Prologue

Every church has two histories: a visible history and an invisible history. The visible or written history of Holy Cross reaches back for its telling one hundred years ago when dedicated men and women of God laid the foundations. This was an immigrant generation. Preservation of their Polish culture, language, customs and traditions, and the Old Country Faith prompted them to build the Church and school we enjoy today. Every page of the visible or written history lists the goals and achievements of the Pioneer Priests, Felician Sisters and dedicated, loyal, hardworking parishioners. When one considers the meager pay of six dollars per week, one hundred years ago when the pioneer parishioners worked in John A. Roebling & Sons Company and the Trenton Potteries, the first dollar went to the Church. Our magnificent Church and School are the visible history. Father Valentine Swinarski built the first Church. Rev. Dr. Joseph Dziadosz built the second Church we enjoy today. Father John Budziak built the school. Felician Sisters staffed the school. Here was taught a beautiful education that prepared the students to be citizens of two worlds — the present one and the next. To this very day, our Holy Cross School has become the heartbeat of Holy Cross Parish.

The invisible history of Holy Cross Parish Community is even more beautiful. It is the tears of achievement, of happiness, the joys and sorrows shared, the many sacrifices each made, the love and camaraderie, the growing up, the sharing and caring, the passing on of the Faith to their children, the quickening of vocations to the religious life, the togetherness, the friendships that lasted a lifetime. The intangible bond of love, like a golden thread wove itself into a fabric of joy and service. It produced a faithfilled Community with a strong sacramental life whose center was always the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Because they believed the Church is where we are fed by God’s Word and the Bread of Life, where we encounter the Risen Christ in the Sacraments. The legacy they brought from the Old Country, that continues today, was a great love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and a great love for Mary, the Black Madonna of Częstochowa. Herein is the invisible history of Holy Cross. It will always remain this way. It cannot be written. It will always remain an invisible history.
Dear Reader: May the reading at least of the visible history of one hundred years ago bring back nostalgic memories and evoke a beautiful "Thanks be to God!" in the minds and hearts of every one of you.

Monsignor Ted Wojciehowski Ninth Pastor and Historian

The Beginnings

To capture the uniqueness of Holy Cross Church, we must remember its location. South Trenton is a singular and interesting part of the City of Trenton. It is a mecca of ethnic Churches. Around the Church of Holy Cross are clustered in six square blocks — twenty-two Churches. All of these Churches are ethnic; all are or almost are one hundred years old. All came in waves of immigration in 1890-1891 to 1920. They came from countries like Romania, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Russia, Italy, Germany and Lithuania. They slowly adjusted to American culture but jealously held on to their language and customs, traditions and religious faith. They comprise a mosaic of different Christian faiths: Protestant, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Byzantine rites. All began small with at most forty to one hundred families. They brought their own priests from the Old Country. Each denomination respected each others faith and customs. There was no thought of parking or expansion. Some followed the Julian calendar (the Orthodox) — others the Gregorian calendar. All lived in harmony. It is best summed up by two Hungarian religious leaders: one a Roman Catholic priest and the other a Hungarian Reformed minister. "Let us not point our Church steeples at one another. Let us keep them pointed to God. Let us live in harmony."

From a humble beginning to a rising crest of growth — to a gradual leveling is our history. Let's begin to tell our Holy Cross history.

Nine pastors guided the destiny of Holy Cross Church from 1891 to 1991. It takes three to make up a Parish Community: God, zealous Pastors and devoted people.

The first six Pastors came from a Poland that for 103 years not exist on a map of Europe. They lived their boyhood, their schooling and ordination to the Holy Priesthood in a Poland that was partitioned by Russia, Prussia and Austria. It is most important to understand this critical time in Polish history because living in these partitions formed most of the attitudes of modern Poles toward the world they live in. It was call the "Partitions" of Poland.

