

Parish Chronicle - The beginning

The beginning of the Wry settlement dates back to the 13th century. The first written information, which mentions Wry among others, comes from 1287.

On 23 March 1287 the Duke of Opole and the Lord of Racibórz, Mieszko, proved the salary for the new parish church of St Wojciech in Mikołów with his own seal. The document stated that the nobleman, Borko from Łaziska near Mikołów gave a vast field as the salary to the church in Mikołów. The area ranges from the Łaziska settlement to the Wry border.

The historical papers claim that at that time there had already existed some farms based on German law in Wry. The number of the inhabitants of Wry at that time is not known. Later notes prove that there were still only several farms in Wry by the end of 19th century and it was not until the second half of the 19th century that the number of the inhabitants rapidly increased as the result of the industry development in that area. There were 305 inhabitants in Wry in 1783, 1644 in 1890 and yet 1825 in 1905.

By the whole period of its existence, till the beginning of the 20th century, Wry together with the neighbouring villages belonged to the parish of St Wojciech in Mikołów.

The historical data prove that in 1845 Jan Słomka from Wry, born on 2 March 1821, took the holy orders, and later became the rector in Warta in the Lower Silesia where he also died in 1883.

On 1 March 1905, Paweł Dworski became the rector of St Wojciech parish in Mikołów. He willingly helped the inhabitants of Wry desiring to found their own independent parish. The efforts were taken in 1907 but the church authorities did not agree till the outbreak of the I World War.

Parish Chronicle - 1919 - 1938

1919

As the result of long lasting efforts of the citizens of Wry and thanks to the support of the rector of Mikołów, the archbishop of Wrocław, cardinal Bertram, agreed to the foundation of the so called 'kuracja' in Wry.

Teofil Kocurek became the first priest, the so called 'kuratus', in Wry on 19 May 1919. He was nominated to that work by the General Duke-Bishop Curately of Wrocław. The Bishop Curia of Wrocław gave the power of attorney to Paweł Dworski, the rector of Mikołów to consecrate the restaurant hall of Mr Wilhelm Seeman adapted to saying the service.

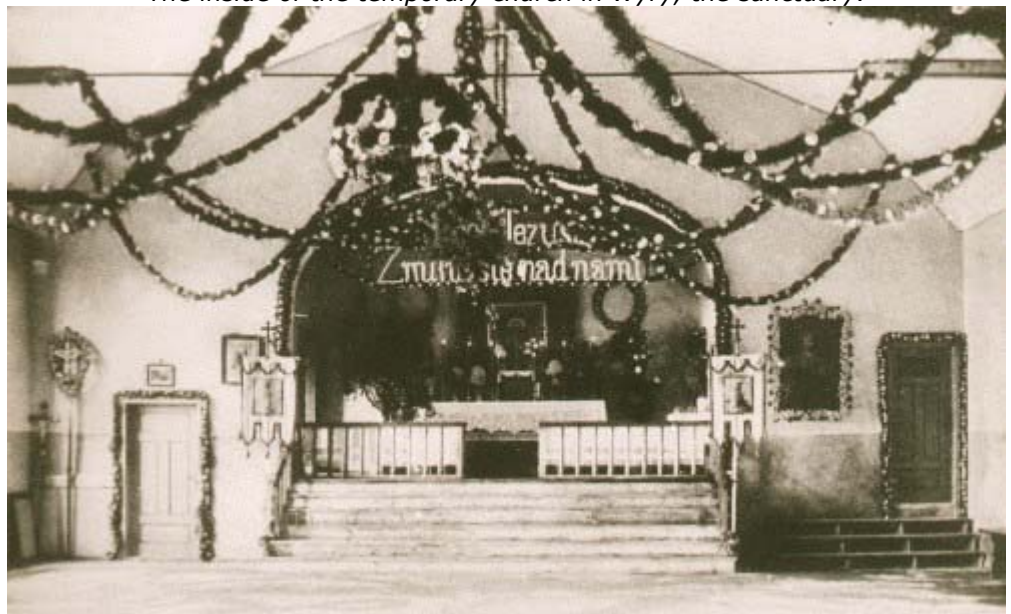
The entrance to the temporary church in Wry



There were six thresholds leading to the altar in the sanctuary that was situated in the church hall and there were also two confessional boxes. All that was made by the carpenters from Wry. In the back part of the church room, a three-meter wide landing with a balustrade was made. It was a place for the choir, where initially a harmonium was situated and which, later on, was a place for the organs made by the Klimosch u Durschlag company from Rybnik.

There were six thresholds leading to the altar in the sanctuary that was situated in the church hall and there were also two confessional boxes. All that was made by the carpenters from Wry. In the back part of the church room, a three-meter wide landing with a balustrade was made. It was a place for the choir, where initially a harmonium was situated and which, later on, was a place for the organs made by the Klimosch u Durschlag company from Rybnik.

The inside of the temporary church in Wry, the sanctuary.





There was also a temporary presbytery situated in the house on Mr Tadeusz Żogała's farm.

Teofil Kocurek, the priest, took great efforts to start the building of a separate parish church in Wry together with the parishioners. Mr Wilhelm Seeman, the owner of the restaurant and Mr Józef Bartel, the farmer, gave the suitable land nearby the nowadays church.

Teofil Kocurek, the priest of the so called 'kuracja' in Wry.



1922

The Mining Office did not agree to the building of the church in the chosen place because of the extractions taking place underground. This was the reason of choosing another place, in the center of Wry, for the foundation of the new church. The newly chosen land belonged to Mr Jakub Cofała, the farmer. Instead of the 11 200m² of the land in the centre of the village the Duke of Pszczyzna gave him 16 800m² of the meadow in the area of the railway along the stream from the 'Waleska' mine to the Gostynka stream. After all those troubles and preparations the building of the church was started in the spring of 1922.

The beginning of the new church building.



The four-meter high walls of the new church appeared in the autumn of 1922. In



The four-meter high walls of the new church appeared in the autumn of 1922. In the meantime of the building diverse difficulties appeared and they were still intensified by the growing devaluation of money.

The problems discouraged Teofil Kocurek, the priest, from continuing the works in Wry. He left the place on 1 December 1922 and moved to the Wielkie Dębieńsko parish, and then to Jaśkowice, where he became the rector after the building of the parish church there.

In May 1912, the first missions in Wry were carried out by the 'Oblaci' Fathers.

1923

Jan Janota, the priest who was born in Bieruń Stary, came to Wry in February 1923. After graduating the University of Wrocław, he was ordained by cardinal Kopp in Wrocław.

