Saint George
Romanian Catholic Church
corner of Rural and Sheridan
Aurora, Illinois

our 75th
Diamond Jubilee Celebration
1935—2010

The weekend schedule is as follows:
Saturday, November 13, 2010
Ten o'clock in the morning
Divine Liturgy served in memory of
The Revered Father
John Vuc+
and the Founders of
St. George Parish
(Paos to follow the Liturgy)

Sunday, November 14, 2010
Ten o'clock in the morning
Solemn Divine Liturgy
of Thanksgiving
For 75 years of parish life
(Brunch to follow at St. George Hall)

Diocese of Rockford
555 Colman Center Drive
P.O. Box 7044
Rockford, Illinois 61125

(815) 399-4300
Fax (815) 399-4769

Office of the Bishop

November, 2010

St. George Byzantine Catholic Church
720 Rural Street
Aurora, IL 60505

My Dear Friends in Christ,

It is a pleasure and an honor to be able to congratulate the people of St. George Byzantine Catholic Church on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary. Through three-quarters of a century the people of your parish have remained faithful to the Holy Catholic Church while maintaining the rites and cultures which they have brought to this country for the enrichment of us all.

To all of the people who have been and are members of this wonderful community, we offer our congratulations, our prayers and best wishes; faithful to their own bishop, they are nonetheless valued and beloved members of the Catholic community of this Diocese.

We pray for the deceased members of the parish and ask Godôs choicest blessings for those who are presently its members and may God prosper those people and their pastors.

With every good wish, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

+ Thomas G. Doran

The Most Reverend Thomas G. Doran, D.D., J.C.D.
Bishop of Rockford

St. George Byzantine Catholic Church
A Parish of the Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton, Ohio
720 Rural Street • Aurora, Illinois 60505 • (630) 851-4002

October, 2010

Dear parishioners and friends of St. George:

It is with great joy that this letter comes to you, announcing in an official capacity the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Saint George Romanian Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois. From difficult and demanding beginnings, through years marked by sacrifice and struggle, the parish has flourished and grown to meet the spiritual needs of the original neighborhood and now far beyond.

Seventy-five years later, we can see how the Holy Spirit has guided and inspired a whole succession of priests, councilmen, cantors, youth group leaders and Ladies Auxiliary members to achieve what at the outset may have seemed impossible. Thoughts turn to the founding pastor, Fr. John Vuc who is with us in spirit and no doubt would be pleased with parish life in our time. The establishment and building of the current church structure was a highlight of years now past and today we seek together the will of God for the parish and the lives of all who come to us.

Certainly, as the Church teaches, we remain faithful to the liturgical observance and traditions that are a part of the Byzantine Rite. Our love of Sacred Scripture, the Holy Icons, the beautiful Romanian melodies of the liturgical chant are but a few of the areas that have been cherished in the past and continue to inspire us in our spiritual lives.

Let us pray that this time of remembrance, celebration and hope will be a further step for all of us into the mystery of the cross and resurrection, so that growing together we may become more effective channels for God's purpose to heal the wounds of mankind, and to restore once again both in our parish and our families the likeness of his glory as revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.

Your priests,

Fr. Frederick Fr. Ron

HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI

Most Reverend John Michael Botean
Bishop for the Romanian Byzantine Rite
Catholics in the United States
at The Cathedral of Saint George
in Canton, Ohio

ROMANIAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE
(Romanian Byzantine Rite)
1121 44th Street, N.E.
Canton, OH 44714
(330) 493-9355
FAX: (330) 493-9963

www.romaniancatholic.org

ROMANIAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE
Eparchy of St. George in Canton

October 15, 2010

Office of the Bishop
Prot. No.: 987522/2010

Reverend and dear Father Frederick; beloved brothers and sisters,

Congratulations and many blessings on the occasion of your 75th anniversary! Although I am really quite disappointed not to be able to be physically present with you as you celebrate this landmark year, I am nevertheless filled with joy on your behalf. It is quite a milestone that you observe on this occasion, and I thank God that, 75 years after your founding, St. George shows such signs of life and Gospel vitality. Your parish is one that the entire diocese rightly takes pride in, as I do personally, and this is truly a blessing from God for all of us.

All beginnings are hard, and not all of them are auspicious. In your case, it was the pain of misunderstandings and divisions among our people in Aurora that brought your parish into existence. In the mystery of God's loving providence, however, the suffering of your founders was not at all in vain, for I can tell you truthfully that I am proud to tell people that our diocese has two strong and faithful parishes in a city I, in my short time there, have grown to love. St. George's unique personality and the fierce dedication of its people have borne fruit in ways that, I am certain, your founders never anticipated.

Though all of the priests who have served St. George surely deserve our gratitude, one cannot help but recognize in a special way Father John Vuc's dedication and loyalty to you at your founding, as well as the twenty years of devoted and disciplined leadership with which then-Father Louis Puscas served you. I am sure you keep their loving memory alive in your hearts. Lately, it has been Father Frederick Peterson's unique gifts, not to mention his love for Christ's altar and our Romanian-Byzantine traditions, that have sparked new growth in your community and new hope in my own heart for your future. I would expect that you, upon the altar of your own prayers, have made it a habit to keep Father Fred ever before the Lord.

I would urge each of you, as you enjoy this day, to offer a special prayer of gratitude to God for the gift that your parish has been to you. It would also be a good occasion to reflect individually, and perhaps together at some time, upon the path the Lord may be calling you to follow for the future. You can be sure that, for my part, I will likewise be praying in gratitude to God for the gift that each of you has been to your parish and, together, the gift that you have been to our Church.

May our bountiful Savior continue to grant you a fruitful harvest of souls in His vineyard, and may He grant you many, many more years of joyful life together as His family.

With the assurance of my continual prayers and blessings many times over, I remain

Yours in Christ our hope,

John Michael

(Most Reverend) John Michael Botean, DD
Bishop
Eparchy of St. George

1121 - 44TH Street NE • Canton, OH 44714 • Tel: (330) 493-9355 • Fax: (330) 493-9963
www.romaniancatholic.org

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Proclamation

Presented this 14th Day of November 2010

WHEREAS, early 20th Century Romanian immigrants began Saint George American Romanian Greek Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois as a means for continuing their religious practices; and,

WHEREAS, parishioners first gathered in a high school auditorium for their Sunday services, but soon needed a building of their own as their numbers grew; and,

WHEREAS, in 1934 they began excavating a home on the corner of Rural and Sheridan, building a basement to house their church for the next thirty-one years; and,

WHEREAS, mass today is held in a magnificent building in the same location, completed in 1966 and called the "crown jewel" of all Romanian churches across the country by Bishop Louis Puscas; and,

WHEREAS, changes to the church were not limited to its edifice, as it joined the Diocese of Rockford in 1955 and adopted the name St. George Romanian Catholic Church; and,

WHEREAS, over its seventy-five year history, St. George Church has not only stood as place of worship, but as a cultural center for the Romanian-American community ; and,

WHEREAS, it has enabled long-held Romanian traditions to continue on through wedding celebrations, picnics of ethnic foods and desserts, and annual Christmas Eve caroling; and,

WHEREAS, on this 14th of November, 2010, St. George Romanian Catholic Church commemorates its history, parishioners, and beloved priests and pastors at its Diamond Jubilee Celebration:

THEREFORE, be it resolved, by the State of Illinois, that I hereby recognize and commend Saint George Byzantine Catholic Church on the occasion of its 75th anniversary of serving the local community and the State of Illinois.

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

AUG 26TH 1818

Pat Quinn

Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
103A STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/782-0052
FAX: 217/782-4079

DISTRICT OFFICE:
52 WEST DOWNER PLACE
SUITE 201
AURORA, ILLINOIS 60506
630/264-2334
FAX: 630/264-1566

www.lauzen.com

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

CHRIS LAUZEN
STATE SENATOR
25TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

MINORITY SPOKESMAN
REVENUE

MEMBER:
APPROPRIATIONS I
APPROPRIATIONS II
CONSUMER PROTECTION
PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS
PUBLIC HEALTH
LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
COMMISSION-CO-CHAIR

November 2010

Pastor Father Frederick Peterson, OSB
Saint George Byzantine Catholic Church
720 Rural Street
Aurora, IL 60505

Dear Father Peterson,

Hearty congratulations to Aurora's Saint George Byzantine Catholic Church as it celebrates its 75th Diamond Jubilee.

I'm very proud of my Romanian heritage and my association with Saint George's throughout the years. I have some wonderful memories of enjoying the people of the Church as well as the stuffed cabbages, carnati, and miosh. My Grandpa George Moldovan took care of our family through his catering business and the Church property was just a long block behind Aunt Florence and Uncle George Kish's home.

I always wondered as a child why there were orchards of apple and plum trees in the back yards of my relatives. It wasn't until I visited Romania and was asked to taste palinka that I understood where a lot of that fruit was meant to go!

Best wishes for many more successful years of tending to the spiritual and social lives of your parishioners.

Very sincerely,

Christopher J. Lauzen

/fms

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INKS

Proclamation

St. George Romanian Catholic Church 75th Anniversary
November 13, 2010

WHEREAS, St. George Romanian Catholic Church will celebrate its 75th year since its founding; and

WHEREAS, St. George Church has stood as a place of worship since 1935 for the Romanian Faithful in Aurora, and has been a stable presence in the "Pigeon Hill" neighborhood of the city of Aurora, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, St. George Church is now a part of the world wide Romanian Catholic community with its own hierarch in the United States of America, currently John Michael Botean, DO of the Eparchy of St. George in Canton, Ohio for the Romanians; and

WHEREAS, the parish has enabled Romanian cultural and religious traditions brought by the original founders to continue and flourish, passing them on to new generations of church members; and

WHEREAS, the 75th Diamond Jubilee celebration will begin on Saturday, November 13th with a Divine Liturgy offered for the repose of Fr. John Vuc and the parish founders, then continues with a Solemn Liturgy of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 14th followed by a brunch at St. George Hall; and

WHEREAS, on this 14th day of November 2010 St. George Romanian Catholic Church will commemorate its history, founders, parishioners and beloved priests and pastors at this Diamond Jubilee celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I. Thomas J. Weisner, Mayor of the City of Aurora, Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 13th – 14th, 2010 as **"St. George Romanian Catholic Church 75th Anniversary"** in the city of Aurora, Illinois.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Aurora to be affixed this 13th day of November, 2010

Thomas J. Weisner, Mayor
Aurora, Illinois

The Rector
together with the Parishioners of
St. George Romanian Catholic Cathedral
join in prayer of thanksgiving to God
on the occasion
of the seventy-fifth anniversary of

St. George
Romanian Catholic Church

☆ ☆ ☆

May the Lord God grant the clergy and the parishioners of St. George, his peace, wisdom, strength, vigor and the power of love!

And many, many happy years!

La Mulţi Ani!!!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to
St. George Parish
on your
75th Anniversary.

From the clergy and parishioners
Of Sts. Peter and Paul
Romanian Catholic Church.
Chicago, Illinois.

La multi ani!

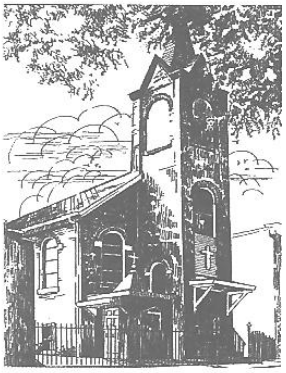
Dear Father Fred and all parishioners,

The communities of Saint Mary Romanian Catholic Church – Los Angeles and our outreach Saint John the Evangelist in Oxnard, are extending our congratulations for your wonderful accomplishment of 75 years of ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus. As one of the younger communities within our church family we are very appreciative of what a testimony you have given to Christ and his Church over all those years.

God bless you abundantly and many more anniversaries in health and happiness!

Fr. Calin Tamiian and the parishioners of
Saint Mary – Los Angeles and Saint John the Evangelist - Oxnard.

La mulți ani!



THE NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

ñSAINT MARYò

Byzantine Catholic Church

Established 1912

180 Alden Avenue ð Roebling, NJ 08554

The Parishioners from Saint Mary's Church
in Roebling, New Jersey and the Administrator, Rev. George David

Wish to Extend Heartfelt Congratulations to
Saint George Catholic Church on its
75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

Many More with God's Blessing!

The Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton,
Most Reverend John Michael Botean, Bishop
Congratulates the faithful and the clergy
of

St. George Romanian Catholic Church of Aurora, Illinois

on its 75th Anniversary.

May God bless you
with continuous love, kindness, dedication
and many more years of God's work in His vineyard.

La Mulți Ani!!!

The Administrator with all the parishioners of

St. Theodore Romanian Catholic Church

Alliance, Ohio

wish

Reverend Frederick Peterson

and the parishioners at our sister Church

St. George Romanian Catholic Church

Aurora, Illinois

Many and blessed years in God's vineyard.

We wish you love, health and happiness

along with the traditional

La Mulți Ani!!!

