

We are the Community. We are the Church.

*Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the First Mass
at Sacred Heart Church at Nelthorpe Street
on September 5, 2015*

12

November 22-23, 2014

Special 50th Anniversary edition of Directory/Photo Album

- ✓ Rates for placement of messages of congratulations/gratitude in the publication have been reduced to: **\$1,000 for full page; \$500 for half-page; \$250 for quarter-page; \$125 for one-eighth-page;** and, now, **25 words for a maximum of three lines** [including names] **is \$50.** Deadlines is now **Sunday, November 30, 2015**
- ✓ Parishioners, who completed the parish census form and handed them in, will be included in the "Directory" section. However, they will **NOT** get a **FREE** copy of the photo album. If they must order a copy and pay \$12.50+GST+PST **BEFORE** the Directory/Photo Album is approved for printing.
- ✓ Parishioners can give their own portrait photo for inclusion in the Directory/Photo Album, but the photo cannot have a copyright of a photographer/studio. If it does, it must have the permission of the photographer/studio for it to be included. There is a charge of \$12.50+GST+PST for inclusion and it must be paid when the photo is submitted. Deadline is **Sunday, November 30, 2015.**

Did you know?

He was the longest-serving priest — 21 years — at Sacred Heart Church, ministering to the Polish-speaking faith community.

Fr. Anthony Kwarta [Antoniogo Kwarty] was at Sacred Heart Church from February 27, 1967, until he passed away on December 16, 1988 at age 81. Our 9th parish pastor, Fr. Sigismond Lajoie, Franciscan, served for 20 years.

Our 4th pastor, Fr. Jan Planeta, invited Fr. Kwarta to move from the Buffalo Diocese, where he served for 17 years mostly as an assistant pastor in various parishes before health issues got him down.

The two priests were born in Poland, went to the same seminary, were ordained by the same bishop, and were arrested by the Nazis and spent the same time at concentration camps.

Fr. Kwarta was born on December 29, 1909, in Tarnow, Poland, nine months after Fr. Planeta. He was ordained on June 29, 1936, two year after Fr. Planeta, in the same church by Tarnow's Bishop Franciszek Lisowski.

After his ordination, Fr. Kwarta served as an assistant pastor at Baroque Church of St. Mary

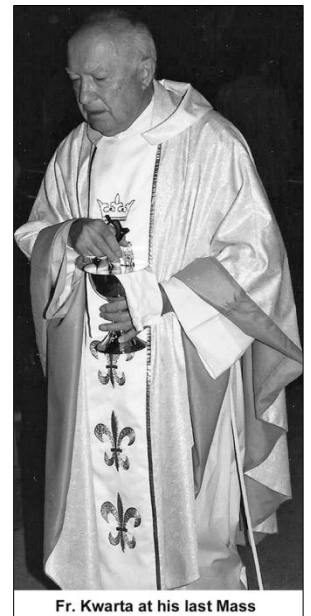


Fr. Kwarta at 50th Anniversary of his ordination

Magdalene in Szczeuin until April 5, 1941, when he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned in a Tarnow jail for a year. Then he was transferred to concentration camps in Auschwitz and Dachau and on April 29, 1945, both he and Fr. Planeta were set free.

After the war, Fr. Kwarta worked among the displaced persons in Germany until June 30, 1949, when he immigrated to Loretta, Ontario, Canada. The next year, on June 16, 1950, he joined the Buffalo Diocese and 17 years later he came to Sacred Heart Church.

In 1986, Fr. Kwarta celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination at Sacred Heart Church with Bishop Remi de Roo and Fr. Sigismond Lajoie concelebrating the jubilee Mass.



Fr. Kwarta at his last Mass

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50th Anniversary bulletins can be viewed at: <http://www.sacredheartvictoria.com/anniversary>

On December 4, 1988, Fr. Kwarta celebrated his last Mass in the church. He died on December 16, 1988, and was buried in Ross Bay Cemetery.

Anne Switalska, who played the organ at all Masses for the Polish-speaking faith community from 1967 to 1988, is a staunch Fr. Kwarta supporter and keeper of his memorabilia and the records of all the baptism, first communions, weddings and funerals where Fr. Kwarta presided.