Before he came to Wry, Jan Janota, the priest, worked as a curate in Zabrze at St Anna church and then in the town called Ujazd. Between 1914 and 1922 he was the so called 'kuratus' in Koningswusterhausen nearby Berlin from where he came to his motherland after joining the Silesia to the territory of Poland. After a short period of awaiting he was nominated to be a priest in Wry.

With the coming of the new priest the church building was started again. The church was covered with a roof before the winter of 1923 and during the next years the interior was being decorated.

1924

The most important event of 1924 was the apostolic visit of August Hlond, the apostolic administrator of the newly founded Katowice diocese on 23 May. The young parishioners also took the confirmation sacrament. The event was of great importance to the parishioners, because it happened for the first time in Wry, but also because of the fact that August Hlond became the bishop of Katowice on 3 January 1926, and later the primate of Poland on 20 June 1926, and a cardinal the next year.

1925

On 31 May 1925, one of the most outstanding inhabitants of Wry, Maciej Rydzko, died. He was one of the first inhabitants of Wry and he had undertaken the efforts to found the new parish in Wry already in 1907. He co-operated with chaplain Czernik from Mikołów.

He was also devoted to the building of the new church after the 'kuracja'' foundation in Wry and he sponsored the inside decoration of the church and the monstrance, among others.

The roman-catholic parish in Wry was set with the decree of 29 July 1925 by the apostolic administration of Katowice and a great ceremony took place on Sunday, 4 October 1925. Jan Janota was introduced as the rector of the parish of Wry by Jan Kopica, the prelate of Tychy, and by some other priests taking part in the ceremony.

After finishing the ceremony, all its participants walked in a procession to the new church, where Jan Kapica, the prelate, consecrated the cornerstone. It was inbuilt in the back wall behind the altar together with the chronicle of The building procedure.

1926

Although the building of the church was still not finished entirely, the parishioners had already started the presbytery building. It lasted almost two years and was finished in December, the next year. A 60 000 zloty credit was taken from the Treasury of the Silesian Province.

1927

On 26 June 1927, the new church in Wry was benedicted by Jan Kapica, the prelate of Tychy. On that day also the first indulgence took place in the church. A new altar, confessional boxes and pews, all made by the carpenters from Wry, were situated in the church.

On 26 June 1927, the new church in Wry was benedicted by Jan Kapica, the prelate of Tychy. On that day also the first indulgence took place in the church. A new altar, confessional boxes and pews, all made by the carpenters from Wry, were situated in the church.

The organs, done in 1919, and other furnishing, so far used in Mr Seeman's church hall, was moved into the new church.

Two bells weighting 70 kgs were placed in the church tower. One of them was made of bonze in 1885 and another of steel in 1918.

A new baptismal font, done by the stonemasons from Wry, was also placed in the new church.

1928

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners new massive paws, which could place 370 people, were bought. Also the old pictured way of the cross was replaced with a new sculpted one, which cost 4 500 zloty.

1929

The church was equipped with new fitting. The statue of Jesus in the Holy Grave was bought with 1 000 zloty. The lads bought a brass lantern and gave it as a gift to the church. With the parishioners' donation the electric lightning was installed. It consisted of four hanging lamps with shades that were set on the four pillars in the sanctuary and on the two pillars at the choir.

The way of the cross sculptures were also lighted with candle shaped bulbs and 50 such bulbs were additionally placed in the frame of Jesus' Sacred Heart picture in the main altar.

A wonderful bronze chandelier, of 1 200 zloty worth, was founded by Mr Leopold Mańka, the baker from Wry and the church sacristian at the same time. It was hanged in the middle of the church. There were 50 electric candle shaped bulbs in the chandelier.

Mr Leopold Mańka, standing on the left, and his parents sitting.



1930

Franciszek Bojdoł, born on 2 April 1905 in Wry, took the holy orders, as the second priest from Wry, on 22 June 1930.





1931

1931 was another year of the great crisis overruling the world for the period of several years.

The citizens of Wry also severely experienced the unemployment resulting from the closing of the following mines. On 15 April 1931 'Szczęście Henryka', the mine in Wry was closed and half of the miners of the nearby mine called 'Bolesław Śmiały' were dismissed from work. The rest of the workers worked in the so called 'periods', which meant that they worked every three months. Additional free days called 'holidays' ('świętówki'), were also introduced.

A kitchen for the unemployed, which was initiated in Wry, did not solve all the unemployment problems. The unemployed started building the so called 'field shafts' ('biedaszyby'), on the wasteland nearby Mikołów, from which they extracted the coal for their own needs and for sale. In 1932 there were more or less 30 such shafts from which around 200 tons of coal was extracted.

1933

1933 was a year of a great jubilee of the rector of our parish. Jan Janota celebrated two jubilee dates in that year: 25th anniversary of his priesthood,

and his 50th birthday. On that occasion, the girls of the Virgin Mary's congregation founded a wonderfully embroidered, colourful and decorative altar and pulpit clothes.

The member girls of the Virgin Mary's congregation of Wry together with Franciszek Bojdoł, the priest, Mr Franciszek Buczek, the organist and the altar boys during the visit of Teofil Kocurek, the priest.



1934

A canonical visit of Ph.D. Teofil Bromboszcz, the first 'Sufragan' bishop of the Katowice diocese, was a very important event in Wry in 1934.

1935

Between 1924 and 1935 the activity of diverse sects rapidly increased in the nearby parishes but they did not find any followers in Wry. To make the belief more profound another. the second in order. missions were carried out in Wry in

Between 1924 and 1935 the activity of diverse sects rapidly increased in the nearby parishes but they did not find any followers in Wry. To make the belief more profound another, the second in order, missions were carried out in Wry in 1935. They lasted since 30 March to 8 April and they had a very solemn setting. The Franciscan fathers from Panewniki, who were to preach sermons, were wholeheartedly welcomed by the parishioners of Wry. Out of the three missionaries, father Pankracy was liked most. The number of 5 300 hosts served prove the great involvement of the parishioners into the missions.

1936

The whole inside of the church was painted light beige in 1936. At the same time the sanctuary was decorated with beautiful pastel paintings. A painting portraying God with a long beard and stretched arms together with two angels appeared on the ceiling of the dome. A shining monstrance surrounded with the angels in clouds was painted over the main altar.

Jan Janota, the rector, was taking great care of the church and its decoration and furnishing.

Jan Janota, the rector, after several years of work in Wry.



1937

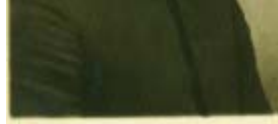
The most important event of 1937 in Jesus' Sacred Heart parish in Wry was taking the holy orders by Karol Markiel.

