

# The PROTIVIN COMMUNITY

Past and Present

Protivin Historical Preservation Group
2005

### Holy Trinity Parish

On January 5, 1878 a group of settlers met to consider the possibility of building a church. It was decided that a church be built and plans were made for its immediate construction. Joseph Pecinovsky agreed to donate land located about ½ mile north of Protivin. The new church was to be dedicated to St. Joseph. A building committee was named consisting of John Bouska, Frank Chyle, Jr., Frank Martinek, John Masek, Joseph Pecinovsky and Matthew Filip. On February 25, 1878 another meeting was held and it was decided that the church should be built at a higher elevation. The site, on which the church and cemetery are located, was donated to the parish on May 15, 1878 by Frank Chyle, Jr. and his wife Mary.

Shortly after Frank Chyle, Jr. had donated the land, John Novak promised to give a large picture of the Holy Trinity with the understanding that the church be dedicated to the Holy Trinity rather than to St. Joseph as had been agreed to earlier. The gift was accepted and the picture adorned the main altar. The picture was later transferred to the present church where it remained until 1945 when new altars were installed.

On May 29, 1878, the cornerstone was blessed by Reverend Frank L. Mikota and on September 28, the church was consecrated. The church was a wood frame building approximately 36 feet wide, 65 feet long and 20 feet high. The church cost \$1,120 to construct which was quite expensive to the early settlers considering a \$1,000 debt remained.

Weather conditions caused several years of crop failures. As a result of severe poverty, many members of the parish moved to South Dakota. Fearing that all would eventually move away and the debt would remain unpaid, an emergency meeting was called and 28 settlers pledged their loyalty to the community and vowed not to leave.

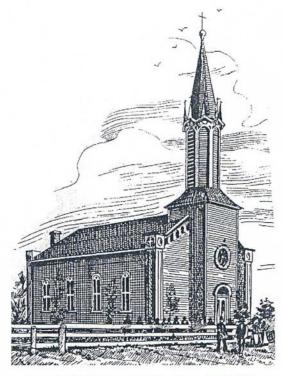
Soon after, Simon Malecek and Francis Prochaska donated the first bell for the church. Later, Joseph Spielman of Spillville donated another bell. In 1880, the parishioners paid all expenses for the Reverend Anthony Ambroz to come directly from Bohemia and become the first resident pastor. A small dwelling place was provided and from 1880 to 1884, Reverend Ambroz worked zealously among the people to establish the new parish. Prior to and subsequent to Reverend Anthony Ambroz becoming the first pastor, the parish was without the services of a priest.

In 1884, Reverend Ambroz became sick and the doctor advised that he return to his native land of Bohemia. Holy Trinity Parish was then served only occasionally by Reverend Francis Ehrenberger of Spillville and Reverend Bohumil Kramolis of Fort Atkinson. Later, the

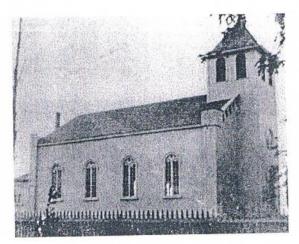
Reverend Thomas Bily of Spillville attended to Holy Trinity as the mission for a number of years.

The pastorate vacancy lasted six years. In 1890, the Reverend Frank Vrba became pastor. Under his guidance and through the generosity of the parishioners, the church was improved and completely furnished. Under the leadership of Reverend Frank Vrba from 1890 to 1895, the interior of the church was completed. The main altar was donated by the Joseph F. Pecinovsky family, the Blessed Virgin side altar was donated by Anna Ptacnik and Katherine Valvoda, and the St. Joseph side altar was donated by Vit Jankovsky and his wife, Josephine Bouska, and the Joseph Holub family. The statues of St. Peter and Paul were donated by Lodge Z.C.K.J. and the Blessed Virgin statue donated by the Rosary Society.

A new parish house was built in 1895. In 1895, Reverend Frank Vrba was transferred and the Reverend John Broz was appointed to his place. He immediately began work on building a Catholic School. The people responded and in 1896 Holy Trinity Grade School, the first parochial school, was built. In the summer of 1900, Reverend Vrba again returned as pastor of the parish. This time he remained until 1906 when Reverend



Holy Trinity Church, Protivin, Iowa, 1878-1907.



Holy Trinity Church after the steeple was destroyed by a windstorm in 1907.

Rudolph Lakomy came to the parish where he worked for 19 years until his death.

Because of the increasing number of parishioners, Reverend Lakomy supervised the construction of a new church built in 1907 which still serves Holy Trinity Parish today. Reverend Lakomy died on July 7, 1925 and is buried at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

The parish now numbering approximately 280 families was entrusted to Reverend Louis B. Kucera. In 1926, an old ardent wish of Reverend Lakomy was realized when the large stone hall near the parish grounds, called the "Beseda," was purchased and became the parish hall.

In 1927, a new grade and high school was built and named "Rudolphinum" in memory of Reverend Rudolph Lakomy. The cornerstone was blessed on May 15, 1927 by Archbiship James J. Keane and on October 4, 1927



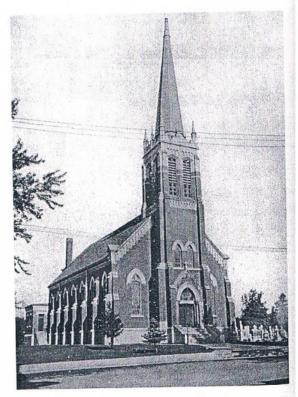
Interior of Holy Trinity Church in the early 1900's.

the school was dedicated. On March 16, 1929, Reverend John Sindelar, the first from the parish to be ordained to the priesthood, celebrated his first solemn mass at Holy Trinity Church. Rev. Sindelar died August 15, 1937, and is buried at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

On June 24, 1930, Reverend Kucera received official notice that he was appointed Bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska. On October 21, 1930, the Reverend Wenceslaus C. Hradecky became pastor of the parish. In the summer of 1931, Holy Cross Parish at Schley, twelve miles northwest of Protivin, was assigned to Holy Trinity as a mission. The Reverend Jaroslaus S. Skluzacek, a newly ordained priest, was appointed assistant pastor to teach in the high school and care for the mission parish at Schley.

In August, 1936, Reverend Skluzacek was appointed pastor of St. Wenceslaus Parish in Duncan. Reverend Francis Ruzicka was appointed assistant to Reverend Hradecky.

Reverend Hradecky, pastor during the depression years, not only succeeded in paying off the debt on the new school with the cooperation of the parishioners but



Exterior of Holy Trinity Church before the side entrance was built.

introduced numerous improvements and renovations. In 1938 and 1939 extensive repairs were undertaken in the high school and the winter chapel. In 1940, a small addition was built on the high school to serve as a parish, office and residence for the assistant pastor. The following year, the church steeple was repaired and renovated.

In 1936 the second window on the south side of the church was removed making room for a side entrance to the church and a different entrance to the basement.

In 1934, Reverend Hradecky began planning for a new rectory. To facilitate matters he personally purchased a house adjoining the cemetery. He remodeled the house and moved in after enlarging it. The rectory was used by the assistant and, for a time, also boarders who attended the parish school. This was done at no cost to the parish. For various reasons a new rectory was never built. In 1945, when Reverend Hradecky was transferred to St. Wenceslaus of Cedar Rapids, the parish purchased the property from Reverend Hradecky. This house served as the rectory until 1976.

In July, 1945, Reverend Alphonse Biskup, O.S.B., and Reverend Gilbert Laketek, as assistant, from St.



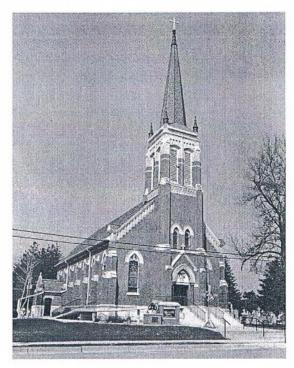
Main Altar in Holy Trinity Church, 2004.

Procopius Abbey of Lisle, Illinois were temporarily given responsibility of the parish. On May 1, 1946, Reverend Albert L. Zacher was appointed administrator of the parish until July 1, 1946 when Reverend Jaroslaus S. Skluzacek was appointed pastor.

In 1955, a new grade school building was constructed. Numerous improvements were made to all the parish buildings and in 1958 additional property was purchased to enlarge the cemetery. In 1966, Reverend Francis A. Lana replaced Reverend Skluzacek, who had served the parish as pastor for 20 years.

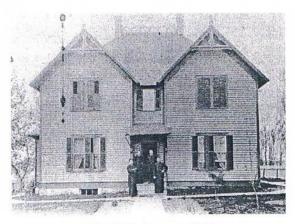
With the renewal of the Vatican II Council, several organizational changes were introduced into the parish. A parish school board was established in April, 1967 and the various parish boards were combined into a Parish Council. Because of rising costs and reduced enrollment, Rudolphinum High School closed on May 28, 1968. In the fall of 1969, the number of grades in Holy Trinity Grade School was reduced from eight to six.

On June 1, 1970, Reverend Harry Koelker, the last assistant to serve the parish, was given a new assignment. This resulted in Holy Cross Parish of Schley being assigned on June 30, 1970 to St. Joseph Parish of Cresco as a mission church. This ended a 39 year mission relationship with Holy Trinity Parish.



