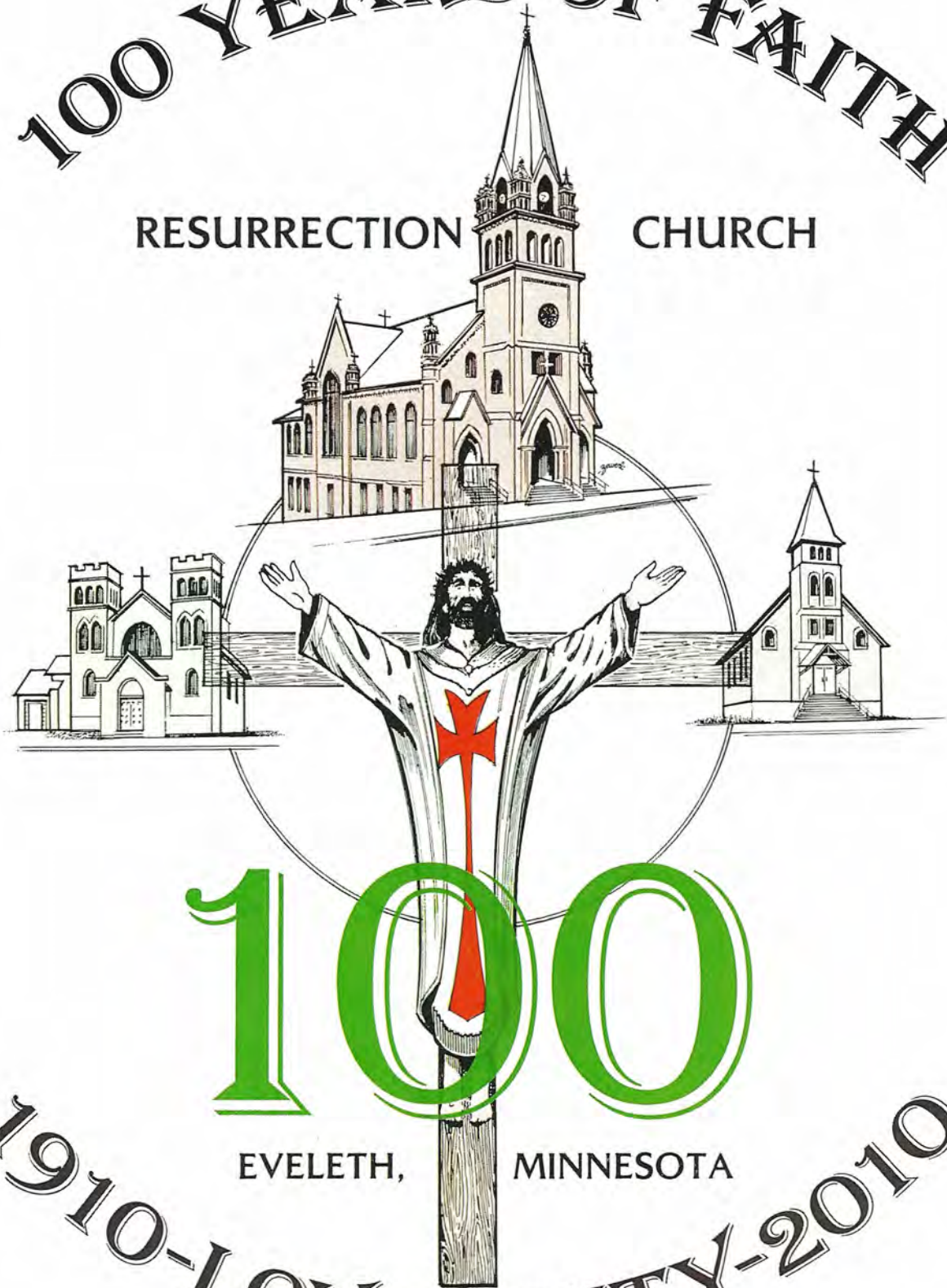


100 YEARS OF FAITH

RESURRECTION CHURCH



100

EVELETH, MINNESOTA

1910-LOVE-UNITY-2010



# THE HISTORY OF RESURRECTION CHURCH

The history of Resurrection Church includes that of: Holy Family, St. Patrick's, and Immaculate Conception churches. These three churches served the Eveleth-area Catholic community for many years and its diverse community which included many Irish, Italian, Slovenian, and Croatian Catholics.



The Eveleth Catholic community began with the pioneering work of Fr. Buh, who became the first pastor of the mission church of St. Martin in Tower in 1888. Monsignor Joseph Buh was a Slovenian who primarily served the native Chippewa and scattered Europeans settling in western and northern Minnesota. St. Martin's Church in Tower became the focal center from which Fr. Buh also served such communities as Ely, Two Harbors, Biwabik, McKinley, Virginia, Mt. Iron and other points as far as Hibbing. There was a need for more priests but they were just not available. In January of 1895 Fr. Buh was able to get the first recruit in the person of Rev. Matthias Bilban who likewise made his headquarters in Tower. The two teamed well together and gave services under trying conditions throughout the arrowhead region. For more about Fr. Buh, read "*Masinaigans: the little book*," a biography written by Sister Bernard Coleman; the book is available at Eveleth Public Library.