The most important event of 1937 in Jesus' Sacred Heart parish in Wry was taking the holy orders by Karol Markiel.

Karol Markiel, the priest, studied theology in Warsaw and served his novitiate at the Salezjan fathers in Oświęcim and Przemyśl.



Karol Markiel, the priest, was dedicated to the pedagogical work as far as the



Karol Markiel, the priest, was dedicated to the pedagogical work as far as the church music was concerned. He worked in the famous organ school in Przemyśl, among others.



1938

After many years of the economic crisis, the time of significant improvement of living conditions came.

New investments were done in our church. A new altar was built in the sanctuary with the statue of Jesus in the middle of it, St Barbara on the left and St Joseph on the right. The pulpit was placed on the right side of the nave and the sanctuary was separated from the remaining part of the church with beautifully sculpted gallery. The confessional boxes, situated at the back side of the church, below the choir, were sculpted in the same style and all that was done by an artist sculptor, Mr Konarzewski from Istebna. The angels holding electrical candlesticks were placed on the side pillars of the sanctuary.



The furnishing of the church of 1938 lasted unchanged for many years. The picture above was taken in 1960's.

Parish Chronicle - 1939 - 1955

1939

The II World War broke out on 1 September 1939. In the morning the inhabitants of Wry were surprised with the sound of the cannons and the view of the German planes arriving from the west. The parishioners gathered at the church on the sound of the church bells tolling and, together with the rector, left the village. They took the most precious and useful belongings and rushed into the direction of Tychy, Katowice, Mikołów and Wolbrom. The wandering lasted for over two weeks. At that time, Wry was the place of bloody war fighting. At the beginning of September, ten parishioners, who helped the Polish soldiers or stayed at home were killed by the invaders. Wry was greatly devastated in the result of the war fighting. The people coming back from the wandering found only the ashes of their homes and shambles with the soldiers killed. On 3 September 1939, the Germans burnt the presbytery together with the barn and the stable. The south part of the church roof was also destructed because a shell hit it.

On 23 December 1939, Wincenty Nagi, coming from Wry, took the holy orders. He was also one of the participants of the September War Campaign, and fought under the 'Drobina' pseudonym. He fought in the west and after the war he stayed in Scotland.

Wincenty Nagi.



The time of occupation.

During the time of the occupation, the services could only be given in German. Jan Janota, the rector, who after coming back from the wandering found the presbytery burnt, lived in Mr Józef Gerlich's house at 3 Kościelna Street for many years.

In 1942, the young parishioners took the confirmation sacrament. Rector Dudek from Janów blessed them with the authorization of the Holy See.

On 15 October 1943, another decanal visit took place. It was led by W. Pucher, the priest.

On 27 May 1942, Franciszek Bojdoł, the priest coming from Wry was executed by a firing squad in Oświęcim. He was an army chaplain and a Gymnasium catechist in Cieszyn before the war.

During the time of the occupation the following priests from our parish took the holy orders in diverse places of their staying:

- Paweł Kempka, the participant of the II World War, took the holy orders on 7 March 1943 in Widnawa and later on became the rector of Jańkowitz,
- Władysław Borowski, belonging to the Regular Canonics' Order in Cracow, took

- Paweł Kempka, the participant of the II World War, took the holy orders on 7 March 1943 in Widnawa and later on became the rector of Jaśkowice,
- Władysław Borowski, belonging to the Regular Canonic's Order in Cracow, took the holy orders on 18 May 1944 in Cracow,
- Władysław Marekwa, from the Jesus' Sacred Heart Order in Cracow, took the holy orders in Bologna.

Paweł Kempka, the priest.





1945

In the morning of 27 January 1945, the offensive Russian Army arrived to Wry. Despite of many traumatic experiences and events, the spontaneous happiness accompanied the liberation. There was the thanksgiving service celebrated in Polish by Jan Janota, the rector, on 4 February 1945. It was the first service after the liberation and it was to thank God for saving the village from further destructions. 'Te Deum' and 'Boże coś Polskę' were sang during the mass. The believers taking part in that service were singing all the religious songs and hymns in Polish overcame with emotions and having tears in their eyes. The number of Hosts served in 1945 equaled 23 626 and it was the same number as in 1938. After the war, there were services celebrated by the priests from our parish who took the holy orders at the time of occupation.



Władysław Borowski, the priest. Władysław Marekwi, the priest.

1946

In September 1946, Stanisław Adamski, the ordinate bishop of the Katowice diocese, came to our parish to carry out the canonical visit. On that occasion, He said the service, preached the sermon and a great number of parishioners took the confirmation sacrament.

The 25th anniversary of the rector Jan Janota's work in Wry was coming.

Jan Janota, the rector, with a group of boys taking their first communion after the II World War.



after the II World War.



Leopold Mańka, the sacristian since 1919, died in December 1946. His responsibilities were taken over by Mr Józef Kolonko who lived at 3 Kościelna Street together with the rector.

1948

The war destructions in Wry were very serious. 70% of the house and the farm buildings were damaged or burnt. It was not until 1 July 1948, when the rebuilding of the damaged presbytery was started and it lasted for two years.

Since 1947, the responsibilities of the undertaker were hold by Mr Teofil Kopiec. He stood in for Mr Andrzej Otko who was the undertaker of our parish since the very beginning of its foundation.

In 1947, the ladies of Virgin Mary's Sodality ordered a beautiful standard to our church. It was held during the processions at the parish fete, at Corpus Christi and at its octave.



One of the colour guards with their standard.

1950



One of the colour guards with their standard.

1950

The rebuilding of the presbytery was finished on 1 September 1950. Not less than 11 years passed by, before the rector could move into the presbytery again.

1951

Because of the serious illness of Jan Janota, the rector, Franciszek Brzoza, the priest, came to Wry on the Palm Sunday out of the command of the bishop. The substituting of the rector lasted till the end of April 1951, when the rector came back from the Elizabethan Sisters' hospital in Katowice.

The rector's health still did not allow him to fulfill all of his responsibilities and that is why Franciszek Adamczyk, the priest, starts his work in our parish on 16 April 1951. He was designed to be the substitute of the ill rector.

Juliusz Bieniak, the sufragan bishop of the Katowice diocese, carried out the canonical visit in our parish on 25 and 26 June 1951. 239 parishioners also took the confirmation sacrament.

On 15 December 1951, Franciszek Adamczyk, the professor of theology, left our parish to take up the responsibilities of the rector in Tarnowice Stare.

