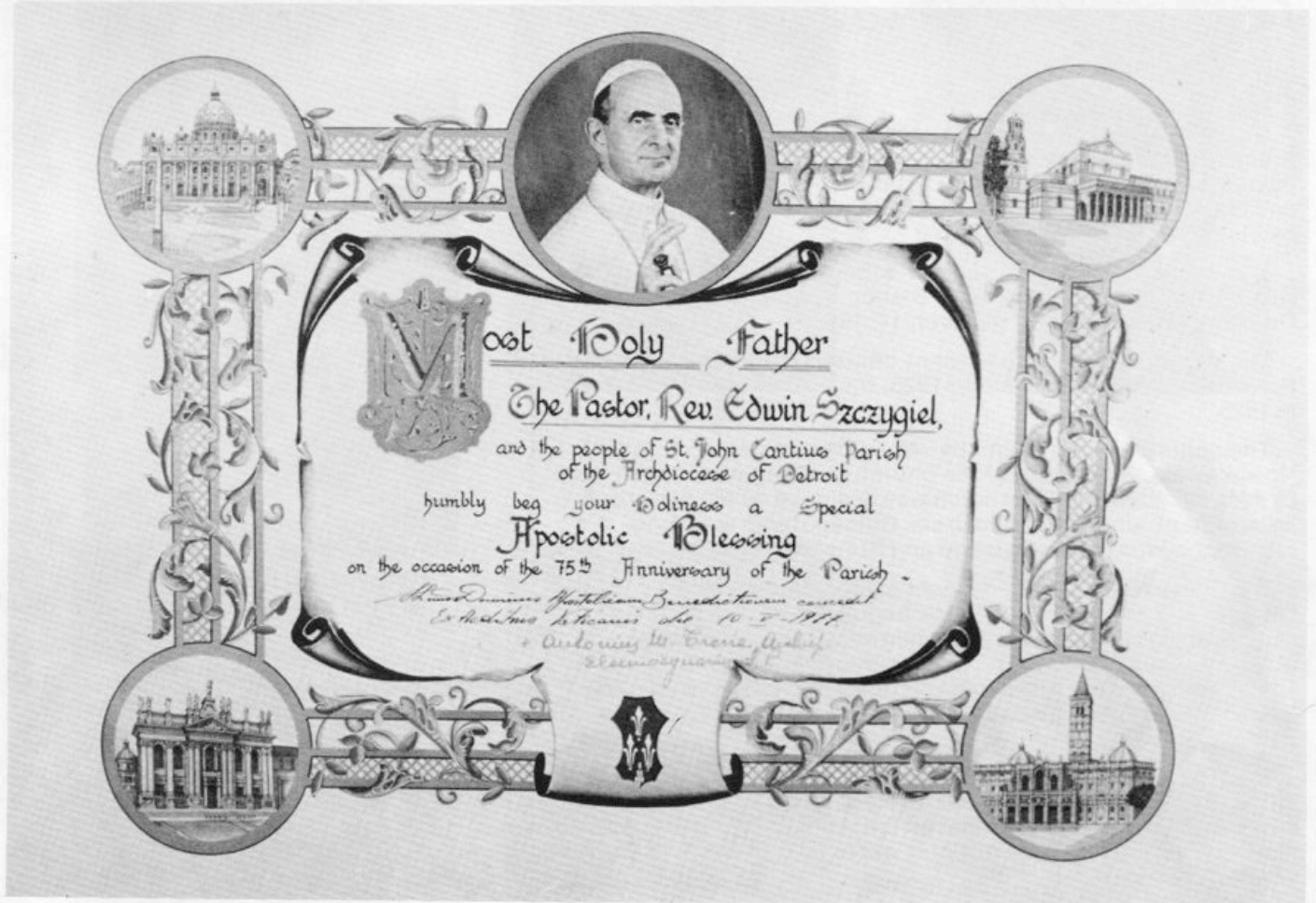


Father Jan Paczek



His Holyness Pope Paul VI

A 75th Anniversary Tribute. . .



Message from. . .

REV. EDWIN A. SZCZYGIEL
Pastor

We have reached another milestone in the history of St. John Cantius Parish.

As you all know, the last several years have been very trying and difficult because of the changes wrought by the Water Board in our parish community.

Despite all the inconveniences - heartbreaks caused by loss of ancestral homes, neighbors, life-long friends, the dirt, smell, lack of parking facilities and the total disruption of our parish community, we have survived to celebrate this joyous occasion only through your faith, determination and devotion.

