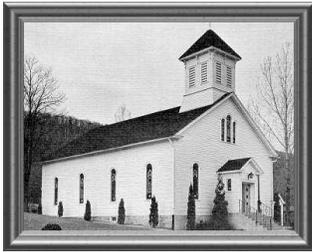


## History of Sacred Heart & St. Joseph's Parish

*written by Frank Bott (1923-2001)*



The history of the founding of the Sacred Heart Parish of Weston - Nuremberg dates back to the arrival in Hazleton, PA of Rev. Nicholas Forve as pastor of the Holy Trinity German Church in June of 1887. This priest had been instructed by his superior, Bishop O'Hara of Scranton, to go to Hazleton and establish a parish for the German-speaking people of that city, who were without a church of their own for services in that language. Shortly after establishing his parish, Father Forve learned that a few miles to the southwest of Hazleton, in the villages of Derringer and Fern Glen, there lived many Catholic families—some who spoke the German language—but had no opportunity to hear Holy Mass or receive the Sacraments, since they were so far removed from Hazleton. With genuine priestly fervor and zeal, in horse and buggy, Father Forve began to make occasional visits to these people, and offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, first in a private home, and later in a little red school-house in Derringer.

Soon the school-house proved inadequate, for now there came from the easterly side of Derringer Mountain, from a village called Hopeville (Weston), still more people to worship, when they learned of the visiting priest. As a result, Father Forve and his little newly founded flock decided to build a church for the convenience of all the Catholic people in the neighborhood. The village of Hopeville was chosen for the sight, when Mr. George Seiwell, a pioneer resident of the place, donated a large plot of his land to the Catholic people for their church.

During the course of construction of this building, Father Forve frequently read Mass for the people under a large apple tree on Mr. Seiwell's farm. Under the able guidance of Father Forve, and his committee, the foundation was laid by men of the parish who brought stones from the neighboring mountainside. It is said that some of the committeemen of that time were: Erasmus Dashl, Peter Fedrigon, Barth Konschnik, Val Kollenz, Fred Logar, Stephen Margle and Batista Ponchary.

In late summer of 1888 the building was completed, and Father Forve, in the presence of other priests, and people from the surrounding villages, blessed and dedicated the new church to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For several years thereafter this church served as the mission of Father Forve's church in Hazleton. On many occasions, especially on First Holy Communion days, Father Forve brought his choir members with him to Hopeville, to sing during the Mass. While there is no record of the exact time that Father Forve ceased to minister to these people, it is believed that it was about the year 1898, the year that Rev. Anthony Lipinski became the first resident pastor of Weston.



Before this appointment, however, and as early as 1888, a group of Catholic Tyrolean people, from the neighboring village of New London (Nuremberg), desired a place of worship for themselves, and a priest who could speak their language made plans for the erection of a church in their own neighborhood. Prior to this, services had been held for them in Wharmby's Hall at New London, whenever a priest from Hazleton was available. For the site of this building, a plot of land was likewise donated by Mr. Fred Delzeit, Jr., said land within the boundaries of Luzerne, but bordering on Schuylkill County. Through voluntary contributions from members and personal loans from Peter and Camillo Yannes, John and Joseph Marchetti, a simple structure was built and used by them for ten years. In 1898 additions were made to this building including a steeple, choir loft and pews. The bell for the steeple was donated by Charles D. Kaier and Sons of Mahanoy City. In that same year, records reveal that, while Father Lipinski was pastor, Father Forve was delegated by Bishop O'Hara to bless and dedicate this building to the honor of St. Joseph. From this time on, services were held in this building, occasionally by the resident priest of Weston, but more often by visiting priests from Hazleton.