Walter Gajda, the priest, so far working in Niedobczyce, came to Wry to be a curate here.

Jan Janota, the rector, Walter Gajda, the curate and the ladies of Virgin Mary's Solidate with their standard.



1953

On 30 September 1953, Walter Gajda, the curate, left Wry and moved to Bykowina.

M.A. Franciszek Konieczny, a great preacher, starts his work as a curate in Wry on 1 October 1953. He was born on 19 September 1921 in Łędziny and took the holy orders on 27 June 1948 in Katowice.

On 12 July 1953, the primate service was said by Kazimierz Marekvia, the priest from Jesus' Sacred Heart Order.





Kazimierz Marekwia, the priest,

Kazimierz Marekwia, the priest, with his took the holy orders in Tarnów. brother Władysław, also the priest of Jesus' Sacred Heart Order and their parents, Maria and Stanisław Marekwia. Stanisław Marekwia was the administrator of the inhabitants of Wyrzy and the head of the commune of many years standing. He held that post since 1919 till 1946.

1954

Thanks to the great arrangement talent of Franciszek Konieczny, the curate, the roof repair took place and the walls and the vault's ceiling of the church were repainted one more time. The old, pre-war paintings in the sanctuary were restored. Additionally the church was enriched in new paintings on the vaults of the individual aisles. There were, among others, the four evangelists, St Pius X, St Teresa of baby Jesus and Virgin Mary Goretti. At the same time new side altars of Virgin Mary and of St Joseph replaced the old ones.

On Sunday, 11 July 1954, Konstanty Nagi's primacy celebrations took place in Opole. He joined the St Francis' Order and as a Franciscan he was called Placyd by his order brothers.

Konstanty Nagi, called Father Placyd, is the brother of Wincenty Nagi-Drobina who took the holy orders on 23 December 1939.



Konstanty Nagi and his brother Wincenty, the priests in the picture.

1955

In 1955, both the repair of the church roof and the redecoration of the church were continued.

1955

In 1955, both the repair of the church roof and the redecoration of the church were continued.

The building of the catechist room for the youth was also initiated. It was built by the parishioners themselves of the materials that remained after the burnt farm buildings of the presbytery.

The fence round the church was also repaired. It was plastered and the front gates were repainted.

The next investment was the installation of the heating inside the church.

Parish Chronicle - 1956 - 1977

1956

At the beginnings of February 1956, Franciszek Konieczny, the priest, was recalled from our parish and moved to the Krasoway parish nearby Mysłowice. He was substituted by Walter Wrzoł, the priest from Kamień.

On 7 May 1956, a canonic visit led by Jan Piskorz took place. He was the priest holding the responsibilities of the diocese ordinate after the exile and arresting of the bishops together with Stanisław Adamski, the ordinate bishop.

During the visit 202 parishioners took the confirmation sacrament. He also encouraged the parishioners to generous donations to the cathedral building in Katowice.

On Sunday, 11 November 1956, the thanksgiving service was said in our church. The parishioners wanted to thank God for the happy return of the bishop of Katowice.

1957

Walter Wrzoł, the priest, was recalled from our parish on 9 January 1957 to be nominated the catechist inspector of our diocese.

Jerzy Cedzich became the new curate of Wiry. He came to our parish from Makoszów, which was his first place of work after taking the holy orders.

In July 1957, Stanisław Wygrabek, who took the holy orders in the Gorzów diocese, celebrated the primate service at our church.

The proests of Wiry; Stanisław Wygrabek on the day of his primate service, Władysław Borowski, on the left and Paweł Kempka, in the front row.



1958



1958

The 50th anniversary of taking the holy orders by Jan Janota, the rector of Wry, on 24 June 1958, was greatly celebrated.



A group of 30 priests came to our parish on that occasion. Franciszek Konieczny, the ex-curate of our parish and at that time the rector of the Świętochłowice parish, preached the sermon during the celebrated service.

Since 1958, Mr Jan Nieszporek substituted for Mr Teofil Kopiec, the undertaker since 1947.

1959

Between 24 October and 1 November, the Franciscan Fathers and Father Maurycy Kozłowski from Panewniki carried out the missions in our parish. The evening services with the sermons aimed particularly to women and men respectively were novelty at that time.

1960

At the beginning of 1960, after nearly 2 years of preparation, another great investment was finalized. New 21-volume organs, made by Mr Biernacki's company from Kraków, were inbuilt in the choir replacing the old ones, made by Klimosh u Durschlag from Rybnik, that were used for 40 years. The old instrument was donated to the Virgin Mary of Fatima parish in Wesołe, nearby Mysłowice.

In 1960, new additional pews were installed and since then there were 18 pews on each side of the church.

The altar that was built in 1938 and was still in use in 1960.





1961

Kartanowicz, the priest from the St Family's Congregation from Górka Klasztorna, carried out the renewal of the missions since 15 till 19 March 1961.

Juliusz Bieniek, the sufragan bishop, came to our parish with the canonical visit on Sunday, 4 June 1961 and stayed there till Monday, 5 June 1961. At that time, the young parishioners took the confirmation sacrament.

The monumental fasade of our church.



1962

Jerzy Cedzich, the curate, was recalled from our parish to Siemianowice on 30 August 1962, after the 5 years of his work in Wry.

Kazimierz Piprek, the priest born on 19 August 1934 in Żory, became the new curate of Wry.

Jan Janota, the rector of Wry, resigned from his dean post on 1 December 1962 because of his age and health condition.

Smandzich, the rector of Mikołów was nominated the new dean of the Mikołów decanate.

Jan Janota, the rector of Wry and the dean of the Mikołów decanate together with Jerzy Cedzich, the curate of Wry.





1963

M.A. Stanisław Adamczyk, the priest born on 26 May 1930 in Ornontowice came to our parish on 12 August 1963 being nominated the substitute priest of the Jesus' Sacred Heart parish in Wiry.

At the same time, Kazimierz Piprek, the priest, was moved to Szopienice.

On 12 November 1963, Stanisław Adamczyk, the priest got the nomination for the adiutor post of the Wiry parish.

MA Stanisław Adamczyk, the priest together with the catechist sister and the children on the First Holy Communion day.



1964

On 19 August 1964, Stanisław Adamczyk was nominated for the post of the rector of Wiry. At the same time he became the second rector of the Wiry parish.

On 29 August 1964, Jan Janota left Wiry and moved to Świętochłowice, where Franciszek Konieczny was the rector. He was also the ex-curate of the Wiry parish and a relative of Jan Janota.

Sylwester Antosz, the priest born on 31 December 1935 in Katowice, moved to Wiry from Janów Śląski and became the curate of Wiry on 30 August 1964.