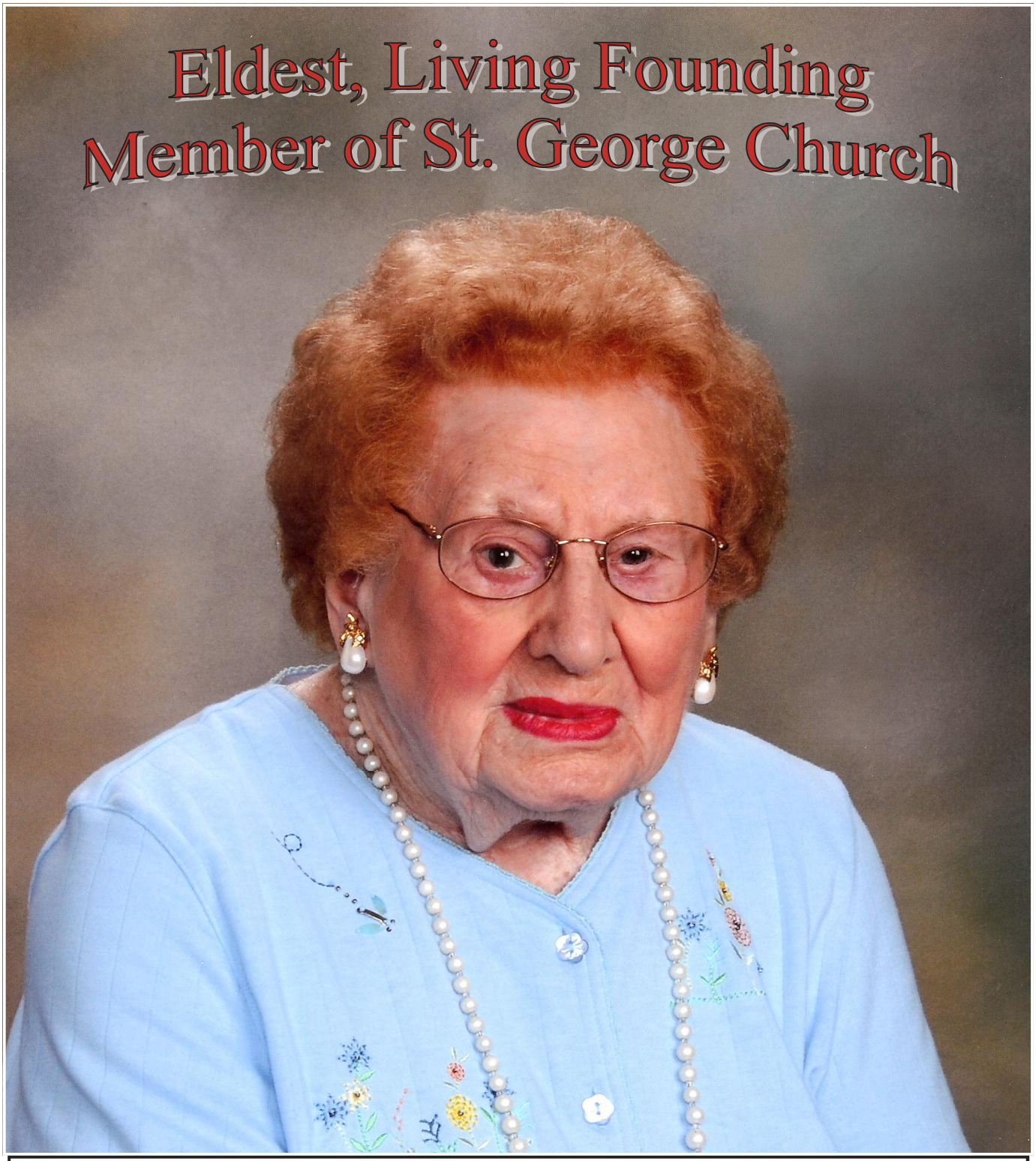
On the occasion of your 75th Anniversary

Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Administrator & all parishioners

American Road MACHINERY MINERVA, OHIO

Ad sponsored by American Road Machinery, Inc.
in memory of Emil J. Hank and
Nicholas and Marie Hatzagan

Eldest, Living Founding Member of St. George Church



Mrs. Amelia P. (Pinks) Passow [102]– Oldest Living Founding Member of St. George American Romanian Greek Catholic Church established in 1935 Amelia was a former Catechism teacher at St. Michael Parochial School and is living in Leland, IL. She was born to John and Julia Pinks, firstborn daughter, followed by brother John; sisters Florence, Mary, Lena; brothers George and Victor and sister Julia.

(Photo courtesy of Cindy Westerman)

A Brief History of
Saint George Catholic Church
Romanian Byzantine Rite

As remembered by a 7-year-old boy from 1934 to the present day
by Leon Ardelean, son of Alexander and Florence Ardelean

NOTE–The following information was first published for the 65th Anniversary Celebration that was held November 11-12, 2000.

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE GREAT Depression, an idea was born (whose time had come), was brought forth and the means to achieve it were implemented.

Many dedicated Romanians that came to America in the early 1900s seeking change, founded Saint George American Romanian Greek Catholic Church.

It was determined that there would be a need for more than one Romanian church in Aurora. As early as 1934, services were being held by the faithful at the L.D. Brady school on the near east side of Aurora. Reverend Father John Vuc who was ordained in 1927 officiated in the schoolôs huge auditorium, which was filled on any given Sunday.

Money was collected and efforts were made to secure property. One house was purchased by the Demeters and was moved to a spot near the High street bridge. Another house was demolished. All that remained was a house occupied by the Burson family.

The time had come to start on the church basement (which would serve as our church for the next 31 years). The dedicated Romanians took up picks and shovels and literally carved out the foundation for the basement by hand.

Mr. Louis Okapal (Contractor) was hired to build the basement facility [now dedicated as Father John Hall] and with his ancient truck which had hard-rubber tires set about the task of erecting the edifice.

Forms were built, steel was set in place and the arduous task was begun.

A few of our founders were working on jobs, many were not. Everyone was experiencing hard times, but the dedication pulled everyone through.

Picnics and activities were held at Green Oaks on Church road, dances and activities were held at the ALEON Ballroom on north Broadway where Wayne King and many other bands came to Aurora to entertain. The Ballroom and Skating Rink later became the bus barn owned by the National City Lines when buses were replacing the streetcars.

Saint George Hall (St. George Citizen Club) was built in 1937 and many fundraisers were held there to help raise funds for the church. Much tradition came forth and was passed on to the young people (such as butchering hogs, making sausages, stuffing cabbage and baking all the famous old world pastries and breads).

Many church dinners were held on Sundays and the men would play their game of 31 at the hall. The ladies used to hold their Bunco parties and meetings.

My earliest recollection of a church picnic was in 1940, with Reverend Father John Vuc in attendance, the men rolling the ball in the outside bowling lane and a sense of well-being inspired us all. Father Vuc's presence prevailed for a long time. On Sundays, his sermons seemed to be addressed to each of us individually. He loved children and many of us stayed with the church because we felt needed.

Later as the funds were collected, a church rectory was erected to be used as a parish house for our priests. Our church front steps were placed on the Sheridan street side, which would serve as our main entrance when the new church was built. Traditionally, the eastern rite churches were built with the altar at the east end of the church so that the priest and parishioners always looked to the east.

On Easter Sunday morning, on April 17, 1955, our Reconciliation was held through the efforts of many dedicated parishioners, the founding members and others attended the ceremony where St. George Romanian Greek Catholic Church was recognized by the Diocese of Rockford and was renamed St. George Romanian Catholic Church.

After Father Vuc retired because of ill health, our beloved Reverend Father Louis Puscas was placed in charge of St. George Church and he took over the serious task of completing the building of our present edifice.

After the church was built and dedicated in 1966, to quote His Grace Bishop Louis Puscas: *"St. George Church of Aurora became the crown jewel of the Romanian parishes in the United States".*

Father Puscas stayed on for 18 years, not only serving as our priest but he was elevated to the position of Bishop. His efforts brought about the recognition made by the Romanian Catholics in America.

On December 4, 1982, His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, elevated the Romanian Catholic Exarchate to the rank of a full Diocese. On that same date, The Most Reverend Louis Puscas was designated Apostolic Exarchate by his Holiness Pope John Paul II.

Following the retirement of Father Vuc and the ascension of our Bishop, there was a succession of priests that we had the good fortune of having them administer to the needs of the members of St. George Church.

Through the efforts of Nellie Smith and with the collaboration of the parishioners, Ann Schmidt and others, we were able to piece together more information for your pleasure.

CHRONOLGY OF PRIESTS:

The Rev. Fr. John Vuc; the Rev. Francis Pall, SJ; the Rev. Robert Hoffman; the Rev. Louis Puscas; the Rev. Alexandru Ratiu; the Rev. John Pavel; the Rev. Nicholas Kusevich; the Rev. Vasile Streza; the Rev. George Kuzara, C.P.P.B.; the Rev. Michael Moisin; the Rev. Frederick Peterson, OSB.

WEDDINGS IN THE EARLY DAYS seemed to occur almost every week. In those days, a Romanian married a Romanian. Everyone enjoyed and participated in the custom of dancing with the bride and pinned money on her gown.

During the dance, the members of the wedding party would call out:

"Cine in lumē săr ăflă – şi nē joacă mireăsă. Astăz pentru bani, mâni in cinste". [translation: "who in the world will we find to dance with the bride, Today for money, tomorrow for free]. Also, the maid/matron of honor would shake an enameled pan covered with a plate, and folks would try to break the plate by throwing a coin at it [usually a half-dollar or a silver dollar]. Then others would try to ñstealò the bride and take her outside. The groom would have to pay the bring her back into the hall. There was generally a policeman in attendance to maintain order.

Coffee parties were held monthly at the hall, with the ladies playing bunco. It was always exciting to get to the Head Table, so you could ring the bell.

There were chicken dinners at the hall, which the women of the church prepared. With no air-conditioning, you would be perspiring while eating our beloved ñLŁvishÐò [chicken soup], prepared with the hand-made noodles. These wonderful dinners were held oftenï before the start of Lent, after Easter, St. Georgeôs Day, July 4th and Labor Day.

For many years, George Smith and his orchestra would play at these gatheringsï which were followed by dancing in the evenings. They would play from noon to midnight-even playing outdoors for the men playing ñCuclÐò [bowling] and a card game called ñ31ò or just visiting with each other while the ladies went to vespers.

One of our unforgettable bartenders was George [Moĸu] Silagyi. He took care of the hall for as long as I can remember. Old and young alike attended the dinners and dances. Smith and his band would play both Romanian and American music. One of the very favorite dances was the ñSŁrŁciÐò. Also in the early years, the CŁluĸeròï men and boys complete in Romanian regalia, would dance.

On Easter Sundays, we would have a procession into the church, and after the Liturgy, the priest would bless our Easter basketsï adorned with our beautiful ñPŁscŁsò [home-made Easter bread], chifla,

and of course, a bottle of wineï for many years, weather permitting, outdoors.

The ñSureti Balò [Harvest Dance] was held each fall, at the hall, fruit would be strung above the dance floor and the folks would try to ñstealò the fruit. If you got caught, you would have to pay a small fine.

On Christmas Eve, the Viflaim" (Bethlehem Boys) in costume, would go from house to house, enacting the story of the Nativity. The children of the parish would go caroling, in Romanian, to the same homes, wearing their "tascas" (sacks) to hold the goodies they received - nuts, an apple or an orange, and maybe a penny or even a nickel! Instead of knocking at the door, they would call out: "Veselica Gazda" (greetings to the master of the house). Everyone would then gather for the Midnight Liturgy, singing our cherished Christmas carols.

New Year's Eve meant another dance, with both young and old (even babies in the buggies, who would sleep right through the noise and music) ï having good fellowship, ringing in another year at St. George's.

Not to be forgotten, during World War II, the names of the servicemen from St. George church were displayed in two large frames. Each Sunday as part of the Liturgy, Father Vuc would recite the names aloud, in a chanting voice, each and every name. On the list of names, there were gold stars placed in front of the fallen heroes names.

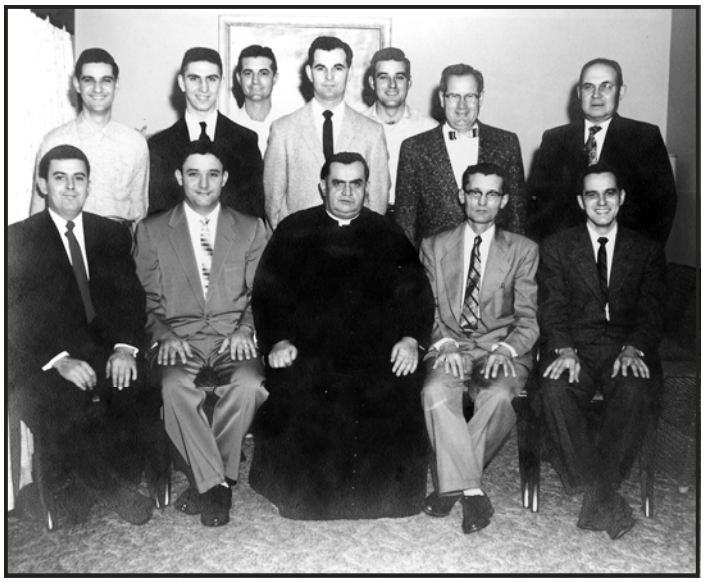
Today, as we are gathered here on the occasion of this 65th anniversary, we pray for all those before us who have made all of this possible for us. God Bless us all!