Quite naturally, during the early years of this parish, since there was no resident pastor in either place, records of baptisms, marriages, funerals, etc., were not registered here. From 1887 to 1896 no records are available, except perhaps at the churches in Hazleton from which priests frequently came to serve these people. However, the very first records in our parish are these of 1896: First Baptism, that of Charles Walter Logar (died 1934), born November 3, 1896, of Frederick Logar and Mary (Baumann) Logar in Hopeville; sponsors were Peter and Marie Culk; baptism by the Rev. F. J. Pribyl. First Marriage recorded, that of: Joseph Bauer and Wilhelmina Lenhard of Hopeville; witnesses, Francis Baumann and Elizabeth Lenhard; officiating priest Rev. F. J. Pribyl. First recorded Death and Burial, that of: John Lorinz, age 14 years of Tomhicken, accidental death on November



26, and burial on November 28, 1896; this record is signed also by Rev. F. J. Pribyl. Unfortunately, the records do not reveal distinctly the first Baptism, Marriage or Funeral in the Nuremberg Church. However, it is reliably reported that the first marriage ceremony performed was that of Joseph Marchetti and Angela Marchetti, in 1890; witnesses were Henry Marchetti and Barbara Libener, and the officiating priest was Father Jeremundo.

About 1900, when it was learned that other post offices by those names existed in this state, the names of both villages were changed, that of Hopeville to Weston, and that of New London to Nuremberg.



After the transfer of Father Lipinski from Weston in 1901, it is impossible to give an accurate list of the priests, and of the time they served the people. There were many, for the reason that the people preferred priests who spoke their language but were not always available. There were times when there was a resident priest in each place; times when there was none in either. Under such conditions, a priest would come from Hazleton on Saturday and remain overnight in a private home. Shelter for the priests was provided by the Logar's in Weston, and the Marchetti's in Nuremberg.

Following is a list of the priests and the approximate dates of the services: Rev. C. V. Welden, 1901-1903, Rev. Joseph Kloss, 1903-1904, and Rev. Fr. Wiessock, 1904-1905. From 1905-1906 are found the names of Revs. J. J. Heffernan, Stephen H. O'Boyle, (assistants at St. Gabriel's in Hazleton), F. Kabelka, Joseph W. Treitz, and Rev. P. McNally, 1906-1909.

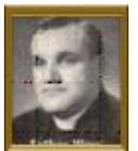
The earliest financial statement available is that of 1906, and is under the signatures of Rev. P. McNally, Rector, Erasmus Dashi, Vice-President, Barth Konschnik, Secretary and Peter Fedrigo, Treasurer. During these years are found also the names of a few Stigmatini Fathers, among them Revs. Joseph Nardone, Tomerki and Lewis Luchi, and the name of Rev. J. J. Farrell, 1912-1914. Rev. Fr. Grywacz, 1914-1916, Rev. Paulus Viosczyk, 1916-1917.

In 1917 Bishop Hoban of Scranton appointed the Rev. Cyriac A. Staib, pastor of Weston. Father Staib seemed to understand his people very well, and from the very start, endeavored to remove their conflicting desires by urging a union of both churches under the one English-speaking pastor. Weston was chosen as the residence for him, since a house there had previously been bought, and Nuremberg was designated as the Mission Church. Much success and progress was made in re-organizing both churches into one unit, having a common treasurer, and a standing committee of four (4) men selected from both churches. Father Staib, encouraged by the enthusiasm and wholehearted cooperation on the part of the people, labored here faithfully for the next three years, when he was transferred to Duryea in 1920, leaving behind him a well united and growing parish. Records reveal that in 1919, Bishop Hoban administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large class.



In August 1920, the Rev. Henry Diehl was appointed pastor of Weston-Nuremberg. The effective organization was strengthened even more by Father Diehl's untiring efforts during his long stay here from 1920 to June 1928. During this time, beautiful Stations of the Cross and other statues were erected in the churches, largely the donations by individual members. With all his priestly care of the ever-growing parish, Father Diehl found time to improve the church properties by personally installing electric fixtures in both churches and in the parish house in Weston. During his time the Knights of St. George cadets was established. Much work was also done under his direction, with men of the parish, to provide an attractive and beautiful cemetery on the mountainside of Weston. The cemetery was blessed and dedicated by Msgr. Kane of Hazleton on August 15, 1922.