During the night on 20/21 November 1964, there was the breaking in to the church building. All the liturgical chalices were stolen from the tabernacle, but the burglars were not found. After the sacrilege the conciliating service was said at our church.

1965

In 1965, Józef Smandzich, the dean of Mikołów, carried out the dean visit in our parish.

At the beginning of the year, a new safe tabernacle was installed together with the door bolts to prevent another breaking in.



the door bolts to prevent another breaking in.



1966

On 5 April 1966, Ryszard Sosna, the priest, carried out the inspection of the sacral buildings and advised a few serious repairs in our church. The inspection was carried out on the command of the diocesan curia. On the basis of that advice the dehydration around the church building was done. After leveling the ground around the church it was hardened with the cinders surface. After finishing all of the works, the hedge, the bushes and the flowers were planted in the church square.

On 30 August 1966, Sylwester Antosz, the curate was recalled from Wiry to become the hospital chaplain in Tarnowskie Góry.

M.A. Edward Poloczek, born in Zabrze-Pawłów on 19 September 1941, became the new curate of Wiry on 30 August 1966.

On 13 September 1966, a great happening took place in our parish. Despite of the interference of the authorities, the frames of the picture of the Virgin Mary of Częstochowa were brought to our parish. The copy of the picture was arrested, so only the frames of the picture could be worshipped. The atmosphere was really solemn and the visitation was preceded by the missions between 4 and 11 September. They were carried out by 3 missionaries from the St Family's Congregation and by Father Bronisław Kartanowicz, the dean.

Walter Wrzoł, the priest together with Stanisław Adamczyk, the rector and Edward Poloczek, the curate.



1967

The advised repairs were continued in 1967. Another roof repair was carried out. Some of the tiles were replaced and the wooden parts of the roof construction were made waterproof.

Ph.D. Herbert Bednorz, the bishop, carried out another canonic visit and 132 boys and 134 girls took the confirmation sacrament on 29 and 30 April 1967. On the first day of the visit, the bishop led the requiem mass on the graveyard, which he dedicated to the late parishioners and on the second day, he visited

Ph.D. Herbert Bednorz, the bishop, carried out another canonic visit and 132 boys and 134 girls took the confirmation sacrament on 29 and 30 April 1967. On the first day of the visit, the bishop led the requiem mass on the graveyard, which he dedicated to the late parishioners and on the second day, he visited two seriously ill parishioners.

The Lent retreat led by Father Zubrzycki, the missionary from the St Family's Congregation from Górka Klasztorna, preceded the canonic visit.

Soon after the visitation 24 loudspeakers were installed on the pillars and on the side walls. The outside of the church was painted plain light grey in 1967.

1968

On 15 June 1968, Jan Janota, the rector of Wiry of many years standing, died in Świętochłowice. The funeral celebration took place in Wiry. Herbert Bednorz, the ordinate bishop, and a numerous group of priests consisting of almost all who worked in Wiry took part in the funeral. Jan Janota, the dean, was buried on the graveyard in Wiry.



1969

Jerzy Meiser, of the St Family's Congregation in Górka Klasztorna, carried out the Lent retreat on 25 to 30 March 1969.

Between 1 and 8 June 1969 another special retreat in our parish preceded the 50th anniversary of the independent parish foundation, which was planned on 15 June.

On 26 August 1969, Edward Poloczek, the curate was recalled to St George's parish in Rydułtowy.

Paweł Labe, born on 28 April 1936 in Bieruń Stary, was nominated the new curate of Wiry.

1970

In 1970, 58 newborn parishioners took baptism and 34 died. 45 664 holy communions were served and 23 marriage ceremonies were organized. The number of the communions served doubled comparing to 1945 despite of the fact that the number of the citizens remained almost the same.

1971

The Lent retreat was carried out by father Zytlewski of St Family's Missioners Congregation on 31 March to 4 April 1971.

The Lent retreat was carried out by father Zytlewski of St Family's Missioners Congregation on 31 March to 4 April 1971.

On 17 July 1971, Stanisław Adamczyk, the rector, was recalled to the Virgin Mary's parish in Orzesze for the post of the rector.

Ph.D. Franciszek Leśnik, the former rector of St Joseph's parish in Katowice-Załęże since 1958, took the responsibilities of the rector of the Wryy parish.

The insulation works in our church were finished in the autumn of 1971.

On 6 November 1971, Ph.D. Franciszek Leśnik was nominated the rector of our parish.

1972

Another redecoration of the inside of the church was carried out in the early spring of 1972. The painting had to be preceded by the time-consuming washing of the old paint. The new painting project was accepted by the appropriate commission of the bishop curia.

Czesław Domin, the bishop, came to our parish on 29 April 1972 for a two-day visit. After his celebrated welcoming by the parishioners and by the rector, 112 boys and 134 girls of our parish took the confirmation sacrament.

The next day, on 30 April 1972, Czesław Domin, the bishop said the celebrated service and preached two sermons.

In the autumn of 1972, a new fence was built around the widened territory of the graveyard. Another retreat was carried out in our parish since 5 till 11 November by Lucjan Mazur and Jan Babik of the Jesus' Sacred Heart Congregation in Tarnów. That retreat preceded the celebration of the consecration of the families to Jesus' Sacred Heart. 830 families of our parish took part in the consecration.

1973

In the spring of 1973, the painting of the inside of the church was finished. On 25 August 1973, Paweł Labe, the curate of our parish, was recalled and moved to Mikołów-Kamionka.

Ryszard Sosna, the curate of Bełk, was nominated the new curate of Wryy on 25 August 1973.

In 1973, the church roof repair works were started. The tiles were removed and the church was covered with a new zinc-plated tin roof. The roof repair appeared to be really time-consuming and thus the works were continued still into 1976.

Mr Franciszek Buczek, the organist, played the church organs from the very beginning of our church and he also participated in all the services.





