



## HISTORIC PHOTO FOUND!



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1907**

Thousands of people were present as Bishop Horstman blessed the cornerstone of the Elementary School that was in mid-construction. The elevation photo was taken on Forman Avenue looking west towards East 65<sup>th</sup> Street.

The "old church/school building" is seen between the Shrine Church and the school work site. NOTE the original two church spires were intact in 1907, only to be destroyed by a powerful Tornado on April 21, 1909. The pre-tornado spires rose to height of 232ft –today they are 122ft.

**\*SUGGESTED ACTIVITY** with a magnifying glass: try looking for possible relatives in the picture...everyone from the neighborhood seemed to be there.

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## Continuing Life Stories... by Bill Dix

One of the wonderful things about belonging to Alumni groups (high school and college) is that we often talk about our childhoods. One recent discussion was about the “millennial’s” in which I said “that they have too many choices these days.” One of my fellow “geezers” said: “We didn’t have choices, we had *chores!*” And all of us strongly agreed.



My neighbor Johnny Vasco had to kill, pluck and clean a chicken from his grandfather’s coup almost every Saturday for the Sunday meal.



My chores began at an early age, six or seven, in our cellar. My job was to mix the starch, Argo or Niagara, for the laundry, in a large bowl with a wooden spoon. The old spoon was like a petrified wood and very heavy. Sometimes, when I misbehaved, I would be swatted on the behind or bopped on the head with it. I have a crease in my head which can still be seen (for \$0.75). I also was tasked with washing and stretching the lace curtains on a large wooden frame with protruding nails. I often had to re-wash the curtains to remove my blood stains!



At the age of 11, my father introduced me to the furnace. Every winter time morning, I would push the long handle on the furnace’s side back and forth to make the ashes ( cinders) fall to the bottom. Then I opened the small lower door and shoveled them into a metal pail. The cinders were used instead of rock salt on the driveway and sidewalks (which I also had to clean). Next, I would shovel coal into the large door for the daytime heat. I got to know exactly how many lumps were needed. After school, the process was repeated for the night’s heat.



Coal was delivered twice during the winter, two of my least favorite days. It was shoveled into the cold bin through a metal door in the house’s foundation. Much to my dismay, the metal door was exactly opposite the basement coal bin wooden door. When you opened it, you got a mini avalanche. On the one occasion, one of my fingers got mangled by a large lump of coal. The damage can still be seen to this day (no charge).



In 1954, we got our first television, a Dumont. I was very excited until my father showed me the antenna. You guessed it, another chore! I liked climbing trees but had never scaled a pitched roof, nothing to hang onto. I was very scared but fortunately was wearing black pants at the time. My father tied a rope to my belt with the other end attached to the antenna and

mounting straps. I put pliers in my mouth like a comic book pirate and scrambled to the peak, hugging the chimney. It took quite a while to put the straps around the chimney, but I finally finished. What a relief! I started to calm down but my father yelled: “stay there” so I straddle the peak like a “cowboy on a wet horse” and spent 20 minutes following orders like “turn it clockwise 5 inches— no the other way 10 inches” etc. etc. When they finally had a good picture I scrambled down.

After exchanging chore tales, my friends and I decided that they (the chores) weren’t really *child cruelty*. You learned responsibility, time management and an appreciation for hard work. In conclusion my question to you is: **What Were Your Chores???**

## IN MEMORIAM

The St. Stanislaus Alumni & Friends extends its condolences to the Families and Friends of the recently departed and pray the Lord will welcome them into everlasting life.