Upon transfer of Father Diehl to Pittston in June 1928, The Rev. Joseph G. Oberholzer was given charge of the Weston-Nuremberg parish. He, too, found this an ever-growing parish, and though his stay here was a short one, he endeared himself to these people by the sincerity of his efforts, especially in the care of the sick, and his concern for the wayward ones of his flock.

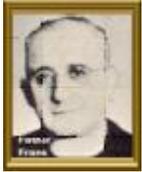


In June 1930, Bishop O'Reilly of Scranton transferred Father Oberholzer to Duryea and appointed the Rev. Joseph C. Ward pastor of Weston-Nuremberg. Many years had elapsed since Confirmation was administered. On November 2, 1930, Bishop O'Reilly confirmed a class of 445 candidates, and returned in 1933 to confirm 125 children.

By 1933 the church buildings were badly in need of repairs, particularly the church in Nuremberg, which could no longer accommodate the large crowd of people at Sunday Mass. After much deliberation and planning, and with permission of Bishop O'Reilly, improvements to both churches were begun in September of 1935. John J. Hawley of Scranton was the architect, and Anthony V. Raymond, also of Scranton, was the contractor. Major improvements on the inside of the Weston church were made including a niche for the altar, new electrical fixtures, textured walls, art-

glass windows, and painting of the pews. Besides repainting the whole building, the entrance was improved by a cement approach and a vestibule with swinging doors.

The church at Nuremberg took on an entirely new appearance. After raising the small original building, 5 ft. 3 in., to the level of the road, additions on all sides of the building gave to the new church lines resulting in the form of a cross. Cloister aisle effect within enhanced the beauty of this church. After the improvements had been made, the Women's Altar Societies of both churches paid for the redecoration of all altars, statues and new furnishings for the sanctuaries of both churches. Several individual members and friends of the parish contributed to the cost of the art-glass windows and other beautiful altar furnishings. On Sunday, July 16th, 1936, with impressive ceremonies, both churches were rededicated by the Rev. Msgr. C. A. McHugh, V.G. In 1933 improvements were made to the cemetery, after a donation of land was made to the parish by the Coxe Brothers Estate.



In June of 1943 Father Ward was transferred to St. Boniface Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA, and was succeeded by the Rev. G. Eugene Frank. Coming to the parish in the midst of World War II, he found the parishioners to be in a state of uncertainty. The return of the young men from service found a surplus of labor and the exodus of many of them to the cities, adding to the difficulties of the local situation. However, the parish carried on under his able guidance as the problems of relocation after the war began to resolve. It was shortly after the arrival of Father Frank that the Bishop's House of Charity began a drive to supply the many needs of charity throughout the Diocese. Under his leadership the parish not only attained but surpassed the goals that had been set for it. Shortly after this, the parish was called upon to share in the obligations of a new home for the Catholic Charities of the Hazleton area. Again, under his guidance, the parish contributed its share to assist in the construction of St. Joseph's Hospital in Hazleton.

After fulfilling his obligations to the extra-parochial affairs that had been placed upon him and the parish, Father Frank turned his attention to the local problems. The Rectory, badly in need of renovation, was remodeled. Under his planning, the Sacred Heart Church had new flooring installed, and, through the generosity of the Altar & Rosary Society, new pews were placed in the church. The need for a place to hold parochial meetings was met by the excavation of the Weston Church, and finishing it so that adequate space was provided. At St. Joseph's Church the sanctuary and the altars were modified. The altar fittings, candlesticks, tabernacle and sanctuary lamp were donated through the kindness of societies and individuals, and the beauty of these added to the dignity of St. Joseph's Church.

In 1952 the mines, the mainstay of the community for so many years, were closed completely. Many of the parishioners found themselves without jobs, and no prospects on the local scene of finding work to support their families. As a result, for the second time in a few years, there was a surge of parishioners moving out of the area to communities where work was available, particularly in New Jersey and New York. However, with the strength and courage derived from ancestors who had traveled thousands of miles to obtain a decent livelihood, the parish began to become stable as employment was found to take up the slack caused by the closing of the mines.