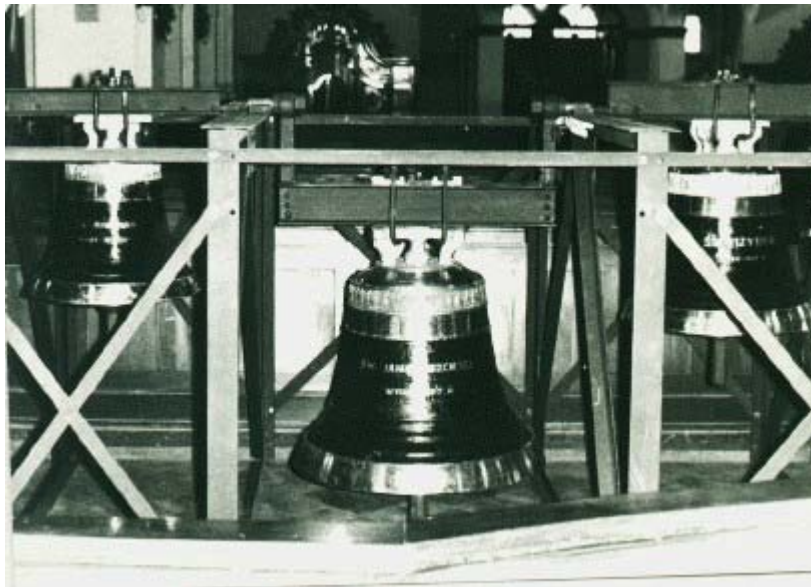
1975

In 1975, there were 32 marriage ceremonies in our parish, 67 children took baptism and 40 parishioners died. The number of the Hosts served greatly increased. In 1975, 60 366 of them were served, which was 20 000 more than in 1960.

1977

On 14 and 15 May 1977, Józef Kurpas, the bishop, carried out the canonic visit. 19 boys, 26 girls and 5 adults took the confirmation sacrament during the celebrated service. After paying off all the installments for the roof repair, three new church bells were ordered;

- St John the Baptist – the patron saint of Wry – 650 kgs,
- St Izydor - the patron saint of farmers – 350 kgs,
- St Barbara - the patron saint of miners – 180 kgs.



The new bells set in front of the sanctuary.

On 27 October 1977, Herbert Bednorz, the ordinate bishop, consecrated the bells. During the ceremony two important nomination acts were announced;

- PhD Franciszek Leśnik was nominated the Soul Councillor,
- Ryszard Sosna, the priest, became the 'adiutor' of the 'Jesus' Sacred Heart parish in Wry.

The bell consecration was the climax of the 50th anniversary celebration of our church consecration.

Parish Chronicle - 1978 - 1998

1978

On 23 March 1978, two other priests coming from Wryy took the holy orders:

- Jacek Wojciech, born on 27 February 1952 in Chorzów,
- Eugeniusz Hejna, born on 1 December 1948 in Tychy.



Jacek Wojciech, the priest and Eugeniusz Hejna, the priest, together with PdD Franciszek Leśnik, the rector and Adam Łapuszek, the clergyman.

In the summer of 1978, Edward Gruchlik, the engineer from Wryy, designed the way round the church with concrete tiles.

On 25 September 1978, the old steely bell weighting 70kgs which had been used in Wryy since 1919 was solemnly handed over to the Salvatorian missionaries and later on with their mediation to the missionary areas in Tanzania.



Ph.D. Franciszek Leśnik, the priest, Ryszard Sosna, the adiutor priest, Mr Józef Kolonko, the sacristan and Adam Łapuszek, the clergyman, soon before the solemn handing over of the bell.

Between 3 and 7 December The Advent retreat was carried out in our parish by Jan Czarny from the St Family's Congregation.

In 1978, Mr Franciszek Buczek, the organist of many years standing, died. He had been playing the organs since 1919.

1979

The Advent retreat was carried out in our parish on 2-6 December by Józef Pleszczyński, a missionary from the St Family's Congregation.

Since the preceding year, M.A. Maria Pinczyńska had been the organist and the

The Advent retreat was carried out in our parish on 2-6 December by Józef Pleszczyński, a missionary from the St Family's Congregation.

Since the preceding year, M.A. Maria Pinocy had been the organist and the conductor of the 'Zorza' choir at the same time.



The Bethlehem stable display at our church.

1980

Adam Łapuszek, born in Wapiennica on 6 October 1954 and living in Wiry for many years, took the holy orders on 3 April 1980. He said his primate service at our church assisted by Ph.D. Franciszek Leśnik, the rector.



1981

The main altar and the whole sanctuary was traditionally decorated with big and well-lighted spruces at Christmas time.





The altar decorated with the Christmas trees.

1982

On 20 February, Ryszard Sosna, the so far 'adiutor' priest of our parish, was nominated the rector of the Jesus' Sacred Heart parish by the decree edited by the bishop curia.



Ryszard Sosna, the rector, during the funeral ceremony of a parishioner of Wiry.

In 1982, Mr Emil Rajwa took over the responsibilities of Mr Ludwig Czech, who had been the undertaker since 1978.

1983

On 29 September 1983, Ryszard Sosna, the rector of our parish, died.

After the requiem service that was said at our church, the rector's funeral took place in his family parish in Godów nearby Wodzisław. Ryszard Sosna was also buried there.



On 1 October 1983, Franciszek Rajca, the priest, came to our parish and became the economy curate after Ryszard Sosna's death.

In 1983, the church was repainted. The work had already been initiated by Ryszard Sosna, the late rector, but it was finished by Franciszek Rajca, the curate.

Czesław Domin, the bishop, came to our parish on St Barbara's day and he led the concelebrated service for the miners together with PhD Franciszek Leśnik and Franciszek Rajca.





Czesław Domin, the bishop, together with Ph.D. Franciszek Leśnik, the priest, and Franciszek Rajca, the curate, celebrating the St Barbara's service.

1984

On 16 August 1984, Franciszek Rajca was nominated the rector of the Wryy parish by the curia decree.



Franciszek Rajca, the rector, saying the holy service assisted by Wiktor Skworzec, the chancellor of the bishop curia.

1985

On 5 October 1985, Konstanty Nagi, called Father Placyd, the Franciscan from Katowice-Panewniki, died. He entered the monastery of the Franciscan order in Katowice, in 1954. He was buried on the cementary in Panewniki.

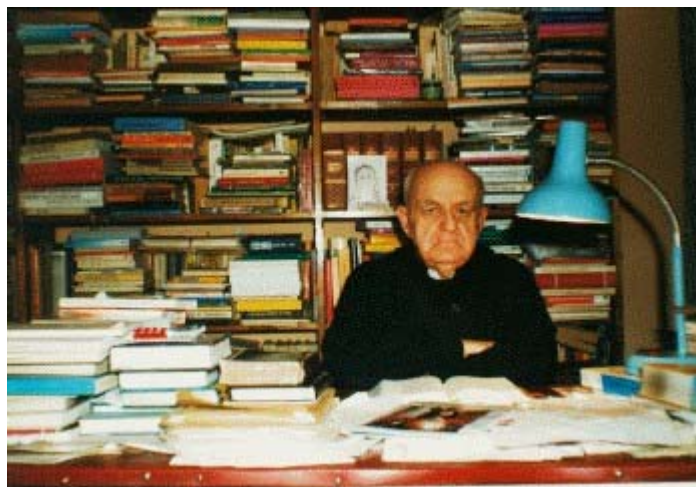




Father Placyd together with Roman Szumski in June 1985.