She says Fr. Kwarta was a pastoral priest who kept in close contact with his parishioners and was involved in the activities of the White Eagle Polish Association and the White Eagle Polish Hall in Victoria. The association, established on January 1, 1954, had a 60th anniversary celebration on November 8 this year. It followed a Mass celebrated by Bishop Gary Gordon on November 2 at Sacred Heart Church.



Notes:

- Even before Poland became Christian under Prince Mieczyslaw I [962-992], there were Christians in Polish territory.
- St. Adalbert of Prague, one of Poland's four patron saints, went to Poland from 995-996 and was welcomed by Boleslaw I the Brave, duke of Poland and later king.
- As early as 970, a Polish bishopric was established at Posen, under the archbishop of Magdeburg, Germany.
- A fur merchant from Gdansk, Dominik Barcz, is the first known immigrant from Poland to come to Canada. He came in 1752.
- Immigration from Poland stopped during World War I and, between the two world wars, more than 100,000 came Canada.
- The first Catholic priest from Poland visited immigrants of Polish ancestry in 1862 in Kitchener.
- Waves of immigrants from Poland came from 1890-1914, 1920-1939, and 1941.
- The first Catholic bishop of Polish ancestry in Canada is Bishop Mathew Ustrzycki, consecrated in June, 1985, as Hamilton Diocese's auxiliary bishop.
- There are priests of Polish ancestry in many religious congregations. In addition, 80 priests are serving in 120 parishes.
- There are more than a million Canadians who claim full or partial Polish ancestry. In British Columbia there are more than 11,000.



**Catholicism
in the continents**

Our Pastors 

Focus on Asia

Besides missionary visits of some apostles to Turkey, this Asian country was the birthplace of St. Paul [Tarsus] — c. 5 - c. 67, St. Timothy [Lystra] — c. 17 - c. 97, St. Nicholas [Lycra] - 270-343, St. Polycarp [Smyrna] c. 69 - 150s or 160s, and many others.



St. Paul's missionary journeys from 37 - 67 BCE were, but not limited to, Turkey. He is said to have written his First Letter to the Corinthians in Ephesus, possibly the Letter to The Galatians in Ephesus or Antioch and, maybe the Letter to Titus in Ephesus. Turkey also had two of the five centers, or patriarchates, of the ancient pentarchy: Constantinople [Istanbul]

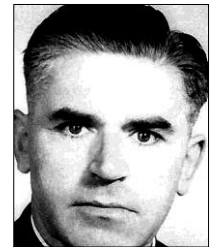
and Antioch [Antakya]. The latter was where followers of Jesus were called "Christians" for the first time in history, during St. Paul's first missionary journey in 49.

Antioch is also where, according to Christian tradition, St. Peter, founder of the church of Antioch, first preached in Turkey.

The spot where he preached is where St. Peter's Cave Church was carved into the mountainside on Mount Starius and is one of Christianity's oldest churches.

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Fr. Jan Planeta



Fr. Planeta was one of many priests imprisoned by the Nazis.

According to Dr. Johannes Neutrausler, in *What was it like in the Concentration Camp in Dachau*: "Dachau was the camp where 2,730 clergymen were sent including 2,579 Catholic priests. The priests at Dachau were separated from the other prisoners and housed together in several barrack buildings in the rear of the camp. There were 1,780 Polish priests and 447 German priests at Dachau. Of the 1,034 priests who died in the camp, 868 were Polish and 94 were Germans."

After the liberation of Dachau by the U.S. army on April 29, Fr. Planeta acted as chaplain to Polish troops in Germany for one year. Then, from July '46 until the end of '49, he was a chaplain of the transmigration camp in Germany.

In January '50, he left Germany for Canada. He came directly to Victoria because Bishop James Hill invited him to come to the diocese.

"Most Canadian Catholics are wonderful," he said in *The Torch* interview in June 1959. "I feel there are more exceptionally good Catholics than there are in Poland. However, Canadian Catholics do not try to be better than other Canadian people. They often accept the standard of the majority."

He thought this is one aspect of living that we fall down on: religion in our everyday life.

Continued in bulletin #13