The year 1954 saw another change in the pastorate of the Weston-Nuremberg parish when on November 12<sup>th</sup> Father Frank was transferred to Sacred Heart Church in Duryea. The years assigned to this man of God were rapidly drawing to a close, although apparently in good health, Father Frank died suddenly on April 2, 1959.



The Reverend Joseph F. Meier was appointed by Bishop Hannan to succeed Father Frank and was installed as pastor of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parish on November 13, 1954 by the Right Reverend Msgr. Dennis J. Kane. On February 25, 1955 was begun what has been the source of many of our graces, the Perpetual Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. The novena was conducted each Friday night.

One outstanding need in the parish was for a new rectory. The rectory had proved to be inadequate for the needs of the parish. At a parishioner's meeting, a new home for the priests was planned. With this in mind, the Skoff property adjacent to the church in Weston was purchased on June 23, 1955. The existing home on the property was razed in the summer of 1957, and building of a new rectory was begun on September 9, 1957. The contract for the new rectory was \$42,600.00, and it was signed by Vincent Raggi, AIA, of Dunmore, PA. This major undertaking of the parish was looked upon by some as being too much of a burden for the size of the parish, but the cooperation shown by all resulted in the retirement of the debt incurred three years after the construction had begun. This is a remarkable tribute to the faith and generosity of the parishioners of St. Joseph's and Sacred Heart. The rectory was completed and occupied May 27, 1958. The furnishings for the rectory were provided by the members of the Holy Name Society, the Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Altar & Rosary Society, and St. Joseph's Sodality.



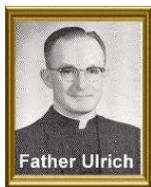
Another problem that faced the parish was the care of the cemetery. With so many individuals and families having left the area, and unable to arrange for the care of their plots, the cemetery began to show the lack of attention that should have been lavished on the last resting place of the loved ones who had founded the parish. A survey was taken among the parishioners as to the feasibility of the establishment of a Perpetual Care Fund to maintain the cemetery in a proper manner. The result of the survey was overwhelmingly in favor of such a plan. The Perpetual Care Fund was instituted on May 30, 1958.

The slow reversal of the economic scene began to have its effect on the parish. The increased number of parishioners resulted in the need for more parking facilities, especially at St. Joseph's. To relieve this situation, a plot of land 525' X 50' was purchased opposite St. Joseph's Church. This was a rough mountainside, and it was necessary to 1958.

Two years later it became evident that the two regular Masses on Sunday were no longer adequate to care for the parishioners. Each of these Masses was filled to capacity and beyond. To accommodate all, a third Mass was added on October 9, 1960, with the 8:45 Mass being reserved for the school children and their parents. The extra Mass enabled the children to have full time instruction each week.

The renovation of the interior of Sacred Heart Church next occupied the attention of the parish as the effects of time began to take their toll. In June 1960 the entire church was re-plastered and marble sills and new doors were installed. The major change took place within the sanctuary which was completely renovated, and included a new addition to the sacristy. The new altars of the church were donated by the Altar & Rosary Society and the communion railing by the Holy Name Society. These new appointments, in addition to a new tile floor, and the redecoration of the church, transformed Sacred Heart Church into a simple but beautiful sanctuary, dedicated to the honor and glory of God.

The same year an addition was made to St. Joseph's Church to provide a kitchen for the hall. This was an invaluable asset to the social life of the parish. The following year the Grotto, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, was built. This beautiful stone shrine became a landmark in the area. The Grotto was donated by the Holy Name Society and St. Joseph's Altar & Rosary Society. The statue was donated by a generous friend. The Grotto was dedicated on Sunday, May 14, 1961.

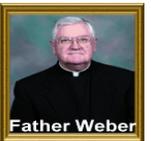
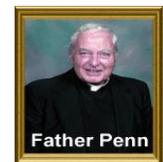


In preparation for the Jubilee celebration in 1964 the sanctuary of St. Joseph's Church was renovated, and the lighting in both churches was improved. New altars were installed, and the sanctuary was paneled in a matching blond oak with carved reredos and baldachino. These appointments were donated by the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Joseph's Church. The altar railing, designed to accentuate the tile floor, was donated by the Holy Name Society. The pulpit was donated by the Sodality of St. Joseph's.