First Communion  
With Monsignor Buh

In 1896, a newly ordained priest became the second recruit to Father Buh. It was now possible for Father Bilban to change his headquarters from Tower to Virginia where he took charge of the entire eastern Mesabi Range from Biwabik to Hibbing.

About this time the present day Eveleth mining community was becoming established. Before long the Catholics of Eveleth

were of sufficient number to beg for Catholic services of their own. In May of 1897, Fr. Bilban was able to make arrangements to say Mass in the town hall once a month, and from May 1898 on, twice a month.

Immediate steps were taken to build a church in Eveleth. Two lots on the present site



of Resurrection Church were acquired and actual work of building the first church began in May 1899. The records show that the first church was constructed for the cost of \$5,249.56. Duluth Bishop James McGolrick dedicated the church, with a seating capacity of 250, to the Holy Family on October 22, 1899. In the spring of 1903, Bishop McGolrick sent Rev. James Hogan as the first resident pastor of the Holy Family Church.



Fr James Hogan

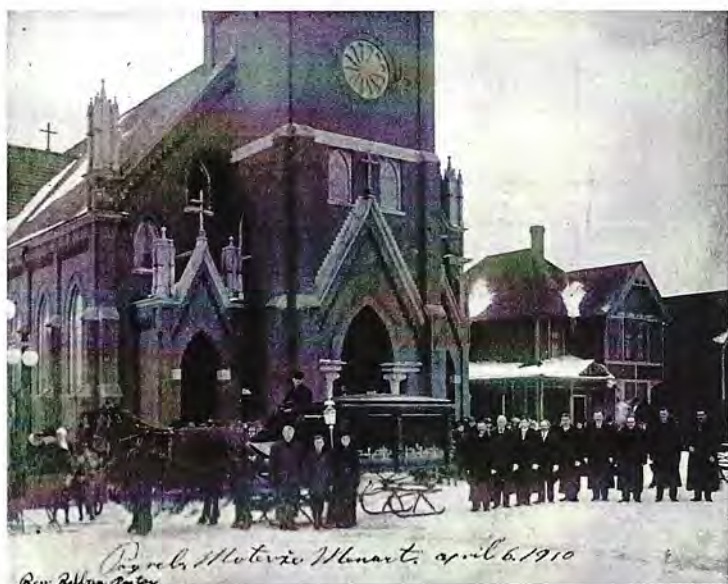
Fr. Hogan's early task was to build a rectory next to the church. He soon realized the

parish was such a distinct mix of ethnic cultures and languages, that only a linguist could give satisfactory service. In the fall of 1903, the bishop appointed Father Bilban, who could fluently handle seven languages, as the pastor. Fr. Hogan took Fr. Bilban's place in Virginia as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes.



The funeral of Matevz Menart took place on April 6th, 1910. It was the second funeral at the new church and took place over a month before the church's consecration. The horses had a long way to go to the cemetery as there was no cemetery in Eveleth at the time and they were on their way in the snow to the cemetery in Virginia.

With increased mining activity, it became apparent to Father Bilban that a larger church building would be needed and with permission from the bishop, plans for a new brick building were formulated. The old church building was sold and moved to the corner of Jackson Street and Adams Avenue. The Jewish community used the building as a synagogue until about 1970. After moving the rectory, construction of the new church was started on June 14, 1909. A loan was obtained, and when the work was completed the construction costs came to \$32,025. **Dedication of the new church building that**





# THE IRISH PARISH

Language was a serious problem in the Church at this time. Each immigrant group wanted the Mass in their own language and the English speaking Irish immigrants were given consent by the bishop to organize a parish of their own.



St. Patrick's Church was built and Fr. James Hogan said the first Mass there on August 7, 1904. It was dedicated on Sunday, September 4, 1904 by Bishop James McGolrick who also confirmed 90 children.



A few weeks after its dedication, Fr. Hugh Floyd was appointed the first pastor of the parish. He led the effort to construct a new rectory and to place a bell in the bell tower in 1908. Fr. Floyd became pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Duluth.

He was succeeded at St. Patrick's by Fr. Timothy Culligan, who served as pastor until 1916.



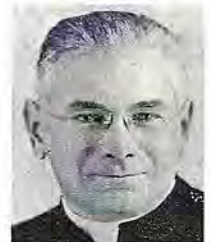
Fr. D.V. Patt served as pastor from 1916 to 1921. He updated the church building and he organized the first Eveleth Auto Club.

Fr. P.J. Maloney had a short stay as pastor from 1921 to 1923. Many well remember his great enthusiasm for hockey.