Thanks goes to those, whose efforts have made this a very special day. The singing voices, led by the cantors and the clergy, and all those in attendance to help us celebrate this 65th anniversary. We will long remember this day in the Jubilee year of 2000.

This ends the reprint section of the 65th Anniversary.

Pictured above are the Viflaim, also called Carol Singers. Seated above the shepherds are Dan Covacs, who taught the dialog and all the songs as well as being our beloved Cantor; Rev. Father John Vuc and of course August (Guste) Ratz. Soldier Dickie Banks; Baltazar, Victor Gilla; Angel, unknown; Gasper, unknown; Priest, Carl Oros; other wise man, Victor Pinks; unknown role, John Brown; Soldier, Allen Demeter. Shepherds, Gilla boy and Michael Ratz.

Members of the parishioners that also served as the church committee.



left to right: front row: Ambrose Vida; Leo Hora; Rev. Fr. John Vuc; John Szuch; Eugene Dunn. back row: Ronald Cinto; Richard Banks; Louis Oros; Victor Oros; Albert Cinto; George Ardelean, and Dan Covacs.

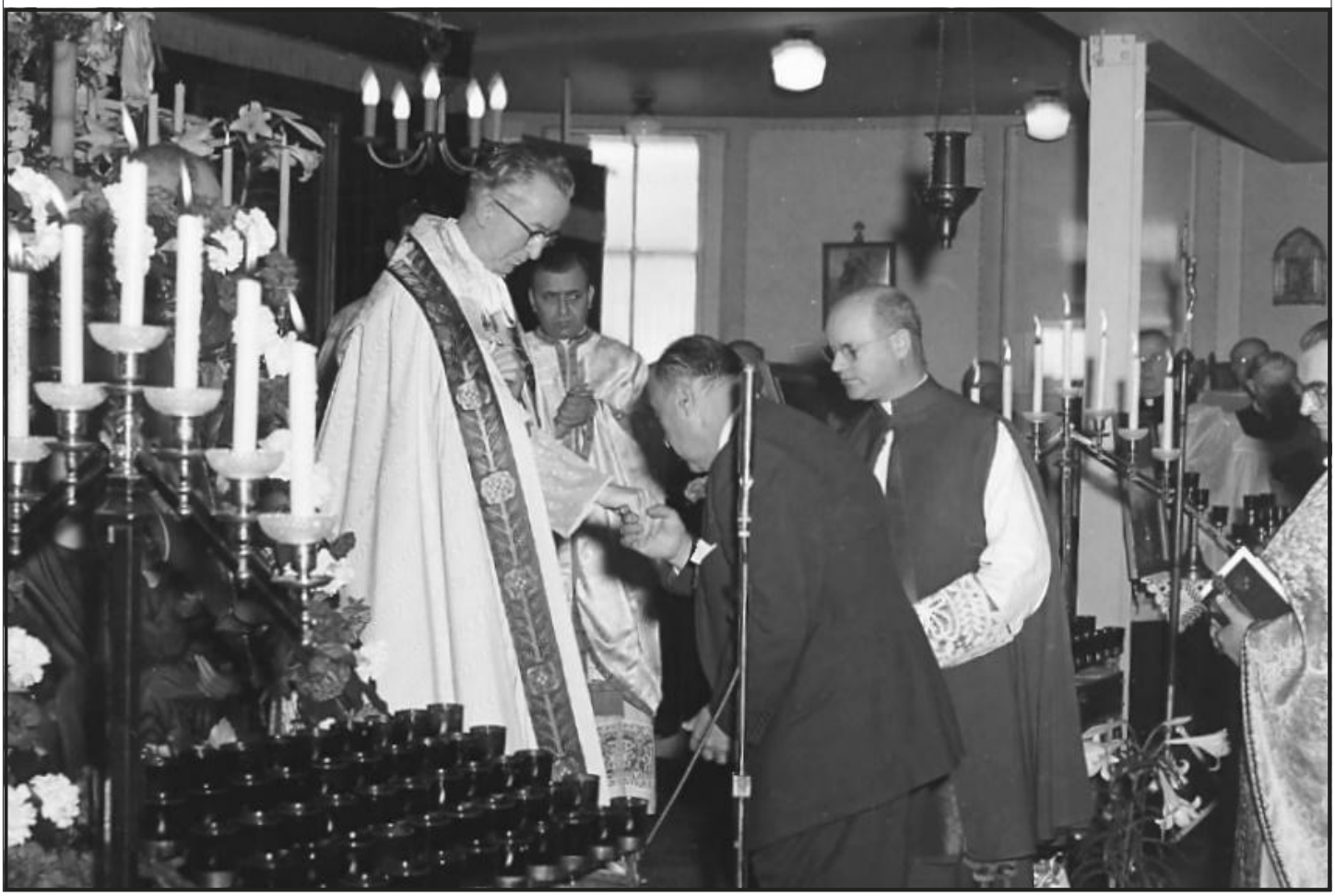
(Photo by Ardelean Studios)

Reconciliation Photo Highlights April 17, 1955

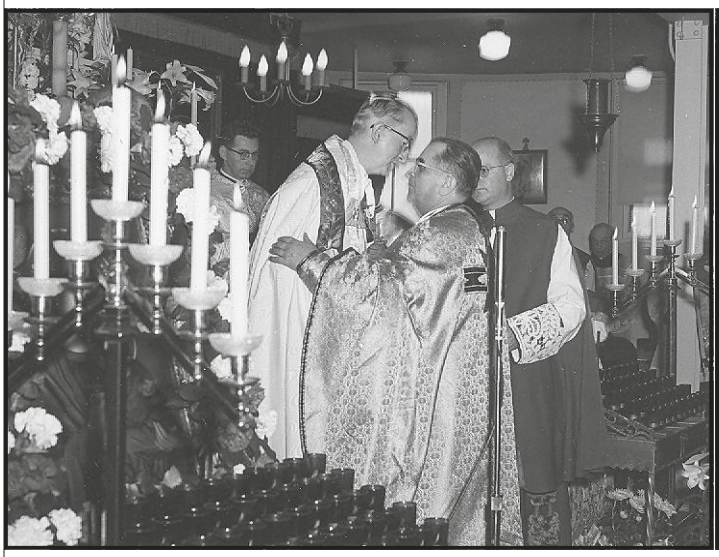
The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis Franey, chancellor of the Rockford diocese, reading the reconciliation plea from Rev. Fr. John Vuc and Church President August (Gustie) Ratz.

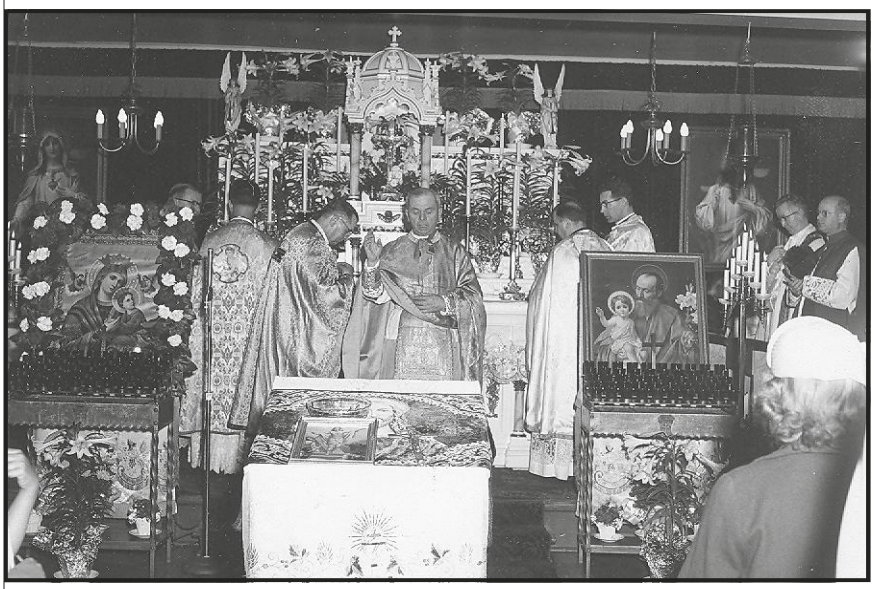
Facing to the left of Msgr. Franey is The Most Rev. Msgr. John C. Kirk, delegate of the Sacred Oriental Rites for the Romanian faithful, of Rome, Italy, receiving the plea on behalf of St. George's Romanian Greek Catholic Church becoming the 12th Aurora parish in the Roman Catholic Rockford diocese.

Rev. Msgr. Basil Marchis and the Rev. George Muresan, Rev. George Rus, and Rev. John Popa presided in the Holy Easter Liturgy of the Romanian Byzantine Church after the acceptance of St. George Church on Sunday, April 17, 1955 in Aurora, IL.



Reconciliation Photo Highlights April 17, 1955





St. George Parish is formally Reconciled with Apostolic See of Rome.

(Researched and reprinted from the April 18, 1955 Beacon-News, courtesy of the Aurora Public Library with the able assistance of Charles Coddington).

In conjunction with the Feast of Easter, celebrated on April 17, according to the ancient tradition of the Greek rite, St. Georgeôs Romanian Catholic Church of the Byzantine Rite was formally and publicly reconciled with the Apostolic See of Rome in an impressive and solemn ceremony in the church yesterday morning.

Hundreds of parishioners crowded into the church at Rural and Sheridan streets, and hundreds more heard the ceremonies as part of the overflow crowd outside the church as the Rev. John Vuc, pastor of the church, and his entire congregation received official recognition by the supreme ecclesiastical authorities of the Catholic Church.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Louis Franey, chancellor of the diocese of Rockford, represented his Excellency Raymond P. Hillinger, D.D., bishop of Rockford, who was unable to attend the ceremonies due to illness, Msgr. John C. Kirk, delegate of the Sacred Oriental Congregation for the Romanian Faithful, came here from Rome, Italy, to participate in the colorful liturgy

(Continued on next page)

ST. GEORGE PARISH IS FORMALLY RECONCILED WITH APOSTOLIC SEE OF ROME.

(Continued from previous page)

of the Romanian Byzantine rite, and to act as master of ceremonies for the Act of Reconciliation.

Others Present

Present also for the occasion were the following Romanian Greek Catholic priests, who con-celebrated with Father Vuc in the traditional Easter liturgy and Mass of Thanksgiving: the Very Rev. Msgr. Basil Marchis, pastor of St. Michaelôs Church, Aurora; the Rev. John Pop, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Detroit; the Rev. Mircea Toderich, pastor of the St. Helenaôs Church, Cleveland, Ohio; the Rev. George Muresan and George Rus, pastors of the Romanian parishes of East Chicago, Indiana and McKeesport, Pennsylvania. A large number of local clergy of the Latin rite also were present.

After the arrival of the procession in the church, Msgr. Kirk interpreted for the people the august decision of the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office in Rome, which decreed the reconciliation and recognition of Father Vuc and members of his parish and which admitted them to complete union with Rome.

Twelfth Aurora Parish

During his lengthy talk, Msgr. Kirk delegated St. Georgeôs to become the 12th Aurora parish in the Roman Catholic Rockford diocese, He said:

ñUnder our Holy Father, the Pope, are the various bishops who govern that part of the church which is confined to them by the supreme pastor in Rome. Until such time as the authorities of the church see fit to give the Romanian community in the United States its own Romanian bishop, according to the law of the church, you, like the other 16 Romanian parishes of the Greek Catholic rite in the United States, automatically fall under the spiritual care of the local bishop, the Most Rev. Raymond P. Hillinger, D.D., bishop of Rockford, a most worthy, zealous and saintly priest of God, who loves you in the Lord as his spiritual sons and daughters and who desires to do everything possible for your spiritual good. Bishop Hillinger, as do we all, wishes to do everything possible to help and protect you in the practice of the faith of your forefathers, to remain good Catholics of the Romanian Byzantine rite, to be worthy descendants of the one hundreds of thousands of your Greek-Catholic brethren who suffer today under the cruel yoke of Communist oppression.ò

Pope Pius XII Grants Permission

Continuing, Msgr. Kirk commented:

ñOur Holy Father has thought it best to permit a separate parish for you of St. George, under the direction of your Romanian priest, Father Vuc, so that you may the more easily progress in peace and harmony in the way of Christian life and virtue.