Holy Trinity Church, 2005.

On June 11, 1971, Reverend Stanley J. Hayek became pastor of the parish. The interior of the church was remodeled in 1969 and a new pipe organ was installed in 1975. In the summer of 1976, a new rectory was constructed. The old rectory was then used as the Sisters' convent. A new rectory was built under the direction of Reverend Stanley J. Hayek. On June 4, 1976,



Holy Trinity Rectory, 1895.



Holy Trinity Rectory, 1934-1976.



Holy Trinity Rectory built in 1976. Note the church steeple in the background.

Reverend John P. Ptacek was appointed pastor of the parish and was the first priest to live in the new rectory.

In 1978, the centennial of the church was celebrated. This started the annual event known as "Czech Days" celebrated the third weekend of August which still continues to this day. In 1981, the Protivin Community Center was built. A mass sign was constructed in front of the church and a time capsule was buried there. The capsule was Dennis Balik's Eagle Scout project. In 1982, Reverend Ptacek was transferred and Reverend John Karal served the parish from July 13, 1982 until July 12, 1983 followed by Reverend Louis J. Trzil who served the parish until 1988. In 1984 the church stained glass windows were repaired with protective lexan storm covering. Donations received for this project amounted to \$20,600. The steeple was repainted with donations of \$2600. The wake and funeral services for past pastor, Reverend Jaroslav Skluzacek was held with burial at Veseli, Minnesota. Visits to the parish were made by Bishop Kucera and Bishop Dunn during 1984.

On July 12, 1988 Reverend Allen M. Schmitt arrived and served as pastor until July 11, 2000. In 1996, the church was tuck pointed and the steeple was shingled in black. The interior of the church was restored and completely repainted in 1999-2000. All the wood was stripped and varnished, and new carpeting was installed. Altars, purchased from Sacred Heart Parish in Riley Ridge when it closed, were added to the church. These altars were stripped, varnished and gold leafed. A new public address system and new kneelers were also installed. The stations of the cross were repainted and the crosses behind the stations were stripped of paint and varnished. A new lighting system was installed. The Zahasky Family donated a sanctuary light and Ed Hovorka donated a keyboard. The Knight of Columbus donated a painting of the Holy Trinity acquired from Germany at a cost of \$750. This painting was placed in the vestibule of the church and is identical to the painting that is on the outside entrance of the church.

To complete the restoration, a 1905 statue of the Sacred Heart was placed above the tabernacle in the center of the altar. The statue came from a demolished church in New Jersey and was acquired by a parishioner for a cost of \$1300.

On July 11, 2000 Reverend John A. Moser became pastor and is serving up to the present. In 2004 a handicapped ramp was added to the front entrance of the church.

Some information came from "Protivin a Czech Settlement" by Gerald G. Pecinovsky, 1978 Founders of Holy Trinity Church - 1878

Josef Malek Jan Adamec Josef Barta Jan Mares Alzbeta Benediktova Frantisek Martinek Vaclay Martinek Frantisek Bouska Jan Masek Jan Bouska Frantisek Capouch Frantisek Milota Frantisek Chyle, Sr. Josef Moravec Frank Mzik Jakub Cisar Matej Dvorak Frantisek Novak Frantisek Fencl Tomas Novak Matej Filip Jan Novotny Josef Hrabe Vojtech Panos Frantisek Hrdina Anton Pecinovsky Tomas Hrdina Frantisek Pecinovsky Matej Hruska Jan Pecinovsky Vojtech Hubka Josef Pecinovsky Frantisek Hulan Josef Pecinovsky, Sr. Jan Ira Anton Petrak Josef Ira Peter Polda Frantisek Prochaska Vit Jankovsky Vaclav Kadlec Josef Ptacnik Frantisek Kocourek Anna Ptacnikova Frantisek Kosmata Vojtech Puncochar Jakub Kosmata Josef Riha Jan Ruzicka Jan Kostohryz Frantisek Kouba Jan Sobolik Josef Kouba Jakub Svestka Jan Koudelka Anton Valenta Jan Kovar Josef Valvoda Jan Krile Vaclav Valvoda Frantisek Kvech Jakub Vopava Frantisek Kvechota Frantisek Votava Vaclay Lalak Jan Vrba Vaclav Lukes Vaclay Vrba Josef Wendl Jan Lust Jan Makovec Jan Zeman

> From "Protivin a Czech Settlement" by Gerald G. Pecinovsky, 1978

### Reverend Rudolph Lakomy

Jan Malecek

In Bohemia, the Czech people had great respect for the authority and clergy of the Catholic Church. The church was the guardian of vital records and the people were economically dependent on the church. In Bohemia, the church was a product of the feudal system. People looked to the church for both spiritual and social guidance. The Catholic priests were highly respected and their influence on their lives was enormous.

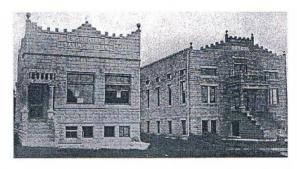
Reverend Rudolph Lakomy was such a priest. He came to Protivin as pastor of Holy Trinity Parish on



Reverend Rudolph Lakomy

March 1, 1906. More importantly, he was Czech and spoke the language of the people. He was born in Bohemia on April 17, 1862, the son of Anthony and Mary (Kubicek) Lakomy. His father was a farmer and also a building contractor.

After serving a year in the army, Rudolph Lakomy entered study in Vienna, Austria to become a priest. In 1887, after four years of study, he was ordained a priest. He served as a priest at different locations in Austria. On September 13, 1895, Reverend Lakomy came to the United States. He eventually came to Wisconsin where



Bohemian Savings Bank and Beseda

he was appointed a priest in the Green Bay Diocese. After four years in Wisconsin, he was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Oxford Junction, Iowa. While in Oxford Junction, he built a stone and brick church in Prairieburg which was his mission. In 1902, Reverend Lakomy was transferred to Chelsea where he remained for three years. Here he also built a brick church.

With his social understanding of the Czech people and his building talents and experience, Reverend Lakomy came to Protivin in 1906. Aside from his pastoral responsibilities, Reverend Lakomy would have an everlasting impact on the town of Protivin. He would spend the next 19 years in Protivin until his death.

In 1907, Reverend Lakomy, also an architect by profession, drew plans and supervised the construction of a new church which still serves Holy Trinity Parish today.

On May 21, 1910, the Bohemian Savings Bank was incorporated. Reverend Lakomy helped organize Protivin's first and only bank and served on its first board of directors. It was decided to build a new bank and again Reverend Lakomy drew the plans and supervised the construction of the bank.

After the new church was built, Reverend Lakomy wanted a parish hall. Since Holy Trinity Parish was in debt for the new church, the parish hall could not be constructed. Rather, it was decided to build the new hall privately.

The Beseda was incorporated on February 26, 1912. Reverend Rudolph Lakomy would become president of this corporation. He drew the plans for the Beseda and supervised its construction which was completed in August, 1912. Reverend Lakomy always wanted the parish to own this hall. However, only after his death, did his dream become reality.

It is said that Reverend Lakomy never refused financial assistance to anyone in need regardless of nationality, color or creed. For him, money had only one purpose, to do good for his fellow man. Reverend Lakomy was loved by everyone who came in contact with him and he had the respect of the Czech people. Because of this respect, the town of Protivin advanced both socially and economically.

On July 7, 1925, Reverend Rudolph Lakomy died and was buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery. Protivin had become his home for eternity; the only priest who served as pastor to be buried in Protivin. In 1927, a new grade and high school was built. The school was named "Rudolphinum" in memory of Reverend Rudolph Lakomy.

From "Protivin, the First Hundred Years" by Gerald G. Pecinovsky, 1994

### **Pastors**

1880-1884 Rev. Frantisek Vrba 1890-1895 Rev. Jan P. Broz 1895-1900 Rev. Frantisek Vrba 1900-1906 Rev. Rudolph Lakomy March 1, 1906-July 7, 1925 Rev. Louis B. Kucera July 15, 1925-June 24, 1930 Rev. Wenceslaus C. Hradecky October 21, 1930-June 30, 1945 Rev. Alphonse Biskup, O.S.B. July 1, 1945-April 30, 1946 Rev. Jaroslaus S. Skluzacek July 1, 1946-May 20, 1966 Rev. Francis A. Lana May 24, 1966-June 7, 1971 Rev. Stanley J. Hayek June 11, 1971-June 25, 1976 Rev. John P. Ptacek June 4, 1976-July 13, 1982 Rev. John W. Karal July 13, 1982-July 12, 1983 Rev. Louis J. Trzil July 12, 1983-July 12, 1988 Rev. Allen M. Schmitt July 12, 1988-July 11, 2000 Rev. John A. Moser July 11, 2000-Present

Rev. Anthony Ambroz

### **Assistant Pastors**

Rev. Jaroslaus S., Skluzacek August 4, 1931-August 25, 1936 Rev. Francis Ruzicka August 28, 1936-June 30, 1945 Rev. Anton W. Chihak March 5, 1938-April 20, 1939 Rev. Gilbert Laketek, O.S.B. July 1, 1945-April 30, 1946 Rev. Albert L. Zachar July 1, 1946-July 3, 1947 Rev. Francis A. Lana January 6, 1947-June 16, 1950 Rev. Louis J. Trzil June 16, 1950-June 10, 1955 Rev. James C. Milota June 10, 1955-June 4, 1959 Rev. Melvin Heman May 29, 1959-August 5, 1959