Fr. William Powers arrived as pastor in 1923. He was a well-known speaker around the State of Minnesota. He enhanced the beauty of St. Patrick's inside and outside. On a Sunday afternoon in mid March of 1942, a fire broke out causing heavy damage to St. Patrick's Church. Quick response and action by the Eveleth Fire Department prevented a total loss of the building. Fr. Powers died in 1949.

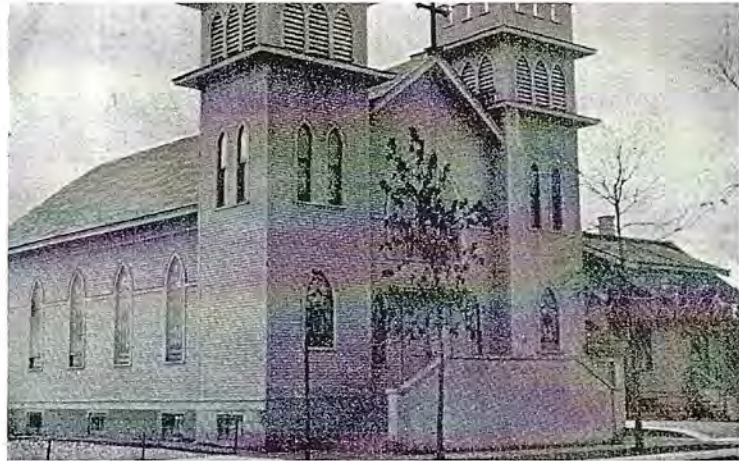
He was succeeded by Fr. Henry Spain, who came here from Nashwauk. On August 8, 1954, St. Patrick's celebrated its 50th Jubilee. Its founding pastor, Fr. Hogan, was still alive and was residing in Hibbing General Hospital. Fr. Spain's nephew is Fr. Seamus Walsh, who is currently the pastor of Grand Marais and Grand Portage.





# THE ITALIAN PARISH

Immaculate Conception church opened in 1914. It was the brainchild of Father (later Monsignor) John Zarilli, a priest of Duluth Diocese, who wanted to establish a parish in Eveleth for the Italians who were working in the Mesabi Range mines.



Fr. Zarilli's appeal for help



reached  
Fr. Ercole

Dominicus in New Orleans. A church was built on land donated by the Fayal Mining Company and Father Dominicus was appointed as the first pastor. This National Italian parish was established by Bishop McGolrick.

In the beginning, the life of the new parish was most difficult. Priests changed frequently. For 18 years, different priests struggled to lead the parish and get it on its feet. Pastors came and left, one after another, discouraged because of the indifference and often open hostility with which they were confronted.



Fr. Giuseppe Penta, known as the "*Napoletano*" served from 1916 to 1919.

In July 1919, Don Egidio Allais arrived and even though he left in 1920, he accomplished much in one year.



Fr. Richard McKeogh served from 1920 to 1921.

He was succeeded by Father Bartolomeo Zucchi from 1922 to 1925.

In 1925, Fr. Louis DeStefanis arrived and he lasted 8 years. He had poor health due to gas poisoning during World War I and died in the parish house in 1933. He is remembered as the priest with a "*big heart.*"







The tide began to turn when Fr. George Delia arrived in 1933. He made many improvements to the parish, both spiritually and materially. He enlarged the church and the rectory, and he built the Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes, a beautiful replica of the famous Grotto.



Fr. Delia moved to become pastor of a large Italian parish in Philadelphia.

Bishop Welch of Duluth offered the Immaculate Conception parish to the Missionaries of St. Charles, also known as the Scalabrini Fathers. The Scalabrinian Missionaries were founded by Bishop John Baptist Scalabrini in 1887 and primarily served the Italian immigrants in North and South America; today they work mostly with migrants in many countries. The first pastor from the Scalabrini Fathers was Fr. Louis Bolzan C.S. who lasted less than two years.



He was succeeded by Father Silvio Zanoni C.S. His stay of nine years was a big success and he was transferred to a large Italian parish in Kansas City, MO.

He was succeeded by Fr. Giulio Gragnani C.S. who captivated the imagination of the parish and all Italians living on the Iron Range with his festivals, carnivals and suppers. He carried on the radio programs that Fr. Zanoni had originated. After 8 years, he was transferred to Atikoken, Canada.



Fr. Francesco Passetto C.S. arrived on a cold Sunday in February of 1958. Over the next 7 years, he installed two new furnaces, repainted the outside of the church and added a new Baldwin organ.

He was succeeded by Rev. Anthony Cogo from 1967 to 1972 who retired because of illness.



The next pastor was Rev. Angelo Cugnodoro C.S. who served from 1972 to 1976.

Rev. Charles LaVerde C.S. served the final two years, and he moved to St. Francis House in Duluth, and later to Chicago. He worked with Charismatic Catholics and he died in 2005.