1890-1895

The first pastor — Father Valentine Swinarski (1890-1895) almost became a Bishop. He was a Bishop designate. The Russian (Partition) government refused to endorse him. In his disappointment, Father Valentine Swinarski came to America in 1889. Upon his arrival to this country, he was assigned as pastor of a Church in Mill Creek, Pennsylvania. There he served two years before coming to Trenton. He was gladly received by the Polish people who presented him to the first Bishop of Trenton, the Most Reverend Michael J. O'Farrell for approval as their first Pastor. Father Valentine Swinarski was highly qualified because he was a former Pastor of Nie-
borrow in Lowicz, Poland for seventeen years and as Monsignor Swinarski he was Rector of the Theological Seminary in Warsaw.

The first thing he did was to acquire a house on the corner of Elm Street and Home Avenue which he converted into a small chapel. This proved insufficient to the growing number of parishioners. Sixteen lots were purchased on Adeline Street, the present site of the Rectory, Church, School and Convent. Bishop O'Farrell gave permission for the erection of the first Church, a combination Church-School-and Rectory in what is now the present Rectory. The contractor and builder was Robert S. Johnston. The architect was S. A. Brouse. The Church of the Holy Cross was incorporated on April 17, 1891. The cornerstone was laid by Bishop Michael O'Farrell on Sunday, April 6, 1891 at 1:30 in the afternoon according to the archives of the "Trenton Sunday Advertiser." As a point of interest, President Harrison was visiting at the same time in Cape May. It is hard to believe that the present Rectory had a Church steeple that soared above the roof.

Father Valentine Swinarski established a parochial school. The first year saw an enrollment of seventy children. The first teacher was Mr. Vincent Sieniewicz. The first Pastor also acquired an acre of land for use as a Cemetery off Cedar Lane. He also organized the Societies of the Holy Cross — the Sacred Heart and St. Florian. Thanks to his encouragement, the first Polish-language newspaper was published in Trenton. The first Baptism performed and recorded by Father Valentine Swinarski was that of John Fronet, the son of Carl Fronet and Anna Borkowska on February 15, 1891. The godparents were John Ciemniewski and Josephine Duszynska. The first marriage was that of Francis Cymanowski and Rosalia Blonska on April 14, 1891. The best man was Valentine Gasiorowski and the maid of honor was Valentina Cyman.

Because of ill-health at age sixty-three, Father Valentine Swinarski retired from his pastorate of Holy Cross and moved to the Polish orphanage in Cheektowaga, New York where he served as Chaplain until his death. There were 400 families in Holy Cross at that time.

The people of Holy Cross were still mourning the departure of their first Pastor when the Reverend Dr. John Ciemniewski became the second Pastor in 1895 for a period of six months. He was a Professor at the Polish Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. Father Ciemniewski had a difficult time adjusting to the administration of the fledgling Parish. Six months after his appointment, Father Ciemniewski left Holy Cross and returned to the Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan.

1895-1902

In his place came a priest of simplicity and generosity, Father Francis Czernecki (1895-1902). He would always be remembered as the "spiritual father" of the parish. He was the classical "man of God." Not only was he to deepen the Christian life of the parish but he was to also stir up within his people a great love for both their native and adopted countries. Six months after his assignment to Holy Cross, on June 14, 1896, Father Czernecki founded the Children of Mary and Young Ladies Solality. This was one of the first Sodalities organized in the Trenton Diocese. One of the problems that plagued Father Czernecki was the urgent need for additional teachers to instruct the growing numbers of Polish-American children enrolled in the Holy Cross parish.
Thanks be to God, in 1901, he succeeded in securing the services of a religious teaching community, the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Felix of Cantalice, better known to us as the Felician Sisters. These Sisters were highly esteemed as superb and dedicated educators. Holy Cross became the first parish in the Diocese of Trenton to obtain the services of the Felician Sisters. It became an accredited school. Initially in 1901 there were only two grades consisting of 144 students. Only two Sisters arrived. Sister Feliksa, the first teaching principal, and Sister Bogdana. Both deserve to be inscribed into this history. One must remember that many of the first students never graduated. This was the period of recovery after the first World War. Most of our Polish people worked in the John Roebling’s Cable and Wire Company. Wages were low. One could help his parents by getting working papers at fourteen. Tuition was free and the registration was only one dollar.