ñThis means that in the city of Aurora, instead of one Romanian Greek Catholic Church, as in the past, there will now be two, that of St. Michaelôs and that of St. Georgeôs, both with individual and separate rights and duties. I know that the two parishes will work together, side by side, in a friendly spirit of cooperation and collaboration, in all matters concerning our beloved Romanian Greek Catholic Church and country, which suffer under the tyranny of Bolshevik persecution.ò

The monsignorôs remarks were followed by the ceremony of reconciliation itself and the Mass of Thanksgiving. During the course of the mass, Father Vuc spoke eloquently of the joy that was his and his peopleôs over the event which had taken place. At the close of the liturgy, Msgr. Franey read a touching message from Bishop Hillinger and imparted the apostolic benediction sent especially for the occasion by His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

Following the services, Father Vuc entertained the visiting dignitaries at a luncheon in the Leland Hotel.

BLESSING EASTER BASKETS
Following the Ceremony of Reconciliation and celebration of the Mass of Thanksgiving, Father Vuc blessed the Easter Baskets of the faithful at an outdoor service.

The Most Rev. Msgr. John C. Kirk, delegate of the Sacred Oriental Congregation for the Romanian Faithful explaining the process of Reconciliation to the parishioners of St. George Church.

The Rev. Father George Muresan of St. Nicholas Church of St. Nicholas church in East Chicago, Indiana, assisting in the celebration, along with other concelebrants.

Concelebrants processional to prepare communion for the parishioners.

Part of the overflow of parishioners.

A Brief History on the Finalizing of the church

(As narrated by Robert Moga)

SIX MONTHS after his arrival at St. Georgeôs, Father Puscas contacted me at my office at Advance Transportation and wondered if I could meet him at the Hi-way Lounge for a one-on-one meeting.

At the meeting, Father Puscas brought up the question of what I thought would be something that was badly needed at St. Georgeôs. What would I like to see done?

Of course I immediately responded that it was time for us to finish the building of the church and get us out of the basement.

Father Puscas was elated and mentioned to me that he had hired an architect to draw up plans to finish the building of the church.

The good father wondered if the church could take out a mortgage to complete the job and if so, he would like to appoint my father Rome Moga as President of the church council and me as a committee of one to contact Carl Schmitz, President of the Old 2nd Bank to arrange for a loan of $185,000.00.

This was the appraised price the architectural firm set forth. At the meeting with Carl, he replied ñbased on the association he has had with the Romanians in the past, he would authorize óA Blank Checkô for whatever it tookò. This was great news!

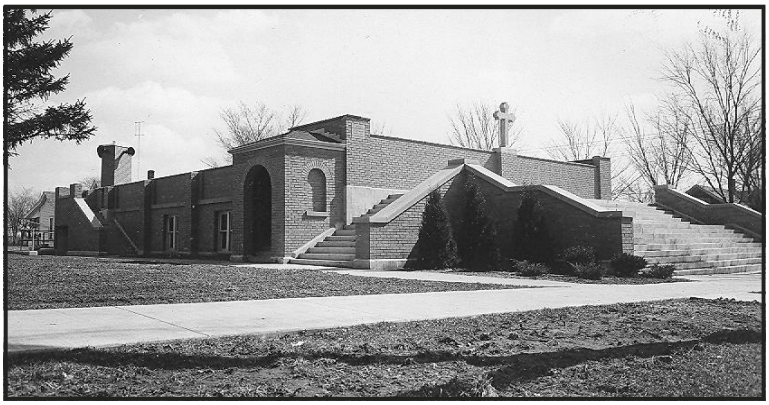
Father Puscas quickly displayed an architectural drawing of the plans which was met with such enthusiasm that I assured everyone that somehow we would rise to the occasion financially and create what turned out to be ñThe Crown Jewelò that Father Puscas had in mind.

Mrs. Terebesy sold her homes on Front street and from the proceeds she donated $14,000 to the building fund. I suggested to Father, the rest would certainly come from the enthusiastic parishioners.

At meetings held by my dad, Rome Moga, and the Committee, Nick Abens came forward and offered to do the job for no more than $175,000.

A few months later, in 1966, Bishop Loras Lane blessed the church and stated this was the first church that he blessed that was paid for and without a mortgage. That was an accomplishment!

Robert Moga



St. George Church in 1955.

Video views courtesy of Mike Krachon

Contractors for the completion of the super structure were: Nick Abens, *Contractor;* Haggerty & Sons; AP Electric; Moga Plumbing.

St. George Church today —The Crown Jewel of the Romanian Catholic Churches.

Church visit photography by Ardelean Studios

(photo courtesy of Elaine Tifrea Johnson)

Romanian Bishop visit to St. George about 1962

Following in the steps of Louis Mieno, Carol Glover and her niece, Anna are busy with the spaghetti supper for the youth club along with Shirley Sandor.

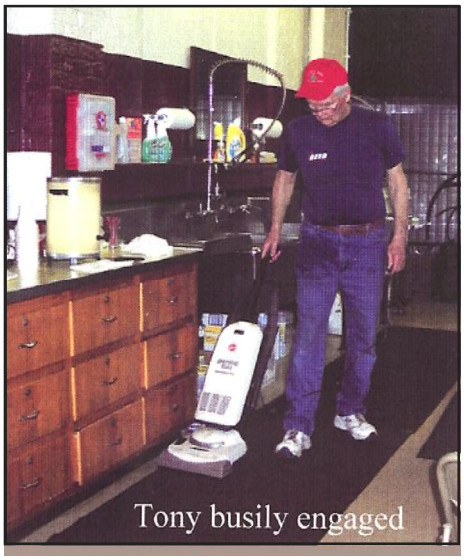
Viflaim from way back (top right); Father Frederick with Ladies, Church group; Bishop Puscas with Ladies Auxiliary; Parishioners along with Father Frederick Peterson, OSB, and George Todas, Jr. with Father Frederick with altar boys.

1945
Viflaim
◀ *St. George*
Church

✞ *The Rev. Father John Pavel*
in Prayerful Contemplation

Parishioners and Guests at
St. George Citizen Club Hall
Enjoying Dinner Fare

Father Francis Pall 1st Communion Class



Mickey Mouse

EL PASO

EL PASO
St. George Citizen Club Picnic

July 4th, 1942 Church Dinner preparation crew! l. to r.: Mary Hora; Elizabeth Szuch; Mary Gargo; Mary Tifrea; Mrs. Popp; Mrs. Brata; Mrs. Foltos; Mrs. Thomas; unknown; Mrs. Silagyi; unknown; Seated: Lena Church and Theresa Getz kneeling. (Thanks to Donnell and Nellie Smith for the photo)

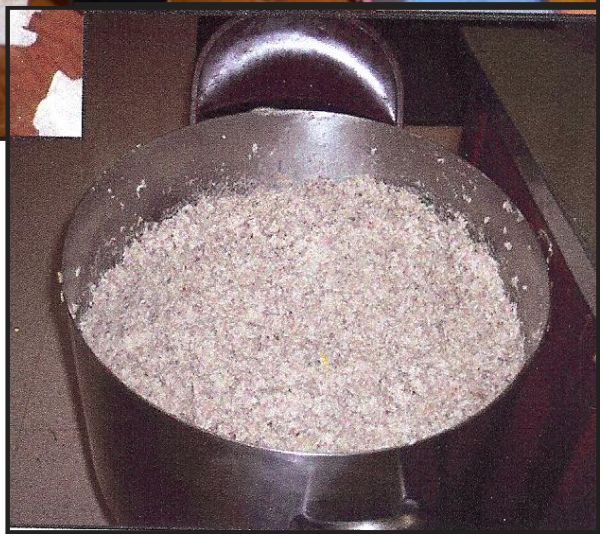
◄ *Steve Zefron mixing ingredients.*

Victor Oros and Garrett Oros grinding out sausages ►

◄ *Tony Zefron and Vic Oros preparing the good stuffing*

Clean-up crew! Father Ron Hilt, OSB ►

NOTE: All the photos on this page and subsequent pages were supplied thru the auspicious of NELLIE SMITH. *~Thank you, Nellie!*



Sausage Making at the Hall

l. to r., top–cleaning the piston, Tom Boyne.

Next view, Tom Boyne in back; Al Cinto and Garrett Oros loading the piston.

At the grinder, Tom Boyne; Andrew Silagi; Vince David, and Al Cinto.

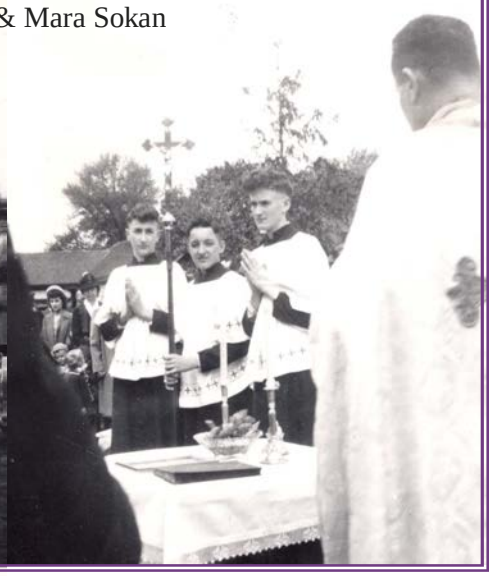
Father Fred, comparing notes with Victor Oros. Bottom: Ingredients ready to go

EASTER 1945

Top: Thedore Sandor; Gus Ratz; Gus Gilla. 2nd, top left: Moushe Silagyi; Rev. Father John Vuc; Parishioners; Altar boys, Bob Sokan; Dickie Ratz; Bob Rhea. Bottom left: Assembled Parishioners, Pastor, Altar boys. Bottom right: Bob Sokan, Dickie Ratz, Bob Rhea, Fr. Vuc. Top rt.: Blessing., below: Cantor, Mihai Oros, Final blessing.

(Thanks to Voichita Nistor Ogden for the photos)

photos furnished by Ann & Mara Sokan



First Communion Class May 1957

(Photo courtesy of June Todas)

left to right, Back row: Rick Todas; Rev. Father John Vuc; Michael Krachon.
Front row: Candy Todas; Merry Lou Sipos; Jimmy Stevens; Anna Marie Schmidt; Annette Vago

First Communion Class May 5, 1974

(Photo courtesy of Sylvia Oros)

left to right: Diane Korondon (Lonnie's daughter); Kris Oros; Dawn Yaccabucci (Janene Oros' daughter; Reverend Father Louis Puscas; Steve Moga (Bob's son); Andy Silagyi (Steve's son).

First Communion Class, 1966

1st row unknown, Cindy Todas, Michele Poirel, Donnell Smith, David Bumbar, Dan Stanciu, Michael Wendling, Joseph Silagyi, Rome Moga

2nd row unknown, unknown, unknown, Fr. Puscas, Nick Todas, unknown
Brad Cinto, Ron Cinto, unknown. (photo courtesy of Joyce Moga)