**stands today was held on May 29, 1910.** Many Catholics from Hibbing to Ely attended the dedication by Bishop James Trobec of St. Cloud; he was a native of Slovenia. The day was inclement including a light fall of snow. But their faith was evident in the procession of approximately 1,500 people that extended seven blocks.

The Catholics of Eveleth now had three churches to support. Father Bilban encountered many financial problems in trying to pay off the original loan. With the Bishop's consent, he resigned as pastor of Holy Family Church in April of 1916 to accept lighter work at St. Joseph's Church in Gilbert.



Bishop James Trobe  
Bishop of St. Cloud



Early picture of  
Holy Family; note the  
absence of steps

The new Holy Family Church consisted of two levels. The upper level contained the main high altar and two side altars (see photo). The floor of the seating area was sloped downward from the rear entry to the elevated sanctuary. The main altar held the tabernacle, a statue of the Holy Family, and statues of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the patron saints of the Slovenes. Two angels holding chandeliers flanked the altar and provided lighting for the sanctuary area. The side altars honored the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. Two large chandeliers provided lighting for the main body of the church. The walls and ceiling of the entire church contained pictures and works of art. The paintings on the ceiling were on canvas. Two beautiful large stained glass and fifteen smaller stained glass windows made up the side walls of the church. Eight of these depict some of

the apostles. The choir loft provided space and seating for the choir. A manual reed organ that had been purchased for the original church was moved into the new church building.

The lower, partially excavated level of the church, was divided into two areas. One area was used for coal storage and a manually operated steam boiler that heated the entire church and the rectory. The larger area had an altar and seating that was used for weekday masses during winter months to lower heating costs during the winter. The church building had no plumbing except for in the boiler room and a small room next to it containing a toilet and a utility sink. There was no kitchen. Access to the sanctuary was a spiral stairway from the lower area. This was the only inside access between the two levels of the building.



The bell tower held pneumatically operated bells controlled by a clock. The bells had a manual control in the choir loft area of the bell tower to toll the bells on special occasions such as funerals. There were four lighted clock faces



The controls for the clock as they are today



Some of the names on the church bells at Resurrection

visible from all directions. The original roof was covered with slate shingles and copper flashing. The cross on the steeple was the highest point in Eveleth.

There was a special and fascinating tradition, continued for many years of the hand chiming of the three tower bells by very talented men of the parish. This was done at special times during the year such as for First Communions, Confirmations, Christmas mid-night Mass, Easter Sunday... and especially of Holy Saturday afternoon when many ladies would bring Easter foods to the church to be blessed (a tradition from the Old Country). Most of Eveleth looked forward to the chiming of the bells by hand. The children even composed verses to sing with the chime melodies. The skill of the chiming was a unique skill and tradition that sadly has passed.

During the early 1950s, as the hematite ore deposits were depleted, mining activity declined. Employment opportunities declined as a result, and many of the young people left the area to find jobs. Population declines would affect many Range Catholic communities' ability of the aging populations to financially support their churches. A shortage of priests, and especially Slovenian and Italian speaking priests, also became a factor in maintaining three parishes in the Eveleth area.

## HOLY FAMILY—RESURRECTION PASTORS



**Rev. Anton Leskovic** succeeded Fr. Bilban and was pastor from September 1916 to May 1932. He is said to have been “zealous, energetic, and resourceful, and introduced many social activities such as parish plays and other means of entertainment with considerable success.” A used pipe organ was purchased to replace the original reed organ, which was moved to the basement of the church. In 1930 the steam system was connected to Minnesota Power’s steam line and the boiler room and coal storage areas were remodeled to be used as classrooms.





**Rev. Alois Pirnat** served from June 1932 to February 1956, the longest stay of any priest. During the early years of his tenure, Father Pirnat was successful in paying off the mortgage. He continued to raise funds for his long range plans for the parish. In the 24 years as pastor, his greatest achievement was the establishment of a catechetical school with the

Benedictine Sisters of Duluth in charge. As always, parishes without parochial schools were seriously compromised in the goal to provide adequate religious instruction for youth. In 1939 the Trinity House was purchased to house three nuns. With full cooperation of the local public school officials, classes were started and in the first year the enrollment reached 320 students (and grew to as many as 472 in 1960). Starting about 1934, Holy Family Church usually had an Assistant Pastor to help with the pastoral ministries.

Other notable events during Fr. Pirnat's tenure were a major renovation of the church basement and the purchase of a small piece of land in the Eveleth cemetery on which was set up a complete crucifixion grouping that stands today. Burial plots were reserved for priests. He also helped in the dedication and placement of the Veterans War Memorial on Memorial Day at the base of the crucifix in 1944; it includes a list of 25 local soldiers who died during WW2. Fr Pirnat received a special honor when he was elevated to Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor.

It was after the war that a major renovation of the church basement was completed. A complete excavation below the church enlarged the space and a full kitchen and bathrooms were installed. Brick walls, a concrete floor to replace the wooden one, and a new double door entrance was constructed. Also, the St. Cecelia choir raised funds to purchase a new Wicks pipe organ.