1986

The Holy Bible of the old and New Testament, translated from the original language, was issued not long ago. Ph.D. Władysław Borowski was one of the interpreters and the associate of the Pallotinum and the Benedictines of Tyne publishing house. He came from Wiry and was one of the fathers of the Regular Canonics' Order in Cracow.



PhD Władysław Borowski

1987

Since 28 February till 1 March 1987, Damian Zimoń, the ordinate bishop, carried out the canonic visit. The young parishioners also took the confirmation sacrament and the bishop met different groups of parishioners, the Parish Council and the teachers of the local primary school, among others.

Franciszek Rajca, the rector, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his priesthood in our parish before he was moved to manage the printing house of the bishop curia.

Franciszek Musioł, coming from St. Anna's parish in Łędziny, was nominated the rector of the Wiry parish on 25 April 1987.

In the second half of the year, major overhaul of the whole presbytery was carried out. All the floor fittings, the plumbing and the sanitary installations were replaced. The works were successfully completed thanks to the devotion of the parishioners. Mr Jerzy Mecner, Henryk Ulman, Paweł Handel and many others helped a lot. Alongside with the presbytery, the farm building was also rebuilt and 2 garages were made of it.

The miners founded the standard of their patron, St Barbara.

Mrs Sabina Sabuda became the new organist after the resignation of Mrs Maria Pinocy. Mrs Sabuda's brother, Mr Jerzy Sabuda took her responsibilities at the Christmas time.

1988

In 1988, the works at the new parish building were started. It was designed to be the rehabilitation centre for 60 people at the age of 7-21. Mrs Kucharewicz from Tychy, an engineer and an architect prepared the technical project and Mr Jerzy Mecner supervised the building site. The building works were carried out

be the rehabilitation centre for 60 people at the age of 7-21. Mrs Kucharewicz from Tychy, an engineer and an architect prepared the technical project and Mr Jerzy Mecner supervised the building site. The building works were carried out by a group of 30 parishioners.

The chiseling out of the old plaster of the church outside walls was also done by the parishioners themselves but the plastering was done by a building firm from the Gorlice area.

The sacristy was also redecorated. It was also equipped with new wardrobes, new table, new vestments and new liturgical books.

On 13 May 1988, Wincenty Nagi-Drobina, the prelate priest, coming from Wry, died in Corfin, Sweden. He was ordained in Katowice by Stanisław Adamski, the bishop and he was nominated the prelate by the Pope, Paul VI.



Wincenty Nagi-Drobina, the professor priest, together with his heir, Mr Marian Kuś from Wry.



1989

The following works were done inside our church:

- the church floor was exchanged – the old concrete tiles were removed and new tiles of the polished marble from the area of Tuscany in Italy were placed,
- the lower parts of the church walls were covered with the stone from Brenna,
- the chapel of Virgin Mary of Częstochowa was founded. A wonderful metal construction with gold ornaments was done by Mr Herbert Rzepka and Mr Stefan Pająk.





1990

In 1990, 44 children were born and baptized in our parish. However, 28 parishioners died. Only 10 couples took the marriage sacrament. The number of Hosts served greatly increased. It doubled the number of Hosts served in 1970, 45 664, and it equaled 92 682. The credit for the increase goes to the rector.



*Franciszek Musioł,
the rector of our parish since 1987.*

1991

On 15 August 1991, Stanisław Pindel, the priest, was moved from Wiry to Czechowice-Dziedzice.

Stanisław Durczok, the priest, comes to Wiry, instead.

On 14 November 1991 PhD Franciszek Leśnik, the rector of our parish since 1971 till 1982, died in Wiry. Czesław Domin, the bishop, and many other priests participated in the funeral. PhD Franciszek Leśnik was buried on the Wiry cemetery, in front of the cross and next to Jan Janota, the rector.





The late Franciszek Leśnik.

On 14 November 1991, the Franciscan, Joachim Kurpas from Wry, called Father Ewald, took the holy orders. He declared his life-long service to God on 8 December 1990.



Father Ewald celebrating his primate service at our church.

Many building works were done during the year inside the church and in the presbytery. Among others, the sanctuary was covered with a wonderful gold marble from Sławniowice. The expensive repair of the organs, that were not examined since the time they were inbuilt in 1960, was carried out. All the windows of the presbytery were exchanged into new plastic windows.

1992

Since 20 till 22 March 1992, Janusz Zimniak, the bishop, carried out the canonic visit in our parish. The bishop met many groups of parishioners; the Virgin Mary's Children, the altar boys, the announcers, the 'Oaza' group, the charity group, the teachers, the builders of the parish house and the Parish Council. On the second day of the visit, on Saturday, 25 boys and 20 girls took the confirmation sacrament.

On Sunday, after the saying of the celebrated service, the bishop left to Mikołów-Kamionka with his canonic visit.

On 30 April 1992, Stanisław Durczok, the curate, was recalled to be an administrator to Osiny nearby Żory.

On 16 May 1992, Marek Targiel took the holy orders. He was yet the 15th priest celebrating his primate service at our church.





Marek Targiel, the priest, celebrating his primate service at our church.



Jacek Wojciech, the dean of the High Clergymen Seminary of Silesia surrounded by our priests;

- *Stanisław Durczok (first on the left),*
- *Edward Poloczek, the ex-curate (on the right),*
- *Franciszek Rajca, the ex-rector (second on the left), ad*
- *Franciszek Musioł in the red vestment.*

Since 20 August 1992, Jerzy Słota was the new curate of Wry. He came here from Ruda Śląska.

With the beginning of the academic year, Ph.D. Jacek Wojciech became the dean of the Theological Seminary of Silesia. Jacek Wojciech said his primate service in Wry in 1978 as he moved here together with his parents and sister.

1993

On 15 August 1993, the public funeral chapel was opened after being significantly modernized. The cooling chamber was the integral part of the chapel.

At the same time the third garage was annexed to the yard building and the WCs were opened for public use. The whole building consisting of the funeral chapel, garages and WCs was covered with the zinc-plated tin roof.

A new solid fence was built around the presbytery.

New entrance stairs to the church were done and covered with ceramic tiles by Mr Kamiński's company from Wry. The stairs were also suited for the disabled.