Rev. Stanley J. Hayek
August 4, 1959-June 7, 1961
Rev. Alphonse Birmingham
June 8, 1961-October 20, 1961
Rev. Clement Burke
October 22, 1961-July 10, 1963
Rev. George Karnik
July 13, 1963-June 3, 1968
Rev. Harry Koelker
August 21, 1968-June 1, 1970

From "Protivin A Czech Settlement" by Gerald G. Pecinovsky, 1978

### Church Stained Glass Windows

St. Matthew The Evangelist Donated by Wenceslaus Holub

St. Mark The Evangelist
Donated by Parish B.V.M. Little Turkey

St. Luke The Evangelist Donated by Josephine Bouska

St. John The Evangelist Donated by Marie Pecinovksy

St. Ann and The Virgin Mary
Donated by John Riha

Side Entrance

Donated in Memory of the death of Wenceslaus Jirak donated by his family

Unidentified

Donated by Frances Pecinovsky

Our Lady of Lourdes

Donated by Society: Women of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Methodius

Donated by Albert Mikesh and Louis Novak

Jesus, Mary & St. Anthony of Padua

Donated by Society Of the Holy Rosary

Grapes (No information available)

Donor Unknown

Jesus, Agony In The Garden

Donated by Joseph A. Pecinovsky

Jesus Walking On Water With St. Peter

Donated by Society: Western Catholic Union No. 18

St. John Nepomucene

Donated by John and Ann Bouska

Vitus and Marie Jankovsky

Nativity: Jesus, Mary, Joseph

Donated by John Pecinovsky,

Frank Prochaska and Frank Moudry

St. Joseph and Jesus

Donated by Society: Catholic Workman No. 339

Annunciation

Donated by Stika Family

IHS

In Memory First Holy Communion 1907 Sheaf of Wheat

Donated by Parish St. Wenceslaus In Spillville Alpha-Omega Greek Letters

Donated in Memory Holy Confirmation 1907

### Bells

Largest Bell – Donated by Joseph Spielman 1885 Medium Bell – Donated by Francis Klimesh 1931 Two Small Bells – Donated by ? Riha 1907

### Church Bell at Holy Trinity

Frantisek J. Klimesh Sr. donated a church bell which weighed a ton and a half purchased in St. Louis, Missouri from the Stuckstede Brothers. It was brought from the depot by truck with help from M. Kalishek, Louis Klimesh, Adolph Zahasky, Frank Klimesh, John J. Klimesh, J.D. Bouska and the pastor in 1931.

The bell was blessed on Holy Trinity Sunday at 2:00 by Rev. John Broz of Spillville, Iowa assisted by Rev. Joseph Gregor and Rev. Vaclav Hradecky, pastor in Protivin. It was named Frantisek in memory of Frantisek J. Klimesh Sr. and donated to Holy Trinity Church, Protivin, Iowa.

The new bell was pulled up by helpers, John Andera, Joseph Strnad, Louis Andera, Joseph Andera, Frank Chyle, Mike Horky, Louis F. Novak, Joseph Klimesh, Frank J. Klimesh, Frank M. Klimesh, Louis Klimesh, John Klimesh, John Zahasky, Adolph Zahasky, Frank Kinkor, Charles Hosek and Joseph Riha.

### Holy Trinity Cemetery

The Holy Trinity Cemetery was established using a portion of the land donated to the parish by Frank Chyle, Jr. on May 15, 1878. This land lies north and west of Holy Trinity Church. The first person buried was an infant, Frantisek Chyle, who was born March 22, 1878 and died April 28, 1878. The first adult buried was Jan Pecinovsky who died October 25, 1878. In 1926, a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin was built. It was donated by Marie Andera, her five sons-Josef, Jan, Vaclav, Karel and Frantisek and two daughters-Anezka and Bozena. The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in the chapel was donated by Frantisek Klimes in memory of Jan Klimes. Subsequently, two additional chapels were built-one in 1934 donated by Anton and Anna Novak and the other in 1935 donated by Frank A. and Mary Stika. In 1958, property bordering on the north of the cemetery was purchased from Louis Houdek for future use. The first burial in the north section was Vitalis Andera in 1976.

> From: "Protivin, a Czech Settlement" by Gerald G. Pecinovsky, 1978.

Holy Trinity Cemetery Altar

Frantisek J. Klimesh Sr. donated the Crucifixion group and statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John, and Mary Magdalene. These statues were purchased from Daprato Statuary Co. Chicago, Illinois. The wall consists of white bricks to look like an altar. Charles P. Pecinovsky put it together. It was blessed on Labor Day 1931 by Rev. A.S. Peikert of Calmar and Rev. Vaclav Hradecky, pastor. The English sermon was given by Rev. James Slowey, Reilly Ridge, Iowa and the Czech sermon was given by Rev. Joseph Badura, Little Turkey, Iowa. The Protivin Band played during the procession. Frantisek J. Klimesh Sr, who died April 27, 1931, at the age of 69 years, donated the altar in memory of his family.

The front side of the altar reads:

First Line - Na Pamatku.

Translated - In Memory of.

Second Line - Frantiska Klimse.

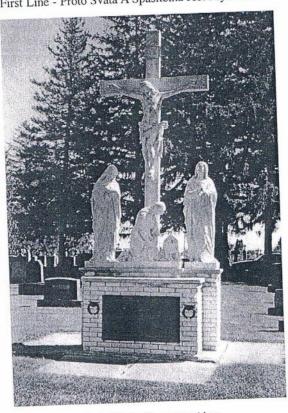
Translated - Frantisek Klimes Sr.

Third Line - Manzelky A Ditek Leta Pane 1931.

Translated - Wife and Children year 1931

The back side of the altar reads:

First Line - Proto Svata A Spasitelna Jest Myslenka



Holy Trinity Cemetery Altar

Translated - Holy and Peaceful Minds Second Line - Za Mrtve Se Modliti Aby Hrichu Zprosteni Byli

Translated - Pray For the Deceased So Their Sins Were Forgiven

# Holy Trinity -First Parish Council-1973

Executive Board of the first Parish Council, 1973: Rev. Stanley Hayek - Art Bruess Edmund Samec - John Swestka

# Original Parish Council Members:

Edmund Samec-Chairman Agnes Kalishek-Vice-Chairman Peggy Bouska-Secretary Members: Elmarie Bouska, Art Bruess, Rev. Stanley Hayek, Edward Hubka, Adolph Humpal, Leonard Lukes, Sister Methodia, Leonard F. Pecinovsky, Joan Schwade, Art Swestka and John Swestka.

# Holy Trinity Annual Reports-Letopisy

Bits and pieces from the Holy Trinity Annual Reports which were printed in Czech from 1925-1945, translated and submitted by Amelia Infeld

1925-Rev. Lakomy died and was buried July 9. Mass was said by Rev. K.Dragoun, assisted by Rev. Wagener of Cresco and Ludvik B. Kucera from Columbia College and the Archbishop. A year later a special memorial Mass was offered by Rev. Vaclav Dostal from Chelsea assisted by Rev. Stepan Kucera and Rev. Vaclav Panek of Oxford Junction. Also attending were Rev. Tomas Conry of Columbia College, Aug. Vojacek, a bishop's aid from Cedar Rapids, Vaclav Dostal of Chelsea, F. Kopecky of Duncan, Rev. B. Forkenbrock of New Hampton, Rev. Joseph Gregor of Little Turkey, Rev. J. Hehir of Clermont, Rev. Stepan Kucera of Cedar Rapids, Rev. J. Roach of Plymouth Rock, Rev. John Broz of Spillville, Vaclav Panek of Oxford Junction, Rev. M. Hogan of Decorah, Rev. Fred Renier of Lourdes, Rev. P. Hogan of Postville, and Rev. H. Roney of West Union. Also in attendance were Rev. Ed Bendlage of Chester, Rev. Alb. Pelkort of Calmar, Rev. Val. Casey of New Hampton and Rev. C. Dragoun of Fort Atkinson. The sermon was given by Rev. F.Kopecky and following the Mass, the Czech ladies served a meal for them in the rectory.

1926-Parish officers were Joseph Ira, John A. Dostal. Cemetery officers were John Sindelar, A.J.Mikes and Frank Tupy, Sr. First printing of parish books, the yearly "Letopisy" was sponsored by business people from Protivin, Cresco and Spillville. The first report was printed in January, 1926, and that was for the year 1925. January 12, 1926 the parish bought the Beseda from the former owners for \$7,975.00. The former owners donated \$832.50. Beseda ladies officers were Mrs. Frank Jirak, Mrs. Mary Landa, Mrs. Frank Fencl, Mrs. John Syoboda, Mrs. Anna Moudry and Mrs. W.M.Kalishek. Beseda janitor was John Svoboda. Church janitor was Joseph Michalec and Cemetery was Edward Pesek. Beseda kitchen cooks were Mrs. Anna Moudry, Mrs. F.W.Jirak, Mrs. John Adamec, Mrs.John Svestka and Mrs.George Nockels. The first outside chapel on the cemetery was donated by Marie Andera and family of six sons and two daughters. It was blessed by Rev. Ludvik Hlobil and the statue of the Blessed Virgin was donated by Frantisek Klimes in memory of his father, John Klimes.