Father Czernecki also organized the first Mission in Holy Cross. It was given in 1898 by the Jesuit Fathers. The year before and the year following the Mission, Bishop James McFaul paid two official visits to the parish. In May, 1902, Father Czernecki was assigned to St. Stephen’s Church in Perth Amboy. He resigned from active pastorate in 1933. Suffering from ill-health, Father Czernecki returned to Holy Cross to live out his remaining years with his life-long friend Monsignor Kasprowicz. While the great World War II was being waged, Father Czernecki died on October 11, 1941. He was a priest for 55 years. Of these he spent 45 wars in active ministry in the Diocese of Trenton.

1902-1905

The fourth Pastor was Father Francis Wojtanowski (1902-1905). He was a recent immigrant from Poland. He was to be Pastor for two years. One of the big events was the great convention of the Union of Polish Women in America held in Trenton. The solemn High Mass closing the week-long convention was celebrated in Holy Cross. In December of 1904, Father Wojtanowski was transferred from Holy Cross at his own request. He worked for the next fourteen years in Lawrence, Massachusetts where he died.

1905-1912

The Middle Years of Holy Cross history were in the hands of a unique and great scholar, a young priest named Rev. Dr. Joseph Dziadosz (1905-1912). He was born in Dobrzechow, Austrian Poland. He completed his academic and Ecclesiastical education in Poland. He was a remarkable well-educated man of God. He pursued graduate courses in philosophy and theology in Berlin, Germany. He spoke German, Russian, Slovak, Hungarian and Polish fluently. The Poles in Trenton at this time numbered approximately 5,000. Father Dziadosz arrived in America in 1904. To him fell the giant task of building the present beautiful Church of the Holy Cross in 1910. On November 6, 1910 the cornerstone was blessed and approximately one year later the Church of the Holy Cross was dedicated. It was an archetype of Romanesque-Baroque architecture. Fittingly, the Church of the Holy Cross was blessed and consecrated by the First Bishop of Polish extraction in the United States, the Most Reverend Paul Rhodes.
The new immigration wave from Poland brought two celebrated and highly educated brothers into the Holy Cross Community: one a physician and the other a builder.

Doctor Casimir Grabowski was a Polish physician who had his office at 245 Adeline Street. He was highly educated. He received all of his education in Europe. He received the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Cracow. He also studied in Berlin, Munich, Paris and Vienna where he received a Doctorate in Obstetrics. He was a very popular physician and served all the nationalities in Trenton.

Romuald Grabowski had his place of business at 47 West State Street and became one of the best known of Trenton Poles. He was best known to Trenton's builders and property owners in his business of laying parquet and hardwood floors.

Holy Cross at this time was the only Church in the City of Trenton that had a full Brass Band called "The White Eagle." It had 25 members under the leadership and instructor Professor John Capek.

The Polish Ulani Society had 60 members and was a military organization. The Knights wore colorful uniforms with plumed hats and carried swords. The Captain was John Barelkowski who rode a horse in parades.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Dziadosz organized a Polish Dramatic Society composed of 60 members. The director of the Drama Club was George Kulwisz. It presented many plays in the Liederkranz Hall.

The year after completion of the new Church, Father Dziadosz was transferred to the Holy Family Church in Carteret, New Jersey where he spent 32 years as Pastor. He died in St. Francis Hospital, Trenton, on February 11, 1944. He is buried on the mound beneath the Cross in Holy Cross Cemetery.

1912-1923

Reverend John Budziak became our sixth Pastor (1912-1923). His pastorate was during World War I. Father John Budziak was the Associate Pastor or "curate" as they were called, to Rev. Doctor Dziadosz. He was left with a huge debt from the newly constructed Holy Cross Church. But a new need arose. Existing school facilities were insufficient. The influx of new school children forced the new Pastor to consider a brand new school building. Constructed in 1919, there arose next to the Church a bright yellow brick three-story building containing twelve classrooms, a large auditorium on the third floor and a smaller one in the cafeteria and conference rooms for meetings of the various parish societies and organizations. The new Holy Cross School accommodated the 683 pupils enrolled that year.

During his pastorate, Father John Budziak organized the St. Vincent De Paul Society. The Drama Club flourished at this time and was directed by Professor Maximilian Maslowski.