Compliments of

Donnell Smith Wendel

Compliments of

Lauren Smith Woodward

In Loving Memory of
Our Parents

Mary & George Hora

and

Alex & Mary Oros

Victor and Sylvia Oros

In Fond Remembrance of

Theodore & Julia Sandor

Amy Seibel Bellus

BELLUS/FREY FAMILIES

St. George Altar Boys Class, April, 1968

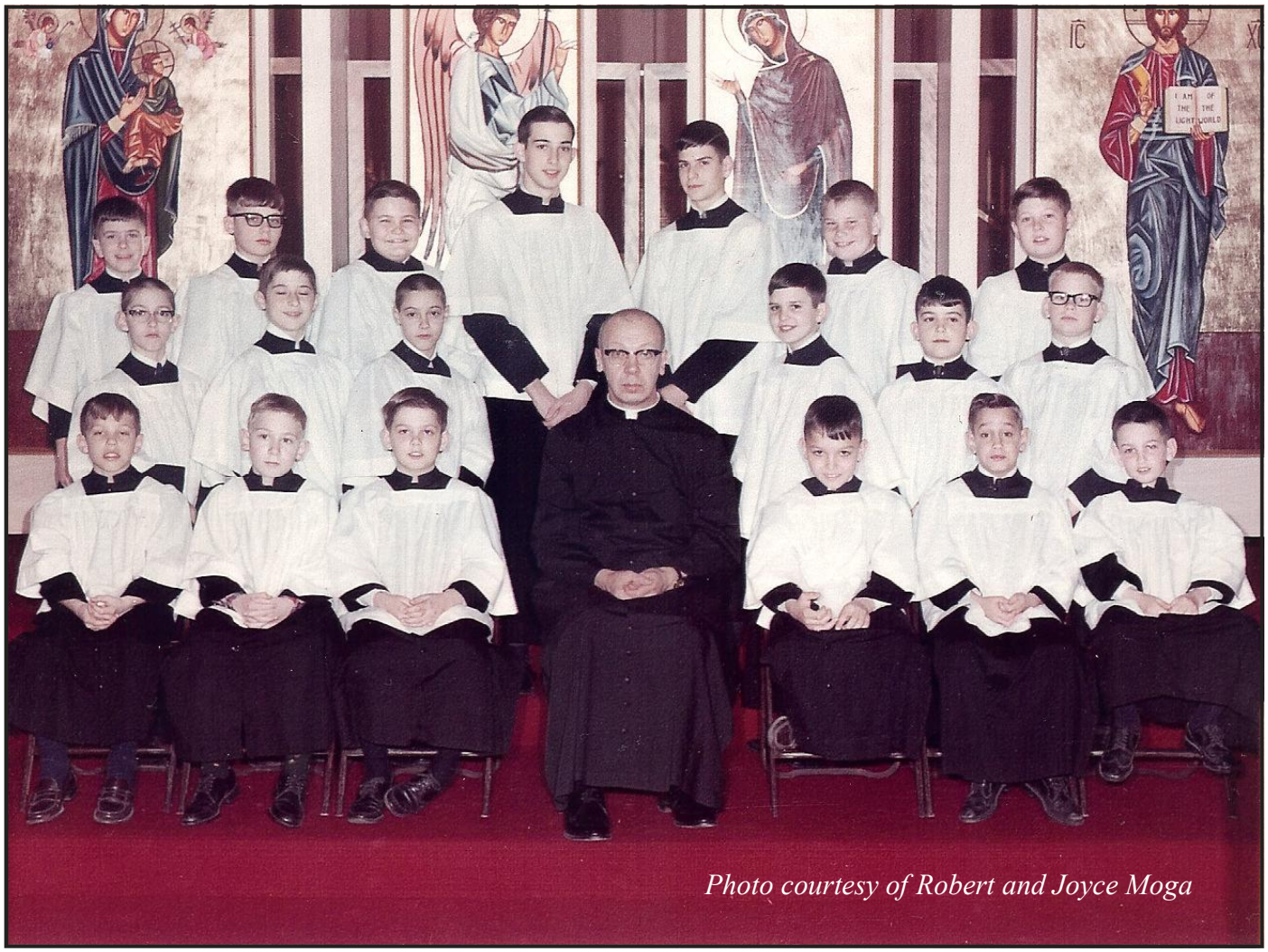


Photo courtesy of Robert and Joyce Moga

Pictured above, left to right: 1st row: Dan Stanciu, Jr., Joseph Silagi, Eugene Dunn, Father Louis Puscas, George Hora, Michael Wendling, Rome Moga. 2nd row: Ronald Cinto, Robert Cinto, Bradford Cinto, John Schmidt, David Bumbar, Kevin Oros. 3rd row: David Mudry, Stephen Bellus, Gerald Ratz, Albert Cinto, Michael Getz, Steven Oros, Richard Demeter. (Photo courtesy of Robert and Joyce Moga)

In Loving Memory of Our Parents

Peter & Paulina (Turtzi) Piskoran

by Daughters

Pauline Piskoran (Thomas) Brown
&
Joann (Piskoran) Macaluso

In Loving Memory
of my Husband, Michael
and
Our Parents & Granparents
Michael & Teresa Mikle
Michael & Julia Krachon

Mary & Sons, Michael & Dennis Krachon

First Communion Class, April, 1968

Left to right, front row: Bonnie Vida; Beth Boyne; Nancy Moga; Mary Jane Silagyi; Mary Mudry; Julie Hora; Kelly Poirel; Missing in action. second row: Jay Wendling; Louis Morse; Gail Musaraca; (girl) Graves; Sherry Todus; unknown; Tim Cinto.
Third row: John Cinto; John Silagyi; unknown; Father Louis Puscas; Mike Graves; Tony Zefron; Ed Oros.

Photo courtesy of Bob and Joyce Moga. Photo by Evans Studio

In loving memory of our brother

JOHN NISTOR

Mary, Vic, Annie, Voichita,

Nellie, Ervin, Elaine

In Loving Memory of my Brothers

Stephen Ziman
John G. Ziman

In Fond Remembrance

by Sylvia (Ziman) Bumbar

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

HONOR ROLL

— OF —

St. George Citizen Club

★ 8-6-38 LOUIS NASH	★ 1-23-42 TOM SANTOY	★ 8-25-42 LOUIS SALAGI
★ 10-1-35 JOHN C. FEHER	★ 1-22-42 LEWIS PINKS	★ 8-11-42 LOUIS BANK
★ 10-25-38 MICHAEL MUDRY	★ 1-21-42 SYLVESTER LAZAR	★ 9-9-42 AUGUSTIN POPP
★ 10-2-39 JOHN H. BODIE	★ 1-23-42 ALEX M. OROS	★ 9-4-42 JOHN MESZAROS
★ 10-19-39 GEO. J. THOMAS	★ 2-4-42 GEORGE NASH	★ 9-30-42 GEO. G. NESTER
★ 12-27-39 VICTOR A. RIPPA	★ 2-12-42 GEO. N. OROSZ	★ 10-1-42 JOHN M. OROS
★ 7-3-40 ROME MOGA	★ 2-28-42 STEVE VLASZ	★ 10-1-42 ALEX G. SILAGI
★ 8-28-40 GEO. LAZAR, JR.	★ 3-30-42 VICTOR RIPPA	★ 10-1-42 ELMER SUTA
★ 9-27-40 CORNELIUS BUMBAR	★ 3-10-42 PAUL CAPANASH	★ 8-7-42 LOUIS TURZI
★ 10-29-40 JOHN A. VAGO	★ 4-14-42 GEO. SIPOS	★ 10-1-42 JOHN PINKS
★ 11-26-40 NICK MOISA, JR.	★ 4-16-42 JOHN G. TOUDUTS	★ 10-22-42 LOUIS GARGO
★ 11-26-40 EMIL J. MOGA	★ 5-28-41 GEO. BUDA, JR.	★ 12-4-41 LEO FEIER
★ 2-20-41 JOHN GEIGHES	★ 5-30-40 JOHN L. TODUS	★ 11-4-42 JAMES MIENO
★ 3-19-41 GEO. M. MICKLE	★ 3-20-42 STEVE BODONY	★ 11-20-41 GEO. PASKADI, JR.
★ 3-19-41 JOHN G. LAUZEN	★ 3-19-41 JOHN G. LAUZEN	★ 11-20-41 STEPHEN ZIMAN
★ 4-15-41 JOHN NASH	★ 4-15-41 JOHN NASH	★ 11-10-41 MICHAEL CRACIUM
★ 4-21-41 GEO. SANTOY	★ 4-21-41 GEO. SANTOY	★ 11-10-41 ALEX RATZ
★ 6-14-41 LOUIS TATAR	★ 12-26-42 JOHN CZECZ	★ 10-20-42 GEORGE POPP
★ 6-14-41 GEO. DARABAN	★ 2-11-41 JOSEPH MESZAROS	★ 1-20-42 JOS. G. TEREBESY
★ 7-30-41 JOSEPH G. SILAGI	★ 4-10-41 RAY HANKES	★ 11-22-41 JOHN SUTA
★ 8-1-41 JULIUS BUMBAR	★ 6-21-42 JOHN THOMAS	★ 11-8-42 JOHN TURZI
★ 8-27-41 GEORGE OROS	★ 7-15-42 GEORGE HORA	★ 12-15-42 JOHN A. MOGA
★ 10-20-41 LOUIS SIPOS	★ 8-3-42 JOHN NISTOR	★ 12-15-42 NICK SUTA
★ 11-29-41 MICHAEL NASH	★ 8-3-42 GABRIEL TATAR	★ RAYMOND RIPPA
★ 11-29-41 GEO. SILAGYI	★ 8-12-42 EUGENE DUNN	★ 12-15-42 HARR E. LIDDLE
★ GEO. R. MORSE	★ 8-17-42 STEVE BUMBAR	★ 12-15-42 JOE FROMHERZ
★ 1-2-42 JOHN J. KIRO	★ 8-17-42 ANDREW OROS	★ 1-8-43 LEO BUMBAR
★ 1-15-42 WM. F. MERRITT	★ 8-17-42 THOMAS PASKADI	★ 1-8-43 GEORGE KORMOS
	★ 8-19-42 JOHN B. POPP	★ 1-19-43 STEVE SZILAGI

Editor's Note: Spelling of names is duplicated as originally placed on the above document.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

HONOR ROLL

— OF —

St. George Citizen Club

★ 1-20-43 GEO. R. FOLTOS	★ 6-7-43 GEO. SILAGI	★ 8- 5-44 JOHN MOISA
★ 2-1-43 GEORGE BONE	★ 7-5-43 STEVE SALAGY	★ 8- 5-44 LOUIS MINOU
★ 2-1-43 GEOGE POPE	★ 7-7-43 GEO. T. POPP	★ 8- 5-44 NICK TOUDUT
★ 2-1-43 JOHN BONE	★ 9-15-43 GEORGE POPP	★ 8- 5-44 VICTOR OROS
★ 2-8-43 GEO. CINTA, JR.	★11-15-43 LEO G. LAUZEN	★ 9-16-44 JOHN G. SANDOR
★ 3-10-43 VASILE M. RATIU	★11-15-43 LOUIE VAGO	★ 1- 2-45 JOHN L. MOGA
★ 3-27-43 AMBROSE VIDA	★ 3-29-43 MIKE KOSKIE, JR.	★ 12-2-44 JOHN GETZ
★ 3-27-43 LOUIS FAGE	★12-13-43 VICTOR NISTER	★ 9- 7-44 MICH BOLOZ
★ 4-3-42 JOHN BANK	★ 1-13-44 MARY C. PASKADI	★12-12-44 JOSEPH FOLTOS
★ 4-3-43 DAN LAZAR	★ 1-24-44 GEO. GEGERAN	★ JOHN MORISEY
★ 4-21-43 JOHN TOTH	★ 3-7-44 LOUIS ERDEI	★ 7- -52 PAUL MIKU, JR.
★ 4-23-43 JOHN TEREBESY	★ 3-28-44 JOHN BALINT	★10- -55 TOM SIPOS
★ 4-3-43 GEO. TODAS	★ 4-3-44 GUS GILLA	★ 8- - 52 JOHN ZIMAN
★ 4-13-43 JOHN TODAS	★ 4-7-44 PAUL SIPOS	★ 2- -43 STEPHAN ZIMAN
★ 5-15-43 ALEX BENCZE, JR.	★ 4-20-44 ALEX IDERAN	★ 2- -45 ALBERT CINTO
★ 5-15-43 JOHN DARABAN	★ 6-6-44 PETER POPP, JR.	★ +10-50 ALBERT CINTO
★ 5-29-43 TOM SOKAN	★ 6- 7-44 LOUIS BANKS	★10-29-45 LEON ARDELEAN
★ 5-31-43 GEO. MASSIER	★ 6- 3-44 GEORGE OROS	★ RAYMOND RIPPA
		★ STEVE OROS

Editor's Note: Spelling of names is duplicated as originally placed on the above document.

Committee, First row, left to right: John Terebesy; John Schmidt; Al Cinto; Fr. Louis Puscas; Schal Silagi; Steve Sylagyi; Ambrose Vida, Jr., Second/third row: Dan Covacs; Leo Hora; George Todas, Jr., George Oros; Steve Bellus; Unkown man; John Gilla; George Ardelean; Alex Ratz; Alex Szuch.

Photo by Ardelean Studios

In Fond Memory of the

ZEFRON
&
OROS FAMILIES

Tony & Elaine Zefron

Blessed 75th Anniversary
of St. George Church

In Loving Memory of
Our Parents

Paul and Florence Miku
Clive and Reba Lay

Irvin and Anna Lay

In Loving Memory of Our Family

Louis & Flora (Nester) Bumbar
Stephan & Juliana (Turtzi) Ziman
Julius George Bumbar

(Remembered by his wife, Sylvia and son David J. Bumbar)