1927-Parish Bazaar was held the three days before Ash Wednesday, Feb 20 and 21. On Sunday evening a Czech divadlo was held. Czech meals were served.

1928-June 7 the parish celebrated 50 years of Holy Trinity Church. Mass was attended by Rev.Alb.Pelkert of Calmar, Rev. Stepan Kucera of Prairieburg, and Rev.Val Casey of New Hampton. The sermon was given in Czech by Rev. Aug.Vojacek of Cedar Rapids. Archbishop Rev. James J. Keane D.D. of Dubuque had the English sermon. Rev. Dr. Hynek Dostal publisher of "Hlas" catholic newspaper had the program. A Czech meal was served to over 5000 people who were in attendance.

1929-Janitor was Joseph Michalec. Ladies appointed to serve Beseda meals were Mrs. F.W.Jirak, Anna Moudry, Mrs. F.J.Fencl, Mary Landa, Mrs. John Svoboda, Mrs.W.M.Kalishek, Mrs. John Adamec, Mrs. John Svestka and Mrs. George Nockels. Rev. John Sindelar was ordained March 16, 1929, in Holy Trinity Church by Archbishop Jakub J. Keane D.D. His father was seriously ill so had permission to be ordained in Protivin. His First Mass in Protivin was June 19.

1930-The Dramatic Czech Club performed on Sunday evening of the Bazaar. Every Wednesday evening during Lent there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist with a Lenten sermon and Litany recited. On Friday there were Stations of the Cross, a Litany and Exposition of the Eucharist. On the second Sunday of Lent, confessions were heard by Rev. Vaclav Panek of Chelsea, Rev. Frank Gorecki of Vining, Rev. John Broz of Spillville and Rev. Joseph Gregor of Little Turkey. Rev. Panek delivered the Czech sermon and Rev. Gorecki had the English sermon. On Easter Sunday there was another performance of a Czech play. In 1931 it was decided to charge \$15.00 to rent the Beseda for activities, weddings and showers.

1931-A new bell which weighed a ton and a half was donated by Frantisek Klimes Sr. It was bought from

Stuckstede Bros, a bell company in St. Louis, Missouri. At the depot it was delivered to the parish by M.Kalishek truck with helpers, Louis Klimes, Adolph Zahasky, Frank J. Klimes, John J. Klimes, Joseph D. Bouska and the pastor. On Holy Trinity Sunday at 2:00 it was blessed by Rev. John Broz of Spillville, assisted by Rev. Joseph Gregor of Little Turkey and Pastor Rev. Vaclav Hradecky. It was named "Frantisek." The organ was taken apart by Louis F. Novak to make room for installing the bell. Holy Trinity church dinner started with morning Mass by Rev. Joseph Gregor of Little Turkey assisted by Rev. John Broz of Spillville also giving the sermon. Rev. Jaroslav Skluzacek, newly ordained priest, became an assistant at Holy Trinity Parish which also took care of Holy Cross Church in Schley. The Archbishop installed Rev. Skluzacek on August 11; he was to teach in the high school and have the Masses on Sunday in Schley. The Rosary Society bought the furnishings for his new home. On Labor Day Mass was followed by the blessing of the Crucifixion on the cemetery donated by Frantisek Klimes. A Czech dinner was served by the Czech cooks.

1932-In May, devotions were held everyday following Mass and on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:30 ending with the coronation of the Blessed Virgin by the chapel outside. On November 8, school children performed a Czech play for the first time entitled "Sul Nad Zlato." Movies and dances were also held in addition to Czech plays. The money made was to help defray parish expenses. On November 10, 11 and 12 the 40 hours devotion was led by Rev. Vaclav Panek of St. Joseph's in Chelsea who delivered the Czech sermon. Hearing confessions were Rev. Skluzacek assisted by Rev. Joseph Badura of Little Turkey and Rev. John Broz of Spillville. For the closing of 40 hours devotions also present were Rev. A. Peikert of Calmar, Rev. M. J. Thiltgen D.D.of Ossian and Rev. Leo White of St. Lucas. The Beseda name was changed to the remodeled building, Gymnasium. The Czech Drama Club performed many plays in Protivin for many occasions and they also drove to other places including Duncan to perform. The gym officers were Wm. C. Dostal, W.M.Kalishek, Mike Mikes, Charles P. Pecinovsky, William Landa, Charles Balik, John G. Kovar, William Pecinovsky, James Berka, John Svoboda, J.D.Bouska and J.P.Pecinovsky. Kitchen cooks appointed were Anna Jirak, Anna Moudry, Mary Landa, Mary Fencl, Albina Svoboda, Caroline Klimesh, Mary Kalishek, Anna Bader, Regina Vachta and Anna Sobolik. The first Labor Day picnic started this year.

1935-Organ was rebuilt by P.J.Buch of Cedar Rapids at a cost of \$1325.00. The old school was sold to Charles B. Bouska for \$500.00. Rev. Leonard Fencl S.J. was ordained. His first Mass was on June 30

# **LETOPISY**

OSADY NEJSVĖTĖJŠĪ TROJICE

Rok 47. - Čislo I.

PROTIVIN, IOWA



Vydavatel:

LUDVÍK B. KUČERA kněz



Výroční finanční zpráva 1925

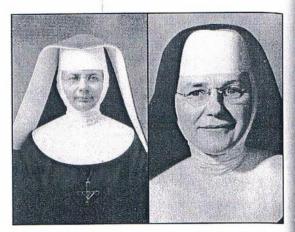
Cena 15 centů

followed by a banquet served to the priests and a lunch served to the congregation on the parish grounds.

1941-Thirty-four choir members were directed by Sister M. John O.S.F. and in 1943 Sister M. Mark O.S.F. became the choir director.

### Holy Trinity Choir

The Holy Trinity Choir, today also known as the "Czech Singers", is composed of volunteer members of Holy Trinity Church who devote their time and talent to praise the Lord in song. In the early years of Holy Trinity, the choir sang every Sunday for Mass and benediction. They held choir practice every week and were expected to be there. Thru the years and with the changes in church liturgy where the congregation sings, the choir now sings at Christmas, Easter, funerals and once a month for Sunday Mass. The "Czech Singers" showcase their talent during Czech Days as well as volunteering their time and talent at area care centers and functions in the neighboring communities. The choir has al-



Sister M. Daria (Jelen)

Sister M. Mark(Trzil)

ways been a very important part of Holy Trinity Church and we have been blessed with dedicated musicians to organize and direct the choir.

Sister M. Daria (Jelen) served as a teacher, organist and choir director in Protivin for over 40 years. She celebrated 80 years of her sisterhood at age 95 in June, 1975. Sister Daria was born June 10, 1880, entered the order of Franciscan Sisters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1895. She died November 18, 1976. Her last years were spent at Campbellsport, Wisconsin, a retirement home for nuns. She was buried at Campbellsport November 20, 1976.

The past organists for Holy Trinity choir include Sister Daria, Sister Majella, Sister John, Sister Herman Joseph, Sister Fortis, Sister Clarice, Sister Mark (Trzil) and Sister Olata. When the scarcity of nuns touched the Holy Trinity Choir, Marcella Svoboda took over and volunteered her time and talent for many years. Organists in 2005 include Laura Lukes, Cheryl Mracek, Sue Panos and Marlene Pecinovsky.

Submitted by Wilma Bouska

### Holy Trinity Choir Reminiscing

My name is Marcella Svoboda (born 1917), a parishioner of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. My husband Edward played the violin and sang in the choir when he was younger. Being an organist, singer and choir director, I was asked to write down my memories of the musical aspect of our parish. Music is very dear to my heart and I like to share it with members of our parish or whenever asked to participate in musical functions.

When Sister Olata, the last organist nun, left here I automatically assumed the job of playing the organ and directing the adult choir. We have two masses on weekends to cover and organists are assigned each month. If we are



1909 Holy Trinity Choir

Left to right, Row 1: Helen Jira, Agnes Polashek, Tillie Skoda and Regina Sobolik. Row 2: Anna Polashek, Anna Novak, Bertha Lukes, Mary Chyle and Victoria Fencl. Row 3: John A.Dostal, Albina Bouska, Nellie Mikesh and Alois Pecinovsky. Row 4: Albert Mikesh, Louise Bouska, Mary Pecinovsky, Albina Lukes, Sister Daria, Beatrice Chyle, Frances Kostka and Frank H.Chyle. Row 5: Charles Fencl, Emil Polashek, Robert Lukes, Joseph D. Bouska, James Chyle, Frank T.Chyle, Charles Chyle and John Klimesh.



Holy Trinity Choir, 1996 (also known as "Czech Singers")

Left to right, Row 1: Marcella Svoboda, Margaret Hruska, Bea Taylor, Donna Dietzenbach, MaryAnn Novotny, Wilma Bouska, Mary Hudecek, Darlene Shindelar and Marlene Pecinovsky, Row 2: Pauline Bouska, Rita Kovarik, Miriam Humpal, Grace McNeal and Abbie Novak. Row 3: Evelyn Pecinovsky, Mary Lukes, Gladys Hubka, Ken Humpal, John Swestka and Ronald Tlusty. Row 4: Celesta Praska, Amelia Infeld, Robert Pecinovsky, Edward Berka, Clarence Bouska and W. F. Balik. Row 5: Eugene Kovarik, William Berka, David Pecinovsky and Frank C. Bouska. Missing: William L. Pecinovsky.