With the school completed and dedicated, the parish debt was at its all time high. The new
Church of the Holy Cross needed a new main altar. Since Father John Budziak was a cabinet maker before he became a Priest, he resolved that he would undertake personally the construction of a main altar. Many living parishioners remarked what a beautiful, hand-rafterd altar it was. One other matter that we are forever indebted to Father John Budziak was his purchase of the present parking lot. This was the personal property of Father John Budziak. Before he left Holy Cross in 1923, he sold this valuable triangle of parking space to the Church of the Holy Cross. He assumed the pastorate of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Helmetta, New Jersey where he died.

1923-1934

It was the era of the two giants of Holy Cross: Father Martin J. Lipinski and Father Francis A. Kasprowicz. Father Martin J. Lipinski (1923-1934) succeeded Father John Budziak as the seventh Pastor of Holy Cross. Born in Baltimore, he was very cultured, very patrician in his manner of life and polished as a speaker. He was a Priest "sui generis" — the Latin for "one of a kind." He was a gifted and eloquent speaker in Polish and English. He was American born— unlike his predecessors who all came from Poland.

During his pastorate of thirteen years, he guided the destiny of Holy Cross through one of the most difficult times in American history, the terrible Depression of 1929. All the banks in America collapsed — people lost all their life savings. It was this great Priest of God who like Moses led his people out of chaos and restored their faith in God.

One of his greatest achievements was to unite the various factions and groups which wounded the unity of the Community of Holy Cross. God gifted Father Lipinski with healing power and persuasive talk. He was able to convince people of proper and correct Christian attitudes. By God's grace he was able to restore harmony and peace in Holy Cross Parish.

The debt on the Church and School remained almost intact. Because there was no way to reduce it, only the interest was paid.

The Church and the School were his prime priorities. Father Lipinski engaged a young Polish artist from Buffalo, Joseph Mazur, to paint the ceiling over the main altar and in the apse. These paintings are still in our Church. They look so modern especially in the Sanctuary with its orange hues.

The School's enrollment reached its peak. In 1923 there were 821 children enrolled in Holy Cross School. There were twelve Felician Sisters on the teaching staff. Father Lipinski bought the building that is our present Holy Cross Convent for our Sisters.

Our Holy Cross P.T.A. was founded by Father Martin J. Lipinski in 1926 as a big support for Holy Cross School. Bishop Thomas J. Walsh, Bishop of Trenton, introduced the P.T.A. organization into the Diocese of Trenton.

During his pastorate at Holy Cross, Father Lipinski was nominated administrator of St. Hedwig, the daughter parish of Holy Cross. The young pastor of St. Hedwig — Father Julian Zielinski
died in a tragic auto accident in November of 1924. Father Martin Lipinski moved back and forth between Holy Cross and St. Hedwig's for three months before Father Arthur Strenski was chosen as Pastor of St. Hedwig in February of 1925. Three years later, the distinguished Father Martin J. Lipinski was appointed Pastor of St. Hedwig by Bishop Walsh. There he became a Monsignor and observed his Golden Anniversary in the Holy Priesthood. Among his many associates was Father Ted Wojciehowski who enjoyed twelve happy years of service to the people of St. Hedwig's Parish.

**1943-1967**

The eighth pastor of Holy Cross was Monsignor Francis Anthony Kasprowicz (1943-1967), another giant of a Priest. He succeeded Father Martin J. Lipiński. He was to become the best known and best loved Pastor of Holy Cross. In his long term of thirty-three years, the longest of all his predecessors, he deserved to be called the greatest of all the Pastors Holy Cross had or would ever have. Monsignor Kasprowicz had the common touch. He was a Priest for and of the people. He could relate to them very easily. He came from a large family. He was the fourteenth of seventeen children. Born in South Amboy, he knew the poverty of the Depression in 1929.

Monsignor Kasprowicz ushered in what might be termed the Golden Era of Holy Cross Parish. Holy Cross would reach the peak of its membership — 2,000 families. It was the time of World War II. It would cancel all debts and attain financial security. It would become a strong spiritual force in the Diocese. The new Pastor liquidated the debt of $99,000.00 which hung like a millstone around the Parish's neck, leftover from the building of the present Church and the School.

