The town of Ambridge sprung forth into being at the turn of the 20th century, and attracted thousands into the new industrial area.

Among the many nationality groups settling here were the Polish people, the majority of whom were immigrants arrived on these shores in quest of improvement in their life's lot. They fitted well into the jigsaw pattern created by the numerous ethnic groups cast into the American melting pot, but the desire to retain their rich native characteristics, to worship God in their beautiful native tongue and to maintain a better mutual contact, prompted them to band together for the purpose of promoting these common interests.

In 1905, therefore, we find them organizing the St. Stanislaus Society which played a prominent part in establishment of St. Veronica Church with the Rev. John Kubacki, the famed advocate of total temperance, at Pastor. Their joy was short-lived, however, for, with the departure of Father Kubacki, St. Veronica became a district parish headed by a non-Polish pastor.

As a departure from the rigors of the temperance group which ceased functioning in the absence of Father Kubacki, a new organization was founded in July, 1907, and named for St. Hedwig, a onetime queen of Poland. An important item of their agenda and concern was the problem of religious worship of the ever growing colony of Poles in this area. The St. Hedwig Society, therefore, undertook the task of raising funds for the day when a parish of their own could be established and a church built with a Polish speaking priest in charge. In the meantime, the Polish people shared the facilities of the newly organized Divine Redeemer Church. With the accumulated capital they purchased a parcel of lots at 6th & Glenwood Avenue.

Another favourable turn of events occurred in 1913, when a Polish speaking priest, Father John Supinski moved in as Pastor of Divine Redeemer. His paternal care and sympathetic attitude for the plight of the Polish people inspired them to a greater determination and vigor. Following Father Supinski’s advice, they exchanged the parcel of lots which they owned for one of 7 lots in a better location at 6th and Beaver Road.

When a break in the relationship with Divine Redeemer affected a severance of all ties and catapulted the Poles into a "where-do-we-go-now" situation, it was Father Supinski urging them to seek out a young assistant, a Father Stanislaus R. Labujewski, at St. Josaphat's in South Side.
Pittsburgh. By this time there were 60 plus families.

A committee of 3 men, Messers Fronckiewicz, Andrew Kubiak and Michael Kulik, were empowered to contact Father Labujewski, who, by the will of Bishop Regis Canevin, came to Ambridge, greeted the assemblage in the St. Veronica basement and offered for them the Holy Sacrifice on Passion Sunday, March 29, 1914. This was a turning point in the annals of the Polish Colony in Ambridge. The subsequent events from this moment are a part of the history of St. Stanislaus B. & M. Parish, which, after clearance of all details, became a canonically established entity as of July 30, 1914 with the designation of Father Labujewski as the first Pastor.

Almighty God blessed this union most generously, for, starting from the proverbial scratch with a handful of devoted parishioners and a few odd dollars in the till, St. Stanislaus grew to several hundred families. A most imposing complex of necessary Parish structures, free of any encumbrance, stand as a monument attesting to a keen foresight in planning, an esthetic sense of architectural beauty and a boundless ability for management. Such attributes can only spell success, and St. Stanislaus can boast a full measure of it because we were most fortunate to have Father Labujewski in our midst all this time.

It is little wonder then that Holy Mother Church saw fit to reward these accomplishments and bestow the honor of a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor upon the good Father. He is now the Rt. Rev. Monsignor St. R. Labujewski. The entire congregation and a vast host of friends the world over concur most happily with this recognition so richly deserved. Is it not unique for one priest to observe a Golden Jubilee of his ordination, a Golden Jubilee of the organization of a parish by him and the Golden Jubilee of his pastorate in that parish? As a memento of this triple crown of glory the Rt. Rev. Monsignor now proudly wears a Golden Biretta, setting, no doubt, a new precedent of fashion in priestly garb.

To render here an historical treatise of the half century's events of St. Stanislaus would be a task far exceeding the limitations of this publication. Yet, at best, it would relate only half of the story of today's celebration. The other half, equally as broad and in substance actually tied in with the events of the parish, is obviously that of the Golden Anniversary of the pastorate of the Jubilarian. This is not an ordinary observance of a golden Jubilee of only the parish. It is in fact a double-barreled celebration replete with volumes of events and incidents contained in a half century's phenomenal parish progress and growth under the magnificent paternal guidance of the genial Rt. Rev. Monsignor, its organizer and present pastor. Virtually, it is the work of his lifetime. One Jubilee, therefore, cannot be treated independently of the other.

Suffice it then, that we confine this effort to a mere chronological enumeration of major events. Compensating for the lack of detail, we have tried to highlight many of the events through a pictorial coverage. It is our hope that these will fill a measure of interest and enjoyment.
CHRONOLOGY:

March 29, 1914— First Mass offered for Polish people in Ambridge by Father Stanislaus R. Labujewski.

July 30, 1914— Appointment of Father Labujewski to the Pastorate of St. Stanislaus B. & M. Parish in Ambridge, thereby effecting canonical confirmation of this Parish.

August, 1914— An additional parcel of 7 lots bordering 6th Street and facing Pine Street located behind the original block of 7 lots facing Beaver Road was purchased.

November, 1914— The basement church (present school auditorium) was dedicated.

September, 1914— Initiation of Catechism and Polish education of children in after school sessions.

1917— Construction of the Rectory completed.

September, 1919— Completion of superstructure over basement church and dedication of a 4 classroom (grades 1 to 6), full time parochial school. Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth were in charge. The church was transferred from the basement to the second story above the classrooms.

1919— A plot of ground in suburban Fair Oaks was purchased to serve as the parish cemetery.

September, 1923— The Felician Sisters take charge of our school. September, 1924— The church was transferred from the upper story back to the basement because the parochial school facilities require additional space for the heavy enrollment in the 8 grades.

October 24, 1926— The plot was blessed and ground formally broken at 6th & Beaver Road corner for the construction of a sorely needed New Church. The present basement church is entirely inadequate.

April 14, 1927— Actual construction of church began.

June 26, 1927— Solemn laying of the Corner Stone.

July 4, 1928— Dedication of the completed church by Most Rev. I. Dubowski, Bishop from Poland.

November, 1946— Burning of the Mortgage.

1947— Interior of the Church painted. A unique feature includes a symbolic illustration of the 8 Beatitudes — a concept designed by our pastor.

1954— Construction and blessing of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. It is a memento of World War II, for in its structure are included stones sent in from all terrains of the earth by parishioners in the Armed Forces.

1959— Dedication of a New, Modern Convent to house the teacher-Sisters.