We are celebrating our Diamond Jubilee, 75 years of service to God - Country - and Polonia. With your continued support we will go on as viable force perpetuating this church and all of God's works.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to you, my dear parishioners, for without your zealous work, cooperation and faith in me as your Pastor, the continuance of St. John Cantius Parish would be an "Impossible Dream." God Love you.



IRENE PILCH

Diamond Jubilee Chairperson

May I take this opportunity to express my most sincere "thanks" and deepest gratitude to all the Parishioners, the Members of the Parish Council and all those individuals who by their cooperation and support have made this jubilee a great success.

A special work of thanks to Mr. Ed Dobby Town and Country Studio and all our advertisers who have made this book reality.

Let us not forget, however, that it was through the grace of God we were able to reach our goals with much success. May God give you, my fellow parishioners, good health and many more fruitful years at St. John Cantius.



Our History . . .

St. John Cantius Parish was organized in 1900 by Rev. Felix Kieruj, Pastor of St. Francis Parish of Detroit. The first resident pastor was Rev. John Walczak. The first combination school and church building was erected October 26, 1902 and blessed by Bishop Foley.

The cornerstone of the second school and church building was laid on August 28, 1910 by Bishop Koldelka of Cleveland, Ohio and was dedicated on March 14, 1911.

The cornerstone of the present church, a brick structure in Romanesque Style was laid in 1923, the church was dedicated in 1925.

The church was built by building contractor Joseph Nowakowski. Blueprints of the church building were drawn up by a Mr. Christensen. The church was designed by Mr. Steinbach, an architect who originated from Chicago and was from the architectural firm of Worthmann and Steinbach.

Rev. John Walczak, first resident pastor, died on May 22, 1941. On July 8, 1941, the good work begun by Rev. Walczak was continued by Rev. Vincent Anuszkiewicz, the second pastor of St. John Cantius. His reign continued until June 1968 at which time he retired from his zealous work. On June 26, 1968, Rev. Edwin A. Szczygiel was appointed as third and present pastor.

Rev. Szczygiel from 1968 to the present time has worked very diligently, exerting every effort to keep his parish active and alive even though conditions in the community have made his work very trying and difficult especially in the last three years.

Even though the Water Department has raised somewhere over three hundred homes in the immediate area of the church, making it necessary for the parishioners to move into the suburbs, this did not jeopardize Rev. Szczygiel's position. At present, our parish is comprised of approximately 600 families.

The school was organized in 1902 by Rev. Walczak. There were eleven classrooms. In 1903 there were 107 students; in 1930 1,161 and in 1950 309. Due to the fact that the community was taken over by the City, many families moved into the suburbs and this, however, effected our school status. Due to the lack of students the school was closed in June, 1969. The Felician Sisters, whose Motherhouse is in Livonia, Michigan taught at St. John Cantius.

At present, weekly Polish Language Classes and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD - Religious Instruction) Classes are offered to the children in the area. It is well to note that there are a number of students who commute from the suburbs. There are 10 students in the Polish Language Classes and 40 students in the CCD Classes. Our traditional Polish customs, such as the Christmas "Pasterka" Easter and May Processions, etc. are still in existence through the efforts of the Pastor and the handful of students in the school.

Father Szczygiel is determined to continue the existence of his parish. "We'll be a church on an island but the church stays", he declares.

St. John Cantius Church that stands today culminates the history of the parish that it's present parishioners can relate to.

The following Societies are still active in the Parish: Holy Name, Rosary Society, St. Ann-Polish Women's Alliance, St. Theresa, St. Hedwig, St. Joseph Usher's Club, Polish-American Political Club, Parish Choir, Delray Memorial Mothers, St. Stanislaus, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the Ladies Club.



REV. JOHN WALCZAK
First Resident Pastor
1902 - 1941



REV. VINCENT ANUSZKIEWICZ
Second Pastor
1941 - 1968

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HOLD ON

*If in the chaos of your life
You think - there's nothing left for you -
Hold on in the darkness
Until the sun comes shining through.
Say not - I'll never see
The happiness that used to be
For if you do - the sun will fade
And then - GOOD HEAVENS 'twill be too late.
And - if you let go - you will drift
Tossed by the waves of chance -
Fanned by the inner storm
A victim of circumstance.
And - if you think that hope has fled
And every joy has gone -
Listen to the voice within
Which tells you to HOLD ON.
And if you've lost someone in life
That made your life worthwhile -
Hold on with all the strength you've got
Believe in God and smile.
But - when your viewpoint is all shattered
And to you things seem unfair -
Get down on your knees and say
A quiet little prayer.*



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