He was so proud of Holy Cross. He determined that it would be one of the most beautiful Churches in the City of Trenton. He always talked about Holy Cross wherever he went and spoke. He was one of the greatest Priest Toastmasters in New Jersey. He was always in demand.

He personally wrote and published the first history of Holy Cross in two languages, Polish and English. The Golden Jubilee Book with its leather cover and magnificent bordered pages is a gem, a real treasure, a very expensive book. It best describes his love of Holy Cross. He was especially proud of his people and school children.

So many events happened during his pastorate. How many recall the Annual Picnics in Springdale Park in Yardville...

How many remember the erection of the sixty-eight foot Flag Pole — the Band — the speeches — the parade... How many of you remember the great dinners in the Upper Hall and the Stage Plays on his Feast Day of St. Francis. Anne Hoch (the singer) and Marion Zarzeczna (the great pianist) were frequent entertainers.

Monsignor Kasprowicz loved to travel to Lourdes and to Fatima. He built the beautiful grotto of Our Lady of Fatima and the three Portuguese children: Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. It was the gift of Veronica Kuzniacki in memory of her son Anthony. Mario Sammartano, Master Marble
Craftsman and Frank Stoj built the marble grotto and the beautiful retaining wall that fronts our Church and Rectory. The Shrine was blessed by Bishop George W. Ahr on August 22, 1957.

His greatest achievement was to make the Church of the Holy Cross the "gorgeous Basilica" as Mary Roebling called it. Monsignor Kasprowicz was preparing for the 75th Anniversary — the Diamond Jubilee he never lived to see. He was gifted with good taste. The magnificent marble altar and side altars attest to this. Mary's statue — the Madonna and Child, beautiful beyond words, and the Sacred Heart Statue were imported from Barcelona, Spain. The two Italian mosaics of Saint Francis of Assisi and Our Lady of Czestochowa are priceless.

His choice of the main altar is a remarkable work of art. The paleotto of the altar was executed in Algerian onyx and the Tabernacle was hewn out of rose coral marble. The white oak Baldachino (dome) of the main altar is supported by six fifteen foot long columns of rich Breccia Marble. The main altar is made of light Botticino marble as well as the side altars. The curved back wall is Sienna marble imported from Italy. Monsignor Kasprowicz went personally to the quarries in Italy to choose the marble. The richlooking burgundy marble and Algerian onyx wainscoting were imported from Morocco. It is the beautiful marble you see on all side walls of our Church. All the marble work was done by the Gasparri Studios of New York. The Baldachino was built in the studios of Joseph, Noe of New York. The installation of the side-wall marble was the work of Church Art Interiors, W. A. Gieysztor and Associates of New York.

The gorgeous chandelier was imported I torn Lake Luzerne, Switzerland for $600.00. (Chris Mier, electrician and parishioner, restored and embellished the chandelier.) It has a present value of $35,000.00. Originally it was located in the center of the ceiling. It was ingeniously moved at minimal cost by Joseph Pazdan and Stanley Czajkowski to its present position. This allowed another dream of Monsignor Kasprowicz to be realized. A beautiful oil painting depicting the Church Militant on earth, the Church Suffering in Purgatory and the Church Triumphant in Heaven. This magnificent mural is sixty-five feet long and twenty-two feet wide, encased in an elaborate gilded frame. It reaches over the entire nave of the church. It is the work of an Italian artist, Professor Ignaccio LaRossa of New York.

Monsignor Kasprowicz also built a Soldiers Shrine in the Chapel Room in the Foyer of the Church. It was built in memory of the eighteen soldiers who died in World War II memorialized on a Bronze plaque. Black marble with gold letters lists all the Armed Services of the 600 living men and women who returned.

The last project of the Monsignor was the installation of the magnificent bronze doors to our Church.

With all his material accomplishments, Monsignor Kasprowicz never neglected the spiritual care of his people. He introduced the Perpetual Novena in honor of the Miraculous Medal and a Novena in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows. He established the Holy Name Society. During World War II, he organized a Soldiers Correspondence Club. Another big achievement was the formation of the Catholic War Veterans Holy Cross Post 417 and the Ladies Auxiliary, the largest
in the Nation. Walter J. Scott, the Parish lawyer was elected the first Commander. Monsignor Kasprowicz became the first Chaplain. Annual May Crownings by the Senior Sodality, the outdoor Corpus Christi processions and Forty Hours Devotion were always great spiritual events. Holy Cross had a famous organist Joseph Cieslikowski and a great St. Cecilia's Choir.