Fr. Pirnat was buried in the Holy Family burial plot in February 1956 with services conducted by Bishop Welch. The other priest who is buried there is Rev. Louis DeStefanis who lived from 1885 to 1933.

**Monsignor John Jershe** was appointed to succeed Fr. Pirnat. Msgr. Jershe was born in Yugoslavia and immigrated to the US when he was 10 years old. He offered the Golden Jubilee Mass for Holy Family church on May 30, 1960.



Fr. Stanley Dolsina served as Assistant Pastor from 1948 to 1953



Father John Kausek First native son to be ordained a priest



Fr. John Sustarsic served as Assistant Pastor from 1953 to 1960



## THE FIRST MERGER

With the retirement of St. Patrick's pastor Father Spain, Father Michael Skumavec of Holy Family was notified that he would also serve as pastor for St. Patrick's Church. The priests of the Holy Family Church continued services at the St. Patrick's Church until September 1968 at which time the decision was made to merge members of St. Patrick's Church with the Holy Family Church, and discontinue using the St. Patrick's Church building for Sunday Masses. The Knights of Columbus continued to use the lower level of the building for meetings and the initiation degrees.

Early in 1970, the steam supplier notified the church that steam service would be discontinued. Each building would need the installation of individual heating systems. Because considerable cost would be incurred to make the necessary changes, it was decided that the church building and rectory at St. Patrick's would be permanently closed. The Eveleth School district expressed an interest in the church property to expand the bus garage. In exchange for the property the School District agreed to allow use of Franklin School classrooms once a week from 8:00 to 9:00A.M. for the elementary religious education program. The rectory at St. Patrick's was sold to a private party.

## THE SECOND MERGER

In 1978, the Scalabrini Fathers notified the Diocese of Duluth that they could no longer staff Immaculate Conception Church. The decision was then made to merge this third parish and so Immaculate Conception and Holy Family churches merged and were renamed Resurrection Church. A choir director was hired and choir singing at Mass resumed. A Funeral Choir for music at funerals was started, and a block system was created with leaders in the different geographic areas of the parish to organize volunteers to help families with funeral arrangements.



The sign over the door of the former Immaculate Conception reads:

RESURRECTION  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
CENTER

Changes in bus schedules of Eveleth School elementary classes made it necessary to make arrangements to find a place to carry on the religious education programs. The closed Immaculate Conception church building was modified to use the first floor and rectory for religious education programs and parish meetings, and the basement as a youth center.

The church building, rectory and grounds were permanently closed and sold in 1987. The church was demolished. The rectory, grotto, bell and cross still remain on the property.





He celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a priest on June 14, 1966, an event that was attended by some 100 priests and sisters and more than 500 parishioners and friends. Later that day, a celebration dinner was held at the Eveleth Armory, and it was attended by a huge crowd of well-wishers. It is said that Msgr. Jershe practiced ecumenism in the local community long before

it became popular. He also *“influenced many a young person to greater successes.”*



Fr. Cornelius Kelleher served as Assistant Pastor from 1960 to 1966

In order to promote congregational singing, Monsignor Jershe discontinued choir participation in the Mass. The St. Cecelia choir was disbanded as a result. During his tenure, there were discussions about building a new Holy Family Church. Two pieces of land for a new Holy Family Church were acquired, one of them along the new Highway 53 corridor and the other one in the shadow of the Eveleth Water Tower.



Fr. Mike Skumavc

**Father Skumavc** was pastor from 1966-1968. During the years following the 2nd Vatican Council, a new altar was made so the priest faced the congregation while saying Mass; a public address system was installed. With the deterioration of the paint on the walls of the church, it was decided to cover the walls with wood paneling. St. Patrick’s and Holy Family parishes merged in 1968. St. Patrick’s was used as a Youth Center for the next 5 years.



**Rev. Frank Perkovich** served as Pastor from January 1970 to July 1984. Father Perkovich made the decision in 1973 to close the St. Patrick’s Church building and dispose of the property. The need to construct a new Holy Family Church building versus remodeling the present one was discussed. An architect was hired to determine the integrity of the building. Finding

no structural problems, the decision was made to remodel Holy Family Church. Upgrades to the church, Trinity House and rectory were accomplished during his tenure. Some of the changes in the church included removing the side altars, new stations of the cross with lighting, the steeple was painted and lighted, and carpeting, insulation and drywall installed in the church proper. An addition on



Rev. Ronald Gagne, September 1969 to June 1972



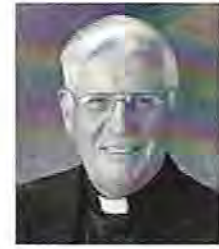
Fr. Alphonsus Kottiry 1973-1976





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Fr. Alphonsus Kottiry 1973-1976





Fr Perkovich is greeted in Rome by Pope John Paul II as he celebrates the Polka Mass at the High Altar of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in May of 1983.

the northeast of the church was built to provide a stairway for access between the two levels of the church from the inside; this necessitated removing the right-side confessional. During this time a new cross and lighting were installed at the cemetery plot. He also reactivated the Block System that had been begun by Fr. Skumavc.