1925 Holy Trinity Choir

Left to right, Row 1: Annamae Sindelar (Prochaska), Pauline Kovarik (Mikota), Laura Zahasky, Emma Skoda, Leonard J. Pecinovsky, Victoria Fencl, John A. Dostal, Albina Lukes, Frank H. Chyle, Henrietta Kovarik (Kuchar), Gertrude Zahasky (Peterson), Adella Klimesh (Kerian) and Valeria Sindelar (Link). Row 2: Adella Andera, Adella Michalec (Ira), Celia Skoda (Bernard), Lillian Fencl (O'Sullivan), Pauline Huber (Fencl), Adella Fencl (Larson), Gertrude Lukes (Cunningham), Betty Fencl (Byram), Mary Sindelar (Hospodarsky), Beatrice Chyle and Alois Pecinovsky. Row 3: Joseph J. Pecinovsky, Rev. Louis Kucera, Wm.C.Dostal, Charles Fencl, Sister Cleta, Sister Daria, Orville Byram, Alois Fencl and Edward Fencl.



Holy Trinity Church Choir and Czech Singers, 2003 Left to right: Row 1: Marcella Svoboda and Marlene Pecinovsky, organists. Row 2: Margaret Hruska, Bea Taylor, MaryAnn Novotny, Wilma Bouska, Mary Hudecek and Darlene Shindelar. Row 3: LuAnn Borlaug, Mary Lukes, Miriam Humpal, Donna Dietzenbach, Abbie Novak and Clarence Bouska. Row 4: Laura Lukes, Celesta Praska, Amelia Infeld, Rita Kovarik and Grace McNeal. Row 5: David Pecinovsky, Ken Humpal, Ronald Tlusty, William Berka, Edward Berka and Eugene Kovarik. unable to keep the schedule, we do substitute for each other. When I was able and lived in Protivin, whenever I attended daily mass, I would play the organ. Many of our young organists were taught in their elementary school years but as they graduated from high school, they left the area. We are fortunate that we have volunteers today who share the organist duties. Not taking away from the organ playing, but here, like in many churches now, guitar accompanying entered church singing and is done very well liturgically. We have two guitar players, LuAnn Borlaug and Sheila Rassman. In addition, Sue Panos directs the youth when they are in charge of Christmas or Easter liturgy. This includes instruments as well as the organ. I believe our parish has always been fortunate and blessed with beautiful musical talents ever since I can remember. The congregational participation of singing in our parish is really outstanding as numerous visitors have told us. With pride, the Czechs are basically known to be musically inclined and enjoy using their voices to praise the Lord.

I myself joined the choir when I was a freshman in high school and that's been a long time ago. I dearly love every minute of it. I remember singing solos in school programs and then Dad bought me a brand new piano. That is when all my musical talents surfaced. I guess I started taking lessons when I was about 10 years old. When I attended Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids I took voice and organ lessons for one year. My parents were musically inclined and spiritually active parishioners and appreciated music very much so they encouraged me along the way. My Mother especially had a gifted natural and beautiful strong high ranged voice without any training. She enjoyed singing for her own enjoyment. I remember my Dad sitting in his big chair after work to rest and so often he would ask me to play the piano and sing for him.

The choirs of the past sang beautiful four-part masses but times change. Those were the days when masses were sung in Latin and the Offertory hymns were sung in Latin or Czech. When I joined the choir a lot of Latin was sung in High Masses for funerals, weddings, Christmas and Easter. I can remember singing the Passion in Czech during Holy Week in which individuals were appointed to sing the different characters. The services for Holy Week were very lengthy compared to what we have today. Gregorian chant was sung when I first joined the choir and even though it took a long time for us to learn to sing it smoothly, once we learned it we appreciated the soothing and prayerful mood of the chant. Sister Eusebia and Sister Mark were the organist and choir director and helped us immensely. We do sing four-part singing of masses and hymns for special occasion, like Christmas and Easter but most often the parishioners sing. We have very faithful choir members and some have been members for a very long time.

What better way to praise the Lord than with song-it brings us closer to God. "Singing is twice praying".

## **Holy Trinity Rosary Society**

The Holy Trinity Rosary Society was established in the late 1800's according to the souvenir book from the golden jubilee of Holy Trinity Parish, 1878-1928. At that time there were two organizations. The elderly group consisted of 49 women and three men and the younger group consisted of 56 women. These groups were organized to raise money to help support the church. Members worked for church dinners, church picnics and other occasions. The groups prepared and served Czech meals for the parish bazaars starting in 1926. The bazaars were held prior to Ash Wednesday with a Czech play (divadlo) held on Sunday evening. The Rosary Society members participated in church activities such as marching in a group wearing their pins and carrying their banner for the annual Corpus Christi procession and at members' funeral services.

The 1929 officers of the Rosary Society were president-Mrs. F. W. Jirak, vice president-Mrs. Mary Landa and treasurer-Mrs. Anna Moudry. The kitchen cooks appointed for the Beseda were Mrs. Anna Moudry, Mrs. F. W. Jirak, Mrs. John Adamec, Mrs. John Svestka and Mrs. George Nockels. Movies, dances and Czech plays were held in the Beseda to raise money to help pay expenses. A meal was prepared and served on the feast day of the Holy Trinity. The July 4th celebration started in 1931 and the Rosary Society donated the money for rectory supplies. In 1932 the Labor Day picnics started and the kitchen cooks included Anna Jirak, Anna Moudry, Mary Landa, Mary Fencl, Albina Svoboda, Caroline Kalishek, Mary Kalishek, Anna Bader, Regina Vachta and Anna Sobolik. Rummage sales and bake sales were also held to raise money.

In 1931 the ladies were divided into eleven groups with 15 ladies and one leader in each group. Each group received 15 prayer cards to the Blessed Virgin Mary and each card had a different prayer. Each Sunday they exchanged cards with one another. When these prayers were recited everyday, plenary indulgences were gained for the intentions of the Holy Father. On August 23, 1931, all members who joined these prayer groups were installed by Rev. J. Skluzacek and Rev. Joseph Badura of Little Turkey. This was a high honor for the Rosary Society. When Rev. Leonard Fencl S.J. was ordained and said his first Mass on June 30, 1935, the ladies of the Rosary Society served a banquet to the attending priests. A lunch was served on the parish grounds to everyone attending the celebration.

The Rosary Society donated \$1000 for painting the church in 1937 and in 1938 \$262 was donated for the church chapel while masses were held in the church

basement. In 1939 the Rosary Society purchased new vestments in white, red, purple, green and black. These five vestments cost \$40.00 each and came from Praha, Czechoslovakia. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pizinger and Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Jirak each donated a large, lace-edged tablecloth at a cost of \$15.00 each. In 1949 the ladies donated \$725 toward the purchase of cushioned kneelers in church. They worked for several church functions including a dinner for the feast of the Holy Trinity, the bazaar, the fall festival and a dinner for the clergy helping with the 40-hours devotion at Holy Trinity.

The ladies groups were reorganized in 1957 into seven groups with two leaders in each group. The Rosary Society groups raised money by catering functions including the creamery banquet, the KC banquet, farmers' and merchants' banquet and the lumbermen's dinner. The money raised was used to purchase cassocks for the altar boys and altar linens. They also provided furniture for the rectory, purchased a hot water heater for the school and furnishings for the rectory and sisters' convent. School desks, typewriters, a science table with chairs and improvements to the lunch room were paid for by the Rosary Society. The ladies started serving meals at the Howard County Fair in Cresco in 1959. The income from the first year was \$741 and went towards gym improvements. The fair lunch stand continued until 1980. In 1962 they donated \$2000 towards the school debt and in 1966 they donated \$325 for the purchase of a car for the sisters. The school debt and steeple fund received a total of \$2950 in 1970. The ladies started serving funeral luncheons in 1970. The 1971 proceeds from the fair food stand were donated for the repair of the school roof and for carpeting in church. The fair income in 1974 totaled \$4188 and at this time a donation of \$3000 was given for the repair of the church steeple. In 1975 the Rosary Society gave \$3000 to the organ fund, purchased new tables for the gym and sent delegates to the ACCW convention. The last year for the lunch stand at the Howard County Fair was in 1980 with a profit of \$5256. The centennial celebration of Holy Trinity in 1978 and the Czech Days celebration held each August keep the Rosary Society ladies busy baking rolls and kolaches and making noodles. They also prepared and served food for the annual Protivin Arts and Crafts Shows which were held from 1983 to 2003. The income from these functions has been used to purchase appliances, furnishing and needed repairs for the Protivin Community Center. The kitchen was remodeled and updated in 2003. The Rosary Society began sponsoring a semi-annual blood drive in 2004.

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A new banner was made in 1976 by several members of the Rosary Society and the original banner is on display at the Protivin Community Center. Some of the members have helped in making quilts for Czech Days each year.

The Rosary Society sponsors the radio rosary during lent and purchases ads for Catholic Schools week. They visit and provide gifts to our parishioners who are homebound or residents in the area care centers. A new church cookbook "Czech to American Recipes" was published in 2003. The Rosary Society today consists of both the men and women of Holy Trinity Parish. The present officers are president-Laura Lukes, 1st vice president-Miriam Humpal,  $2^{nd}$  vice president-Margaret Hruska, secretary-Joyce Swestka and treasurer-Adelyne Panos.

