The History of St. Cyprian Church, Pittsburgh, PA.
Golden Jubilee St. Cyprian Church, Pittsburgh, PA.
CAP at Orchard Lake.

The story of St. Cyprian's Church falls naturally into three divisions—INCEPTION, ESTABLISHMENT and MERGER. These periods are sharply marked off. The pioneering work which lasted for at least 10 years is clearly the period of INCEPTION.

The period of ESTABLISHMENT continued from 1930 and during the Depression years as well as during and after World War II.

The period of MERGER began in 1964 when St. Cyprian's Church was merged with Mary Immaculate Church located on the corner of Middle and Suismon Streets, North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. Each epoch has its special interest not confined to the parish alone. Nevertheless the periods are a faithful reflection of the temperament and faith of the Polish people.

GOD'S PEOPLE OFFER HUMBLE PRAISE

In the year of Our Lord 1920, the Polish people of lower N.S. Pittsburgh requested Most Reverend Bishop J. Regis Canevin to have a Church of their own. Property of the Concordia Club on 204 Stockton Ave. was purchased and the First Mass was offered on March 23, 1920 at St. Peter's, North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. The first Pastor was Rev. Anthony Pniak. The first Baptisms were Julia Dwojakowski, Joseph Gala, and Thaddeus E. Budny on March 28, 1920. The first marriage was Ladislaus Lubomski and Mary Glowczewski on April 28, 1920, and the first funeral was that of Joseph Pietrzynski on April 4, 1920.

Among the Pastors who zealously and faithfully served the Polish people were: Rev. Antonius Pniak (1920-1937); Rev. M. W. Drelak (April 1937-June 1962); Rev. Joseph S. Wichmanowski (June 1962-January 1969).

It can be said, and truthfully so, that the present status of St. Cyprian-Mary Immaculate Church was brought about chiefly because of the "face-lifting" and Urban Renewal that is taking place on the North Side. When a new site of St. Cyprian's Church was sought, the most logical at the time was a Mission Church to Regina Coeli Church on Juniata St., North Side, Pittsburgh. This solution to the problem of relocation St. Cyprian has been a happy one. Much credit has to be given not only to the parishioners of both congregations but also to Rev. Joseph S. Wichmanowski, affectionately called Fr. Joe, who at present is pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Ambridge, Pa. His successor in keeping both ethnic groups working harmoniously for the greater honor and glory of God is our
present pastor-Rev. Gabriel N. Briestensky, O.S.B.

THE SCHOOL

St. Cyprian’s original school occupied the Basement and first floor of the combination Church/School on Stockton Ave. In 1921, the Felician Sisters from Coraopolis carried on the educational work of St. Cyprian School. The opening year found 228 pupils on the roll.

The Sisters who served the parish as superiors were: Sister M. Raymond 1920, Sister M. Ewencja.

In 1945, a Silver Jubilee of St. Cyprian Church and School was celebrated. A Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by Bishop Dearden, followed by a dinner at the Islam Grotto. Fr. Drelak was instrumental in the preparation of a Souvenir book which gave a detailed history of St. Cyprian’s Parish in Polish. A synopsis or summary of this history is contained in the first quarter of this Souvenir book.

HISTORY OF REV. M. W. DRELAK PASTORSHIP AT ST. CYPRIAN CHURCH

In April 1937, Father Drelak became Pastor of St. Cyprian Church North Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. He rendered his priestly service to many others than his own parishioners. For instance, he taught Ethics at Duquesne University and was also a member of the Diocesan Matrimonial Board.


The Religious vocations with the Felician Sisters are: Sister Mary Amancia (Puciata) now in Youngstown, Pa.; Sister Mary Anselm (Kepka) in Sharpsburg, Pa.; Sister Mary Patricia (Gaughan in Greensburg, Pa.; Sister Mary Florence (Pietkiewicz) at Coraopolis, Pa.; Sister Maria (Cichoski) at South 15th St., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Sister Mary Judith (Maïszewski) at Port Vue, Pa. Sister Mary Ernestine (Trybus) at McMurray Rd. Pgh., Pa.; Sister Mary Carol (Kardell) at St. Josaphat’s, Mission St., Pgh., Pa.; Sister Roberta Marie (Kardell) in Wheeling, W. Va.; Sister Mary Faith (Balawejder) in Berea, Ohio; Sister Mary Leona (Pawlos) who died several years ago.

Other Sisters from the parish include Sister Mary Alice (Sobieraj) at the McGuire Home in New Brighton, Pa., and Sister M. Cecelia (Zwolak) in Garfield Heights, Ohio; also Sister M. Bogumila (Kuczynski) who died 33 years ago; and Sister Mary Electa (Gausior) now deceased.

The Associate Pastors who with Father Drelak have zealously served the members of St. Cyprian Parish were: Rev Charles Kobylarz, Rev. Vincent Kuklewski, Rev. Aloysius Borkowski, Rev. George Kilarecki, Rev. Ignatius Aranowski, Rev. Edwin L. Kaczmarek, and Rev. Stanley J. Zacewicz.
OUR NEW SCHOOL

Before the merger between St. Cyprian and Mary Immaculate Churches, the flatter had a 4 classroom school which opened its facilities in 1942. The Sacred Heart Sisters taught the pupils-numbering about 180. Mary Immaculate School was forced to close because of the new school being constructed at St. Peter's, and the four classrooms were empty until the then Bishop Wright had Fr. Wichmanowski start a kindergarten which was named by his present Eminence-Guardian Angels' Kindergarten.

Ground-breaking for the newly combined St. Mary-Mary Immaculate-St. Cyprian School took place on a rainy day July 5, 1969. It was held indoors because of the inclement weather. Dedication and Open House of the New School took place on Sunday, August 23, 1970. Most Rev. Anthony G. Bosco, who had his first Mass at Mary Immaculate Church and was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh on June 30, 1970, blessed the new school and preached the festive homily.

The enrollment of St. Mary-Mary Immaculate-St. Cyprian School is 250 pupils and 50 in the Guardian Angels' Kindergarten.