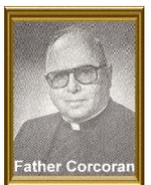
In 1966, Father Meier was transferred to St. Boniface Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA, and was succeeded by the Rev. Carl G. Ulrich. The parish rectory in Nuremberg was sold in 1967 to Joseph Yurcho. The choir loft in St. Joseph's Church was remodeled. In 1969, Father Ulrich transferred to a parish in the Poconos and was succeeded by Rev. Francis Kramer.



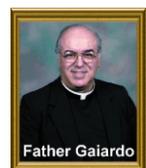
Father Kramer was pastor from 1969-1972. In 1972, he was transferred to a parish in the Poconos. Father Kramer was succeeded by Rev. William Penn. Father Penn realized the inside of both churches needed to be painted. He organized a group of volunteers and the job was completed in a few months. In 1974, he was transferred and succeeded by Rev. Joseph Weber.



Father Weber did an excellent job fulfilling his obligation in the parochial affairs of the parish. In St. Joseph's Church, the stain glass windows were replaced. In 1977, Father Weber was transferred to Good Shepherd Church in Drums, PA., and was succeeded by Rev. Francis Corcoran.

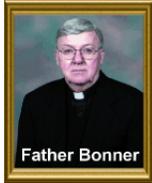


Father Corcoran made minor repairs to both churches. In the rectory a heat pump was installed. Father also had a magic touch with flowers and had a beautiful rose garden on the side of the rectory. On June 19, 1983, Father Corcoran celebrated his silver jubilee. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, followed by a dinner at Carmen's Country Inn. Father Corcoran was transferred in 1983 to Lady of Lourdes, Montoursville, PA. and was succeeded by Rev. Martin Gaiardo.



Father Gaiardo was only here a short time when he found both churches were in need of

extensive repairs. He started with St. Joseph's Church by completely replacing the old roof, gutters and down spouts. The interior of the church was completely painted, including the pews, stations and several statues. New rugs were installed in the aisle and altar areas. Beautiful stained-glass doors were installed in both front entrances to the church. A new awning was installed covering the main entrance to the church. The rear door was replaced leading to the fire escape. New circulating fans were installed and new vestments were purchased. The painting of the church was done by volunteers and the new doors, awnings, fans and vestments were donated by members of the parish in the name of deceased members of their families. The Sacred Heart Church also was completely painted, new front doors, circulating fans and new carpeting were installed. The work was performed by volunteers and many of the items were donated by parishioners in the name of deceased members of their families. In 1985 Father Gaiardo was transferred to Our Lady of Grace Church in Hazleton. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Bonner.



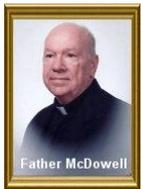
Father Bonner realized many of the repairs were still to be completed. He added new lighting to the rectory basement and the Catholic Youth Center (CYC) building. A new furnace was installed in the rectory and an awning enclosure was built at the side door entrance. The old roof of the church was replaced, the parking lot was completely repaved, and a new cement walk was installed in the rear of the rectory.

On September 10, 1988, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Parish celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The celebration began at 5:00 P.M. with a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Sacred Heart Church. The Most Rev. Francis C. DiLorenzo, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, was the principal celebrant. The choir, children and several parishioners participated in the ceremonies. The celebration continued with a dinner and dance at the American Legion Hall with two hundred parishioners in attendance. James Palushock served as toastmaster and the Rev. Martin Gaiardo, a former pastor, presented a bouquet of flowers to Josephine Marchetti, the oldest parishioner, who dedicated most of her life to the church. Highlighting the dinner program was a presentation by Frank Bott, the General Chairman of the anniversary celebration, who gave the history of the parish.