Information provided by Rita Kovarik

### List of Janitors at Holy Trinity, Starting 1927

Joe Michalec, Ben Lukes, Edward Tlusty, Joseph Strnad, John Kubik, Del Kuchar, Elmo Romens, Leonard Lukes and W.F. Balik.



Rev. Allen Schmitt removing snow from the rectory roof in 1991.



W. F. "Jim" Balik, janitor, standing between the copper cones from the bell tower during remodeling in September, 1996.

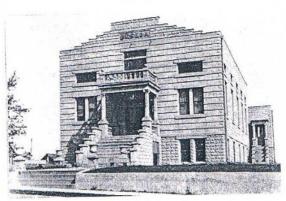
### Beseda Hall - Gymnasium

After the new church was built, Reverend Rudolph Lakomy wanted Holy Trinity Parish to build a parish hall. Since the parish was still in debt for the new church, it was decided not to build a hall. However, Reverend Lakomy persisted and eventually convinced people in the community to build the hall privately. As a result, on February 26, 1912 the Beseda was incorporated. The first officers were Reverend Rudolph Lakomy, president; Frank W. Jirak, vice president; Thomas Jira, secretary; and John A. Dostal, treasurer. Appointed to the board of directors were John Andera, Wenceslaus Chyle and Albert J. Mikesh. The corporation was established with the objective of promoting the spiritual and mental welfare of Czech people by providing a building to be used for lectures, concerts, theatricals and other educational and entertainment activities. Reverend Lakomy drew the plans for the Beseda and supervised its construction which was completed in August, 1912.

During its early years, the Beseda hosted the Ludvikovce, a Bohemian stock company from Chicago who performed operas and plays on numerous occasions, held dances and showed motion pictures. The Protivin Dramatic Club also presented many performances.

Reverend Lakomy always wanted the parish to own the hall. However, not until after his death on July 7,1925, was this dream to become a reality. At a special meeting held on January 12, 1926, Holy Trinity Parish decided to purchase the Beseda from its owners. The Beseda was then used as an auditorium and gymnasium for Rudolphinum School. By the early 1930's, the Beseda had deteriorated and was in need of repair. On January 6, 1932, the parish decided to repair, enlarge and modernize the Beseda. The new Gymnasium was dedicated on Labor Day, September 5, 1932. Sidewalks and fencing around the Gymnasium were completed in 1933.

From "Protivin a Czech Settlement" by Gerald G. Pecinovsky, 1978



Beseda, Protivin, Iowa

### Gymnasium

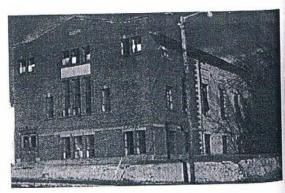
After the Beseda was converted into a gymnasium in 1932 it became the hub for parish and community activities. This large block and brick two-story building was located where the community center stands today.

The upper story was the gymnasium and had a basketball court, stage with back drop curtains depicting scenes from Bohemia, a balcony and restrooms. The nuns always sat in the balcony to watch the basketball games. On each side of the basketball floor were full length benches that were attached to the wall for fans to sit on during games. Spectators' feet would extend on to the out of bounds line requiring players to stand between fans when taking the ball "out of bounds". After 1962, the gym floor was used for practice only and the ball games were held in the larger facility, St. Wenceslaus Gym (now Chihak Hall) in Spillville.

The bottom story had a kitchen, dining room, Knights of Columbus Room, bar area, "cold room", and cloak room. Behind the bar was a mirror with a beautiful picture painted by local painter, Venzel (Wenzel) Jelinek. The "cold room" located on the north side across from the bar was used to store cold beer, meats, eggs and salads for dinners. It was a room outside the gym with a large mound of earth piled over it with a door in the basement for access.

Many high school dances ("teen hops"), plays and movies were held in the gym. Also, the annual bazaar ("Crazy Days") celebrations, church dinners, Legion fish fry, Knights of Columbus Turtle Stew suppers, and numerous wedding receptions and dances. Everyone has fond memories of the times they spent at the "Beseda".

After Rudolphinum High School closed in 1968, the gymnasium was used less and less. Heat was shut off during the winter because the building was in such poor condition. Later the building was struck by lightening, the ceiling was falling down and it was unsafe. The



Beseda after it was remodeled in 1932.

building that served the community for many years was demolished in February, 1981, to make room for the new community center.

### Protivin Community Center

Shortly after the church centennial in August, 1978. a committee was formed to investigate the possibility of building a new parish center. The decision was made to demolish the old building and construct a new center. The construction project began in June, 1981. It was decided to name the new facility, The Protivin Community Center, because the successful centennial was a community effort and some of the profit from the celebration was used to help pay for it. The center is a one-story building, handicapped accessible, with a meeting room, large kitchen and dining area for 300 people. The meeting room is also used on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the meal site sponsored by the Northland Agency on Aging and for senior citizens' meetings. The Knights of Columbus use it for their meetings also. The center is utilized by Trinity Catholic School for their activities, the annual Holy Trinity "Czech Days" celebration, auctions, dances, funeral luncheons and dinner meetings. The center and/or meeting room are available for rent for community events.



Protivin Community Center

### Bazaar

The first mention of the Holy Trinity Church Bazaar appeared in the 1926 church annual, "Letopisy". It was held for one day on February 2, 1926 with a profit of \$171.35. The bazaar, better known as "Crazy Days", turned into a three-day annual celebration held on the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday prior to Ash Wednesday. Sunday activities included a large family style dinner with the best Czech cooking available. Bingo and paddle wheel were played and the Protivin Band entertained. Later in the afternoon an alumni basket-

ball game was played. Dances were held on Monday and Tuesday evenings with revelers coming from the area communities. In the early days, much drinking and a little fighting took place. However, later on cooler heads prevailed. In the last few years the celebration took place on Sunday only. The Bazaar was discontinued in 1975. In 1976 and 1977 a monetary collection took place. The centennial celebration held in 1978 replaced the "Bazaar" and the "Czech Days" celebration held each year in August continues today.

### Holy Trinity Centennial

Holy Trinity Church celebrated its centennial on August 12 and 13, 1978. The initial meeting for this celebration took place in early 1977 with the selection of board members and committees - Board Members: President-Rev. John Ptacek, Chairman-Wm. Meirick, Secretary-Connie Samec, Treasurer-Gerald L. Dostal, Directors-Joe W. Fencl, Don Lensing, Roger Praska and John Swestka. The committees were as follows: (\*indicates chairman) Food-Marcella Swestka\* and John Swestka; Beer (Protivin Pivo)-Joe W. Fencl\* and Ronald Jirak; Parade-Don Lensing; Raffle-Eugene Kovarik\* and Norbert Ira; Publicity-Wilma Bouska\*, Martha Fencl and Margaret Hruska; Spiritual-Rev. John Ptacek; Pork barbecue-Joe Sobolik; Chicken Fry-Art Bruess; Grounds-Melvin Mlady\*, Leonard Fencl and Arnie Sobolik; Centennial Book-Gerald G. Pecinovsky; Souvenirs-Alfreda Koshatka\*, Wanda Swestka, LaVerne Bruess, Adelyne Panos and Lorraine Vopava; Souvenir Coins-Gerald L. Dostal; Tractor Pull-Art Swestka\*, Ray Bina, John Balik, James E.Bouska, James Panos, Lyle Dietzenbach, Edmund Samec and Ron Swestka; Cookbook-Senior Citizens with Amelia Infeld as chairman and Adella Ira as co-chairman; Buttons-Kenneth and Elva Shimek\* and Leo and Elmarie Pecinovsky; Ball tournament-Cornell Bruess; Entertainment-Art Bina; Music-Elmo Romens; Parish Directory-Darlene Mracek\*, Liz Strnad, Beverly Svestka, Agnes Kalishek and Irene Shores; Style Show-Sharla Fencl\*, Agnes Dostal, Betty Hadacek, Jean Pechota, Judy Polashek and Celesta Praska.

The parade, consisting of 244 units, lasted about three hours. Color guard units from Protivin, Alta Vista, New Hampton, Cresco, Lawler, Elma, Decorah, Lime Springs, Charles City and Spillville led the parade. Five marching bands including the Decorah Kilties, Crestwood High School (Cresco), Turkey Valley High School (Jackson Junction), New Hampton High School and Dubuque High School took part in the parade. Parade prize winners were: Grand Prize-Vrba Store; Religious Float-Holy Trinity School; Most Authentic-Spillville Historical Society; Historical-Fencl Farms; Judges Choice-Cresco Union Savings Bank; A grand

centennial award was given to the Protivin American Legion for their float entry depicting the flag raising at Iwo Jima during World War II.

A beard growing contest was held with judges declaring the following winners: longest beard-Jerome Bohr; reddest-Rod Kolbert; blackest-John Busta; whitest-George Goodrich; neatest-Victor Fencl; scrubbiest-Dave Stika; curliest-Wm. Andera; mixed colors-Edward Ondrashek; full beard with mustache-Bill Ondrashek; best mustache-Tom Searcy and best mustache with goatee-Elmo Romens.