In May 1973, the first Polka Mass was celebrated by Father Perkovich at Resurrection Church. The success of the popularity of The Polka Mass was primarily due to the superior quality of the music provided by Joe Cvek's music group and the male singers... outstanding musicians. They traveled to many area churches where large crowds, participating in the Mass, enjoyed the use of ethnic music in the liturgy. The Polka Mass at Resurrection Church was recorded and shown on national television. The Mass was also a part of the movie "Wild Rose" depicting life on the Iron Range. Fr. Perkovich is the subject of a book entitled: "Dancing a Polka to Heaven," a biography.



**Rev. Fredrick Method** served as Pastor from July 1984 to July 1987. During the tenure of Father Method, a ramp was constructed to provide handicap access to the upper level of the church. More property was purchased next to the Trinity House for parking area.

An engineering firm was hired to conduct a study of the options available to provide office space and classrooms for the religious ed program. After careful review of all available options it was decided that an annex be built on the north side of the church. The new addition was to provide the following:

- Improved access to upper and lower areas of the church.
- Restroom facilities for both levels.
- Offices for clergy and staff.
- Living quarters for Pastor.
- Classrooms suitable for students of all ages.
- A garage for vehicles and storage.
- An elevator to provide handicapped access to both levels of the church.



Fr. Dale Nau served as Associate Pastor 1978-1980



Fr. Mark Hollenhorst served from 1980-81



Rev. Jon Wild 1982-1984



Deacon Greg Hutar served from 1984 to 1987



The original plan was to tear down the rectory and Trinity House and purchase the adjacent property and remove structures. The Diocese Priest Senate decided the cost of the project was excessive and had to be reduced. It was recommended that the rectory and Trinity House removal not be included in the project. Plan changes were made, approval granted, and the construction of the annex began. In 1985, Deacon Greg Hutar helped to organize the 75th Anniversary of the Church. Bishop Schenk of Duluth presided and preached at the celebration at More Stadium. The picture of Immaculate Conception Church (the Second Merger) shows the workers preparing for this celebration at the nearby stadium.



**Rev. Jerome Weiss** served as Pastor from July 1987 to July 1993. During these years, construction of the annex was completed and church staff moved into new offices. Classrooms were furnished and religious education classes began use of the new facility.

An election process for the election of Finance Council and Pastoral Council members to provide continuity of church governance was created. A mission statement for Resurrection Church and job descriptions for church staff were determined.

A committee was formed to study the needs of the church building both liturgically and physically. As a result of the committee findings, a church renovation consulting firm was hired and major renovation began. Multiple projects were undertaken.

A new roof was installed. Bridging was added to reinforce the church floor and a new ceiling was installed in the basement. This work was completed first so church services could be held in the basement hall during renovation of the upper level.

The pews were removed and sent out to be refinished. Paintings on canvas were removed and sent out for restoration. The entire ceiling was covered with drywall. This was done without removing the old plaster and lathe. Vertical walls that had not been done previously were insulated and drywall applied. Electrical improvements to allow for indirect ceiling lighting was completed. New wood carvings of the Risen Christ and two angels replaced the statues of the Holy Family and Saints Cyril and Methodius on the back altar. This was done to reflect the name of the church.



Native son Fr. Peter Muhich was ordained on 9/29/1989

The Holy Family statue was moved downstairs to symbolize the newly named Holy



Family Hall. The statues of Saints Cyril and Methodius were placed in the main entrance to the church. The statue of The Blessed Mother Mary was sent to a St. Paul firm for repair and painting. Donated statuary and statuary from the St. Patrick's and Immaculate Conception Churches were placed in rooms in the annex. The floor area of the sanctuary was enlarged to provide more space for the priest and lectors.

A location for a Eucharistic Chapel was developed out of a storage area adjacent to the sanctuary. A new entrance to the sacristy was built and the old spiral staircase removed. New cabinets, lighting and furniture were added to the sacristy. A baptismal fountain with running water was installed near the main entrance. The floor of the choir loft was remodeled to provide more room for the choir. The entire interior of the church was repainted. All floor surfaces were carpeted.

All properties that were owned by the Resurrection Church (such as the one along Highway 53) were sold to help fund the renovation; because of changes in real estate tax laws on church owned property. Church properties not used for church functions were no longer real estate tax exempt.



**Rev. Eamonn Boland** was Pastor from July 1993 to April 2003.

Fr. Boland was appointed pastor just as this large renovation project was getting underway. He also had to deal with the somewhat contentious decision that had been made to move the tabernacle to a Eucharistic Chapel at the side of the sanctuary. Many parishioners had strong feelings of agreement and disagreement about this plan. The bishop intervened and at his direction an opening was made in the wall of the chapel so that the

placement of the tabernacle could be seen from the church proper.