To inform the Alumni about the death of a member of the Alumni & Friends Family please contact either:

Rita Golubski or Donna Heid  
216-341-0881 dheid1961@gmail.com

**Norm Bialkowski '59**  
**Len Szalkiewicz '59**  
**Antoinette Ruminski**  
**Florence (nee Adams) Smolen,**  
**Wife of Ray Smolen**  
**Raymond Krasnodembski**  
**Regina Gacka**  
**Jim Kosciwicz '61**  
**Denis Kwiatkowski '61**



## Notes from the Principal: Mrs. Deborah Martin

Grade K-3 – “Smok Adventure” Coloring Book by: Jerry Wolas, Donna Ciborowski, Denise Schultz, David Krakowski and Ingrid Sledz

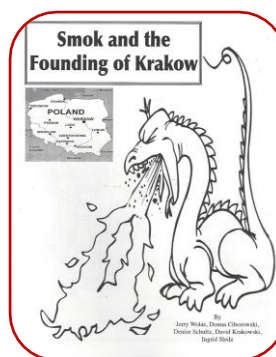
A 12 page Coloring Book/Story Book was part of the 2018 Polish Festival that the youngest students of St. Stanislaus Elementary School enjoyed. A grade level art competition as well as a storytelling class by Sharon Kozak and Fran Bankowski was held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, where all the students received a copy of the coloring book and a separate page to color. The judges, Denise, Donna, David, Ingrid and Bob Sledz determined the winners who received a Stuffed Smok dragon. All the students received an “I ♥ Reading” bracelet. All the submitted pictures were on display at the Polish Festival—and a good time was had by all.



Ingrid, Denise, Donna, Sharon & Fran



SMOK



## Catholic School Week 2019

January 27 – February 2

Elementary School  
Open House  
Thursday,  
January 31, 2019  
6 – 9 p.m.  
Join Us

## We Need Your Continued Support

### 2019 Alumni “Rainy Day” Drive

Last year your generosity was the lifesaver for keeping our ‘alumni financial head’ above water.

Below is a cut-out ticket for your Support.

(You can make a copy of the form if you prefer.)

We plan to list all supporters for 2019 in the July Spire.

**\*\*THIS IS A FUND RAISER – NOT A RAFFLE\*\***

Good Alumni want to help support the good works.

Additional 2018 “Rainy Day” donors:  
5 more donors who were not listed in the last issue



*Thank You*



**Star Performers**  
**\$100-499**

**Joe Levan ‘59**  
**Jerome Meyers ‘52**  
**Jerry Ratusnik ‘68**

**Benefactors**  
**\$50-99**

**Elizabeth (Pajak) Allen**  
**Joan Hoelscher**

### St. Stanislaus Alumni Friends – 2019 Rainy Day Fund – Call for Support

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Mail checks payable to *St. Stanislaus Alumni* & send to:  
The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street  
Cleveland, OH 44105

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Editors Note: This summer Michele Peck sent me a letter of reflections on her recent years volunteering for the St. Stanislaus Annual Polish Festival. In view of the fact that the story takes root back in the 1930's, I asked Michele's permission to share with all our *Spire* readers.

*\*\*This also suggests a creative way to form a group of friends/family volunteers for the festival—an opportunity to do good works, share time and enjoy each other's company, as well as the wonderful food.\*\**



Michele & Celeste Metzger

## Volunteering At the Festival Became an Annual Homecoming...by Michele Peck

**Hello Bob – I recently received the July, 2018 edition of “The Spire” and was reminded that I have been meaning to drop you a quick note. Back in January, you so kindly included a picture of my “cousin”, Celeste Metzger and me working at the 2017 festival. It made me smile since I am sure, on the surface, we looked like two women working the baskets...but, I thought you might enjoy just a little more of our story since it all started with a couple of very special St. Stanislaus Elementary School alumni over 85 years ago.**



**Background Information**, my mother was born Irene Wierzbicki and she grew up living on Osage Avenue (the family home was torn down in 1964 to build South High School) with her parents, Andrew and Eleanore, along with her older sister Monica. Celeste's mother was Rita Przybylski whose parents, Walter and Wanda Przybylski owned **Walter's Market** at 6632 Fleet Avenue (the building is still standing near the intersection of East 67th and Fleet). It is our understanding at the time there was no kindergarten, so, we believe that Irene and Rita met and became lifetime friends at St. Stanislaus in the first grade in September 1933. We also know that they made their First Communion on May 21, 1936 and they both graduated from the 8th grade on June