The year 1967 was to be a double celebration for the people of Holy Cross Parish. It was to commemorate both the Diamond Jubilee of their beautiful parish and the Golden Jubilee of Priesthood for their beloved Pastor, Monsignor Francis A. Kasprowicz. Alas, the years of self-denial and deprivation took its toll. Stricken with a severe stroke, the old Monsignor lingered for six weeks in St. Francis Hospital and went to his eternal reward. A bronze plaque was placed in his memory on the back wall of the church. Great credit goes to Father John Skwara for this memorial. The words on the bronze memorial are a fitting tribute to this great Pastor of Holy Cross.

1967-1991


One-half of his Priesthood was spent in Holy Cross Parish. Interestingly, he was a protege of the two "giants" of Holy Cross as he wrote about them in this history. Father Ted was curate to Monsignor Lipinski for twelve years (1943-1955) in St. Hedwig's Parish. He was also an altar boy to Monsignor Kasprowicz in the Sacred Heart Church in Manville, New Jersey. His ideal and inspiration to the Priesthood was Monsignor Kasprowicz.

On March 1, 1967 Bishop George W. Ahr recalled him from his first pastorate in St. Catherine's Church, in East Keansburg, New Jersey. Father Ted spent twelve happy years (1955-1967) with his Irish and Scottish parishioners. He came to Holy Cross with his dear Mother who was his housekeeper in St. Catherine's. He came to replace his beloved Pastor-emeritus, Monsignor Kasprowicz. It was heartbreaking to see his idol in the Priesthood aging and failing in health. One of his most poignant memories was to vest Monsignor Kasprowicz in priestly vestments when he died on June 25, 1967. The vesting took place in the Winowicz Funeral Parlor.

Father Ted arrived in Trenton to realize that the Diamond Jubilee of the Parish was not observed. He called a parish meeting to plan the great event with his new parishioners. The Diamond Jubilee celebration was one of the greatest events of his pastorate on December 3rd 1967. We processed around the block with Stanley Ryba and his famous brass band. His Excellency, Bishop George W. Ahr was the main celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving. Monsignor Martin J. Lipinski (7th Pastor) and Father Ted (9th Pastor) were concélébrants. A book commemorates this event.

The pastorate of Monsignor Ted Wojciehowski can best be summarized as follows.


1967 — The complete renovation of the School and Convent was begun in 1967 and the partial renovation of the Church and Rectory over a span of five years. The cost: $340,000.00.
1967 — May 30, 1967 was the 25th Anniversary of the Holy Priesthood of Father Ted. The Reception for 500 guests was held in the Bordentown Elks Reception Hall.

1974 — In October the Holy Innocents Society and the Holy Cross School of Learning for special handicapped children was organized in Holy Cross School by the Knights of Columbus, Trenton Council #355. This very successful program has flourished for 17 years to benefit handicapped children. The Romanello and Ciminense Families were and are the key founders and leaders. Monsignor Ted and Father Edward Arnister are the Spiritual Directors. Father Peter Romeo was the First Spiritual Director.

1976 — The Eucharistic Congress took place in Philadelphia, PA. Cardinal John Krol invited Cardinal Karol Wojtylo (our present Pope) and fourteen Bishops from Poland. Thanks to Bishop Ahr, we hosted Auxiliary Bishop Vincent Urban from Wroclaw, Poland. Bishop Urban was a celebrated historian and Seminary Professor. County Executive Arthur Sypek arranged a luncheon and meeting with Mayor Arthur Holland and Governor Brendan Byrne.

1977 — This year was the 75th Anniversary of Holy Cross School. It was the biggest event in the history of our parish. 800 Alumni crowded Cedar Gardens. Sister Elvine Dymnicki C.S.S.F., teaching-Principal, was the great coordinator of this event. She also edited and published a historic commemorative book.