Also during Fr. Boland's time, the current rectory on Jones Street was purchased and the old rectory and Trinity House were razed. The parish parking lots were blacktopped and an upper floor of the annex was constructed. The annex heating system was upgraded to increase efficiency. Sr. Claudia Cherro O.S.B. was hired to supervise an adult education and outreach ministry. A parish nurse was also added to the church staff. In 1998 the Resurrection Pro-Life Committee led a campaign to fund the installment of a memorial stone for the unborn victims of abortion at the cemetery plot.



Deacon Herb Riley served at Resurrection from 1995 until his retirement

**Rev. Joel Hastings** served as Pastor from September 2003 to July 2008. Father





Hastings eventually became Pastor for the newly ‘clustered’ parishes of Resurrection Church and St. Joseph’s Church in Gilbert.

Msgr. Suchan was Associate Pastor for a brief time before Fr. Joseph was appointed.

Monsignor, a native of Poland, was able to obtain a first class relic of the Polish nun, Saint Faustina, which he donated to Resurrection Church (see page 17 for more details).



Father Joseph Valliyamthadathil served as Associate Pastor from 2007 to the present

Church improvements during Fr. Hastings time included the installation of two gas hot water boilers which replaced the steam boiler as well as plumbing updates to increase the efficiency of the church heating system. Automatic door openers were installed for the right front door for handicapped access, and the church steeple was repainted. Father Hastings had the tabernacle moved back to its original place on the back altar and the relic was placed in the former Eucharistic Chapel. Many people from nearby parishes attend Divine Mercy devotion services at Resurrection Church on the feast of Divine Mercy.

Around this time, Marian Haij willed her house across the street, to the church. An estate sale was held, the aging building was razed and the site was filled in, and the church parking lot was enlarged. The proceeds were also used to update the sound system in the church in her memory.



**Rev. Charles P. Flynn** served as Pastor from July 20, 2008 to the present. New steel roofing with a lifetime guarantee was installed on the church in the fall of 2009 through Fr. Charlie’s very successful Iron Roof Campaign.

**CONCLUSION:** The history of Resurrection Church would not be complete without the numerous volunteers who are the engines that drive the mission of the Church and all the faithful who gave monetary support to beautify and preserve the buildings. We are celebrating ten decades of altar servers, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, readers, choirs, organists, teachers, people who decorate the church at Easter and Christmas, the helpers for religious education activities, those who help



with lunches at funerals, and the many others who served over the years.

Many wonderful Assistant priests and religious sisters served the parish. The names of the Assistant Pastors are listed in the appendix. One of the early members of Benedictine Sisters to take up residence in Eveleth was Sister M. (Erkle) Antonia, OSB.

The three parishes were blessed with the Guilds, the Christian Mothers, the Newman Club, the Sacred Heart Society, the Catholic Men's Club, the Junior Holy Name Society, the Junior and Senior Sodality, the Holy Name Societies, the Knights of Columbus, KSKJ, the Catholic Daughters, the Catholic Foresters, the Pro-Life Committee, the Pastoral and Finance councils, and other organizations that have provided a huge variety of activities to serve the social and spiritual life of the parishes. With a continued dedication of the time, talent and treasure of the parishioners, Resurrection Church will continue to make new history.

The memories of the three Catholic Churches, the personalities of the many clergy that served the Catholics of Eveleth and the commitment of the people of Eveleth to their faith in Jesus is a fascinating saga! As you have read the pages of this centenary book, you realize that the families who lived out this history in Eveleth and the three churches are indeed fortunate people. These pages tell the general story, but there are so many colorful stories of days and times past that are not written here, but will be cherished in our hearts, until we too will "enter this broad desert, perfectly level and boundless, where the truly pious heart succumbs in bliss, and shall sink into the divine shadow...

### **THE RELIC OF ST. FAUSTINA**

**Monsignor Aleksander Suchan** served as Associate Pastor for a short time at Resurrection Church. He acquired the first-class relic of Sister Faustina from his native Poland and gifted it to Resurrection Church. The relic is featured in a special display near the front of the Church. Sr. Faustina was canonized on April 30, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.