**11, 1941. After graduation, Irene entered A. B. Hart and then graduated from South High School in June 1945 while Rita attended Marymount High School and also graduated in 1945.**

**Despite heading to different high schools after their years at St. Stan's, the bond of Rita & Irene's friendship continued to grow. After high school graduation, Irene remained with the Cleveland Public school system working as a junior and, eventually, as the head clerk of South High School. As a skilled seamstress and dress designer, Rita opened her own dress shop and, like the market, it was also located on Fleet Avenue. Irene married my father, Jim Peck on June 28, 1952 and Rita married Celeste's father, Norman Metzger on June 11, 1955...of course, both weddings were at St. Stanislaus. The Peck family grew to include 3 daughters – Rene, Michele and Kim. All of us were baptized at St. Stanislaus with “Cioci Rita” as my Godmother. Later my sisters and I entered and graduated from St. Stanislaus Elementary School – Rene '67, Michele '70 and Kim '75. While Rita and Norman moved to Parma, they too were parents to three daughters – Cindy, Celeste and Claudia. All were baptized and attended Holy Family parish with “Cioci Irene” as Celeste's Godmother. As you can see, at an early age, Celeste and I became “cousins” through love.**

**While the Peck and Metzger families grew up and moved in a number of directions, one more event would tie these families to Saint Stanislaus. Celeste's sisters, Cindy and Claudia were both diagnosed with a form of Muscular Dystrophy as small children. Unfortunately, this meant that they both were challenged to face life in a wheelchair. With family events at St. Stanislaus like my sister Rene's wedding to Lee Ewing in 1974 and Kim's wedding to Janusz Lachowski in 1983, my mother's heart ached since there was no wheelchair ramp leading into the church allowing easy access for Cindy and Claudia to**



Irene and Rita



attend. Unfortunately, in 1986, my mother, Irene lost her battle with breast cancer – she was only 58. To honor her and her friendship with Rita, we worked with Fr. John Kent and established the **“Mothers for Handicap Access”** fund to build a ramp to allow access for everyone into the church. With gifts received in my mother’s memory along with some early donations from the *‘harvest festival’*, a small fund was available to launch construction of the ramp that is currently located along the side entrance to the church. While the dollars raised were just a small fraction of the overall cost, we have always felt good that the ramp helps to close the circle of the friendship formed by Irene and Rita so many years ago.



Sisters -- Rene, Michele and Kim

Although I have moved a few times and now live in Virginia, somehow over the years, the **festival raffle tickets** have always found me. I often thought it would be fun to work the festival and finally in 2014 decided to give it a try and travel home for a long weekend. The weekend has evolved to be an annual homecoming and, along the way, I have recruited a number of other volunteers including my sisters, friends and one special **“cousin”** – Celeste to join me.



Food  
Line



Ribbon  
Cutting



**Polish Festival Weekend**

October 4, 5 & 6,  
2019

Plan to attend and bring your  
family and friends



Coloring Contest Wall



## Cleveland Central Catholic High School

Saturday, November 17, 2018 at the  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual Award Night Ceremony.

### Distinguished Alumnus Award

Andrew Fetchik '86

### Outstanding Faculty Award

Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND

Principal—CCC High School

Andy was the Chardon High School Principal who dealt with the February 27, 2012 shooting when three High School Students were fatally shot and a fourth permanently disabled. He is the son of Mary Ann (Curtis) Fetchik from the St. Stanislaus High School Class of 1964 and Andy is also a graduate of Sts. Peter & Paul class of 1982. He now serves as the Director of Human Resources for Mayfield Schools.



Mary Ann – '64



Fetchik Family  
Andy, Julie, Drew, Heath and  
Aubry in front holding the Award.



Sr. Allison Marie

### *Congratulations to All the Award Recipients*

Outstanding Volunteer Award – Greg Hernandez \*\*\* Corporate Philanthropy Award – Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP  
Personal Philanthropy Award – Monica Thomas \*\*\* Foundation Philanthropy Award – Musca Family Charitable Fund

## What is new? ..... A Parking Lot!

An additional 38 space parking lot is being added to Cleveland Central Catholic High School at East 67<sup>th</sup> between Baxter and Forman Avenues. It will be ONE WAY with the Entrance on Baxter and will have handicap and visitor capacity. This is a much need addition of extra parking for school days and event activities.