1978 — The election of the Polish-born Pope John Paul II (the former Cardinal Karol Wojtylo) on October 16, 1978 was the greatest historical event of our Century. The faculty and school children sent Monsignor Ted to Rome for the new Pope’s Coronation.

1979 — On May 19th we witnessed the double Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Father Stanley Lukaszewski, native son of Holy Cross, and Father Edward Arnister of St. Hedwig’s and presently the Parochial Vicar of Holy Cross. Bishop John C. Reiss ordained them in St. Mary’s Cathedral.

1981 — The new Holy Cross Community Center was built at a cost of $347,000.00. This Building is used extensively by the youth of the Parish and many social events. The planning board consisted of John Girman, Henry Jablonski, Frank Stoj, Joseph Barekowski and Monsignor Ted.

1982 — The Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Father Richard Milewski took place in Holy Cross Church by our new Auxiliary Bishop Edward U. Kmiec on May 14, 1982. It was a historic First Event. One interesting remembrance was the magnificent Persian Rug that Park Lane Furniture Company lent us for the Ordination. The young priest lay prone face down on the carpet as an act of total-oblation to God.

1982 — The 600th Anniversary of the Enthronement of the Sacred Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa (The Black Madonna) was observed on September 12, 1982 at 3:00 p.m. in St. Mary’s Cathedral with Bishop John C. Reiss and Auxiliary Bishop Edward U. Kmiec. All five Polish Parishes participated. Holy Cross — St. Hedwig — Saint Stanislaus — All Saints in Burlington and Saint Casimir in Riverside. Father Ted was the coordinator of this great observance. A magnificent oil
painting by Hungarian Artist Kalman Czimbalmos of Our Lady of Czestochowa was carried in procession on the shoulders of four officers of the Catholic War Veterans Holy Cross Post 417. The Cathedral was filled to capacity. The combined Polish Choirs with John Lewan sang with Mrs. Charlotte Ryan at the organ.

1983 — During the hot and sticky days of August 15-31, 1983 we had a drive for "Shoes and Clothing for Poland." This had to be the biggest charitable undertaking initiated by Holy Cross Church. The Triple AAA Trucking Company allowed us twenty-two 40 foot long trailers to take 25 tons of shoes and clothing for Poland to the New York Harbor and shipped to Poland. All five Polish Parishes and neighboring Parishes participated. The coordinator of this tremendous project was Mr. Walter Kramarz aided by Mr. Walter Kowal and members of the Polish-American Congress — Trenton Chapter, plus the helping hands of the Felician Sisters and Priests and parishioners of Holy Cross. Bishop Reiss endorsed and encouraged this campaign.

1984 — At the gracious recommendation of Bishop John C. Reiss, on March 10, 1984 Pope John Paul II conferred the title of Honorary Prelate of His Holiness with the title of Reverend Monsignor on Father Ted Wojciehowski. A great honor to the Parish of Holy Cross.

1984 — The fire at St. Stanislaus Church that almost destroyed the beautiful 100 year old Church occasioned another event. Holy Cross Church arranged a Benefit of an all Chopin Concert by our celebrated concert pianist and parishioner Miss Marion Zarzeczna. It took place in the Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College on October 27th, 1984. The concert netted $3,000.00 to St. Stan's.

1986 — The very popular "Folk Group" was organized by Father Edward J. Arnister, an accomplished guitarist and singer.

1988 — Our Mission outreach is to the poor African Mission in Meru, Kenya, Africa. We send a monthly grant to Sister Elvine Dymnicki, C.S.S.F. our former Principal and Teacher in Holy Cross School for eight years. There are five Felician Sisters from Poland stationed in this poor African School in Meru.

1989 — On May 13, 1989 John Grussler was ordained as our first Deacon by Bishop John C. Reiss in St. Mary's Cathedral. Deacon John Grussler and his wife Dolores Micharski have five daughters, all married.

1990 — Lech Walesa, the Polish Solidarity leader, and presently President of Poland, paid a historic visit to Trenton. He was the guest of Mrs. Barbara Piasecka Johnson at her estate in Princeton. Two thousand people waited in bitter cold to see him. In his one hour visit he laid a wreath in front of the Father Jerzy Popieluszko Monument at St. Hedwig's Church.