Raffle tickets were sold for a new 1978 Ford pickup with a Texan topper. The lucky winners were Mr. and Mrs. John Roberson of rural Elma. An auction was held with a number of quilts and 25 silver commemorative coins being auctioned off. Each coin was numbered and the #1 coin was purchased by Bohemian Savings Bank of Protivin. The "centennial quilt" depicting the Protivin businesses was made by Gladys Nohale. It was sold at the auction with Roger Wilson of Alta Vista having the high bid of \$1,600. He donated the quilt back to the Centennial Committee and Ron Still of Cresco had the final bid of \$1225.

The weekend softball tournament was won by Bowl-A-Way Lanes of New Hampton, Iowa. A tractor pulling track was prepared at Farmers' Mill with the pull taking place on Saturday and Sunday. The beautiful summer weekend saw temperatures climb into the 90's which made for thirsty and hungry people.

The Centennial Committee had a special beer (Pivo) can made for the celebration. The can was designed by Edward "Bud" Svoboda and Gerald G. Pecinovsky, both former members of Holy Trinity Church, Protivin. The beer was brewed at Walter's Brewery in Wisconsin. An order for 100,000 cans (4,166 cases) was placed and delivered to Protivin in two semi trailer loads. These cans are collector items and can be found all over the United States as well as in the Czech Republic. The



Main Street, Protivin, after the centennial parade

cans were sold for 65 cents apiece or \$8.50 per case.

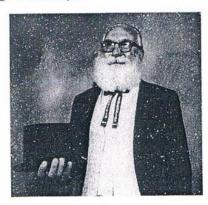
The weekend also included a Fireman's Water ball Fight, Street Dancing, Barber Shop Singers, Czech Singers, Style Show, Centennial Pageant, Muzzle Loader Shoot, Square Dancing, Antique Machinery Display and two Polka Masses. Buttons and souvenirs were available as well.

Food was a large part of the celebration. The crowd consumed 2,300 pounds of bratwurst, 20,000 kolaches, 8000 servings at the chicken barbecue, 8000 servings at the pork barbecue, hundreds of pounds of loose meat sandwiches and gallons of homemade chicken noodle soup. (1500 chickens were cooked and 500 pounds of noodles were made for soup).

The Iowa Highway Patrol estimated a crowd of between 20 to 25 thousand people turned out for the parade on Saturday morning. Vehicles were backed up for over two miles on all roads leading into Protivin prior to the parade. Sunday's crowd was estimated at over 15,000. About 100 acres of land surrounding the town were prepared for parking. A temporary campground was set up for 300 campers at no charge.

After the successful celebration many volunteers came and the clean up of the grounds was complete by noon on Monday. A net profit of approximately \$100,000 was realized from the weekend - \$10,000 of this profit was donated to the City of Protivin to be used for park and recreational facilities. The balance of the profit was used to help pay for the construction of the Protivin Community Center built in 1981.

The final business of the centennial was the burial of two time capsules-one to be opened in 50 years (2028) and the other in 100 years (2078). The time capsules are baby vaults donated by Don Conway of Conway Funeral Homes, Cresco. The capsules are buried in front of the mass sign in front of Holy Trinity Church. This project was planned and organized by Dennis Balik as his Eagle Scout Project.



Barber, Edward F. Pecinovsky, 1978 centennial

### Centennial Cookbook

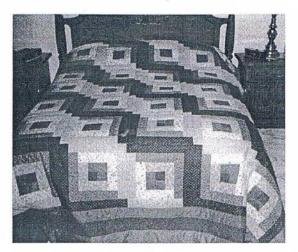
In June of 1977 the Holy Trinity Centennial Committee discussed with the senior citizens about being in charge of publishing a cookbook to sell at the centennial celebration. Amelia Infeld was nominated by the senior citizens to be the chairman with Adella Ira as cochairman. All parishioners were asked to participate in the project by submitting their favorite recipes. It was decided that the cookbook would have a blue cover and be named "Favorite Recipes" Holy Trinity Parish, Protivin, Iowa. The cookbooks were ready for sale in November, 1977. Not only were they a big seller during the centennial celebration, but they were sold thru the years and mailed to almost every state in the US. The final book was sold in 2000 making a grand total of 11,955 cookbooks that were sold.



Amelia Infeld, chairman of the centennial cookbook project.

### Czech Days

The "Czech Days" celebration at Holy Trinity Parish started with the Church Centennial celebration in 1978 and has been held annually the third weekend in August. In mid July, the ladies begin baking - the 2004 Czech Days celebration consisted of baking 1400 dozen kolaches and 800 dozen rohliky and making 325 pounds of noodles for the chicken noodle soup. The weekend celebration begins on Friday evening with a dance in the main tent, a slo-pitch softball tournament at the ballpark and food is served at the Protivin Community Center. Every fifth year a parade is held on Saturday morning. By noon on Saturday the town is buzzing with people. There are games for the young, volleyball, basketball and golf putting for the older youth and teenagers and polka music and a beer garden for the older folks. Bingo is played and stops only during Mass. Each lady of the parish is asked to donate two cakes for the cake walk which is popular with the young and old - every-



Log cabin quilt stitched by Alfreda Koshatka, Gertrude Novak and RoseMary Pecinovsky for the first Czech Days Celebration.

one has a smile when they carry off their winnings. Food is served in the air-conditioned community center starting Friday evening, all day Saturday and all day Sunday. The menu consists of chicken noodle soup with rohliky, creamed chicken, brats and barbecued pork sandwiches, kolaches and cake. The brats are grilled outdoors and served on the grounds as well as in the center. Sunday's activities begin with a polka mass followed by more music, games, bingo, beer and food. The celebration ends on Sunday evening with the auction and drawing for the raffle prizes. A hand-stitched quilt is auctioned off as well as numerous other items. Chances are sold on another quilt and that drawing also takes place at that time. The profits from this celebration, usually in the \$40,000 range, are used for parish expenses and operation of the catholic grade school.



Typical Czech Day meal – noodle soup, rohliky, creamed chicken on bread and poppy seed cake!

Jan Hansmeier and Mary Pecinovsky cooking chickens for noodle soup, 2000.



Rita Kovarik working with noodle dough.



Many hands make light work Kneading noodle dough: left, Darlene Shindelar; center-Irene Bruess; right-Evelyn Sobolik.

### Arts and Crafts Show

The annual Arts and Crafts Show takes place the third weekend in October. Started in 1983 with Ann Meirick and Alfreda Koshatka as chairpersons, the ladies of the Rosary Society offer a lunch with a menu consisting of homemade chicken noodle soup and rohliky, sandwiches, cakes and pies. Approximately 60 crafters provide bakery, arts and crafts for sale. A raffle of items donated by the crafters and ladies of the parish is held in conjunction with the show. The show was originally started with the purpose of raising additional revenue to help pay the debt on the Community Center. After this debt was satisfied, the show continued with the proceeds used for improvements to the building and the kitchen. The roof was shingled, doors replaced, dishwasher installed, stainless steel sinks and countertops were installed and bathrooms were updated. Other chairpersons include Helen Fencl and Carol Barloon 1992-1995, June Moudry and Cheryl Mracek 1996-2002, June Moudry and Lois Alberton in 2003 when the last show was held. The Rosary Society voted to discontinue this show because of declining interest.

> Information submitted by Alfreda Koshatka and June Moudry



LuVerne and Irene Bruess at the Arts and Crafts Show, 2002.

### **Religious Vocations**

# Sister Mary Ann Eichenseer

(No Photo Available)

Mary Ann Eichenseer was born April 20, 1943, the daughter of George A. and Delores (Biernbaum) Eichenseer. She joined the convent of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, WI., in 1960. She worked in Wisconsin, Nebraska and Iowa and taught at Holy Trinity Grade School in Protivin 1977-1981. Since 1997 she has been the School Sisters of St. Francis U. S. Province records clerk where she is responsible for the records of the living, deceased and former sisters. Sister Mary Ann is on call 24/7.

### Fencl, Rev. Leonard J., S.J.

Father Leonard J. Fencl was born November 5, 1903, in Howard County Iowa the son of Frank J. and Marie (Pecinovsky) Fencl. He attended the parochial school in Protivin where he graduated from the eighth grade. Following the advice of the pastor, Rev. Rudolph Lakomy, and Rev. W. Dostal, he entered Champion College at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. He graduated from high school there and joined the Society of Jesus. On September 8, 1924, he took the religious vows of the Jesuit Order. He was ordained a priest on June 23, 1935, and Father Leonard Fencl said his first Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Protivin on June 30, 1935. He spent more than forty years serving on the Pine Ridge

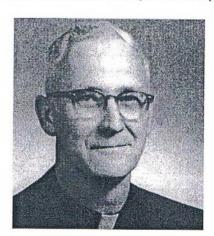


Father Leonard J.Fencl, S.J.

Indian Reservation at Porcupine and Pine Ridge, South Dakota. He died May 25, 1986, and is buried at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery at Porcupine, SD.