## HOW WE GOT THE PICTURE ... continued from page 1.

In late September of this year, a random search on GOOGLE for “St Stanislaus” listed the usual results but there was also an EBAY photo item appearing that looked VERY familiar. We had never seen this photograph before and it was up for auction.

The thinking was, “let’s attempt to bring it home where it belongs”— the ‘photo caper’ was on! Parish music director David Krakowski and Alumni Chair Bob Sledz decided to combine their \$ resources in an effort to win the auction. We didn’t know who else was interested in the picture or how high they might go when bidding -but- we wanted to be ready.

David was involved directly in the bidding action which was decided in the final seconds!

The good guys won! Our winning bid was \$129.

The actual size of the photo is 9 1/2” x 7 1/2”, only slightly larger than what we printed in this *Spire* issue.

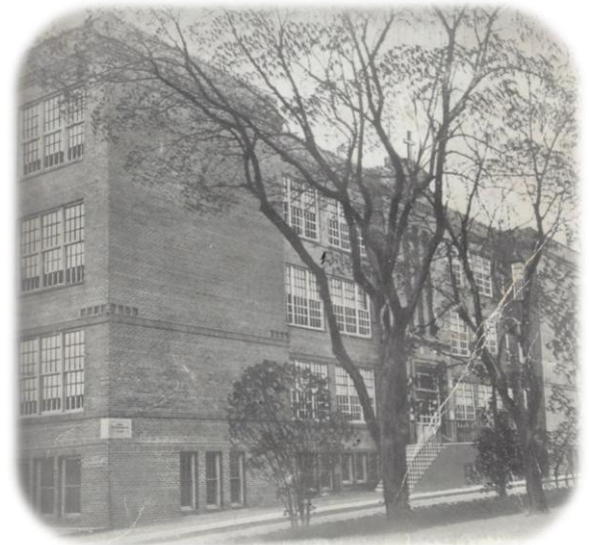
The seller was an antique photo dealer located in Michigan and could not provide much information on the picture’s history and how it ended up out of Ohio. Along with the actual picture was an enhanced digital copy that we used for this *Spire*.

Eventually the St Stans Alumni is hoping to have a framed copy, with historical event information, available for display. The number of people present at the Nov 3, 1907 dedication speaks for itself as to how important it was to the parishioners and the neighborhood.

## Help us find another HISTORIC EVENT photo



Photos taken in  
1958



In 1921 the Pastor, Fr. Wenceslaus, had a second school building facing Baxter Avenue constructed to accommodate the growing elementary student body.

### - Do you have a photograph of the Baxter cornerstone Blessing Ceremony event?

This “**Baxter Building**” was used as part of the elementary school until the 1940’s when the transition began to form St. Stanislaus High School – the first graduation class was 1947. (See: *July 2017 Spire*)

In 1969 the high school merged with three other local parish high schools to become Cleveland Central Catholic HS. The school is doing very well today and the Baxter Building is closing in on its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, so if anyone has information or old family photo albums about the dedication contact Chairman Bob Sledz

## 1959 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

Contact: Cliff Kneblewicz  
440-237-1061  
Or email at  
cliffinez@aol.com



## 1969 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

Contact: Diane and Ed  
Slovenski:  
216-587-5773 or  
cell phone 216-346-5371 or  
esloven@aol.com



## July 29, 2018 Picnic Photos



Class of 1958



Class of 1963



Class of 1968



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Official printers of *The Spire Newsletter*

### Contact information:

The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus  
3649 East 65 Street  
Cleveland, OH 44105

Rectory and Parish Office:  
216-341-9091  
[www.ststanislaus.org](http://www.ststanislaus.org)

Previous *Spire* issues located  
on website

Alumni Association Chair:  
**Bob Sledz:**  
440-333-7827  
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