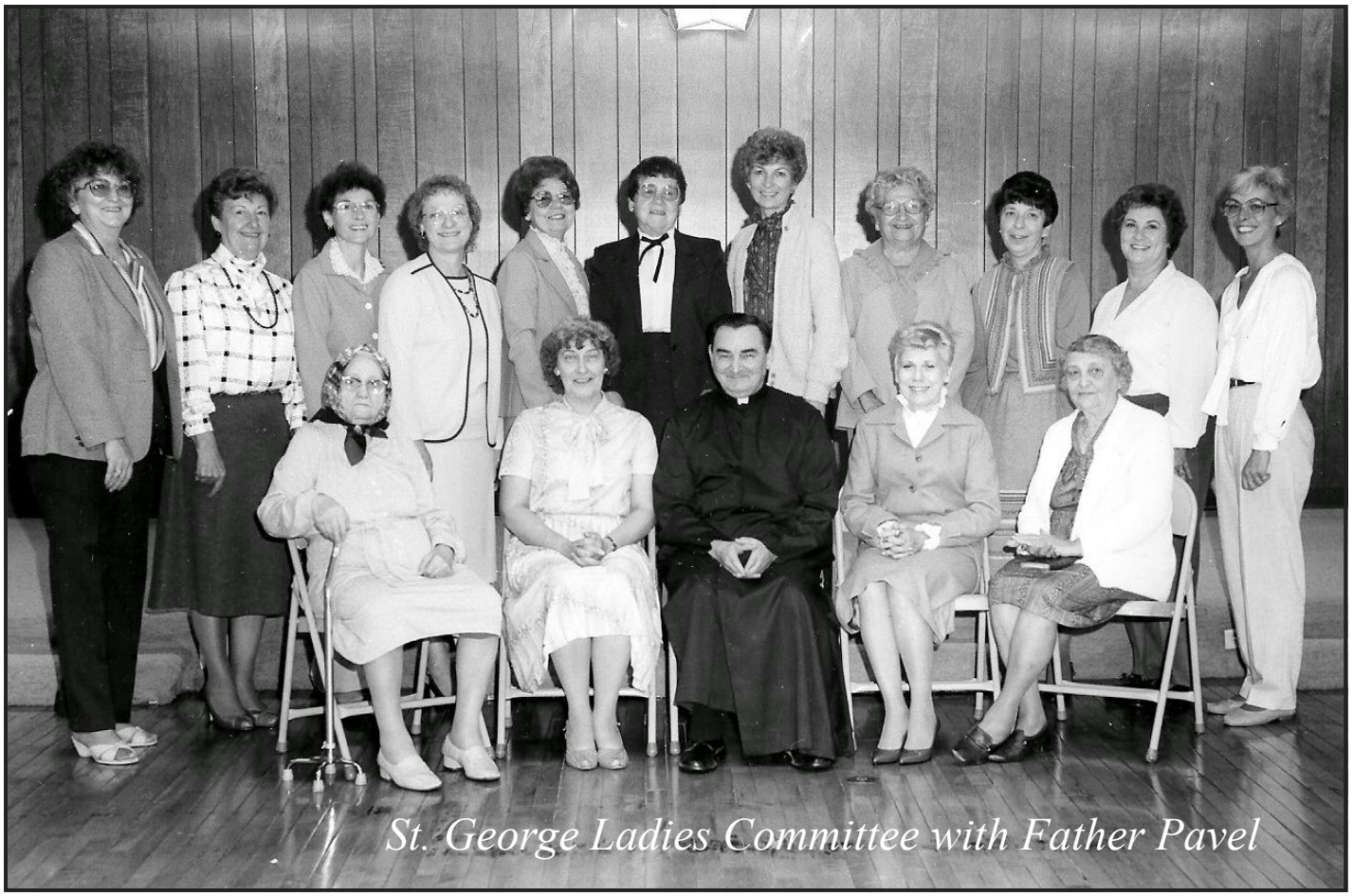
by

Sylvia Ziman Bumbar

and

David Julius Bumbar

May Their Memory be Eternal



St. George Ladies Committee with Father Pavel

We all wish you another
and many more
75th
Anniversaries

The Superior Beverage Co.

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Compliments of
ELAINE
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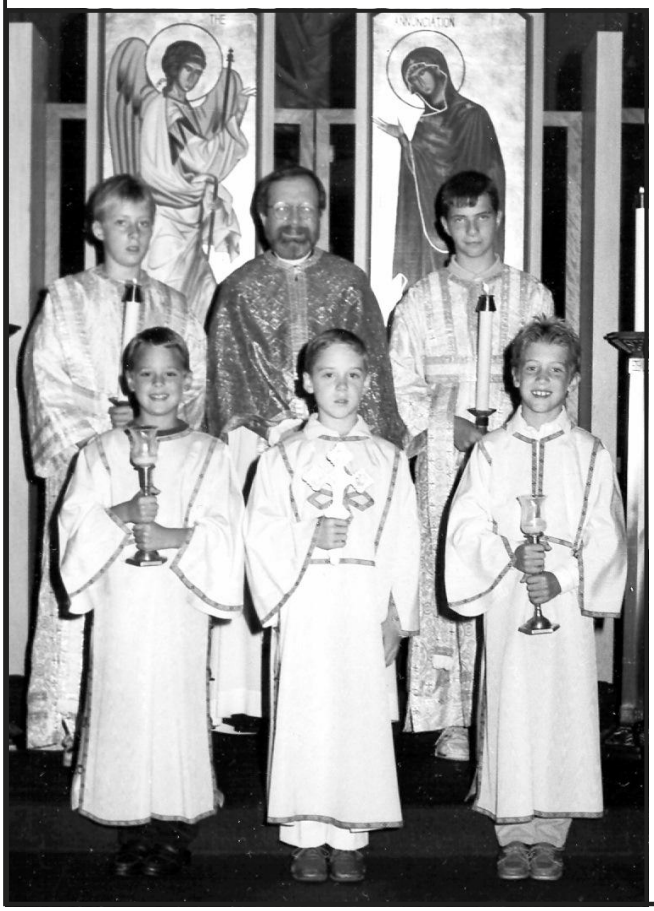
CHUCK
JOHNSON

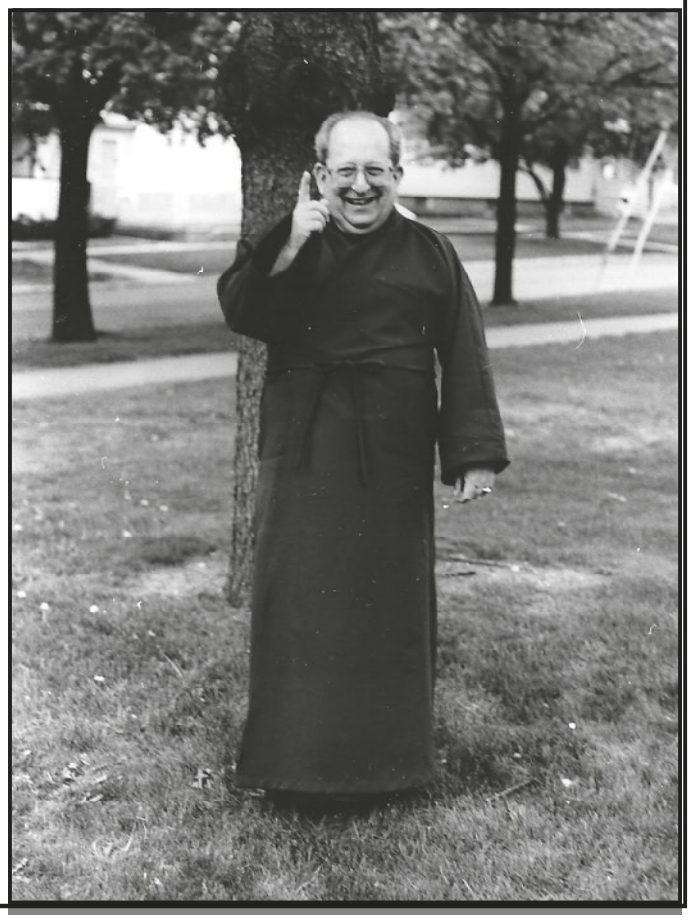
Congratulations
and
Best Wishes
from
LOUIS VAGO

Fr. George Kuzara, C.P.P.B. with Youth Group
◄

Bottom Left, Fr. Kuzara with Altar Boys

Fr. Head of Youth Group Passing out visual Instructions
Ɛ





Best Wishes to

St. George Church
on its 75th Anniversary

from

Betty and Dan Stanciu and Family
Dana and Dr. James Matchus
Sue and Daniel J. Stanciu
Drs. Lindy Kona and Bradley Stanciu
Beth and Dan Reynolds
Leslie and John Kelsheimer

12th Annual Congress of the Romanian Byzantine Catholic Diocese June 23-25, 1995
Hosted by Saint George Church, Aurora, Illinois, Bishop Puscas and Clergy, Altar Boys.

▲ *Fr. George Kuzara, C.P.P.B. Along with the faithful after Morning Liturgy Services*

Fr. Kuzara amid Committee Members ▶

1943 St. George Church Viflaim

Pictured above, l. to r., top: John Gilla; Rev. Fr. John Vuc; John Moisa; Victor Gilla; 2nd row: Dan Covacs, Instructor and Cantor; Paul Sipos; John Ziman; Victor Oros; John Oros; Mr. George Cinto, Sr.; Third row: Victor Pinks; Albert Cinto; George Popp; John G. Sandor. Shepherds: Phillip Lazar; Louis Mieno. (Photo supplied by Sylvia Bellus, Photo by Evans Studio)

A Special Tribute to George and Mary!

George Todas, Jr., and Mary Koskie have spent a lot of years going to the hospitals, nursing homes and visiting the sick and infirm of St. George Church. Each Wednesday you could find them doing their rounds and later having lunch at George's Restaurant or Nikarry's for a friday nite fish dinner. On this occasion, they met with Mary's sister, Nellie Smith.

Thanks! George and Mary for your good deeds and fellowship.

Above: Viflaim with Father Vuc and Curators. Below: Children re-enacting Birth of Jesus with Bishop Puscas and Youth Group paused their rehearsal long enough to pose for a picture. (Ardelean Studios photo)

Bishop Puscas Retirement Dinner

Bishop Puscas; Ann Schmidt at Retirement Party.

Bishop Puscas; Albert & Eileen Cinto at Retirement Party.

Attending Rev.; Cassandra Smith; Bishop Puscas, and Rev. Moisin, at Bishop's Retirement Dinner (1994)

In Loving Memory of Our Parents

JULIA
&
JOHN MADAR
and
REBECCA
&
DAN STANCIU, Sr.

Betty and Dan Stanciu Family

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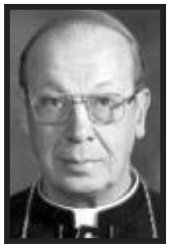
Bishop Louis Puscas



BISHOP LOUIS PUSCAS ï 1915 - 2009
Bishop Louis Puscas, 94, of Aurora, IL. passed away Saturday, October 3, 2009 at Provena Mercy Medical Center. He was born September 13, 1915 in Aurora.

Bishop Puscas studied for the Romanian Byzantine Church priesthood under the patronage of the Latin Rite Diocese of Rockford, IL, studying for two years in Romania, two years in Rome, Italy and two years at the Benedictine Seminary in Lisle, IL.

During his last year in the seminary, he was transferred to the care of the Latin Rite Diocese of Erie, PA. He was ordained a priest on Ascension Thursday, May 14, 1942 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Munhall, Pennsylvania by the Most Reverend Basil Tach, Bishop of the Ruthenian Byzantine Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Most Reverend John Mark Gannon, Archbishop of the Latin Rite Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania appointed Father Louis as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Farrell, PA and of St. George Church in Erie, PA. Both churches belonged to the Romanian Byzantine Church and were under the care of the Latin Rite Diocese of Erie, PA. In 1960 Father Louis received permission from Rome to serve also in the Latin Rite.

On May 23, 1960 Father Louis was transferred to Gannon College, Erie, PA as a member of the staff and became Dean of Students and Athletic Director.

On February 1, 1965, Father Louis, after serving twenty three years in the Diocese of Erie, was granted permission to return to his home Diocese of Rockford for parish assignment. He was appointed Pastor of St. George Church in Aurora, Illinois where he served 18 ½ years, and was very instrumental in the erection and organization of St. George Church as it exists today.

Father Louis was consecrated Bishop on June 26, 1983 at St. John the Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan by Archbishop of Rome, Italy, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Saints.

Father Louis was consecrated Bishop on June 26, 1983 at St. John the Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan by Archbishop of Rome, Italy, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Saints.

Pope John Paul II of fond memory appointed Bishop Louis as the first Bishop of the newly created Romanian Byzantine Diocese of Canton, Ohio. He was retired on July 15, 1993. Emeritus Bishop Louis left Canton, OH on September 1, 1993 and retired to Aurora, IL.

Bishop Louis is survived by his sister-in-law, Barbara Puscas; his nephews: Stephen (Suzanne) Puscas, Michael (Colleen) Puscas, Louis (Cathy) Puscas, Victor (Elizabeth) Puscas, John Anthony Kish and Edward Kish; his nieces, Mary (Richard) McCarthy and Julie (Gary) Feltes; and numerous grand nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Emma (Terebesi) Puscas; two sisters, Sister Emily Puscas, O.S.F. and Mary (John) Kish; and by his brother, Victor Puscas.

Concelebrated Pontifical Services will be offered on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at St. Michael Church at 10:00 AM followed by Funeral Services at 11:30 AM with Most Rev. Bishop John Michael Botean as Principal Celebrant assisted by Very Rev. Aurel Pater.

Interment will be in the clergy section of St. Michael Cemetery. Lying-in-state visitation will be Tuesday, October 6 from 11:00 AM until 9:00 PM, with a Vigil Service at 7:30 PM, at St. Michael Church, 609 N. Lincoln Av., Aurora. Memorial contributions may be made to the Romanian Byzantine Catholic Diocese of Canton, Ohio and to St. Michael Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church, Aurora, IL.