In 1991, Father Bonner had a chapel constructed in the basement of the Sacred Heart Church, and it was used for daily Masses for many years. This location continues to be used for classes for our yearly First Holy Communion children. In 1996, the furnace in St. Joseph's Church had to be moved to meet government specifications.

Father Bonner retired on July 1, 1998 and died at home in Hazleton on July 23, 2007. As an active pastor for thirteen years at Sacred Heart Church, he is remembered for his love of God, the church and the people he served. He is also known for his hard work at the parish and for his love of camping, music, the New Jersey shore, and his dog. He was born in Hazleton on October 1, 1926; graduated from St. Gabriel's High School; completed a Bachelor of Arts degree and studies for the priesthood at Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He was ordained on May 30, 1953. His first parish assignment was at Saint Ann's in Freeland. Prior to his appointment as pastor at Sacred Heart Church, he had served as a Chaplain in the Army and in the women's prison in Muncie, Pennsylvania.

A Pontifical Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by the Most Rev. John M. Dougherty, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton, at Sacred Heart Church and interment was at Sacred Heart Cemetery. He is the only priest who served in our parish that was buried in our cemetery. Father Bonner showed his love and dedication to our parish even after his death by leaving a significant financial gift that continues to provide ongoing support to the needs of the parish.

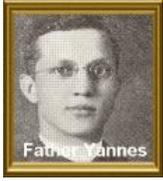


Rev. Patrick D. McDowell succeeded Father Bonner. Soon after arriving at the parish, he met with parishioners to re-organize the Altar & Rosary and Holy Name Societies, and at their request, the votive stands were restored in both churches. The two societies sponsor various yearly fund-raisers, breakfasts and the annual September Social Picnic. He also developed the parish web site, <http://sacredheartandstjosephsparish.com>. In 2006 new roofs were installed on both our churches. In 2007 the Pastoral Council was formed to work together with our Finance Committee, and a Cemetery Association was also formed. In 2008 a Building and Maintenance Committee was formed, and they planned and carried through with the re-surfacing of the Sacred Heart parking lot.

Two issues are facing all churches in our area, one being a decreasing number of parishioners and second, the shortage of priests. Consequently, the Diocese found itself in need of closing and/or consolidating churches. The Bishop of Scranton involved parishes in the decision making process. In 2007 our parish core team had their first meeting with core teams from St. John Bosco (Conyngham) and Good Shepherd (Drums) to form a Cluster Committee, overseeing the necessary changes involving our three parishes. These teams served as an Implementation Committee, and met regularly to carry out the plans put forth by our Diocesan Planning Committee. A result of the process

included the closing of St. Joseph's Church in Nuremberg as noted previously, and an ongoing partnership with St. John Bosco and Good Shepherd.

## Religious from our Parish



Our parish has had two parishioners enter the priesthood. The first was Father Victor C. Yannes who was born and raised in Nuremberg and the son of Camillo and Philomena Yannes. His early education was at Holy Trinity German School in Hazleton, PA. Later he entered Villanova Seminary, where he was ordained a priest in June, 1915. He said his First Mass in St. Joseph's Church, Nuremberg, PA on July 4, 1915. He served as a priest in New York, New Jersey, New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. While in El Paso, Father Yannes devoted himself to teaching Spanish-speaking children. Father Yannes died in El Paso Hospital March 2, 1950 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, El Paso, Texas. A Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Nuremberg on Saturday, March 10, 1950.



Father Michael H. Marchetti, the second young man to enter the priesthood from our parish, was born June 16, 1945, son of Leon and Marie (Enama) Marchetti. His early education was in Nuremberg Grammar School and then in West Hazleton High School. He received his college education at University of Scranton (B.S.) and Pierce Junior College, Philadelphia (A.B.S.). He spent four years in the US Air Force. His seminary training was at St. John's Seminary in Brighton, MA and St. Pius X Seminary, Dalton, PA. He was ordained April 24, 1982 at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton by Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D... Father Michael's first assignment was St. Mary of Mount Carmel, Dunmore, PA in 1982. He was then transferred to St. Mary of Assumption Church in Old Forge in 1983. His last assignment as assistant pastor was Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace in Hawley, PA in 1988.