**References:** Frank Erjavec  
The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book  
Archives of the Diocese of Duluth



# THE PRIESTS AND BISHOPS

## HOLY FAMILY PASTORS

Rev. Mathias Bilban	May 1897-May 1903
Rev. James Hogan	May 1903-October 1903
Rev. Mathias Bilban	October 1903-April 1916
Rev. Alois Kastigar	April 1916-August 1916
Rev. Anton Leskovic	September 1916-May 1932
Rev. Matt Stukel	April 1932-June 1932
Rev. A.L. Pirnat	June 1932-February 1956
Rev. John Jershe	April 1956-August 1966
Rev. Mike Skumavc	August 1966-September 1968

## RESURRECTION PASTORS

Rev. Mike Skumavc	September 1968-January 1970
Rev. Frank Perkovich	January 1970-July 1984
<i>Immaculate Conception merged in 1978</i>	
Rev. Fredrick Method	July 1984-July 1987
Rev. Jerome Weiss	July 1987-July 1993
Rev. Eamonn Boland	July 1993-Sept 2003
Rev. Joel Hastings	October 2003-July 2008
Rev. Charles P Flynn	July 2008-present

## ASSISTANT PASTORS

Rev. A.L. Pirnat	August-October 1908
Rev. Albert Roy	July 1934-1937
Rev. Leo Hannan	1937-July 1938
Rev. Felix Kuras	July 1938-February 1944
Rev. Edward Oettiker	April 1944-January 1946
Rev. William Zorichak	January 1946-July 1947
Rev. Stanley Dolsina	October 1848-July 1953
Rev. John Sustaric	July 1953-September 1960
Rev. Cornelius Kelleher	Sept. 1960-August 1966
Rev. Robert Hulett	August 1966-August 1967
Rev. Timothy Costello	August 1967-Sept. 1968
<i>Merged into Resurrection September 1968</i>	
Rev. Timothy Costello	August/Sept. 1968-Sept. 1969
Rev. Ronald Gagne	September 1969-June 1972
Rev. Alphonsus Kottiry	March 1973-Nov. 1976
Rev. Dale Nau	July 1978-June 1980
Rev. Mark Hollenhorst	June 1980-October 1981
Rev. Jon Wild	June 1982-July 1984
Rev. William Lyons	July 1987-July 1988

## THE DEACONS

Deacon Greg Hutar	July 1984-July 1987
Deacon Herb Riley	June 1995-2007

## ST PATRICK'S PASTORS

Rev. James Hogan	October 1903-October 1904
Rev. Hugh A. Floyd	Nov. 1904-February 1911
Rev. Timothy Culligan	April 1911-July 1916
Rev. Daniel V. Patt	July 1916-October 1921
Rev. Patrick J. Maloney	October 1921-June 1923
Rev. Daniel V. Patt	June 1923-February 1930
Rev. William J. Powers	February 1930-May 1949
Rev. Francis Schweiger	May 1949-November 1949
Rev. Henry J. Spain	November 1949-July 1968

## IMMACUALTE CONCEPTION PASTORS

Rev. Ercole Dominicis	August 1915-Sept. 1916
Rev. Gerardo Penta	Sept. 1916-July 1919
Rev. Egidius Allais	July 1919-August 1920
Rev. Richard McKeogh	August 1920-October 1922
Rev. Bartholomeo Zucchi	October 1922-Sept. 1925
Rev. Louis DeStefanis	Sept. 1925-May 1933
Rev. George Delia	July 1933-January 1941
Rev. Louis Bolzan, PSSC	January 1941-Sept. 1942
Rev. Silvio S. Zanoni, PSSC	Sept. 1942-Nov. 1950
Rev. Julio Gragnani, PSSC	Nov. 1950-Feb. 1958
Rev. Francis Pasetto, PSSC	Feb. 1958-Sept. 1967
Rev. Anthony Cogo, CS	Sept. 1967-May 1972
Rev. Angelo Cugnodoro, CS	May 1972-June 1976
Rev. Charles LaVerde	June 1976-July 1978

## NATIVE OF EVELETH

Fr. John Kausek	Ordained June 6 1936
Rev. Peter Muhich	Ordained Sept. 29 1989

## THE BISHOPS OF THE DIOCESE OF DULUTH

James McGolrick	Nov. 15, 1889-Jan. 23, 1918
John T. McNicholas, O.P.	July 18, 1918-July 8, 1925
Thomas A. Welch	Dec. 17, 1925-Sept. 9 1959
Francis J. Schenk	Jan. 27, 1960-April 30, 1969
Paul F. Anderson	April 30, 1969-August 17, 1982
Robert H. Brom	March 25, 1983-May 1, 1989
Roger L. Schwietz, OMI	Dec. 12, 1989-Jan. 18, 2000
Dennis M. Schnurr	Jan. 18, 2001-Oct 17, 2008
Paul D. Sirba	December 15, 2009 to present



# A HUNDRED YEARS OF CALLING

This building was started in 1906  
On top of a hill in the town of Eveleth.

The number of years to complete was three,  
The same length of time as Jesus's ministry.

The steeple is high; people can see its fine lines.  
The clock and the bells keep people on time.

The cornerstone reads "Holy Family" in letters so fine,  
But Resurrection it's called for the 3 churches combined.

People have come here from all walks of life  
To seek solace and comfort and peace in their lives.

From the outside it's a building like others you see,  
But once you're inside you'll feel the Trinity.

For 100 years she stood on this hill,  
Calling all of the people to do God's Will.

*by Bill Aldrich, parish member*