Arrangements are being handled by The Daleiden Mortuary, 220 N. Lake St., Aurora. 630/631-5500 or visit our website at www.daleidenmortuary.com

Published in Beacon News
from October 5 to October 6, 2009

In Loving Memory of

EMMA & JOHN BURSON
Infant daughter MARY
Sons, GEORGE,
JOHN Jr., NICK

May They Rest In Peace

from Florence Fullwood
Mary Broski

In Loving Memory of

JOHN POPP
GEORGE POPP
EMMA BURSON

God Grant Them Eternal Rest

from Florence Fullwood
Mary Broski

St. George Ladies Preparing for Stuffed Cabbage Sale

left to right: Rose Cinto, Elaine Zefron, Sylvia Oros, June Todas, Sylvia Bumbar and Bettie Stanciu; stuffing the ingredients into the cabbage rolls. Mary Kachon inspecting cabbage leafs and finished rolls.
(Photo supplied by Nellie Smith)

Daniel and Donnell Wendel are pleased to announce that on June 16, 2010, their son,

Michael Donald Wendel (16)

**Troop 274, Alligator District,
Southwest Florida Council,
Boy Scouts of America
has completed the requirements for,
and having been examined
by an Eagle Scout
Board of Review, was found worthy
of the rank of EAGLE SCOUT!**

(Michael is the Grandson of Nellie Smith)

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In Loving Memory of

BOB SOKAN

from

**ANN SOKAN and
MARA SOKAN**

Congratulations to

St. George Catholic Church

on their 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration

The Daleiden Mortuary

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In Loving Memory of

Julia (Olah) Madar

1902 - 1992

From

Peter and JoAnn (Madar) Daleiden
and
Daniel and Elizabeth (Madar) Stanciu

The Monks and Nuns of

HOLY RESURRECTION and
HOLY THEOPHANY
MONASTERIES

Congratulate the Clergy and Faithful of St. George Church Aurora, Illinois on their75th Anniversary

May God Bless You All!

Good Luck
on Your 75th Anniversary
Diamond Jubilee Celebration

In Loving Memory of The Pinks Family

Compliments of
Amelia Pinks Passow

Congratulations to
St. George Church
on their
75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Compliments of
The Benedictine Monks of Marmion Abbey

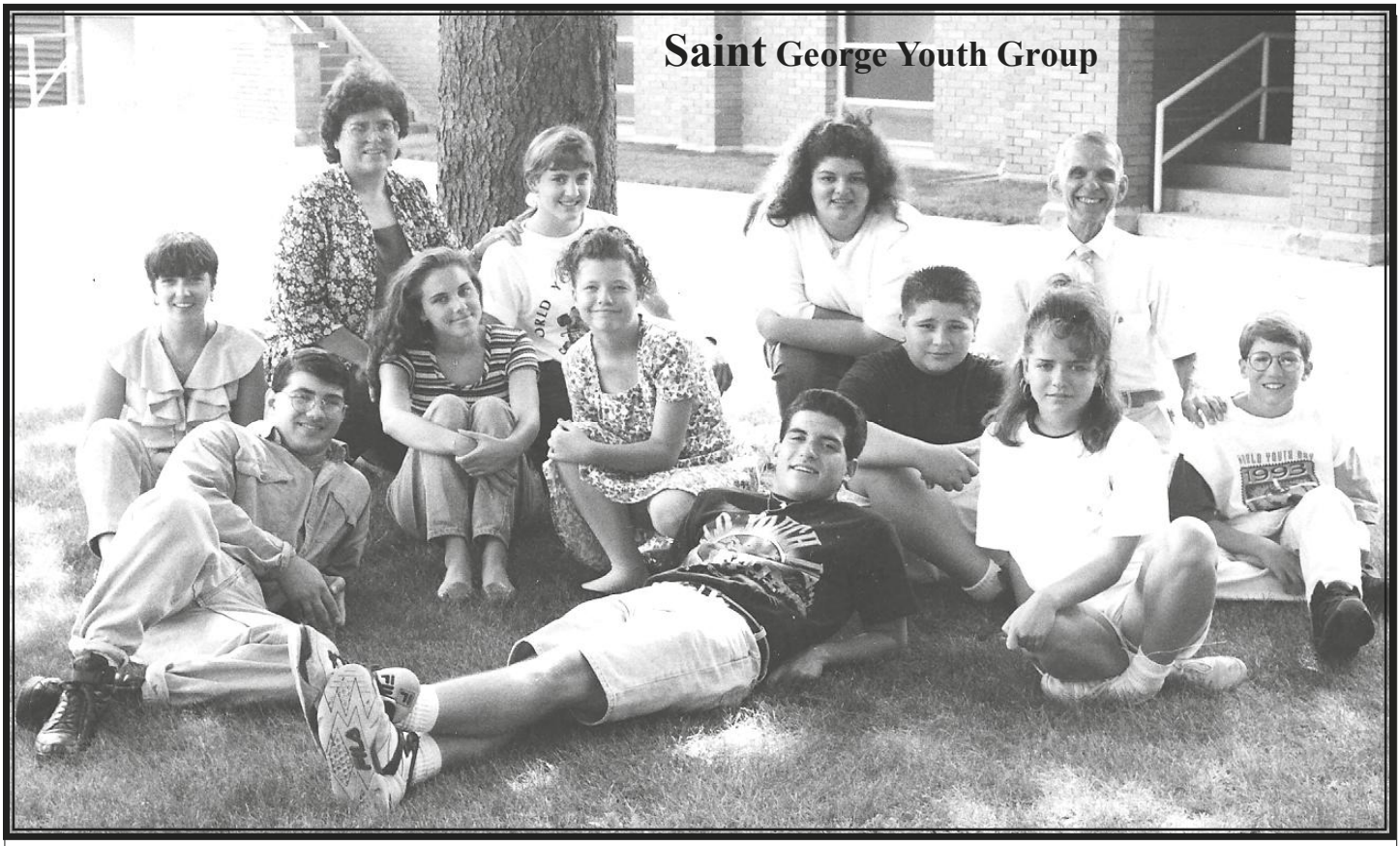
In Loving Memory of

Rome Joseph Moga
lost at sea
March 1, 1942
USS Houston
in the Battle of the Java Sea

Our Parents
Rome and Jennie Moga
Steven and Lucille Pilch

"May Their Memories Be Eternal"

by Robert and Joyce Moga



Saint George Youth Group

1977 Debutante Ball

1909 — 2010

Saint Basil Romanian Church

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Telephone: 609.695.6093

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL BEST WISHES TO THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SAINT GEORGE CATHOLIC CHURCH ON YOUR 75TH DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION!

From The Parishioners and the Pastor of
Saint Basil Church in Trenton, New Jersey

Bishop Botean in attendance at Marmion

Compliments of

Ervin and Glenda Tifrea

In Loving Memory of

The Peter Nash Family
The George Cinto Family

from

George and Helen Cinto

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Congratulations on your 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Senator Chris and Sarah Lauzen Familyð 25th District Illinois Senator

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SENATOR—25th DISTRICT

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FAX: 630/264-1566

Springfield Office:
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Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217/782-0052
FAX: 217/782-4079

www.lauzen.com

Paid for by Friends for Lauzen Committee

Today's Clergy Circa 2010

left to right: Associate Pastor, Father Ron Hilt;
sub-Deacon Richard Moreno; Deacon, Paul Crawford;
Deacon George Dzuricsko; and Pastor Father Frederick Peterson, OSB.

In Loving Memory of My Wife

EVA NISTOR

and

THE NISTOR and
TIFREA Families

by Vic Nistor

In Loving Memory of

JOHN J. SCHMIDT

1922-1980
Ann Schmidt
& Family

Best Wishes
on the
75th Diamond
Jubilee
of
St. George Byzantine
Catholic Church

Ann Schmidt
&
Family

In Memory of My Parents

George Sr., & Helen Lazar

Martha Lazar Thielman

Compliments of

Voichita Nistor Ogden

(ñKeetsò)

Love and Prayers

Mary Koskie

In Loving memory of

George Todas, Sr.
and Theresa Todas

from George Todas, Jr. and Family

In Loving Memory of
My Parents

Zack & Mary Tifrea

My Son, Dale

and the Tifrea & Nistor Families

from Elaine (Tifrea) and
Chuck Johnson

In Fond Memory of

John and Julia Pinks Family+

Florence (Pinks) Farver+
(daughter)

Nanjean (Farver) Lee
James C. Farver
(grandchildren)

Christmas Party 2007

Reunion of Viflaim in 2008

from left to right: Victor Oros; Leon (Moe) Ardelean, reading his part; Bobby Moga; Victor Lazar; Steve Zefron (representing his Uncle Johnny Oros); Rick Todas; George Todas, Jr.; Tom Boyne; Al (Rabs) Cinto and Johnny (Smiley) Moga, listening intently.

(Photo courtesy of Nellie Smith)

A typical St. George wedding reception

"The community of St. Nicholas Romanian Church in East Chicago, Indiana rejoices together with our brothers and sisters from St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Aurora, Illinois at their 75th Anniversary!"

"May God bless you and keep you!"

In Memory and Gratitude for the Pinks and Kuchmek Families

For all the great traditions
and a life-time of Memories;
Holidays and Holy Days;
Foods and Friends
and Life's Events and
always at St. George Church

BETH THRUN
(Granddaughter of John Pinks, a founder)

Compliments of

Nellie (Silagi) Johnson

Compliments of

The Ardelean Family

In Honor of

MARY
&
LOUIS GARGO, SR.

Daughters

Remembering the sacrifice of

ST. GEORGE'S PIONEERS

ROSE (Matyas) JUNEAU

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In Loving Memory of

our parents

Gregory(Gleegah)

&

Elizabeth (Ereji)

by

The Silagi Family

Cu Sfinţii odihneşte

In Loving Memory of

Nick Moisa, Sr. & Florence Moisa

Viola (Silagi) & John Moisa

by Nellie (Silagi) Johnson

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE OF

IRENE VAGO

(Irinca)

First President of St. Mary's Auxiliary

By NELLIE (Silagi) JOHNSON

Congratulations from Cleveland, Ohio

"We want to congratulate our younger sister church, on her 75th Anniversary.

May you have many, many more.

We rejoice seeing you become a stronger community of faith, of Christian engagement for the Kingdom of God on earth.

May God bless your dear pastor and you all, the faithful. May you continue to grow and flourish."

St. Helena's Parish Council

Andre Matthews, Pastor

St Helena Church, Cleveland, Ohio
oldest Romanian church in
North America

**View taken in 1956 at ARCA Convention.
Father Vuc assisted in Liturgy**

BEST WISHES from
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
in DETROIT

My prayers and best wishes for a joyous celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the many beautiful memories that the people of St. George's in Aurora has created over the years.

May God grant all of you and your beloved Parinte, Fr. Frederick, many years of peace, health, and protection.

Yours in Christ-God,

Father Emmanuel

St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Detroit

Best Wishes to

St. George Catholic Church

on their 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration

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Congratulations and Best Wishes to St. George Church on their 75th Diamond Jubilee Celebration

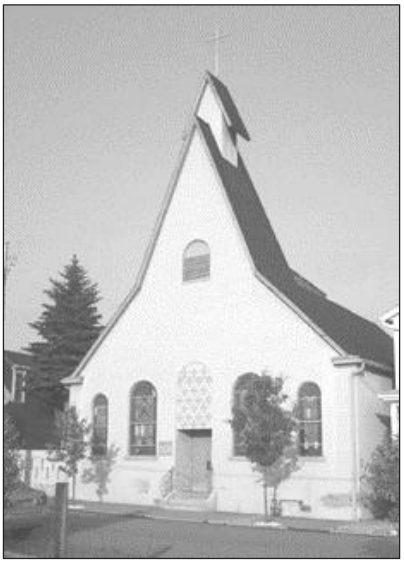
From
Very Reverend Father Aurel Pater
and
St. Michael Church Parishioners

Aurora, Illinois

"Veniti Sa Ne Inchinam"

LA MULŢI ANI!

Congratulations St. George–Aurora on your 75th Diamond Jubilee



May you flourish in the Lord discovering that your parish traditions are the life of the Holy Spirit in your community.

From your sister parish,
St. Maryôs in McKeesport PA.

Home of C A P E; *Catholic Association of Parent Educators* and the Byzantine Montessori *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*.

with faith in Godôs providence and love,
Father Paul Voida and parishioners.

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to all at St. George on this 75th anniversary celebration.

May the Lord Bless and keep you.

Phyllis & Fred Peterson
Fr. Frederick Peterson, OSB
Lisa Peterson

Anniversary Book Patrons

Rev. Frederick Peterson, OSB
Rev. Ronald Hilt
Deacon & Nrs. Paul Crawford
Deacon & Mrs. George Dzuricsko
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Mrs. Nell Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Greif
Ms Mary Oros
Mrs. Jean Poirel
Mr. & Mrs. John Thayer
Mrs. Elizabeth Thrun
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Todas
Mr. & Mrs. Don Cinto
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Cinto
Mrs. June Todas
Cantor George Todas
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Glover
Mrs. Rose Cinto

August 2010

St. George Church Parishioners above

and a few of the missing members taken on 10-10-10

(Photos by Ardelean Studios)

Dedicated members of many years at St. George Church in Aurora, after the Sunday morning Liturgy.

l. to r. Deacons Richard Moreno, George Dzuricsko; Altar Boy Greg Wiesner; Father Peterson, OSB; Altar server Ryan K.; Cantors John Wiesner and Joseph Hicks

Congratulations to

St. George Church

on their

75th Anniversary

Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Compliments of

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on their

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Diamond Jubilee Celebration

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A FEW WORDS REGARDING ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION OF SAINT GEORGE CHURCH

The following text was copied from an original Constitution and by-laws furnished by members Albert and Eileen Cinto. The excerpts are for information only. Page one is the same as the front cover and it carries forth to page 58. Printed in English and translated into Romanian ~Editor

EPISCOPIA MISIONARA GRECO CATOLICA ROMANA

STATUTUL

PENTRU ORGANIZAREA BISERICEI GRECO CATOLICA ROMANA IN AMERICA

1935

SECTION 1. These by-laws are made for: The American Roumanian Greek-Catholic Church, Saint George of Aurora, Illinois, United States of America.