1990 — October 14 was the Golden Anniversary of Holy Cross Name Society. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop John C. Reiss followed by a Luncheon in the Parish Community Center. During the Mass Bishop Reiss blessed the new American, Papal, and Polish flags which are placed near the St. Francis Altar in Church. These flags were the gracious gift of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Krzyżtofik.
1991 — War in the Middle East. Operation "Desert Storm" lasted six months. Five members of Holy Cross went to Saudi Arabia and returned safely. They are: Navy Captain Stanley Joe Winowicz, Marine Christopher Głogowski, Marine Dana Nagy, P.N. #1 Cynthia Davis and Marine James DelRossi.

1991 — March 12th we had a Mass of Thanksgiving for the ending of the War in the Middle East. Fourteen Color Guard Units and the Knights of Columbus Color Guard escorted Bishop John C. Reiss, to the Church of Holy Cross. Bishop Reiss was celebrant and homilist. The highlight of the Mass was the raising of the Floral Cross made up of 146 pieces of flowers by Commander Edward Szul and Brother Raymond Szul of Holy Cross Catholic War Veterans Post 417. The Cross symbolized the Resurrection for the 146 soldiers who lost their lives. 700 people attended this Mass.

1991 — June 30th the new Gas-Oil Boiler and Central Air Conditioning were installed at a cost of $147,700.00. Mr. Timothy Bryan, our parishioner and the Steele Refrigeration and Heating Firm were the contractors.

1991 — July 6th the Centennial Cruise to Bermuda for 57 parishioners and friends was another highlight.

1991 — September 22-26 was the date of the Parish Mission by the great preacher Father Robert Kaszynski of Fall River, Massachusetts. The Mission was a great spiritual success.

1991 — October 13th was the date and observance of the Centennial Mass of Thanksgiving at 2:30 p.m. with Bishop John C. Reiss and Auxiliary Bishop Edward U. Kmiec. The Jubilee dinner followed in the Princeton Marriott Inn. 782 parishioners and friends attended.

1991 — The great event of the Fourth Synod in the Diocese of Trenton needs to be inscribed into our history. Our four delegates were Father Edward J. Arnister, Monsignor Ted, Sister Irene Marie Sarnecki, C.S.S.F. and Dr. Mark Robson. Our present Pastor, Rev. Casimir Milewski, was also a delegate.

1991 — October 14th became the effective date of the Resignation of Monsignor Ted as Pastor of Holy Cross. He turned 75, the mandatory date of retirement.

1991 — On October 19,1991 Father Casimir Milewski was installed as 10th Pastor of Holy Cross by the Episcopal Vicar Rev. Hugh Ronan. Father Casimir was born in Podlatki, Poland on August 10,1942. He studied at the Catholic University of Lublin. He was ordained in the Cathedral Church of Lomza on May 31,1969.
**VOCATIONS FROM OUR PARISH:**
Rev. Msgr. Leon Winowicz
Father Walter Radziwon
Father Charles Przechacki
Father Joseph Fibner
Father Felix Czajkowski, O.F.M. Conv.
Father Frank Czajkowski, O.F.M. Conv.
Father Ray Reynolds (Kowalski), O.F.M. Conv.
Father Leon Kasprzyk
Father Stanley Janowski, O.F.M.
Father Christopher Janowski, O.F.M.
Brother Bernard Zdanowicz, Salesian
Father Stanley Łukaszewski

**FELICIAN SISTERS:**
Sister Mary Casimir Bulakowski
Sister Mary Egidia Zoltanski
Sister Mary Georgia Gil
Sister Mary Elmira Gacioch
Sister Mary Justa Olejnik
Sister Mary Erasma Slabicki
Sister Mary Orentia Zola
Sister Mary Melita Rosiejko
Sister Mary Theresine Maliszewski
Sister Mary Elfrida Zola
Sister Irene Marie Sarnecki
Sister Nancy Marie Lane
Sister Lucille Marie Bruno
Sister Dorothy Mary Sajczuk

**SISTERS OF MERCY:**
Sister Joan Companick
Sister Diane Szubrowski
Sister Carol Wilson

**FILIPINI SISTERS:**
Sister Dolores Potkay