On 26 November 1993, Karol Markiel, the Salesian priest, died in Wry. The late priest came from Wry and said his primate service in Wry in 1937. He was buried in Oświęcim in the Salesian Lodgings.

1994

On 26 January 1994, Paweł Kępka, the priest, died. He came from Wry, but he was the rector of Jaśkowice till his retirement and then moved to Orzesze-Zawada where he initiated the building of the parish church, the catechist rooms and the flats for the priests.

Since 28 May till 5 June 1994, the missionaries from the St Family's Congregation in Górka Klasztorna carried out the missions in our parish.

In 1994, more investments were finished inside our church:

Since 28 May till 5 June 1994, the missionaries from the St Family's Congregation in Górka Klasztorna carried out the missions in our parish.

In 1994, more investments were finished inside our church:

- the old stained glasses were replaced with new ones according to the project by Ph.D. Jan Rabiej. The old images of the Saints were retained. The contractor of that work was the Stained Glass Factory, the company of Mr Mysiakowski from Gliwice.,
- the inside and outside electricity installation was totally modernized,
- seven crystal chandeliers were imported from Liberec in the Czech Republic. The biggest of them, with 150 candle shaped bulbs, was hanged in the nave.,
- four tower clocks were made by Mr Kałkowski from Boguszowice and installed in the church tower.

1995

In 1995, the inside of the church sanctuary was modernized. The altar, the serving table, and the preaching desk were replaced with new ones. Ph.D. Jan Rabiej was the designer of the modernized interior.

Marcus Simmon Kott from Germany was commissioned to make the new marble altar. There was also a new golden tabernacle in the shape of a sphere wonderfully fitted in the new altar. It was done by Mr Hubert Rzepka and Mr Stefan Pająk.

On 28 May 1995, the new altar was consecrated by Ph.D. Gerard Biernacki, the bishop.

The old altar, that was in Wiry almost unchanged since 1938, was donated to the St Antony's parish in Mikołów-Reta.

On the fifth Sunday of the Lent, the renewal of the missions was initiated by the missionaries of the St Family's Congregation.

In 1995, new, satellite controlled clocks were installed in the church tower. Every hour, they tuned the melody of the hymn 'Twemu Sercu Cześć Składamy' ('Your Heart We Worship') and at 9 o'clock in the evening the melody of 'Apel Jasnogórski' ('The Appeal of Jasna Góra'). The contractor of the clocks, Mr Andrzej Prais from Poznań, also strengthened the hanging of the bells and installed the automatic activation of the bells in the sacristy and in the presbytery.

In 1995, Mr Eryk Alojzy Kwoska took the responsibilities of the seriously ill sacristan, Mr Józef Kolonko.



Mr Józef Kolonko, the sacristan since 1946-1995.

1996

On 30 August 1996, Jerzy Słota, the curate was recalled from our parish and became the diocesan missionary, but he still lived in the Wiry presbytery.

Michał Chlubek, the neopresbyter who did the work experience in our parish, became its new curate.

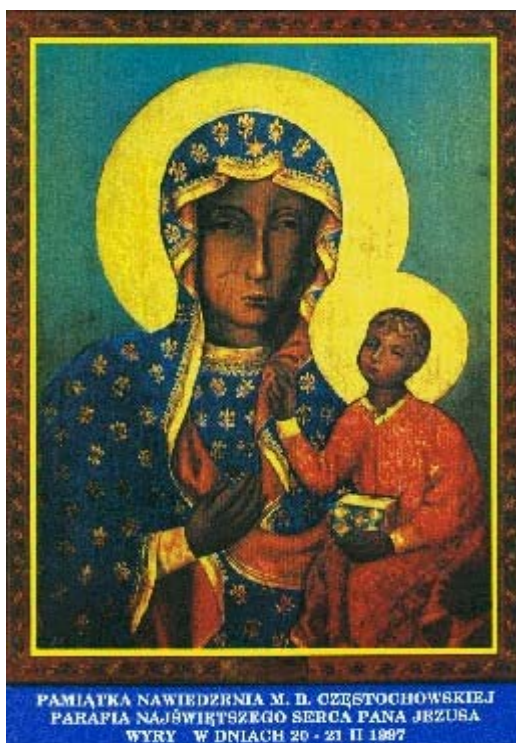




The new sanctuary, and the marble walls fitting in the background.

1997

The copy of the picture of the Virgin Mary of Częstochowa came to our parish on 20 and stayed here till 21 February 1997.



The celebration of the peregrination was preceded by the retreat.

The picture was brought from the neighbouring parish of St Peter and St Paul in Gostyń.

Damian Zimoń, the archbishop, many other priests from the Mikołów decanate, lots of the parishioners of Wiry and the parishioners of the neighbouring towns took part in the celebrated welcoming of the picture. The picture adoration lasted ceaselessly for 24 hours. In the evening hours of 21 February, the celebrated farewell took place and the picture was handed over to the parish in Łaziska Dolne.





The miners' standard during the pergrination of the picture of the Virgin Mary of Częstochowa.

In 1997, the church was repainted one more time. Not only were all the walls renewed but the new wonderful fresques were also painted on the ceilings of every nave, in the sanctuary and in the chapel of Virgin Mary.

On 1 October 1997, Mr Józef Kolonko, the sacristan of 49 years standing, died. He performed his duties since 1946 to 1995.

1998

At the turn of the years 1997 and 1998, the complete replacement of the central heating in the presbytery was carried out, which was mainly due to its hidden failure.

In 1998, the old floor in the sacristy and in the sacristan hall was replaced. Additionally, the entrance hall to the sacristy was built up.

In 1998, a very expensive repair of the presbytery roof was initiated. The wooden parts of the roof construction were exchanged and the building was covered with the zinc-plated tin roof.

Since May 1998, Mr Alojzy Civiś held the responsibilities of the sacristan as Mr Eryk Alojzy Kwoska asked for his recall in April, the preceding year.

On 1 August 1998, Franciszek Musioł, the rector of our parish of 11 years standing, was recalled to the St Antony's parish in Rybnik, to the church which was called 'the Minor Basilica'.

On 1 August 1998, Józef Moczygęba took his responsibilities, after being the rector of the Assumption of Virgin Mary parish in Wodzisław Śląski.

On 20 September 1998, PhD Władysław Borowski, the Regular Lateran Canon who came from Wyrę, died in Cracow. He was the co-writer and the interpreter

rector of the Assumption of Virgin Mary parish in Wodzisław Śląski.

On 20 September 1998, PhD Władysław Borowski, the Regular Lateran Canonic who came from Wiry, died in Cracow. He was the co-writer and the interpreter of the Millenium Bible.