—3—

IMPARATE CERESC

Imparate cerecsc mangaitoriule, Spirite al adevarului, carele pretutindenea esti si toate le implinesti, visitie riul bunatatilor, si datatoriule de vieata, vino si te aseaza intru noi, si ne curatiste pe noi de toata spurcaciunea, si manttueste bunule, sufletele noastre.

TATAL NOSTRU

Tatal nostru, carele esti in ceriuri sfintiasca-se numele tau, vina imparatia ta; fie voia ta precum in ceriu asa si pre pamant. Panea noastra cea de toate zilele, dani-o noua astazi, si ne iarta noua pacatele noastre, precum si noi iertam gresitilor nostri, si nu ne duce pre noi in ispita, ci ne mantueste de cel rau. Ca a ta este imparatia si puterea si marirea, a Tatalui si a Fiuliu si a Spiritului sfant acum si pururea si in vecii vecilor. Amin.

NASCATORE DE D-ZAU

Nascatoare de Dzeu, fecioara, bucura-te cea ce esti plina de dar Marie, Domnul este cu tine, binecuvantata esti tu intre muieri si binecuvantat este fruptul pantecelui tau, ca ai nascut pe Christos, mantuitoriul sufletelor noastre. Prea sfanta Marie Maica lui D-zeu, roaga-te pentru noi pacatosil, acum si in oara mortii noastre. Amin.

CUVINESA CU ADEVARAT

Cuvine se cu adevarat, sa te fericim pre tine Nascatoare de D-zue, cea pururea fericita, si prea nevinovata, si Maioa D-zuel nostru, Ceai ce iesti mai onorata decit cherovimi, si mai marita iesti far dea saminare decit Serafimi carea fara strcaciune pre D-zeu cuvintul lai nasut. Pre tine cea intrun adevar, Nascatoare de D-zue te marim.

The original Founding members list is unavailable at this time, however, the names of the Committees responsible for creating the Constitution and by-laws are also copied from the last page of the book.

—58—

COMMITTEE FOR MAKING CONSTITUTION

Ambrose Trippon
Alexander Demeter
John Popp
George Fage
Louis Gorzau

ASSISTING COMMITTEE

John Pink
Gregory Matei
Steve Popp
Louis Bora
August Ratz
Juluis Kish
George Biga
Alexander Oros (tall one)
Gregory Popp
Louis Podoba

THIS COMMITTEE WAS ACCEPTED AND SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

August Ratz
Louis Bora
George Szilage, Sr.
Louis Podoba
George Pascadi, Sr.
Gregory Csors
Andrew Rippa
George Oros
Nicholas Rippa
George Pascadi, Jr.
Joan Negre
Joseph Ratz
John Szilage
Louis Sipos
Rome Moga
Demeter Kovach
George Ideran
Demeter Chira
John Frunzar
John Madar
Alexander Demeter
Flore Geges
George Fage
Alexander Oros
Gabriel Oros
George Zaha
Nicholas Oros
Louis Ratz
George Furgye
George Biga
Alexander Such
Ambrose Trippon

From the creation of the Constitution in 1935, we are allowed today to share these wonderful memories of our past and we look forward to our future.

God Bless~Leon Ardelean, we salute our ancestors!

AND IN CONCLUSION . . .

AURORA, ILLINOIS was known as the City of Lights due to the fact that some of the first electric lights were set up here for illumination. One was set up at Main and Root street on top of Center School, next to the old East Aurora Junior High.

There were two Auroras. The Fox River divided the two towns. On the east side of the river, it was East Aurora, on the west side, it was called West Aurora. The same street took on a different name, once you crossed the river. Main street became Galena boulevard. New York street became Walnut street.

This also affected some areas of Aurora, namely Pigeon Hill. On the east side of the river, it was called Mountain street, on the west side, it became Illinois avenue.

To cross the river, there were two sets of rickety iron bridges connecting the two towns. In the middle was Jack Spiers Island. Jack used to operate a wrecking yard on the south side of the island and lived on the premises. On the north side, Charlie Blazing had a boat house where he lived and housed an inboard speedboat. Further east, there was a dance hall and an area where the religious folks used to pitch their tents in the summer.

The Chicago, Aurora & Elgin used to run their trains just east along the river from Chicago to Aurora. It used to be called the 'Sunset Lines' and used electricity by means of a "hot" third rail to operate the trains.

Along the side of Mountain street, (where the present City of Aurora garage is) the Cassidys owned a foundry. Not to be left out there were 3 oil filling stations at the intersection of Mountain and Broadway and a coal company on the southeast side of Mountain street.

George Kovach had a grocery store across from the D-X bulk plant on the west side of Broadway. Route 25 turned east at Mountain and Broadway to Aurora avenue where it headed north. Between Broadway and Aurora avenue there was a set of tracks where the CB&Q (Burlington-Northern/Santa Fe) used to park their coal cars and serviced the ice house and D-X bulk plant. The tracks are still there.

At Pierce street, the CB&Q had a Store House. Along Broadway to Spring street, the coaches were built. There was the Blacksmith Foundry, the Machine Shop, Wheel Bay and Air Brake Gang and the Round House where they serviced the steam engines.

At Spring and Broadway was the Freight House. Next to the round house, the Engineers, Conductors, Flagmen, etc. used to have their Call Boards Office. At the entrance to the shops was the Shop Accountant's Office and Dr. Murphy, the Company Doctor. The CB&Q had quite a number of Aurorans working and were able to use the services of Dr. Murphy or his nursing staff.

In about 1934, the Burlington Zephyr was on display in the vicinity of Broadway and Mountain street after its record run between Denver and Chicago in 13 hours. reaching a speed of 112 miles per hour. This was a full-sized streamlined train where the cars were all joined together (articulated) and it was a sight to behold! Ralph Budd was President of the CB&Q and was instrumental in creating this 500 HP Streamliner. *(It is being restored)*

Fox Valley Iron and Metal company was run by two partners, Hank and Morris. one of Hank's sons still operates the company. There were houses on the west side of Broadway from Spring to Pierce street. Valley Maid Ice Cream was on Pierce street. The ALEON ballroom was on Broadway where the big name bands appeared and they had roller skating as well as dancing. This later became the bus barn for the National City lines.

The CA&E, also known as the 'third rail' used to run alongside the east bank of the Fox river, stopped at Illinois avenue for race fans, past the Well Works at Spring and Broadway, thru the middle of town and up to Clark street where the trainman changed seats and headed back. At Wheaton, you could transfer for the Batavia or the Elgin line, or go on to Quincy and Wells in Chicago.

The Fox River was the western most boundary for the area called Pigeon Hill, the High street bridge was the southern boundary and the northern boundary, was on church road to where the CA&E tracks crossed. The eastern boundary was probably Farnsworth or Ohio street. There were farms out that way and very few streets (mostly gravel).

In this Pigeon Hill area there were a lot of "Mom and Pop" stores where you could run a 'tab' 'til payday. On payday the kids would go in with Ma or Pa to 'help' pay the bill and the grocer would reward you with some penny candy.

Previous to 1938, the public transportation was street cars. The bus lines took over the routes. You could ride the bus for 5c. Milk men used to peddle milk with a horse drawn conveyance, Rome Moga and George Uhglai had separate milk routes in Aurora. Mr. Cate used to work for Pike's; Mr. Silagi worked for Fitchhome Farms.

The ice men such as Ambrose Vida, Sr., and Dimmie Thill used tongs and ice picks for chipping off the various requested weights. The big treat in the summer was when the ice man would deliver ice and us kids would chip off some ice to cool off when the he was delivering a block of ice on his shoulder to place in the customer's ice box.

The folks that needed ice would hang a sign in their window indicating what size they wanted. (25, 50 or 100 lbs.)

Most of the people that lived on the hill worked 10 to 12 hours a day (when work was available) either at the Q or the Cotton Mills, the Brush factory, the Bleachery, Thor, All-Steel, Lyon Metal, the Well Works, Aurora Pump, Western-Austin, Love Brothers Foundry or the other manufacturing plants, and attended church on Sundays.

[Continued on next page]

Mr. Daybook would peddle vegetables and there was the umbrella man; the scissors and knife grinder; the match stick lady.

Bread was delivered, by a visually impaired Romanian who used to go to the Rainbow bakery with his wagon to service his customers; Jimmie's hot dogs would come thru in his big yellow truck and of course, milk was delivered in the wee hours of the morning by Pike's, Oatman's, and Fitchhome Farms by horse drawn wagons.

The ragman would come thru the area and each summer Maxwell street folks would set up their market on Hankes avenue and the circus always set up along the river on North Broadway, just north of town. There was always a ball game taking place. A ball field was located at the north end of Broadway called Play-Mors Field.

The kids played tag and would holler "olly-olly ole country" or go fishing or swimming in the Fox River. Outdoor "round-holers" were predominant until indoor plumbing was installed. The bath took place on Saturday nights in a round tub such as was used for making lye soap from lard and hog fat to do the laundry.

Kerosene lamps were the rage. A few of us had electricity and could listen to all the good programs on the radio. Lots of drama and you could use your imagination.

The postman used to deliver mail twice a day with 2c to 3c letter postage a penny for a post card. Model A trucks dropped off mail for the postmen at mail storage boxes on their routes.

Busses took over the old street car lines; cars took over the bus routes; television took over the old radio programs; airplanes took over the train ride. The telephone took over the telegraph company and now we have computers to communicate with via the internet thru a thin copper wire. (no more crystal sets).

Shoe repair shops hardly exist anymore. Steve's on High and Nagy's on Pierce street. Stores that dominated the downtown area are at the malls. Movie houses are almost non-existent. Stage shows or concerts are gone.

So much of the above concerned the Pigeon Hill area because that's where I lived. We had a colorful downtown area and most parts of the city were just as grand as the 'Hill'.

The "Hill" was settled by a melting pot of Romanians, Hungarians, Germans and European and Scandinavian countries.

Many raised their families and stayed on the hill while others moved to other areas. There is still a lot of European influence on the hill and most of the original buildings remain, of course, under new ownership.

~All of this took place before the wide usage of the automobile. Yours truly, LEON D. ARDELEAN

St. George Hall, 1954

l. to r.: George Todas, Sr.; Gus Silagi; Pete Mickle; Mr. Cinto; Lon Corondon, Cantor, St. Michael's' Leon Piscoran; John Silagi, and Philip Lazar.

St. Mary's Auxiliary Raffle

Discussing the upcoming St. George Church Raffle with Rev. Father John Vuc at the Hall sometime in the late 50s

In loving memory of

our Ma and Tata,

Maria and Zaharie Tifrea

(dela copii lor)

Mary, Vic, Annie,

Voichita, Nellie, Ervin, Elaine

Congratulations
and Compliments to

St. George Romanian Catholic Church

on their 75th
Diamond Jubilee
Celebration

ST. GEORGE CITIZEN CLUB

667 Sheridan Street ▪ Aurora, Illinois

In Loving Memory of
Our Parents
Flora & George Cinto
Who taught us the importance
of Loving God and each other,
they shall see God.
The Cinto Family

IN MEMORIAM
Dane Michael Ardelean
Our Parents
Alex and Florence Ardelean,
William and Marguerite Soule,
also **George, Julia, Robert Ardelean,**
John and Helen Ardelean
Alexander Ardelean
Donald Keith Soule

Thank you my friends, I consider myself as being truly Blessed to have been able to observe and record the many events that have taken place during the existence of St. George Church.

Thru the direction of our beloved founding pastor, Rev. Father John Vuc, His Grace, Reverend Louis Puscas, Father George and the clergy that have served the members of this parish, directly or indirectly, I salute you.

I want to give credit to our beloved pastor, Rev. Father Frederick Peterson, my wife, Wilma and family, Nellie Smith and her family and friends without whose able assistance I would not have been able to put our souvenir book together.

The sponsors and supporters that have contributed with their articles and their checks are to be commended as well.

Our public officials that have recognized the truly dedicated Romanians, the Bishops and clergy and their parishioners that have provided for and recognize us in many ways shall also be commended and saluted.

All in all, this has been a labor of love for me and this will be my legacy as a Romanian to have been able to put forth this souvenir book that will exist forever.

God Bless, ***Leon D. Ardelean****.*