Father Michael was given his first pastoral assignment in 1991 at St. Joseph's Church in White Mills, PA, where he remained until being assigned to Holy Name of Jesus Church, Scranton in 2002. He was made pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Montoursville, PA in 2007. In 2009 he was assigned to St. Joseph's Church in Wyoming, PA and Our Lady of Sorrows Church in West Wyoming.



Miss Loretta Lescowitch was born December 6, 1915 and baptized December 19, 1915 in St. Joseph's Church, Nuremberg. She was the daughter of Leopold Frank Lescowitch and Elizabeth Saudner Lescowitch, immigrants from Hungary. She entered the Sisters of Christian Charity convent in Mendham, New Jersey with the name "Sister Leopoldine" on August 21, 1935. She became a novice on August 21st, 1938 and made her profession of Final Vows on August 20, 1944.

## Summary of the Recent Past

On Saturday, June 26, 2010, following the directives of the Diocese of Scranton, St. Joseph's Church in Nuremberg closed its doors for the last time. The Final Mass was celebrated by Rev. Patrick McDowell and concelebrants Rev. Joseph Weber, Rev. Jack Lambert, and native-son Rev. Michael Marchetti, along with Deacon Robert Roman. The doors were locked for the last time by our oldest active parishioners, Joseph & Antoinette Palushock, and the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to Sacred Heart Church in Weston.

In 2011 St. Joseph's Church was sold to the Nuremberg Community Players, a local community theatre group, with the intention of providing local theatre productions. When the church was sold, the stained glass doors were removed from the church. One set of doors was installed at Sacred Heart Church's ramp entrance, and the other set became the entrance doors to the CYC Hall. The CYC is used for various parish functions including donuts and coffee following the 9 a.m. Mass during the time CCD Classes are offered to all children, preschool to eighth grade. High School students participate in the Youth Group that encourages young people's involvement in the parish and the local community.

In 2012 the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes was retrieved from the Grotto across the street from the former St. Joseph's Church. It was refurbished and placed upon the cornerstone from St. Joseph's Church and is now located on the lawn behind the church.

Our parish celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 28, 2013. The Principal Celebrant of the Mass was His Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton. In addition to our pastor, Concelebrants included two former pastors, Rev. Joseph Weber (1974-1977)



and Rev. Martin Gaiardo, (1983-1985). Nine long time parish nonagenarians were honored at the Mass and at the dinner celebration. Emma Balko, Edna Evanofski, Marie Lescowitch, Clara Manjone, Eleanor Margle, Antoinette Palushock, Dorothy Pekala, Louise Singletary, and Anthony Tobias have been long time active participants in our parish family.

Close to two hundred guests participated in the Anniversary Dinner held at the Nuremberg-Weston Fire Hall. James Palushock who served as Toastmaster at the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, served as Toastmaster of this celebration. Father Gaiardo gave the invocation and Father Weber presented comments. Other clergy attending the dinner included: Rev. Leonard M. Butcavage, Rev. Gregory Finn, Rev. Peter J. O'Rourke, and two ministers from Nuremberg, Rev. Margaret Marshman, Bethany United Methodist, and Rev. Dr. Philip Smith, Emmanuel Lutheran. A video of the celebrations was recorded and was made available for purchase.

This brief history, lacking many details, is not meant to be a completely detailed account of all the events that have transpired in the past 125 years. Many are not mentioned at all, but the purpose of the parish has been at all times to give greater honor and glory to Almighty God and to assist in the salvation of souls. May the events that have been mentioned here be a source of many memories for the older members of the parish who were part of the history. To our younger and newer parishioners who read the history of the parish may they find it to be a source of inspiration, serving as an example of the wonderful and sacrificial deeds of those who went before them. May they in turn take up the burdens and carry on the good work so well established by those who have gone before, so that the future generations may look back on them with love and honor that we today confer upon the pioneers of our parish!

*Edited April 2013*