### Frana, Rev. Clarence

The Rev. Clarence L. Frana was born June 20, 1925, in rural Lime Springs, Iowa, the son of Albert W. and Mary (Humpal) Frana. His family later moved to the Protivin area. He graduated from Rudolphinum High School in 1944 and attended St. Procopius College in Lisle, Illinois, Loras College in Dubuque and theological college at the Catholic University in Washington D.C. He was ordained June 2, 1951, at Christ the King Chapel, Loras College, by Archbishop Leo Binz. Father Frana said his first Mass at Holy Trinity Church in Protivin. He served as chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids, associate pastor at St.Patrick's, Waukon, St.Ludmilla's and St.Wenceslaus in Cedar Rapids. He served as pastor at Assumption in Little Turkey and during this time he was also on the faculty at Rudolphinum High School in Protivin, St. Wenceslaus in Duncan, St. Wenceslaus in Cedar Rapids, Immaculate Conception in Gilbertville, St. Ludmilla in Cedar Rapids, St.Mary's in Strawberry Point and St. Mary's in Lamont. After Father Frana retired to Cedar Rapids in 1995, he helped out at many of the local parishes. He was a Navy veteran of World War II, a member of the Knight of Columbus, Catholic Workman, Catholic Order of Foresters and the American Legion. Father Clarence Frana died Sept 1, 2002, with services from St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church and burial with military honors at St. John's Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.



Rev. Clarence Frana

### Hubka, Brother Anthony



Brother Anthony Hubka

Brother Anthony Hubka O.S.B. was born November 10, 1915, the son of Joseph J. and Anna R. (Tupy) Hubka. He served in World War II and became a Benedictine Brother at St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, Illinois. Brother Anthony Hubka died March 12, 1964, and is buried at Lisle, Illinois.

### Sister Methodia Jilma



Sister Methodia Jilma

Cecilia Barbara Jilma was born December 1, 1898, the daughter of Josef and Barbara (Samec) Jilma. She joined the order of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, WI., on July 19, 1913. Cecilia took the name of Sister Methodia and began her teaching career at the age of 15. She taught at Holy Trinity Grade School in Protivin from 1970 to 1976. She also taught latin for many years. When she was stationed in Chicago, she

taught Archbishop Daniel Kucera how to be an altar boy. Sister Methodia died on September 22, 1990, at the Maryhill Retirement Center in Milwaukee following a short illness.

Sister M. Majella Klimesh



Sister M. Majella Klimesh

Rose Victoria Klimesh, the daughter of Frank J. and Eleanor (Sobolik) Klimesh, was born June 18, 1895, in rural Chickasaw County Iowa. She was baptized at St. Wenceslaus Church in Spillville on July 2. Her godparents were Frank Sobolik and Mary Moravec. Rose entered the convent of the School Sisters of St. Francis at Milwaukee, WI., at the age of 13 after graduating from parochial school in Protivin. Upon completion of her novitiate in 1912, Rose, now called Sister Mary Majella, took up teaching duties in music and as organist at Holy Ghost Parish in Milwaukee. Subsequently, she served in various schools in Illinois and Wisconsin before returning to the mother house in Milwaukee in 1973. Sister Majella joined her family and friends at Protivin to celebrate Joe and Adella Kerian's 50th wedding anniversary in July, 1977. Adella and Sister Majella were sisters. Following a short illness, Sister Majella passed away in Milwaukee on August 13, 1979, and is buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery.

### Sister Annette Martinek

Annette Marie Martinek, daughter of John F. and Adella (Pecinovsky) Martinek, was born May 19, 1937, and graduated from Rudolphinum High School in 1955. She joined the School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee,



Sister Annette Martinek

WI., on June 13, 1956. After graduation from college, she taught in various schools in the Midwest including Holy Trinity School in Protivin from 1986 to 1992. While teaching in Protivin she also helped care for her mother. She currently lives in Campbellsport, WI., where she cares for the elderly sisters.

### Sister Grata Panos

(No Photo Available)

Anna Panos (1890-1977), the daughter of Albert Sr. and Barbara (Knechtal) Panos, joined the Sisters of St. Francis at Milwaukee, WI., and took the name of Sister Grata. No further information available.

### Sister Joyce Ann Panos

Joyce Ann Panos was born April 21, 1944, to Leonard (1915-1965) and Margaret (Vsetecka) Panos (1917-1945). She graduated from Rudolphinum High School in1962. Shortly thereafter she entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, WI. On August 3, 1963, she took her vows and the name Sister M. Dennis Ann. She taught schools in Nebraska. When given the opportunity to change her name to her baptismal name, she changed her name to Sister Joyce Ann. She currently resides in Milwaukee where she drives a handicapped accessible van providing transportation for the elderly nuns.

### Sister Corbiniana Pechota

Stella Pechota (April 1, 1890-June 2, 1984), daughter of Frank and Marie (Polodna) Pechota, entered the convent of the School Sisters of St. Francis on June 13, 1906. She had a twin sister, Lena Shileny. She worked



Sister Joyce Ann Panos



Sister Corbiniana Pechota

as a housekeeper at the convent in Protivin from 1966 to 1968 and 1970 to 1973.

### Sister M. Mathilda Pecinovsky

Rosalia (Rose) Pecinovsky was born on March 14, 1899, the youngest daughter of Joseph Alois and Catherine (Holub) Pecinovsky. She was born and raised on a farm 1½ miles north of Protivin in New Oregon Township Howard County Iowa. She attended Holy Trinity Grade School in Protivin. While in grade school, she was interested in becoming a nun. During her 8th



Sister M. Mathilda Pecinovsky, O.S.F.

grade, Rosalia (at age13) was received into the School Sisters of St. Francis at St. Joseph Convent in Milwaukee, WI. She officially entered the convent on February 22, 1912, and took the name Sister M. Mathilda. She taught at Veseli, MN. and at Blessed Agnes in Chicago, IL. prior to her illness. Her illness was short but she suffered a great deal and died on July 5, 1916 at St. Joseph's Convent in Milwaukee. Her parents asked that her body be brought to Protivin because they were unable to travel to Milwaukee. Sisters from St. Joseph's accompanied her body to Protivin.

The day of the funeral was described as beautiful and many people came. The casket lay in state at Holy Trinity Church the entire day and night before the funeral and people took turns keeping vigil. On the day of the funeral, the casket was taken to the school where the funeral procession accompanied the body to Holy Trinity Church. Four priests were in the sanctuary awaiting the 66 bridesmaids who accompanied the body. It was a large funeral and the service was conducted by the priest who baptized her, Rev. Jan P. Broz. He spoke of the religious order and prayed that many of the other girls would follow Sister Mathilda's example. She is buried at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Protivin, Iowa.

### Sister Milada Polashek

Agnes Polashek, daughter of William and Rose (Bittner) Polashek, became a nun and took the name of Sister Milada. Very little is known about Sister Milada. She taught at Holy Trinity School in Protivin from 1935 to 1936.

### Sindelar, Rev. John P.



Rev. John P. Sindelar

Father John P. Sindelar was born April 29, 1902, in Protivin, Iowa, the son of John P. Sr. and Antonia (Kral) Sindelar. He received his education at St. Procopius College at Lisle, Illinois, Columbia College in Dubuque and St. Paul's Seminary at St. Paul, MN. He was ordained to the Priesthood for the Archdiocese of Dubuque on March 16, 1929, by Most Rev. J.J.Keanne, Archbishop of Dubuque. Because his father was ill, the ordination took place at his home parish of Holy Trinity in Protivin which was very unusual for that day. There had been a snow storm and the men of the parish shoveled the roads so the Archbishop could travel to Protivin. Father Sindelar was first assigned to St. Wenceslaus in Cedar Rapids as an assistant pastor where he served for three years. The last five years of his life he was pastor at Holy Trinity at Walford, Iowa. His mother, Antonia, was his housekeeper. After an eight week illness, Father John Sindelar died at Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids at the age of 35 on August 15, 1937. Services were held at Holy Trinity in Walford and Holy Trinity in Protivin with burial at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Protivin, IA.

### Tuchek, Rev. Edward

Father Edward Tuchek was born February 14, 1914, in Howard County Iowa, the son of Charles and Stella (Blazek) Tuchek. He graduated from Rudolphinum High School in 1932 and was ordained a Priest for the Archdiocese of Lincoln, NE, in 1940. Many of our veterans had nowhere to go when they returned home after World War II. Father Tuchek helped



Father Edward Tuchek

them find jobs, schools and in some cases, foster homes. In the 1950's, Father Tuchek was given the responsibility of St. Thomas Orphanage at Lincoln, NE. This orphanage sponsored over 200 children who were displaced when Cubans were fleeing the Castro takeover. He met the challenge of placing these youngsters in foster homes, through adoption, or simply seeing that they were properly cared for until they could adapt and care for themselves. The Vietnamese War also created a crisis. Now that he was the Director of the Catholic Social Service, and with his experience in placing children, Father Tuchek was able to place over 300 Vietnamese who were referred to the Diocese of Lincoln. These children and adults were placed in homes, schools and jobs throughout the state. Over a period of ten years, Father sponsored Criso Rey in Lincoln, a home for delinquent boys. During that time over 100 boys were helped through referral by the judicial system. These boys were either given a place to live at Cristo Rey or were placed in other caring environments. Father Tuchek had many experiences and successes in giving service to mankind. He said his greatest joy is that five of his boys for whom he cared for at St. Thomas Orphanage and Cristo Rey have become physicians. He also served at Boys Town and was pastor at Lincoln, NE. His philosophy in dealing with people was simple. The credo he lived by was "Be kind to your fellowmen and they in turn will be kind to others". Father Edward Tuchek died November 14, 1986, and is buried at Lincoln, NE.